Bishops approve teaching document on the Eucharist

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Eucharist was a major focus of the U.S bishops’ June 16-18 virtual spring assembly.

On June 17, they heard a full presentation on a proposal to draft a document on the “meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church,” followed by a lengthy discussion and vote. And by a wide margin, announced June 18, the bishops gave the green light for the drafting process to proceed. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine will draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November. The action to move forward passed 168 to 55. There were six abstentions.

Diocese of Victoria Bishop Brendan Cahill voted in favor of the document “to educate ourselves and be really clear on the understanding of the Eucharist,” he said.

Bishop Cahill stressed that it is not something that should be politicized. “The whole timeline,” said the Rev. Tommy Chen, director of vocations for the Diocese of Victoria. “I thought it was another beautiful ordination,” he said.

The new ministry, Strength for the Journey, has begun meeting monthly since that first retreat and are already planning another retreat Oct. 29-31 at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria. Hoelscher and her husband, Deacon Larry Hoelscher of El Campo are facilitating the group.

Response to grief support group shows need

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse
Patricia Hoelscher said the response to the new grief ministry for parents who have lost has child was more than expected during their first gathering, a one-day retreat at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado. “We were kind of blown away,” she said.

The new ministry, Strength for the Journey, has begun meeting monthly since that first retreat and are already planning another retreat Oct. 29-31 at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria. Hoelscher and her husband, Deacon Larry Hoelscher of El Campo are facilitating the group.

The Rev. Roger Hawes, pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Yorktown, said he thinks they have barely scratched the surface in reaching people who need the type of support the group offers. “By all means, it’s definitely needed,” he said. “The struggles that they go through are not temporary.”

Father Hawes said he met Hoelscher on an ACTS retreat and he was surprised when she called and asked if he would be part of Strength for the Journey. “I guess she saw something in me. And I felt that if I could, I would do whatever I could do to help.”

Father Hawes and the Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, rector/pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory and executive director of the Emmaus Center, both are involved in the new ministry.

Mary T. Heffron deBrueys, originally from Victoria but a long-time resident of the Baton Rouge area, lost her son 10 years ago in a boat accident.

A Catholic, deBrueys said she sought sup-
Father Kram’s story continues to inspire

BISHOP’S NOTE: After I wrote the following article, in 2016, we began printing a homily from Father Kram in each issue of the Lighthouse, and this has become one of the favorite sections of the paper for many of our readers. Please continue to pray for the advancement of his cause, hopefully to be acknowledged as a saint someday by the universal Church!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Dec. 5, 1975, Father Charles Kram Jr. was ordained a priest in his home church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. I’ve met many people who personally knew Father Kram and his family, and it seems to me thousands who may have been at that Ordination Mass. The testimony to his holiness and the holiness of his family, friends and home communities of Shiner and Yoakum have been beautifully recorded in the book “Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities” by Deacon Anthony Warzecha. Having read the book and listened to many stories of his ministry, I felt called to encourage devotion and prayer to him. Let me share with you a couple of the reasons that I think his witness continues to be so timely for us today.

First, Father Kram conscientiously chose to radiate the love and joy of Jesus each day. As a person begins to read and listen to his story, this simple fact takes on heroic proportions. As a young man in the 1950s Charles Kram suffered a serious form of polio. When he suffered this, he was in the final stages of his preparation to become a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Because he suffered this, he spent over a year in intensive physical therapy and rehabilitation, with his parents faithfully by his side. After the year, he was physically limited, so he wasn’t able to be ordained to the priesthood. In the midst of what could have been devastating circumstances, he and his parents maintained their love for one another and became strong witnesses of the power of faith, hope and love.

Second, Father Kram helped others grow in holiness each day. After this initial setback, his friends and family continued to keep in touch and care for him. Many of his friends from the seminary kept a hope alive that one day he may be ordained to the priesthood. For over 20 years they faithfully kept in touch, and I’m sure that each person who visited the Kram household in those years would share how they felt uplifted by the Holy Spirit in the presence of the Kram family. Eventually the day would come when he would be ordained to the priesthood, and that must have been one of the most joyous, holy days in the history of this area!

There is so much more to share from his life that can be an inspiration for our faith. In this day when we seem to have a tendency to judge one another on what we can get out of them, it’s beautiful to be reminded that it’s so much more about what we can give. May God bless you and your families with a personal knowledge of the love and mercy of Jesus. Let’s keep one another in prayer.

+Brendan

New pastors installed
Bishop Brendan Cahill installed the Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty as pastor of Our Lady of Victory parish in Victoria on June 9 and the Rev. Greg Korenek as pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Ganado on June 23. The photo on the left shows Father Hlavaty receiving the Lectionary from the bishop as he is entrusted to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of the parish. The photo on the right shows Father Korenek with Bishop Cahill and the Fourth Degree Knights who stood guard during the entrance procession and the procession after the dismissal. Father Korenek will also take on the role of director of all pro-life activities in the Diocese of Victoria, Bishop Cahill announced. (Photos by Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

KC’s support clergy
Bishop Brendan Cahill receives a donation for $45,028.98 raised by all 32 Knights of Columbus Councils in the Victoria Diocese for State Charities for the fraternal year 2019-2020. The check was presented during the KC’s recent State Convention in Houston. Kenny Trochta, Victoria Diocese deputy, is shown presenting the check. The funds are designated for the education of clergy. (Contributed Photo)
### Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

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<th>Ordination Mass for Bishop-elect Italo Dell’Oro; Houston Carmel at Sts. Peter and Paul; Meyersville</th>
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### Returning to the Sacraments

**Catholic Conference focuses on sacramental life**

The Rev. Jacob Koether will be the keynote presenter for the 34th Annual Catholic Conference on Sept. 25, themed “Returning to the Sacraments.” All workshops will take place at St. Joseph Catholic High School, 110 E. Red River in Victoria this year.

The Rev. Eleicer Patiño will give the keynote address in Spanish.

The conference will include workshops in both languages that participants can choose from and will conclude with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill. The half-day conference will begin at 8 a.m. with registration and Mass begins at 12:15. More information will be available soon. Visit www.victoriadiocese.org to register or get more information.

According to Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry, “Koether will discuss what an incredible gift God has given us in the sacraments. Much more than Catholic badges of honor or cultural rites of passage, the sacraments are God’s way of gathering up all of salvation history and applying its fruit to our lives concretely in a particular moment. Coming to us in person, the Lord reveals to us His inexhaustible desire to give us good things. But these are gifts we can’t receive virtually or through a screen. In the sacraments, God extends His hands from heaven and says, ‘Here is your salvation.’”

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

- Rev. Gabriel Maison 07/01/1978 St. Joseph, Moulton
- Rev. Charles E. Otsiwhah 07/07/1985 Holy Cross, East Bernard
- Rev. Peter Yeoah-Amanfo 07/10/1983 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nada
- Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako 07/11/1981 Queen of Peace, Sweet Home
- Rev. Gabriel Bentil 07/14/1984 Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus, Victoria
- Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah 07/15/1990 St. Peter, Blessing
- Rev. Samuel Appiasi 07/17/1983 Holy Family, Wharton
- Rev. Clement Quainoo 07/17/1982 Retired
- Rev. Felix Twumasi 07/17/2004 Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn
- Rev. Augustine Nsiah Asante 07/18/1998 St. Anthony, Columbus
- Rev. Charles Owusu Dwomoh 07/19/1986 St. John the Baptist, Hungerford
- Rev. Albert Yankey 07/20/1980 Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria

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

- Rev. Alfred Hoenig, OSB 07/12/1994
- Rev. Msgr. Gerard Cernoch 07/23/2020

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)
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*
- Gene & Mary Jeansonne  
  Barbara & Dan Respondek  
  Jerry & Mary Uptmor  
  *In Memory of Betty Knippenberg*

**Acolyte**
- Victor & Gail Dvorak  
  *In Honor of Father James Dvorak ordination anniversary  
  in Memory of Father Dan Morales*
- Monroe & Mary Reiger  
  *In Memory of Betty Knippenberg*
- John & Jenny Vincent  
  *In Honor of Father Kristopher Fuchs birthday and Bishop Gary Janak priestly ordination anniversary*

**Free prison ministry conference coming soon**

Anyone interested in learning more about prison ministry is invited to attend “Anointed to Proclaim Liberty to Captives,” the Kolbe Prison Ministries Annual Conference on July 24 at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Boerne.

