2021 IWBS jubilarians celebrate total of 610 years

VICTORIA — Ten Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated the anniversaries of their religious professions this year, with their combined years of religious life adding up to 610.

A special Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral on July 10, with Bishop Brendan Cahill as the main celebrant. Also celebrating with him were Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, the Rev. Albert Yankey, IWC Chaplain; and other priests of the diocese as well as visiting priests. In addition to the local Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters, there were visiting Sisters from other congregations as well as many family members and guests coming from as far away as Arkansas.

The following are the sisters who have jubilees this year:

80 YEARS
SISTER CARMELITA CASSO
Sister Carmelita Casso, daughter of the late Jesse and Luisa Diaz Casso, was born in San Antonio. She attended Houghton Public Schools in Detroit, Mich., and St. Peter and St. Joseph's Home in San Antonio. After she graduated from Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, she entered the
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Aug. 15 I will be celebrating Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Mary’s in Praha. The Feast of the Assumption of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation and the Parish Feast Day in Praha.

For years this Mass and picnic has represented a way to honor Mary, our Blessed Virgin Mother, who entered completely into heaven, body and soul. Because she did not sin and alone among all people was “full of grace,” Mary did not experience the decay of her body. We believe her body and soul were brought up, “assumed,” into heaven immediately after her time on earth.

The earliest disciples knew Mary personally. As the mother of Jesus, she knew most fully that He was the Son of God and that, in rising from the dead, He opened the way to eternal life. As the mother of Jesus, she knew most fully the pain of His rejection by the people, His torture and His death. Of all people, Mary understood and saw the effects of evil and the victory of God over sin and death.

Mary is a real historical person who witnessed to others what she heard, saw and experienced. From her place in heaven she continues to urge people towards the victory of life over death. And God continues to respect our human freedom as individuals to choose either life or death.

On the question of why God allows people the freedom to sin, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote in his Summa Theologiae III, 1, 3: “There is nothing to prevent human nature’s being raised up to something greater, even after sin; God permits evil in order to draw forth some greater good.” (cited in the Catechism of the Catholic Church #412)

We have the freedom to turn our hearts toward the greater good, and, if we do, we have the promise of eternal life.

Right after the Mass of the Feast of the Assumption, I’ll be going over to the parish hall for some of the best fried chicken around. The Feast in Praha also is a day to honor the community of faith who make up the Church.

The parish picnics this summer are reminding me of the importance of community for our spiritual, emotional and personal life.

For generations, men and women have come to the churches in our area and offered praise and worship, prayers and supplications to God. They also have celebrated all the sacraments and the special days when we want to especially ask God’s guidance. The culture, music, food and dancing at the parish picnics lift up thanksgiving to God and support for our churches.

May we be faithful children of our heavenly Mother, and may God bless you and your families this summer with peace, joy and rest. Let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

P.S. For more information go to https://www.flatoniachamber.com/events/2021/st-marys-catholic-church-picnic---praha--prazska-pout

---

40th anniversary

The Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasicako celebrated 40 years as a priest on July 11, his actual ordination date. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated a Mass at 2 p.m. and many other priests from the Diocese of Victoria attended. After Mass, a meal was served. Father Dominic was ordained in 1981 in the Diocese of Sunyani in Ghana. Since he came to the Diocese of Victoria, he has served at St. Mary’s and Our Lady of Victory parishes in Victoria; Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville; Holy Family in Wharton and St. Joseph in Boling. He is currently the pastor of Queen of Peace in Sweet Home and St. John the Baptist in Koerth. (Contributed Photo)
The Catholic Lighthouse cannot be held liable, or in any way responsible for the content of any advertisement appearing within these pages. All claims, offers, guarantees, statements, etc., made by The Catholic Lighthouse advertisers are solely the responsibility of the advertiser. Deceptive or misleading advertising is never knowingly accepted. Complaints regarding advertising should be made directly to the advertiser or the Better Business Bureau.

Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

August
6  6:20 a.m. Mass and Sister Rosario’s renewal of vows at IWBS Convent Chapel; Victoria

6-7  Nazareth Fishing Tournament; Port O’Connor

8  1 p.m. Fourth African National Eucharistic Congress closing Mass at Charismatic Center; Houston

9  2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith

5 p.m. Diocesan Liturgical Commission at the Chancery; Victoria

10  9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center

10-11  North American Maritime Ministry Association Online Convention

11  Pension Board Meeting at the Chancery; Victoria

15  10 a.m. Mass for the Feast of the Assumption; Praha

3 p.m. Our Lady of the Gulf 25th Anniversary School Mass; Port Lavaca

16  Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists

17  6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio call-in

9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center

18  10:30 a.m. visit with St. Anthony’s School eighth graders at the Chancery; Victoria

Noon lunch with IWBS sisters at Incarnate Word Convent; Victoria

Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville

9:30 a.m. meeting with deacon aspirants; Cuero

20  9 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria

22  9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center

23-30  Vacation

31  9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center

2 p.m. CRL committee meetings (Finance and Executive); Virtual

September
3  3 p.m. Holy Hour at Chancery Chapel; Victoria

4  Mass with the Carmelites; Meyersville

The Rev. James Dvorak honored at special Mass

PORT LAVACA — At a special Mass on Saturday, June 26, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from the Diocese of Victoria presented a chalice and sick call kit to the Rev. James Dvorak at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church.

According to Sir Knight Joe A. Martinez, district marshal, the chalice is in memory of Sir Knight John T. Burke Jr. From Bishop Vath Assembly in Birmingham, Ala., and the sick call kit is a gift from the Victoria Diocese Assemblies. The Bishop Vath Assembly has a special program to help provide military chaplains with items they need for their ministry.

Victoria Diocese Assembly members from Edna, Ganado, Hillje, El Campo, Palacios, Port Lavaca and Victoria attended the special Mass to thank Father Dvorak for his service.

Father Dvorak is currently serving as the parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church along with her three missions that are spread across Calhoun County. He was commissioned as an officer with the Navy on Oct. 7, 2016.

Since then he has participated in various trainings held by the Navy Chaplain Candidate Program. He will serve the Diocese of Victoria in Texas for two more years – three years altogether – before going on active duty as a Navy chaplain where he will serve the Navy and Marines of the U.S. Armed Forces.

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

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

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

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

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)
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+

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

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: In memory of Betty Knippenberg
- Acolyte: In memory of Betty Knippenberg
- Candidate: In memory of Betty Jean Knippenberg
- Transitional Deacon: In memory of Paul P. Kaspar
- Priest: In memory of Betty Jean Knippenberg

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

St. Mary • High Hill

Spectacular Fireworks Show at 10 p.m.
Queen of the Painted Churches

Sunday, September 5

Flag Raising Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. • Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m.
Cakewalk 11:00 a.m. • Country Store • Duck Pond • Ring Toss • Train Ride
Washer Pitching at 1:00 p.m. • Nachos • Hamburgers • Souvenir Booth at Rectory
Bounce House • Soda Water Stand • Sausage Stand (High Hill Sausage)
Sweepstakes (Over 50 Prizes) Drawing at 9:00 p.m.

Music During the Day by:

Texas Sound Czech and Mark Halata/Texavia
Free Dance at Night by Texas Dream

Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner
11:00 a.m. to 7
(German Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Green Beans)
Adults - $10 /Children $5
~ Drive thru adult take home plates ONLY ~ Entrance from FM 2672 north-bound only ~

Auction 1:00 p.m.
Livestock, Quilts, Homemade Items, Plants and Much More

Happy birthday to our seminarians

Luke Prihoda is doing his Clinical Pastoral Education in Lubbock this summer. He will return to St. Mary’s Seminary in the fall, entering Theology III. Luke’s hometown is Weimar. His birthday is Aug 10. Write to Luke at: St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77024.

Caleb Krischke is taking a Spanish program in San Antonio this summer. This fall he will return to St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, entering Theology II. Caleb’s hometown is St. John. His birthday is Aug 30. Write to Caleb at: St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77024.

“Follow me and I will make you fishermen of men.”
Matthew 4:18-22
There are no limits to prayer

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following sermon was written for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. It was titled “Unceasing Prayer.”

Life is full of uncertainty. We attend a party one day and a funeral the next. We smile and then we cry. In the course of a lifetime, we must all go through many a storm.