It is a free conference and can be attended online as well as in person.

**Speakers and their topics include:**
- Karen Clifton, M.Div., coordinator of Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition – “Create a More Just and Merciful Incarceration System”

For information, e-mail events@kolbeprisonministries.org or visit the web site www.kolbeprisonministries.org.

**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 >.

- **June 17, 2021**
  - CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2  
    *Acolyte*
  - In memory of Luillia Mae Mueller by  
    CDA Court St. Ann #369
  - In memory of Liz Jaschke by  
    CDA Court St. Ann #369
  - In memory of Angie Schroeder by  
    CDA Court St. Ann #369
  - In memory of Steven Hebert by  
    CDA Court St. Ann #369
  - **St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2**  
    *Acolyte*
  - Donation in memory of Robert Besentsy
  - **Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse**  
    *Lector*
  - In honor of Rev. Philip Brune on his 7th anniversary of ordination by  
    Lambert and Carol Brune
  - In honor of Rev. Michael Lyons’ 25 years of priestly ordination by  
    Johnny and Jo Ann Canik
  - **Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #8**  
    *Lector*
  - In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ anniversary of ordination by  
    Michael and Janice Jares

- **Rev. Robert Knippenberg Seminary Burse**  
  *Lector*
  - In memory Betty Jean Knippenberg,  
    Mother of Rev. Robert Knippenberg, by Leon and Hattie Kristynik

- **Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse**  
  *Lector*
  - In memory of Albert E. Olsovsky by  
    Glenn and Evelyn Ahrens  
    Adolph and Gladys Kutac
  - In honor of Rev. Timothy Kosler’s retirement June 30th by  
    Henrietta Veselka

- **Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse**  
  *Acolyte*
  - In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters for  
    Pastor Appreciation Day by Sacred Heart School Faculty, Staff and Students

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

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The Church guides us in showing genuine love

EDITOR’S NOTE: This sermon was written for the fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B. It was entitled “Acceptance and Rejection.”

A good question nowadays is, “What do we expect from the Church?” The Church has so much competition from entertainment, advertising, conflicting ways of thought and so on.

The Church could remain silent and compromise and look the other way and let things go. But such an approach would betray the Church’s mission to the world and, besides, such a solution doesn’t work.

If we are not challenged, we become bored and turn to mischief. If we have everything we want, we become spoiled and selfish. If we have no goals toward which to work, our lives lose meaning.

Jesus taught us the great commandment of love, which is at the heart of Christian teaching. So let’s take a look at some of the ideals of love toward which the Church must challenge us.

For example, whereas in the past we looked upon people of other faiths as more or less the enemy, now we are encouraged to recognize the truth and goodness we find in them and in various ways work with them to promote the things we have in common. This amounts to saying, “I tolerate things with which I disagree, but I love YOU.”

If we claim to be His followers, we must let love dominate our lives, even in our thought. I saw a dwarf on TV who described how, when he was a kid, the bigger kids would pick on him, but instead of letting himself become bitter, he would go up to them and say, “Hi,” and make friends with them. He showed love and received it in return.

A friend of mine once told me of how she developed the ability to say, “I love you.” These words are sometimes hard to say, even to those who are dear to us, but they can heal many a wound and strengthen many a bond.

The same friend used to lend money to almost everyone who asked, but some of them turned out to be irresponsible spenders at her expense. She finally decided that she was not really helping them, so she asked them whether they thought she loved them, and when they said, “Yes,” she told them, “Because I love you, I can’t lend you any more money.” And this act of love helped them accept their responsibility.

Love for Jesus also implies a willingness to sacrifice. Often a sacrifice of TIME is possible even when there is no money. It seems less painful to give money, but we must consider that for every two dollars we have, we have had to earn at least three dollars (allowing for expenses and taxes). A sacrifice of time instead of money can be so much more meaningful because it is so much more personal.

Another mark of a Christian is that a Christian keeps his word. Recently, a man who was weak with cancer told me that a friend of his had very generously offered him help: “If I can do anything for you, just call me – any time.” But when he needed help unloading some sacks of feed, the friend said, “Well, er, ah, I would if I could, but I’m all tied up. Sorry.” A Christian, of all people, should be dependable.

So ask again the question with which we began: “What do we expect from the Church?”

We answer: “We expect the Church to continue to challenge and guide us to carrying out Jesus’ great commandment of love in thought, in word and in deed.”

Lord Jesus, thank you for challenging us to love one another as you have loved us. Help us always to be faithful and never to become discouraged in serving you. Grant that when our last day comes, we will have fulfilled all that you have given us to do. Amen.
EDITOR’S NOTE: The following was originally published in July 2017. The Sisters have just recently completed their silent retreat this year.

One morning recently I was trying to clear the flower beds of weeds; however, the sunny day began to warm up quickly and the bench in the shade beckoned to me, “Come and rest awhile.” Then as I was sitting there enjoying the shade, someone passed by and I said, “I got tired and am just resting here.” She replied and said, “That’s good.” Her response reminded me of Jesus’ words to “come aside and rest.”

Built into our schedule, we Sisters are fortunate to have opportunities to join Jesus in coming away from the busy-ness of daily life. Each month we have a retreat day, usually a Sunday, to step away from our ordinary routine in order to review God’s presence in our lives and to refresh ourselves spiritually. Moreover, each year we are privileged to make a week’s retreat in which we have excellent retreat directors and guides. Also the joined presence of Sisters who may have been served outside of Victoria provides a sense of their companionship on our mission to make the Incarnate Word known and loved wherever we minister. Together, we enjoy receiving spiritual enrichment and having the time and place to reflect upon and absorb the Holy Spirit’s presence and prompting in our lives.

Sometimes people ask us if we pray all the time together. Well, while we appreciate prayer and like to pray in community, we also love gatherings and meals together with the Sisters and with the many friends that we have. We also enjoy parties and “fun” events and just being together. We really enjoy many things we do together.

My prayer is that all our Lighthouse readers use vacation time for recreation – recreating or renewing their focus on what is important in life. Take some time to keep in touch in the “God moments” – insights that come in times of silence and recollection and awareness of God’s goodness. Do things with loved ones and enjoy one’s family and friends. Give your phones some rest and listen in person to those about you. You might hear the Holy Spirit speaking through them!

Therefore, let us all be mindful and heed Jesus’ invitation to “come aside and rest.”

Happy Vacation!

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Come aside and rest

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*Interest rates are subject to change. Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.00%. Home Office: San Antonio, Texas. #A-SU 3.21
Service Awards
SCHULENBURG — On May 6, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School presented service awards to the following faculty and staff members: 15 years for Rosanne Gallia and Virginia Olsovsky; 20 years for Jeannie Mican and Matt Bonner; and 35 years for Donna Kunz. Pictured, from left, are Gallia, Kunz, Mican and Bonner. Olsovsky is not pictured. (Contributed Photo)

COVID relief
St. Joseph KJT Society No. 115-Victoria officers present grant check to the Rev. Gabriel Bentil, pastor of Holy Family in Victoria. The grant is to help cover expenses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Pictured from left are Robert Stryk, secretary; Joe Pustka, treasurer; Father Bentil; and Donlad Dusek, vice president. (TCL Photo by Regina Janak)

Holy Family K of C Council #9088 Presents the Nineteenth Annual
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CDA scholarship winner
VICTORIA — Court Daughters of the Holy Family #2665, Victoria, recognized their scholarship winners at the 11 a.m. Mass at Holy Family on May 16. Pictured, from left, are Scholarship Chairperson Debbie Michalski; winner Clare Howard; and Regent Rosalie Phillips. Other scholarship winners were Jacob Lewis and Allison Waida, who were unable to attend. (Contributed Photo)
Bishop’s Award winners
Bishop Brendan Cahill presented the Bishop’s Award to eighth-graders in the diocese who completed a set of requirements to earn the award, including memorizing prayers, scoring at least 85 percent on the Diocesan Test of Christian Doctrine and completing at least 15 hours of service. The awards were presented during two ceremonies – one on April 29 at the Cathedral Center in Victoria and the other on May 3 in Hallettsville. (Victoria Photos by Regina Janak/ The Catholic Lighthouse; Hallettsville Photos Contributed)
New music building dedicated in honor of school patron

Contributed Story

SCHULENBURG — Bishop Brendan Cahill dedicated a new music room building at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schuelenburg on May 19. The building was made possible by a major donation of Sabreonna Anders Everett in memory of her uncle Alvin J. Anders.

The ceremony included a welcome and expression of thanks by the Principal Rosanne Gallia and the Rev. Tim Kosler, pastor.

Family member Kathy Orsak gave an informative history of the Anders family and its connection to St. Rose School. She explained the contractor for the old main St. Rose School building was A. J. Anders, a cousin to Alvin J. Anders. That building, erected in 1930, replaced the wooden 1890s structure. In the prayer garden on the corner of the music building is a Sacred Heart of Jesus statue dedicated in memory of her dad, Werner R. Anders, brother to Alvin J. Anders.

Mr. Anders and his siblings, Valeria, Leo, Waldo, and Werner all attended St. Rose School.

Although he never had children, he had eight nieces and five nephews who considered him a father figure. Their Uncle Alvin, they said, was a U.S. Navy veteran, master craftsman and a man of strong faith who loved children and was a generous benefactor of St. Rose School and church.

According to a press release from the school, “St. Rose of Lima Catholic School held a special place in his heart and this multipurpose music room dedicated in loving memory of Alvin J. Anders was a perfect tribute to a man who valued education.” His niece Sabreonna Anders Everett is his brother Waldo’s daughter.

Orsak said, “Sabreonna, on behalf of Uncle Alvin’s family and friends, thank you for honoring him in such a kind, thoughtful, and generous way. He is smiling and nodding or maybe shaking his head at this honor. I know he would be appreciative, honored, and humbled that you have chosen to honor his legacy in this way.”

The St. Rose Junior High Band played a song for the occasion showcasing their new space that includes updated technology features, a 65-inch television monitor that can mirror programs from the teacher’s I-pad or computer device. A cross Sabreonna made by hand from different woods hangs on the east wall across from the custom bronze plaque of her uncle Alvin on the west wall by the door.


The Project Manager was Howard Stoner and Architects Cutright & Prihoda. Family members and guests enjoyed a reception in their honor after the blessing and dedication.

St. Anthony wins needed technology by recycling e-waste

Contributed story

COLUMBUS – This past year, St. Anthony Catholic School gained $30,000 in new technology thanks to their efforts in Dell Technologies “Erase E-Waste” sweepstakes.

The company’s initiative is to get schools of all levels to join in recycling computers and other electronics that were at the end of their usefulness. Schools who take the time to run a campaign, as St. Anthony did, are entered in a sweepstakes to win the prize offered.

Because the school needed computers that would operate the software they wanted to use, the St. Anthony Parent Teacher Committee organized the four-day Erase E-Waste event. Their work and success was documented on Twitter at #EraseE-wasteSweepstakes.

“I was really surprised by the amount of e-waste the community turned in to recycle. The entire back end of my Suburban, with all the seats laid down, was filled to the brim,” Carla Wiggs, treasurer of the PTC stated in customer profile published by Dell.

St. Anthony Principal John O’Leary, in the same profile, stated that this past year, the school was able to use the new “computer lab on wheels” that includes new laptops, Gumdrop headphones and cases.

“Students stay in their classrooms and teachers rotate. Having the laptops and cart from Dell Technologies makes it possible to continue our digital curriculum and maintain social distancing,” O’Leary stated.

Johanna Spatafora is the technology instructor at St. Anthony. She stated that she was ecstatic about the win. “Most of our tablets can’t run all the software we want to use, like the science app STEMscopes. With our Dell laptops, we have the power to use those apps again, as well as sites such as scratch.MIT.edu and education.logo.com.”

Teachers also have benefitted because of an interactive touch monitor, part of the prize package, that replaced the portable projector in the cafeteria has helped with staff development as well as streaming group events and videoconferences.

O’Leary stated: “Students’ learning curves go up when they have technologies like the devices we won through the Dell Technologies Erase E-Waste Sweepstakes. Our job is to provide the IT and guidance and then get out of the way and let them learn.”

To learn more about the program and how to enter, search the internet for Erase E-Waste or go to: https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-us/events/erasewaste.htm.
Confirmation in Yoakum
YOAKUM — Bishop Brendan Cahill is pictured with the students who were confirmed at St. Joseph Catholic Church on April 24. (Contributed Photo)

Celebrating the sacraments
SWEET HOME – (Above) Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer celebrated the holy sacrament of confirmation May 15 at Queen of Peace Catholic Church with young people from Queen of Peace and St. John the Baptist, Koerth. (Right) The churches celebrated First Holy Communion on May 8. The Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako is pictured with the Firsts Communion group. (Contributed Photos)

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JESUS APPROACHES
A THREE-DAY RETREAT FOR WOMEN
OCTOBER 1-3, 2021 AT
THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTER

Join award-winning author and national speaker, Liz Kelly for a three-day women’s retreat based on her book, Jesus Approaches, What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom and Joy from the Women of the New Testament. By taking a fresh look at the encounters that women had with Jesus and immersing ourselves in Church teaching on the important vocation of women, we will grow in confidence and skill in praying with scripture and in making the Gospel story our own. Past participants have called the retreat “exactly what I needed,” “really intimate, personal,” “Inspiring and fresh,” “I feel more deeply connected to all women and the gifts we all have.” Strengthen the tether between your heart and the Sacred Heart of Jesus and join us October 1-3, 2021. Space is limited, and Liz’s retreats tend to sell out, so register early.

Register at https://www.victoriadiocese.org/women-retreats
$255 for double occupancy room, $299 for single (meals included)
Retreat begins Friday at 4pm and ends Sunday at noon at 718 Gussie Schmidt Road, Victoria, TX 77905
Questions? Contact Anita at 979-541-3152 or anita.christensen@att.net

Liz Kelly is a popular speaker and an award-winning author of nine books, including Reasons I Love Being Catholic, which won the Catholic Press Association First Place award for Best Popular Presentation of the Faith in 2007, and Jesus Approaches, What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom and Joy from the Women of the New Testament, which has won a number of awards, including Best Book in the Religion/Christianity category for 2017-2019. Visit her website at LizK.org.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Wendy Eggert, Director
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ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry
KC 1329 officers installed

VICTORIA -- Knights of Columbus Council 1329 had its installation of officers June 15 for the fraternal year 2021-22. From left are, front row, Richard Lerma, outside guard; Daniel Perez, inside guard; Juan Lara, advocate; Joe Rainosek, recorder; Donald Shellenbarger, grand knight; and Ernest Rosas, chancellor; and, back row, Pete Moya, trustee; Chris Krejci, treasurer; Dave Kouba, lecturer; Felipe Rosales, warden; Allen Rather, deputy grand knight; Michael Nevlud, trustee; and, Mike Merritt, trustee.  