Like Peter sinking in the waves, we can often say our best prayers in times of stress. But what a narrow attitude it would be if we were to limit ourselves to pray only when we are in trouble. We must learn to pray every day and in many ways.

A man once asked his pastor, “Father, is it all right to smoke while praying?” The priest said, “Certainly not,” and scolded the man for his irreverence.

So the man asked another priest, but this time he asked, “Father, is it all right to pray while smoking?” This time the answer was, “Certainly, we should pray always.”

As a boy, I sometimes wondered whether it was permissible to say my night prayers in bed.

When I was a seminary student, our dean, who was a priest, said that he sometimes said his daily prayers while soaking in the bathtub.

Prayer is a lifting up of our minds and hearts to God, and does not have to be done in unoccupied moments or on our knees or in dignified surroundings.

So how can we be sure to do it right?

One lady told me that she prays five rosaries every day and another woman showed me a stack of worn prayer cards from which she reads prayers every day. Can we pray too much? Actually, a better question would be, how many and what kind of prayers would we say well and without neglecting our duties? A housewife and mother, for example, must not neglect the children for the sake of more time to pray.

One way to solve such a prayer problem is to offer our whole day to God in the morning by what is commonly called a “Morning Offering,” such as, “Lord, I offer you everything I do today for ... ,” and then mention the things for which you especially want to pray.

Another way many devout persons find useful is to light a candle. On a birthday cake, the candles say, “Happy birthday. May you have many more.” In a religious setting, a burning candle says, “Lord, as I go my way, my candle stands in my place, as a symbol of my prayer.”

Or let’s take another example: Every now and then, when I come down to the chapel at night, I see an elderly man silently sitting in one of the pews. He does not seem to be saying or doing anything. There is a form of wordless prayer known as contemplative prayer, which consists of simply being in God’s presence – waiting and listening, enjoying God’s company.

Finally, we should put in a word for the novena, a nine-day prayer. Keeping up a prayer for some special favor for nine days is well in keeping with the teaching of the Scriptures to be persistent and not give up if the answer is delayed. Give it a try sometime. Make up a novena prayer in your own words if you like.

In conclusion, we need to bear in mind what Jesus told Peter when He caught him by the hand. He said, “How little faith you have! Why did you falter?” Whenever you pray, believe that you are being heard; expect an answer.

St. Augustine’s mother prayed for 20 years for his conversion. If receiving an answer to your prayer takes a while, keep trying.

Lord Jesus, thank you for rescuing Peter and showing us the need to believe. Help us to pray day in and day out in good times and in bad. Grant that by praying well and not giving up, we may be granted everything we need. Amen.

Father Charles Kram died on Aug. 13, 2000, at the age of 70, having spent 47 of those years as a quadriplegic and totally dependent, but whose greatest joy was being able to help everyone he could as his way to give glory to God. Please continue to pray for his beatification to sainthood:

Heavenly Father,
I praise you, I adore you, I glorify you and I thank you for all the gifts you have given to me. Your priest, Father Charles Kram, left me a wonderful example of pastoral charity and patient suffering. He is for me a perfect model of your Divine Mercy.

May I accept your divine will in the adversities I now encounter, offering them up in union with the silent suffering of Jesus on the cross and Mary at the foot of the cross.

If it be your will and by your divine mercy, grant the petition I present to you this day ________ and may Father Kram be raised to the altar as a saint in Heaven.

I pray for this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

The story of Father Charles W. Kram, Jr., is one of tremendous love of God and neighbor as lived by him and all the people who cared for him during the many years he was paralyzed form his neck to his toes. You can read more in the book “Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities,” by Deacon Anthony Warzeka. The book is available through Amzaon and Barnes and Noble.
The year was 2004 and I had watched “The Passion of the Christ” for the fourth time, finally able to see most of it before it became a tear-filled blur. Even though I had thought about the possibility of becoming a religious sister since I was a little girl, I give credit to this movie for actually moving me into action. The scene after the crucifixion where Mary holds Jesus and looks out to us made me think she was asking me, “See what He has done for you? What will you do for Him?”

This was the event that set into motion my coming to meet Sister Mildred Truchard. As I searched online and became overwhelmed by the different women religious communities that were available in the United States, I came across a gentle “hello” in the form of an email requesting an in-person meeting. She requested that we meet in a public area and even recommended a Dairy Queen. (Later I would come to find out the love the Sisters have for Dairy Queen and Dairy Treat!)