75-year members

EDNA -- KJZT Society 111 of St. Agnes Catholic Church awarded two 75-year member pins to Agnes Gabrysch, left, and Norma Lea Muschalek. Betty Vacek, state director, is shown presenting the pins.

PILGRIMAGE IS BACK!!
Join Journeys of Faith with Ceci on these great upcoming pilgrimages in 2021-22!

December 1 - 12, 2021
Service Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Honor of St. Joseph with Father Peter Jankowski...$3,495 (Deposit Due Aug. 21) The best way to celebrate the return of pilgrimage travel is to go on our FIRST SERVICE PILGRIMAGE PROGRAM! Not only will we get to walk in Jesus’ footsteps, but we will have the unique opportunity to be His hands as we visit Orphanages and Schools and aid our Christian Brothers and Sisters. An added blessing is that the proceeds of this pilgrimage goes to the Select to Give Foundation that financially supports these Orphanages and Schools! This is such a great opportunity to give thanksgiving for our own blessings!

The price of these pilgrimages will include the flights, hotels (dbl occ.), tour bus and guides, meals as indicated on the fliers. Land only pricing is available.

Information and online fliers are found at www.selectinternationaltours.com or contact me at ceci.triska@gmail.com and I will email it to you

October 3 - 14, 2022
A Marian Pilgrimage to Paris, Lourdes & Fatima with Father Michael Roth...$3995 We are going to France and Portugal visiting the Marian Shrines in Paris, Lourdes and Fatima! This program will have us based in Paris for 4 nights! We will visit Nevers where St. Bernadette’s incorrupt body is encased in glass, St. Vincent de Paul, Miraculous Medal Shrine where Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Laboure, Mass in Sacre Coeur Cathedral, and more before we board the train to Lourdes where we will spend three nights. We will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, bathe in the miraculous waters, and participate in the nightly Candlelight Rosary Procession. We then head to Fatima with an evening stop at Avila and visit the convent of St. Theresa of Avila. Then on to Fatima for three nights where the highlight of our pilgrimage is attending the Mass of the Miracle of the Sun, which was our Lady of Fatima’s last appearance to the three children.

February 18 - 27, 2022
Pilgrimage to Egypt and Jordan with Father Jeffery Dillion & Sandra Jean...$3,905 (w/ext. Holy Land February 27-March 5...$4,955) Deposit Due Nov. 2 I am excited to share this program with you because I am going as a pilgrim! If you ever wanted to see Holy and Ancient Egypt with a safe group, join me on this pilgrimage!! We will visit Cairo, Ancient Cairo, Mt. Siani, Petra Madaba and Mt. Nebo as well as the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. The Holy Land extension will continue on to the Sea of Galilee area to visit Cana, Nazareth Mt. Tabor Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

June 20 - 30, 2022
Germany, Austria, Switzerland Pilgrimage with the Passion Play in Oberammergau with Father Kristopher Fuchs...$4,795 Our postponed pilgrimage from 2020 is back on! Join us as we travel through Munich, Dachau, Our Lady of Altotting, the Passion Play, Innsbruck, Salsburg, Liechtenstein, and Lucerne! The Passion Play in Oberammergau is a must see! The whole town participates in this all day event reliving the last week of Christ’s life. It is a tradition that goes back over 200 years.
The Diocese of Victoria Office of Catholic Schools hosted a dinner celebration on June 3 to honor those chosen by the individual schools as distinguished alumni. They are as follows:

**Timothy Bricker from Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City:** Bricker, owner and operator of Bricker Pest Control, and his wife, Barbara, have four children at Holy Cross. He is serving on the marketing team and the foundation board. The couple also helps in faith formation of adults by teaching RCIA classes for Holy Cross parish. He supports Catholic youth activities throughout the diocese whenever he can.

**Amy Briones Alegria and Allison Briones Arceo from Nazareth Academy in Victoria:** Alegria and Arceo, sisters and faculty members of NA, are from a long family line of NA graduates. Both became teachers and began in public school, but had the calling to teach in a faith-filled environment. Amy joined NA as a third-grade teacher in 2015, and Allison joined in 2018 as a second-grade teacher. Both are eager volunteers when the school needs them. Amy also is involved in her parish as an extraordinary minister, served on several Women and Teen ACTS retreats and has volunteered for the Gabriel Project. Allison also has served with Paradisus Dei – Missionaries to the Family – and is a marriage sponsor at Our Lady of Sorrows. Their immediate families and extended family have volunteered at Promise Point and visited the infirm Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent.

**Brenda Ortmann from Our Lady of Victory in Victoria:** Ortmann, who has been the OLV receptionist for 10 years, attended Catholic school at OLV and St. Joseph. Her three sons attended as well. She is always there for the students no matter what they need, and encourages them to love the school as much as she does. She serves at an extraordinary minister at OLV parish and volunteers yearly at the parish festival and gala. She also serves as an associate member of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

**Frank Migl from Sacred Heart in Hallettsville:** The administration of Sacred Heart says that the parish, school and community would not be where they are today if not for the generosity and concern Migle has provided. He is a rancher and past owner/operator of Migle Feed and Grain. He has served on the school’s advisory board and finance committee. He also was a founding member of the Hallettsville KCs and helped in the construction of the KC Hall. He also has served the Hallettsville community in many capacities.

**Dorothy Heffley from St. Anthony in Columbus:** Heffley has been a loyal employee of SAS for the last 12 years serving in many roles. She is currently the instructional aide for PE classes for first and second grades and is willing to substitute teach at any grade level. She helps with projects throughout Catholic Schools Week each year and is always there to help with the school’s annual Halloween Carnival. In her parish, she volunteers with the Fall Festival and Summer Vacation Bible School and is a member of the Altar Society.

**Gretchen Boyle from St. Joseph High School in Victoria:** A proud third-generation Flyer, Boyle graduated as salutatorian in 1982. She has taught in the school’s English Department for the past 35 years. She has worn many hats including SJT yearbook sponsor, cheerleader sponsor, National Honor Society sponsor and prom sponsor. She also has chaired the English Department.

**Patrick Matusek from St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum:** Matusek and his family have been involved in St. Joseph all his life. He and his wife, Bernadette, sent all four of their children though school there and he continues to give back. He has served the PTC, has been PTC Golf Tournament chairman, serves as president of the school’s endowment fund and as chairman of the school’s annual picnic. In the parish, he serves as lector and extraordinary minister, and serves the Yoakum community in many capacities as well.

**Beverly Lincke from St. Michael’s Catholic School in Cuero:** Lincke believes all children should have the chance for a Catholic education and has helped by providing tuition assistance for St. Michael’s as well as Cuero High School and college students. She organized the Catholic Outreach Prison Ministry for the diocese at the Stevenson Unit. She also has supported the parish as CCD teacher, extraordinary minister, Catholic Daughter and more. She donated the stained glass windows in the school in memory of her family members who also were a part of the St. Michael’s community.

**Peggy Guenther from St. Michael in Weimar:** Guenther, senior vice president at Hill Bank and Trust Co. in Weimar, is called a “cheerleader and crusader” for St. Michael, helping with any service project or fundraiser. Her two sons also attended and graduated from St. Michael. She also serves the parish by being on the Liturgy and Fellowship committees. In the Weimar community she serves as secretary of the Rotary Club and is on the board of the Weimar Heritage Society Museum.

**Anthony Collins from St. Philip in El Campo:** Collins, owner and operator of E.A. Collins and Sons, Inc., has served St. Philip in many capacities. He has been on the advisory council and maintenance board, helped create the annual dinner/dance fundraiser. He is active in his parish and the community as well serving in El Campo Jaycees, El Campo Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, the city council, the Knights of Columbus, the parish picnic committee, Little League and more.