We ended up meeting at the Diamond S in Bay City because, at that time, I preferred Diamond S. (That has since changed.) From there, our journey together began. She was the vocation director, and I was interested in religious life.

I got to know and visit her while she was at a convent in Ganado. I found out that she had an immense love for animals and nature. At that time, and even now sometimes, I would get anxiety traveling to places I had never been before. Not knowing the city or town made me nervous, and GPS was not readily available on every cell phone as it is now, so Sister Mildred was the driver for many of our excursions while visiting the convent in Victoria. During these trips with Sister Mildred as the driver, I learned that she could have easily been on “The Fast and the Furious” and given Vin Diesel a run (drive?) for his money.

Sister Mildred was one of the many hands that led me to my formation with the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters. On Aug. 6, I renew my temporary vows for the last time, because, next year, if God is willing, I will be celebrating my final profession.

I think back of the intertwining roads that led me here. The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament were in Bay City, but I never encountered them. I have a vague memory of being very young and peeking around the aisles of the Eckerd’s store we had there, watching a Sister shop for a greeting card and telling her that I wanted to be like her one day. However, that was the first and last time I saw a Sister in Bay City. It is a mystery to know now that God had a certain plan for me with a certain community of religious sisters, which would not have been put into motion had Sister Mildred not sent that gentle email asking for an in-person meeting.

It is also bittersweet to know that Sister Mildred, who has been writing “Sisterly Thoughts” in the Catholic Lighthouse since I was a freshman in high school, will now be passing that baton to someone else. Who would have known that after our meeting at Diamond S, she would one day be passing that baton to me? I know her column has been a beloved staple in the Lighthouse. I only hope to be able to continue what she started, and that is bringing to you and showing you in writing, our love for the Incarnate Word.

Sister Mildred Truchard, who wrote “Sisterly Thoughts” for The Catholic Lighthouse for 26 years, has passed the baton to Sister Rosario Resendez. She is pictured here with Regina Janak who has worked on the Diocese of Victoria’s monthly paper since it began.
Emmaus Center keeping the dream alive

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

The Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty didn’t just take on the role of pastor/rector of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory after Bishop Gary Janak was called to the Archdiocese of San Antonio, he also took on the executive directorship of the Emmaus Center.

The counseling center was Bishop Janak’s dream and Father Hlavaty said, “Now that he’s left, we want to keep that dream alive. As he (Janak) rightly assessed, there is a need for it.”

Father Hlavaty already was part of the center offering spiritual direction, another service provided there, so he was a natural fit for his new responsibilities.

Another major change at the center is the recent departure of its clinical director, Ashley Silvas, whose husband transferred out of town.

Deacon Leo Sharron from St. Michael’s in Cuero has stepped in to take on the duties of clinical director part time. He also is employed as a chaplain for Hospice of Victoria.

Sharron has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling. He has been with the Emmaus Center since 2017.

Sharron said he counsels married couples and adult individuals mainly. “I deal with a lot of grief, a lot of anxiety and a lot of depression,” he said.

As a deacon, counseling in the Catholic Christian tradition is important to Sharron. He referred to the logo depicting the encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. He noted that Jesus is in the center between two people in the silhouette drawing. He said that’s how he sees his relationship to the clients he serves – as they interact, Jesus is in the middle of the conversation.

“Jesus meets people where they are,” he said. “And we need to continue to meet people where they are so, hopefully, healing can take place.”

Sharron said being a chaplain for hospice patients is what encouraged him to pursue his education in counseling. “I realized the need for more skill sets,” he said. “Part of being a deacon is about service – being out in the community making God present to others. Counseling is a way for me to touch people’s lives in a very particular way.”

Both Deacon Sharron and Father Hlavaty can see opportunities to increase their services. The center will be organizing a fund-raising campaign in the near future to help them help the many people who seek counseling.

Because of the pandemic, the center canceled its live fundraiser for the past two spring seasons. It depends on donations to continue providing services for everyone at well below industry rates. They do not want to turn anyone away, but do have a waiting list for clients.