**Bob Stryk from St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg:** Stryk, who runs a successful raw milk and cheese business, has worked from the ground up on his farm, inspired as a 4-H member in school. He and his wife, Darlene, are the parents of a St. Rose graduate and the couple continues to support and donate annually, including tuition assistance for students. He has coached football and served on the advisory council and lead field trips at the dairy farm. In his community he has served in many agricultural organizations and has garnered several awards and accolades for his work and leadership.

**Deacon Joe Machacek from St. Paul in Shiner:** Machacek, who has served at Sts. Cyril and Methodius for 12 years, supports the school by helping with small maintenance project to overseeing major construction projects. He also serves as a Grand Knight of the Shiner KCs and is a Boy Scout leader. He coaches Little League and started the 4-H program in Shiner. He and his wife, Mary, teach Natural Family Planning and RCIA.
KJZT gives a helping hand
SWEET HOME — The Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, pastor of Queen of Peace Catholic Church, receives a $4,430 check from Gladys Hermes, Mary Ann and Harvey Matusek and Lynette Havel of St. Ludmila’s KJZT Family Life #12 Sweet Home/Koerth. The funds are to help with the cost of the planned Queen of Peace Parish Center. These funds are specifically dedicated to the CCD program to include classroom furnishings and other miscellaneous necessities. (Contributed Photo)

KC Fourth Degree officers
WEIMAR — The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province District-2, Saint Michael Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg and Weimar recently installed new officers at the St. Michael Church, Family Center Hall for the year 2021-22. From left are, front, Worthy District Marshal Jose Martinez of Victoria; Faithful Purser Thomas Bargas of Schulenburg; Faithful Captain Paul Zapalac of Flatonia; Faithful Navigator Kenneth Berger of Schulenburg; Faithful Pilot Randel Barta of Flatonia; Faithful Comptroller Martin Luchak of Weimar; and back, Faithful Admiral Tim Liehardt of Weimar; Faithful Scribe Larry “Bear” Kana of Weimar; Worthy District Marshal Joe Soto of Shiner; Faithful Three-Year Trustee Raymond Prihoda of Weimar; Faithful Inner Sentinel Richard Schacherl of Flatonia; Outer Sentinel Dennis Olsovsky of Flatonia; Faithful Friar Rev. Wayne Flagg of Weimar. Not pictured are Faithful One-Year Trustee Andrew Janda and Faithful Two-Year Trustee Adolph Kutac, both of Schulenburg. The assembly thanked outgoing officers for their many years of service — Worthy & Faithful Friar Msgr. John C. Bily, 25 years; Faithful Navigator Raymond Prihoda, four years; Faithful Pilot Charlie Herzik, four years; and, Faithful Purser Francis Janacek, eight years. (Contributed Photo)
Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

NOTA DEL OBISPO: Después de que escribí el siguiente artículo, en 2016, comenzamos a imprimir una homilía del Padre Kram en cada número del Lighthouse, y esta se ha convertido en una de las secciones favoritas del periódico para muchos de nuestros lectores. Continúe leyendo por el avance de su causa, con la esperanza de que algún día la Iglesia universal lo reconozca como santo!

El 05 de diciembre de 1975, Padre Charles Kram, Jr., fue ordenado sacerdote en la iglesia de los Santos Cirilo y Metodio en Shiner. Ya que he estado en la diócesis de Victoria he conocido a mucha gente que conoció personalmente a Padre Kram y su familia. Me parece que miles de personas podrían haber estado en misa de ordenación!

El testimonio de su santidad y la santidad de la familia, los amigos y las comunidades de origen de Shiner y Yoakum han sido bellamente grabado en un libro “Gladdly Will I Glory in My Infirmities” por Deacon Anthony Warzeca. Después de leer el libro, y escuchar muchas historias de su ministerio, me sentí llamado fomentar la devoción a él. Permitanme compartir con ustedes un parte de razones por las que creo que su testimonio sigue siendo tan oportuno para nosotros hoy.

En primer lugar, Padre Kram intencionalmente eligió irradiar el amor y la alegría de Jesús cada día. Como un hombre joven en la década de 1950 Charles Kram sufrió una forma grave de polio. Cuando sufrió esto era en las fases finales de su preparación para hacerse un sacerdote para la Archidiócesis de San Antonio. Pasó más de un año de intensa terapia física y rehabilitación, con sus padres fielmente a su lado, así que no fue capaz de ser ordenado al sacerdocio. Él y sus padres mantuvieron amor el uno por el otro y creció la fe, la esperanza y el amor entre ellos.

En segundo lugar, Padre Kram ayudó a otros crecer en la santidad cada día. Después de este retraso inicial, sus amigos y la familia siguieron manteniéndose en contacto y sintiendo carino por él. Muchos de sus amigos del seminario mantuvieron viva una esperanza que un día él podría ser ordenado al sacerdocio. Comentaron su testimonio gozoso en medio de su sufrimiento, y pensaron que este podría ser un testimonio tan poderoso en un sacerdote. Durante más de 20 años se mantuvieron fielmente en contacto, y estoy seguro de que cada persona que visitó la casa Kram en esos años compartiría cómo se sintieron elevados por el Espíritu Santo en presencia de la familia Kram.

Finalmente llegará el día en que sería ordenado sacerdote, y debe haber sido uno de los más alegres, santos días en las historias de este área! Hay mucho mas para compartir de la vida de Padre Kram, que puede ser un a inspiración para nuestra fe. En el día de hoy, cuando parece que tenemos una tendencia a juzgar uno al otro en lo que podemos conseguir de ellos, es hermoso recordar que es mucho más de lo que podemos dar.

Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con un conocimiento personal del amor y la misericordia de Jesús. Mantengamos el uno al otro en oración.

+Brendan

El matrimonio, la familia son el plan de Dios

POR EL REV. NELSON GONZALES

Especial para The Lighthouse

Tomó como punto de partida para el presente escrito, la definición que nos da el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica sobre el matrimonio en su numeral 601: “La alianza matrimonial, por la que el varón y la mujer, constituyen entre sí un consorcio de toda la vida, ordenado por su misma índole natural al bien de los cónyuges y a la generación y educación de la prole, fue elevado por Cristo Nuestro Señor a la dignidad de sacramento entre bautizados”.

De acuerdo a lo anterior debemos entender que el matrimonio ha sido algo prejurídico, precristiano, cuando viene Cristo a estar con nosotros, el matrimonio era una realidad en la humanidad, es decir está inscrito en la misma ley natural. Lo que hace Cristo es elevar a la dignidad de sacramento el matrimonio, porque el hombre ha ido desdibujando lo que Dios ha creado; Jesús dice que fue por su dureza de corazón, que Dios permitió el divorcio del hombre y la mujer, pero en el principio no era así; Jesucristo le da una gracia especial, porque ocurre que cuando el pecado nos ha herido mucho, sin la gracia de Cristo no se es capaz de vivir la ley natural, es de ley natural que el hombre debe ser fiel a su mujer, porque es un bien, sin embargo, sin la ayuda de Cristo es difícil ser fiel.

Nuestro Señor Jesucristo ha presentado el Sacramento del matrimonio no solo como una realidad de futuro, que da estabilidad, sino que también se debe entender, que desde el momento en que Jesús eleva a sacramento el matrimonio, este significa y realiza la salvación de Dios.

Por otra parte en el numeral 52, la exhortación apostólica de su santidad Juan Pablo II, “familiaris consortios,” sobre la misión de la familia cristiana en el mundo actual, recuerda la misión de la familia de tener la disposición para evangelizar y ser evangelizados, es decir una familia donde mutuamente se comunican el evangelio de medio verbal y mediante las actitudes cotidianas de su vida, como el respeto, el cuidado por otro, el perdón constante, el servicio, su oración y lectura de la palabra de Dios de modo personal y en familia, la vivencia de los sacramentos, la continua conversión de vida; vale recordar que en algunos lugares se celebra el día de San Valentín y con seguridad uno de los mejores detalles de San Valentín es manifestar al otro una acción concreta de conversión personal.