Community donation
GANADO — The Ganado Volunteer Fire Department received the KJZT family Life Statewide Fraternal 100 Project Award from KJZT Society No. 43, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Each KJZT Society that attains status rating is awarded $100 to be given to a charity of their choice. Pictured in front of the fire department’s newest truck are Fire Marshal Paul Lesak and Fire Chief Bernard Scott. KJZT Society No. 43 President Cecilia French is presenting the donation along with KJZT members Helen Andel and Frances Vesely. KJZT Family Life is proud of its members and their dedication to their parishes and communities. It is a fraternal benefit society founded in 1894 by Czech Catholic women and is committed to strengthening its members through Catholic faith and community service while providing financial security. (Contributed Photo)
Attention High School Youth:

Youth Leadership Training Applications Available NOW!

Email Shannon Thomas at sthomas@victoriadiocese.org or Wendy Eggert at weggert@victoriadiocese.org

For More Information

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. Pictured above, left, is St. Philip School from El Campo at the Cathedral Center in Victoria and right, is St. Rose of Lima School from Schulenburg at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville.
DOV schools’ enrollment as a whole was that is nothing unique to St. Michael’s. The search for a new principal will continue in hopes of having the right person in the 2020-21 school year. The position had not been filled by mid-summer, which left little time to bring in someone new.

Jennifer Saenz, St. Michael’s principal, said even though the school is an older one, it is up-to-date on everything. “Our curriculum standards are high. Teachers are expected to excel and there is support for all levels of kids.”

Saenz said it is a pleasure to work in Catholic school because of the Christian principal embedded in everything they do, and because they tend to produce “strong, very self-confident kids” who are well prepared for higher education. The children all are given chances to read at weekly Mass or at the morning assemblies, where prayer and the pledges to the flags continue. The parents are also invited to stay for the morning assembly and tend to be very involved, so the school as a whole is like a large family.

Father Mendoza said he plans to have school Masses every Wednesday and have first Friday adoration of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The change to Wednesday Mass will allow for students to have Thursdays and Fridays to discuss the Gospel message from their weekly Mass, Saenz said.

Masses using the high altar that was restored in 2017, are also one of Father Mendoza’s plans, he said, so the young people can experience “old traditions in a new way,” he said. “Every part of the church is there for a reason. A church is not a museum. It’s meant to be used.”

One of Father Mendoza’s early challenges was finding a new principal after Jennifer Saenz announced her intention to retire after the 2020-21 school year. The position had not been filled by mid-summer, which left little time to bring in someone new.

Saenz agreed to play a support role through the year to help out, but just recently announced she would stay one more year instead of leaving the school without a principal. “One more year full time,” she said, “I just love the school too much.”

She also wants to be supportive to Father Mendoza in his first year as pastor and school administrator.

The search for a new principal will continue in hopes of having the right person in the office for 2022-23. Enrollment is another challenge, but that is nothing unique to St. Michael’s. The DOV schools’ enrollment as a whole was down about 6 percent last year overall and much of that was due to the pandemic. And, because Cuero has been a boom or bust town with the oil business, the school enrollment can fluctuate significantly. The school also has students who come from surrounding communities like Yorktown, Meyersville, Mission Valley and Nursery.

Saenz said it is looking pretty good for the coming year with numbers back to the pre-pandemic level, around 80 children. Mendoza said he would like to see enrollment increase to at least 100 students.

is often associated with St. Michael, and includes a symbol of the Eucharist, the Alpha and Omega, a sword (also for St. Michael) and a mustang, the school mascot. Jennifer Saenz, St. Michael’s principal, said even though the school is an older one, it is up-to-date on everything. “Our curriculum standards are high. Teachers are expected to excel and there is support for all levels of kids.”

Saenz said it is a pleasure to work in Catholic school because of the Christian principal embedded in everything they do, and because they tend to produce “strong, very self-confident kids” who are well prepared for higher education. The children all are given chances to read at weekly Mass or at the morning assemblies, where prayer and the pledges to the flags continue. The parents are also invited to stay for the morning assembly and tend to be very involved, so the school as a whole is like a large family.

Father Mendoza said he plans to have school Masses every Wednesday and have first Friday adoration of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The change to Wednesday Mass will allow for students to have Thursdays and Fridays to discuss the Gospel message from their weekly Mass, Saenz said.