Así mismo un signo visible y que a la vez es testimonio en la comunidad, es la vivencia de la eucaristía en familia, que la nutre y a la vez es inspiración para otras familias. Una familia, así como cita el Papa Juan Pablo II en su exhortación Apostólica, es una familia evangelizadora de otras muchas familias y del ambiente en que ella vive. Esta misión apostólica de la familia está enraizada en el Bautismo y recibe con la gracia sacramental del matrimonio una nueva fuerza para transmitir la fe, para santificar y transformar la sociedad actual según el plan de Dios.

Continuando con la idea anterior, es importante tener cada día plena conciencia de que vamos por nuestro camino y alguien nos observa y va aprendiendo de nuestro comportamiento, por lo que está siempre presente la tarea de exigirnos en realizar buenas acciones que reflejen nuestro ser cristiano, sin olvidar de modo particular que el Sacramento del matrimonio junto con el orden sacerdotal, hacen parte de los sacramentos al servicio de la comunidad. El matrimonio, es una “historia” que ha nacido del designio de Dios, es fruto del amor de Dios. De manera que, experimentándonos amados por él, debemos pasar a través de nosotros para otros este amor, inspirados en Cristo que lava los pies a sus discípulos, que sanan las heridas del enfermo y que entrega la vida por su Iglesia, es decir, por nosotros. Por tanto, que todos los miembros de las familias sean felices, sirviendo y haciendo felices a los demás, y que el escenario del matrimonio y de la familia es el contexto en que Dios nos ha dado para donarnos a los demás.

• El Padre Nelson Gonzales es el vicario parroquial de la Iglesia Católica St. Anthony en Columbus.
Long-term effects of COVID on PI program is a blessing for some

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

The Pastoral Institute (PI) offered by Office of Catechetical Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria, like so many things, had to change to keep going. And it seems to be for the better.

Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry stated, “With the Covid-19 restrictions being lifted, we will be able to allow more people to register for the in-person sessions; however, for those who find it more appealing to participate from the convenience of their own home (synchronous format), that option is also available. And, because all the classes will be recorded, Alvarez said this will provide, yet another avenue for those who desire to watch the sessions “on their own time” within a certain amount of time each week (asynchronously).

Sister Mary Beth Cernoch, IWBS, has chosen to participate asynchronously because of her schedule. “I just won’t pass up an opportunity now,” she said. “I can do it on my own time. That’s why I jumped to it.”

Sister Mary Beth said she recently mentioned to young lady working with her at St. Vincent de Paul that the PI courses can be done asynchronously now, and her co-worker was delighted to hear it.

Brittany Hollas of Edna has, since the lockdowns, chosen the synchronous format, joining the larger class in real time from her home.

Hollas said she chose this “mainly because at the time I was taking Communion to the sick and homebound” and didn’t want to risk catching the virus and spreading it in their homes. Another benefit for her was saving the drive time from Enda to Victoria.

“It’s been an amazing experience,” Hollas said.

There are still many who are glad to be able to come in person. Linda Palmer, who attends the classes with her husband, David, said, “I’m a better learner in person. The diocese did an outstanding job of accommodating us.”

It’s the content of the classes that have the participants coming back.

Palmer said she and her husband discovered the classes through Sister Digna Vela, Linda’s spiritual director. The Palms are not Catholic, but after attending the classes it has led them to the RCIA program at Our Lady of Sorrows.

“It gives great insight into the Church,” Palmer, who was raised Lutheran, said. “When I started with the Pastoral Institute I thought ‘perhaps’ I wanted to be Catholic. Now I have to be Catholic. It’s what God wants from me.” Her husband, David, an ordained Presbyterian minister, is also taking the journey to Catholicism.

She was particularly impacted by the most recent course on the Liturgy, taught by Linda Krehmeier. She was moved by the section dealing with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Sister Mary Beth said it is important for her to continually renew her learning and keep up to date. She took the most recent course, Catholic Morality, taught by the Rev. Greg Korenek. “He was so current with the life issues going on.” She added that it was well researched, thorough and relevant.

The Rev. Jacob Koether will lead the next PI in a six-week course on the Holy Trinity. The class will study the heart of our faith, exploring the mystery of God’s inner life, the Trinity.

Father Jacob said, “Though it might be challenging, it is the most important truth we can meditate on.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life …. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the ‘hierarchy of the truths of faith’” (No. 234).

“The goal is to continue to offer adults a means to better understand the faith, and consciously grow in their relationship with Christ through experience, reflection, prayer, and continued study,” Alvarez said.

This Trinity course, then, will be devoted to exploring this most essential mystery of our faith, which is the mystery of God Himself, and how the doctrine of the Trinity is the ground for everything we believe and do. Topics will include what and who God is, the Trinity in Scripture, the Trinity in prayer and life, and the Trinity in the Church.

“If you have never taken a PI course before, now is the time to join us. This course will benefit all adult Catholics, and is highly recommended for parish catechetical leaders, catechists and others in parish ministry,” Alvarez stated.

Holy Trinity

The Unity of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Instructor:
The Rev. Jacob Koether

Tuesdays, Aug. 24-Sept. 28

This course will be offered in three formats: In-person at the Chancery in Victoria (1505 E. Mesquite Lane), synchronously and asynchronously. The cost is $30 for the six-week course. Participants are encouraged to bring a Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church for this course. The recommended text “The ‘One Thing’ is Three” by the Rev. Michael Gaitley can be purchased online.

Contact Christella Alvarez at 361-827-7171 or email calvarez@victoriadiocese.org to register or for more information.

USCCB webpage answers questions about vote on Communion document

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A page on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops answers a series of questions regarding the bishops’ vote to approve drafting a document on the Eucharist during their spring general assembly June 16-18.

Presented in a question-and-answer format, the page reviews four questions including why the document is being developed and whether the bishops voted to ban elected officials from receiving holy Communion.

The webpage – www.usccb.org/meaning-eucharist-life-church – is dated June 21, three days after the bishops announced the vote to allow the Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November.

The U.S. bishops approved advancing a plan to draft a document to examine the “meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church” following a lengthy debate during their assembly, held virtually due to the pandemic. The action passed with 168 votes in favor and 55 votes against it. There were six abstentions.

Diocece webpage on Communications
port in several types of groups and found more healing in a faith-based group. “There is such a need,” she said. “And when the emphasis in a grief group is your faith, it’s so different from other grief groups.”

She facilitates a group in Baton Rouge called Cracked Pots – Blessed and Broken. “It’s about eight years old now and we feel like it’s just a really dynamic group,” she said.

DeBrueys’ son, James, was a recent college graduate who joined World Teach, an organization that helps teach English in impoverished areas. He requested a post in the Marshall Islands and wanted to be assigned to the most primitive part of the island chain. One day he went with the father of his host family, a few other family members and a pregnant woman who was going for a doctor’s appointment to the main island. They went by boat, but did not have communications or life vests. The boat capsized, likely from a storm, and all of them died. That was Thanksgiving Day 2010.

She helped work through her grief by publishing a book about James and, partly, by James himself.

One thing James did in his months there was write, she said. “James was a writer. He loved to write. And when he was gone those few months he wrote so many letters, probably more than some people do in a lifetime.”

After James died, people started sending her copies of his hand-written letters that she wanted to share with friends and family.

Her book, Jambos With James, is her memoir and a collection of his letters. The word “jambo” on the island means a very long walk. James himself named the book before his death, telling her he didn’t’ know what he was going to do with all the things he was writing, so he suggested making a book himself and calling it Jambos With James. The book published exactly on the 10-year anniversary of her son’s death.

Father Hlavaty said it is not unusual for parents who have lost a child to write a memoir or create something in honor of a child who has died before them as part of the healing process. Others might establish a scholarship fund or a nonprofit that will be their child’s legacy.