Masses using the high altar that was restored in 2017, are also one of Father Mendoza’s plans, he said, so the young people can experience “old traditions in a new way,” he said. “Every part of the church is there for a reason. A church is not a museum. It’s meant to be used.”

One of Father Mendoza’s early challenges was finding a new principal after Jennifer Saenz announced her intention to retire after the 2020-21 school year. The position had not been filled by mid-summer, which left little time to bring in someone new.

Saenz agreed to play a support role through the year to help out, but just recently announced she would stay one more year instead of leaving the school without a principal. “One more year full time,” she said, “I just love the school too much.”

She also wants to be supportive to Father Mendoza in his first year as pastor and school administrator.

The search for a new principal will continue in hopes of having the right person in the office for 2022-23. Enrollment is another challenge, but that is nothing unique to St. Michael’s. The DOV schools’ enrollment as a whole was down about 6 percent last year overall and much of that was due to the pandemic. And, because Cuero has been a boom or bust town with the oil business, the school enrollment can fluctuate significantly. The school also has students who come from surrounding communities like Yorktown, Meyersville, Mission Valley and Nursery.

Saenz said it is looking pretty good for the coming year with numbers back to the pre-pandemic level, around 80 children. Mendoza said he would like to see enrollment increase to at least 100 students.

is often associated with St. Michael, and includes a symbol of the Eucharist, the Alpha and Omega, a sword (also for St. Michael) and a mustang, the school mascot. Jennifer Saenz, St. Michael’s principal, said even though the school is an older one, it is up-to-date on everything. “Our curriculum standards are high. Teachers are expected to excel and there is support for all levels of kids.”

Saenz said it is a pleasure to work in Catholic school because of the Christian principal embedded in everything they do, and because they tend to produce “strong, very self-confident kids” who are well prepared for higher education. The children all are given chances to read at weekly Mass or at the morning assemblies, where prayer and the pledges to the flags continue. The parents are also invited to stay for the morning assembly and tend to be very involved, so the school as a whole is like a large family.

Father Mendoza said he plans to have school Masses every Wednesday and have first Friday adoration of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The change to Wednesday Mass will allow for students to have Thursdays and Fridays to discuss the Gospel message from their weekly Mass, Saenz said.

Masses using the high altar that was restored in 2017, are also one of Father Mendoza’s plans, he said, so the young people can experience “old traditions in a new way,” he said. “Every part of the church is there for a reason. A church is not a museum. It’s meant to be used.”

One of Father Mendoza’s early challenges was finding a new principal after Jennifer Saenz announced her intention to retire after the 2020-21 school year. The position had not been filled by mid-summer, which left little time to bring in someone new.

Saenz agreed to play a support role through the year to help out, but just recently announced she would stay one more year instead of leaving the school without a principal. “One more year full time,” she said, “I just love the school too much.”

She also wants to be supportive to Father Mendoza in his first year as pastor and school administrator.

The search for a new principal will continue in hopes of having the right person in the office for 2022-23. Enrollment is another challenge, but that is nothing unique to St. Michael’s. The DOV schools’ enrollment as a whole was down about 6 percent last year overall and much of that was due to the pandemic. And, because Cuero has been a boom or bust town with the oil business, the school enrollment can fluctuate significantly. The school also has students who come from surrounding communities like Yorktown, Meyersville, Mission Valley and Nursery.

Saenz said it is looking pretty good for the coming year with numbers back to the pre-pandemic level, around 80 children. Mendoza said he would like to see enrollment increase to at least 100 students.
Pandemic is not over, but more normal school days ahead

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

There are mixed emotions as students, teachers and administrators gear up for the 2021-22 school year.

“I say it every day: ‘Thank God that year is over,'” said Jennifer Saenz, principal of St. Michael’s in Cuero, referring to 2020, when the pandemic forced the closure of campuses everywhere and students had to learn from home.

On the other hand, this year could be hard to navigate with two schools of thought on masking and social distancing, according to Theresa Dent, principal of Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca. “People don’t want to be told what to do, or they’re scared,” she said.

OLG and St. Michael’s will both be some of the same things as last year, like hand sanitizing, extra cleaning and doing temperature checks.

Both principals said masks would be optional.

According to Dr. John Quary, superintendent of the Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Victoria, all campuses will be deciding how to handle mask-wearing, but most will make them optional.

Dent said there won’t be the same option for children to choose virtual learning if school is open, because this year days away from campus will be considered absences.

Quary said some of the new protocols should become standard. “The flu was virtually non-existent (last year),” he said.

And Dent said they didn’t catch any COVID-19 cases with regular temperature checks, but they did manage to get ahead of a few other common illnesses like strep throat in one case.

Saenz, Dent and Quary all agreed that it is good to have the campuses open and they hope, using careful steps to continue prevention, the doors will stay open.

“I am relieved to be looking at what we hope will be a normal school year,” Quary said. “We need to re-center and reset ourselves, and we can’t be fearful.”

He plans to have an in-person school conference on Aug. 6 and is excited to get the educators back together in person. “We are the Body of Christ.”

Helping with COVID expenses

KJT Home Office awarded $250 COVID Relief Grant to the KJT Society 115 of Victoria

The donation was presented to Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor/rector of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory to help cover expenses relating to the pandemic. Shown with Father Kirby are KJT members and OLV parishioners, Donald Dusek, left, and Robert Stryk.

Are you invested properly? Get a second opinion.

Kenny French Sr
Financial Advisor
1501 E Mockingbird Ln Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77904
361-576-0178

Edward Jones
Making Sense of Investing
edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

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 Gusie Schmidt Road, Victoria, TX 77909
Questions? Contact Anita at 979-541-3132 or anita.christensen@att.net

Liz Kelly is a popular speaker and an award-winning author of nine books, including Reason 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. 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.

Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop
(361) 575-7111
1101 NE Water St. (in Old Victoria)
Victoria, TX 77901
Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items Inspirational Gifts

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.
There has been a lot of movement among the clergy this year in the Diocese of Victoria. The retirement of three long-time priests, not to mention the much-celebrated elevation of one of its own to bishop, has meant a lot of priests have moved to new parishes and taken on new roles.

**RETIRING THIS YEAR**

The Rev. Michael Lyons celebrated a 25-year jubilee with a Latin Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg. He served that parish as well as St. Roch in Mentz for five years before retiring.

The Rev. Clement Quainoo, celebrated his 39th anniversary as a priest in July and just before that announced his plan to retire as pastor of St. Andrew in Hillje and St. Procopius in Louise. The Rev. Michael Rother, pastor of St. Philip in El Campo, is the temporary administrator of the parishes in Hillje and Louise.

The Rev. Tim Kosler, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination in April, also entered retirement this year. He has been pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, for 29 of those years. Also this summer, he and Father Dan Kalich, who retired last year, learned of their elevation to Monsignor.
2021 IWBS jubilarians celebrate total of 610 years

Continued from pg. 1

Sister Lois Marie Etzler
Sister Lois Marie Etzler, daughter of the late Louis and Annie Marie Hone Kutac, was born in Shiner. She went to Beasley Public School and Shiner Public School before transferring to St. Ludmila Academy for the eighth grade and high school. After doing clerical work at Burns Hospital in Cuero for a year, she entered the postulancy at Nazareth Convent on Sept. 8, 1959; she received the habit on Aug. 5, 1960; and professed her first vows on Aug. 6, 1961. She earned a BA degree with a major in history and a minor in English from Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston. She earned additional college credits at Southwest Texas State University and Oblate School of Theology.

During her years of ministry in the classroom, she served at Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, St. Mary School in Nada, St. John School in San Antonio, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, St. Michael School in Cuero and Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. She also was director of religious education at St. Agnes Church in Edna for two years and served as Local Superior of Incarnate Word Convent for seven and a half years. She presently ministers at Nazareth Academy as office manager.

Sister Paschaline Kutac
Sister Paschaline Kutac, daughter of the late Louis and Annie Marie Hone Kutac, was born in Shiner. She went to Beasley Public School and Shiner Public School before transferring to St. Ludmila Academy for the eighth grade and high school. After doing clerical work at Burns Hospital in Cuero for a year, she entered the postulancy at Nazareth Convent on Sept. 8, 1959; she received the habit on Aug. 5, 1960; and professed her first vows on Aug. 6, 1961. She earned a BA degree with a major in history and a minor in English from Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston. She earned additional college credits at Southwest Texas State University and Oblate School of Theology.