Because everyone grieves in different ways, the new group is designed to offer support in many ways. The web page for the ministry states, “Meetings include the opportunity to pray, listen to presentations by clergy and other parents who have lost a child, and meet others on the grief journey. Participants are not required to share anything, and may just remember silent and listen if they’d like.”

“Your heart hurts for them, but you can’t take the pain away,” Father Hawes said. “Only with God’s help can they get through this.”

The next meetings of Strength for the Journey are schedule for July 13 and Aug. 10 at ABVM in Ganado from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For information, contact For more information, please contact Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984, phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org or Deacon Larry Hoelscher, 979-578-3934, lhoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

Go online to www.victoriadiocese.org/grief-support to register online.
Celebrate Christian freedoms in the land of the free

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. … Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:14,16)

EDITOR’S NOTE: Justin Reyes is submitting the following for On the Table. It is written by Seminarian Philippe Dubourdieu, who is spending this summer working in the DOV Chancery offices.

Since completing another year of priestly formation at the end of April, I have been able to accompany a diocesan youth group to Splashway, visit with family members and attend the ordinations of close friends in Brownsville, Austin and Victoria. It seems we are quickly moving towards the end of the pandemic. As many return to enjoying a greater freedom from living with the virus, it may be worthwhile to bring to the table some considerations on true Christian freedom this month as we celebrate our nation’s Independence Day.

The Fourth of July holiday remembers the ones who fought for our independence, and gives us an opportunity to reflect on those principles and rights that were worth dying for, like democracy, freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

Even before the nation’s founding, the first colonists had some of these principles in mind. Maybe Christ’s Sermon on the Mount -- when He calls His followers the light of the world, a city on a hill -- inspired our founding fathers as they established the colonies. We can look at John Winthrop’s famous sermon to find support for this claim.

Moreover, we find that the founding principle of the United States as a nation under God falls under the more complete Catholic understanding of God as the First Principle, the source and cause of all things, including the truth that is written on the human heart, the truth that can be known by reason and can therefore form the basis of a profound and universal dialogue among people about the direction they must give to their lives and their activities. Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.

The pope saint offers this true meaning of freedom in contrast to the distorted understanding of freedom that is pushed by a secularist, individualistic society. An ideal and just society is one in which all citizens are able to do what is right and true.

“The truth will set you free,” the Lord says to His disciples (John 8:32). In this society, the family unit serves as a crucial element to bring up children who aspire to holiness, know God, and seek freedom in Him while awaiting the perfect freedom we hope to attain in Heaven.

I believe in America and share John Paul II’s hope -- and challenge -- for her to always walk in the way of truth. As an immigrant and son of immigrants to the United States from South America, I share a great love for my home in the United States with other immigrants. I am proud to be a citizen alongside other Americans in this great country. I always look forward to celebrating it in July with church picnics, fireworks and going down to Matagorda or Port O’Connor now and throughout the summer.

More importantly, I am grateful to God for the gift of my vocation, His call, and for being able to enter priestly formation and discernment without the fear of persecution. I am grateful for the support of the whole diocese as I go through seminary and try to better conform myself to Christ.

As we enjoy the liberties that others may not be fortunate enough to experience, may we be grateful to God for these opportunities and blessings. Let us heed the advice of the saint pope and begin forming a basis for dialogue, even among our own families at the table, to recommit ourselves to being faithful to God and His Church, and then faithful to our duties as citizens. To Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, be all glory and honor forever. Amen.

Philippe Dubourdieu is a Uruguayan-born seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria currently enrolled at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. He is also interning at the Diocesan Offices of Family Evangelization and Hispanic Ministry.

On the Table

By Justin Reyes

the truths of mankind’s dignity, right to worship, freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

America has always wanted to be a land of the free. Today, the challenge facing America is to find freedom’s fulfillment in the truth: the truth that is intrinsic to human life created in God’s image and likeness, the truth that is written on the human heart, the truth that can be known by reason and can therefore form the basis of a profound and universal dialogue among people about the direction they must give to their lives and their activities. Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.”

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AIR CONDITIONED
Yoakum Community Center
Picnic Stew,
Sausage & Trimmings
Tickets: $10.00
Serving begins at 10:30 am.
Drive-Thru or Dine-In
Auction
12:30 P.M.
Pyramid of Cream Cheese and Poppysued Rolls
• Arts & Crafts
• Antique Furniture
• and Many More Items
• Top Prize $10,000 VALUE
15 Raffle Prizes Totaling $22,550.00 in Value
Register for Raffle Prizes
Available in the Afternoon
St. Joseph Parish
YOAKUM, TEXAS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 1
MEXICAN FOOD
COUNTRY STORE • KIDS’ KORNER
GAMES • CAKE WALK • PANTRY WHEEL

On the Table

By Justin Reyes

Table

By Justin Reyes

these founding principles. He reaffirms our human dignity and encourages the nation to remain primarily grounded in our fidelity to God, in whom we trust:

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BY SR. CONSTANCE VEIT, L.S.P.

In my vocation as a Little Sister of the Poor, I am involved in several aspects of our mission of hospitality to the elderly. One of my favorite things is organizing creative activities for our residents, so I’m always looking for new art projects they might enjoy.

Recently, I became intrigued with collage as an artistic medium. After watching a few online tutorials, I reached out to a professional collage artist to ask her if she had ever taught frail seniors or people with disabilities.

I was touched when I received a personal reply from Elizabeth St. Hilaire the very next day. She gave me some tips about supplies and suggested that I explore the work of collage artist Eric Carle, whose style she thought might correspond to our seniors.

I wasn’t familiar with Eric Carle, at least by name, but when I googled him, I recognized his colorful style from children’s books I’d seen when visiting my nieces and nephew.

The more research I did, the more fascinated I became with Carle’s life and work.

Carle’s childlike spirit and peaceful, carefree creative process really struck me. Both Carle and St. Hilaire create vibrant “paper paintings” featuring many elements from the natural world, along with adorable animals and intriguing human beings. But while St. Hilaire creates her impressionistic images using tiny bits of hand-printed collage paper, Carle’s works are created using pieces of tissue paper he fills with seemingly random brush strokes, circular patterns, dots and splatters of paint. His style is whimsical and a bit primitive.

Watching a video of Eric Carle creating art in his studio and engaging with children, I was struck by his serene attentiveness to his craft, to nature and to other people. I couldn’t help but think that his life could have taken a very different turn.

After an idyllic early childhood, Carle moved to Germany with his parents because his mother missed her homeland. His father was drafted into the German army at the beginning of World War II, taken prisoner and eventually returned home a broken man.

As a teenager, Carle was conscripted to dig trenches along the German border. It was onerous work, forcing him to confront the dark realities of war.

After completing art school, returning to the United States and working for several years as a commercial artist in New York City, he was drafted into the U.S. army during the Korean War. He could have become hardened or cynical, but he didn’t.

In 1967 Carle was hired to illustrate his first children’s book, a job that changed his life. He then devoted the rest of his life to writing and illustrating children’s books – 70 in all, with over 170 million copies sold! Recent interviews reveal a man very much at peace, someone who grew wiser, more insightful and more childlike as he aged.

Eric Carle’s approach to life seems tailor-made for our present situation. “Simplify, slow down, be kind,” he often said.

And on a wall in the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is the following inscription: “Children’s books remind us in uncertain times that there is still much we do know: Kindness matters. Laughter is essential. Caring for each other is everything.”

Carle passed away in his home in Massachusetts on May 23, 2021.

While visiting my family in New England the week after Carle’s death, I had a conversation with my young cousin, a precocious six-year-old. She told me about dressing up as a character from her favorite book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, for a recent school assignment.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar is Eric Carle’s most popular title.

I asked her what makes her appreciate Carle’s books so much. Her response stunned me. Eric Carle, she said, “makes simple beauty out of pieces of nothing.”

I don’t know if Eric Carle was a Christian, but his life and work seem to epitomize Gospel simplicity and Pope Francis’ vision of older people as guides who can help the young formulate their own dreams.

As we look forward to celebrating the first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly on July 25, I feel that I have found a new friend. As I grow older I pray I will be able to make simple beauty out of pieces of nothing like Eric Carle did.

• Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Pregnant? Need Help?

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**Retrouvaille**

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

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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.courage.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. Located at 1501 E. Red River, it 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.

**Emmanuel 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. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer at 361-676-3264 or lisa_heysquiero@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. (Not being held during the summer.) 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 505-710-0903 or mailto:susannekoch64@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 Flotation. 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.raphaelslrefuge.org.

**Retrouvaille**

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

**Strength for the Journey**

– A grief ministry for parents who have lost their child meets monthly Assumption Catholic Church parish hall, 108 6th St., in Ganado from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, please call Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or email phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org. The July 13 meeting will include a reflection on how to grieve the loss of your child in a blended family.

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**Food**

**Ascension Parish Picnic July 18.**

Serving stew and fried chicken dinner. For more information see ad on pg. 18.

**Frelsburg**

– Sts. Peter and Paul NO Festival this year

**Yoakum**

– St. Joseph Picnic, Aug. 1 at the Community Center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served. For more information see at on pg. 17.

**Victoria**

– A Retrouvaille Marriage Weekend is scheduled for Aug. 6-8 for the Victoria area. The event is for hurting marriages. For information, visit HelpOurMarriage.org or call 1-800-470-2330 for confidential inquiries.

**Weimar**

– St. Michael Harvest Feast, Aug. 8 at Veterans Hall. A Polka Mass will be on Saturday, Aug. 7 at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 8 at 10:30 a.m. with Father Wayne Flagg and Lost Cause Band. Music lineup includes Shiner Hobo Band, Lost Cause Band and The Broken Spokes at the park. Watch their Facebook page for more information.

**Port O’Connor**

– KC #9088 and Nazareth Academy Fishing Tournament see ad on pg. 7 for more information.

**Praha**

– 166th Prazska Pout/Praha Picnic Aug. 15. Mass will be at 10 a.m. Starting at 11 a.m. a stew and fried chicken dinner will be served at $12 each plate. Music from 11 a.m.-midnight. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store, bingo (1-5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.), and more throughout the day. Auction at 1 p.m. Food available throughout the afternoon and evening.

**Moulton**


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.

Do you have any calendar of events for the Lighthouse? Submit to

lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org
away to help his parents build a shrimping business in Palacios. He married and had his family, but still had a calling. His wife passed away from breast cancer 14 years ago and he considered becoming a permanent deacon, but that was not to be either, as he was still raising children.

Dihn continued to feel pulled toward the ministry and was praying for God’s guidance. At last, he applied to become a seminarian in the diocese. He said a month later he was in Houston with two younger brothers of his and his children having dinner when he got a call from Father Tommy Chen who told him he was accepted.

“I was speechless,” he said. He said he simply could not find any words for a minute until Father Tommy asked, “Tran, are you still there?”

After that phone call, nothing stopped him from answering God’s call to priesthood.

Deacon Dihn said during his last semester at the seminary he woke up every day and addressed God with, “Really? I’m going to be your deacon and priest? It was overwhelming.”

He is currently at St. Mary’s in Victoria until his ordination. He said God has poured so much grace on him through other people that he is eager to share that grace with others through his vocation. He told his children that his legacy for them is to study and live his faith the best he can.

Deacon Barfield is a convert to Catholicism after having served as a military chaplain – an ordained minister for the Church of the Nazarene. And because he was a clergyman in a Protestant church, he was married. Because of a special dispensation from the Vatican, he was accepted into the seminary to become a priest. He is the first, and so far the only, priest for the diocese who is married.

His call to the Catholic Church evolved over time. At one point, he said, he studied spirituality in a Protestant setting and was taken on a field trip to a Catholic monastery to observe the life of the religious. Little by little he learned more about the doctrine and teaching of the Catholic faith, and a series of encounters and kept pointing the way to Catholicism.

He said his wife converted to Catholicism as well and they have had many conversations of what this vocation will look like.

For now, he is focused on the next six months preparing for ordination in Port Lavaca. “I plan to learn everything I can about celebrating Mass and celebrating it with excellence,” he said.

He said he felt humbled at his ordination on June 12. “It was a surreal moment and a huge step in a 10-year journey.”

The sacramental life of the church and how it transforms our lives is the big picture, Cahill said. “We should be focused on the practice of Sunday Mass and to make it more than our obligation; it’s an encounter with the Lord.”

Bishop Cahill said he hopes the revival can help people realize the “spiritual reality” in the sacraments and understand the meaning of “kerygma” – the heart of the gospel message that should cause our hearts to move our minds. At the Sept. 25 Diocese of Victoria Annual Catholic Conference, Bishop Cahill will offer English- and a Spanish-language workshops on kerygma.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the doctrine committee, presented a proposed outline of the document. He said this was developed in light of the decline in Catholics’ belief in the Real Presence in the Eucharist as well as the long absences from regular Mass attendance, which may have led to people placing less significance on the Eucharist in their lives.

The Communion document also was a key point of discussion in the news conferences June 16 and 17. Bishop Rhoades June 17 stressed that creating national norms was never the intent behind a proposal to write a new statement on the Eucharist. He said it would be aimed at providing guidance for bishops.

“We have taught in years past about Catholics in political life, the importance of adherence to church teaching in the document on worthiness to receive holy Communion, back in 2006,” Bishop Rhoades said. “But with this new strategic plan that’s going to be focused on the Eucharist, this three-year plan, we have to teach this again, on different levels.”

Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis is leading the Eucharistic Revival efforts. At the end of three years, he said, it is hoped over 100,000 missionaries will be ready to “share the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist with our world.”

During their virtual assembly, the bishops also discussed their efforts on immigration, which may have led to people placing less significance on the Eucharist in their lives.

The Eucharist rests on a paten at the altar in the Cathedral of St. Peter in Wilmington, Del., May 27, 2021. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)

The subcommittee contracted the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate to conduct a survey of U.S. worship sites to collect data on the movement of Catholics throughout the country. CARA found that the Archdioceses of Los Angeles, Miami, Seattle, Atlanta and Galveston-Houston are among those U.S. archdioceses with the greatest number of people passing through their territories.

Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of the Archdiocese of Washington, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Migration, gave a brief presentation on a June 1-2 gathering of Catholic leaders on immigration.

Prelates from the U.S., Central America and Mexico, along with those in charge of various prominent Catholic organizations, met at Mundelein Seminary outside Chicago to talk about welcoming migrants, advocating for them and exploring the causes that force many to leave their home countries.

Archbishop Jose Gomez, USCCB president, said the events of the past year will likely shape the vision of the church “for years to come.” That’s why unity is important, he added. He also noted that unity doesn’t mean bishops will never disagree, because even the apostles disagreed, “but never about the truth of the Gospel.”

The bishops also gave their go-ahead June 17 to two dioceses to continue their efforts to make their case for a priest and a brother to be considered for sainthood.

The men are Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur of the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, an Army chaplain who died saving others in World War II, and Benedictine Brother Marinus of St. Paul’s Abbey in Newton, N.J., who before he joined religious life, was Capt. Leonard LaRue, known for his heroism while serving in the Merchant Marine during the Korean War.

Bishop Cahill said the affirmation of the causes for Father Lafleur and Brother Mari- nus was a happy moment for the Diocese of Victoria because of the diocese’s interest and support of the military chaplaincy and the seafarers’ ministry. He said it also will help in the process for furthering the cause for sainthood of Father Charles Kram.

• Janet Jones, editor of The Catholic Lighthouse, contributed to this story.