During her years of ministry in the classroom, she served at Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, St. Mary School in Nada, St. John School in San Antonio, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, St. Michael School in Cuero and Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. She also was director of religious education at St. Agnes Church in Edna for two years and served as Local Superior of Incarnate Word Convent for seven and a half years. She presently ministers at Nazareth Academy as office manager.

Sister Clementine Henke
Sister Clementine Henke, daughter of the late Leo and Viola Klekar Henke, was born in Hallettsville. She attended Sacred Heart Grade School in Hallettsville and then studied at Nazareth Academy in Victoria from which she received her high school diploma. She entered the postulancy at Nazareth Convent on Sept. 8, 1959; she received the habit on Aug. 5, 1960; and professed her first vows on Aug. 6, 1961. Sister later attended St. Thomas University in Houston where she received her MRE degree.

During her 60 years of religious profession, Sister Clementine ministered at Holy Cross School in Bay City, Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, St. Michael School in Weimar and Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, where she is presently ministering.

Sister Charlene Machala
Sister Charlene Machala, daughter of Stanley and Clara Gregory Machala, born in Baytown, is the oldest of nine children. She attended Sacred Heart School in Crosby, and then graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She entered the postulancy at Nazareth Convent on Sept. 8, 1959; she received the habit on Aug. 5, 1960; and professed her first vows on Aug. 6, 1961. She earned a BA degree with a major in history and a minor in English from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During her years as a professed sister, she ministered at St. Agnes School and St. Leo School in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Our Lady of Victory School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Falls City Public School, Mary Immaculate School in Dallas, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma and St. Michael School in Weimar. On her 25th anniversary of profession, she spent 25 days in Europe and visiting Medjugorje in 1990, Washington State for her 30th, and there’s no telling what the 60th will bring. She has attended International Reunions, NCEA Conventions, and also did some cruising.

Presently, she resides at Incarnate Word Convent ministering in the gift shop and some Amor Meus Center offerings and assisting in various assignments.

Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrating jubilee anniversaries this year are, from left, seated, Sister Carmelita Casso, 80 years; Sister Anna Marie Popp, 70 years; second row, Sister Paschaline Kutac, 60 years; Sister Clementine Henke, 60 years; Sister Lois Marie Etzler 60 years; Sister Ann Francis Shimek, 50 years; Sister Andrea Habnik, 60 years; Sister Magdalen Carpenter 50 years; Sister Charlene Machala, 60 years; and Sister Colette Kouba, 60 years. (Contributed Photo)
vows on Aug. 6, 1961. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. During her years of ministry, she served at the Community Hospital in Cuero as surgical and medical nurse and director of nurses. Sister was assigned to Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum where she continued nursing and was director of nurses for three years. Then, she was appointed director and instructor of the Licensed Vocational Nurse program affiliated with The Victoria College. Sister has been director of the Health Care Center of Incarnate Word Convent for the past 25 years. When she finds the time, she works with the flowers that she grows to enhance the altars in the health care center.

Sister Andrea Hubnik
Sister Andrea Hubnik, daughter of the late August and Mary Sevcik Hubnik, was born in Buckholts. She attended the Marak Public School and St. Mary Catholic School in Marak and completed the eighth grade at Ada Henderson School and earned her high school diploma from C. H. Yoe High School in Cameron. She entered the postulancy at Nazareth Convent on Sept. 8, 1959; and received the habit on Aug. 4, 1960; she professed her first vows on Aug. 6, 1961. She received her BA degree in business education from Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston and her Masters of Business Administration degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

Continued from pg. 12

Aug. 6, 1971. She received her Bachelor of Science in nursing and Master of Business Administration degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During 50 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Magdalen’s ministry has been in the health care area. She has ministered at Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum, Community Hospital in Cuero, IW Convent Healthcare in Victoria, Mercy Hospital in Jourdanton, Yoakum Catholic Hospital, and continues today to minister at Christus Santa Rosa N.W. in San Antonio. She has ministered in various departments in the health care area.

She enjoys arts and crafts and working with puzzles and reading.

Sister Ann Francis Shimek
Sister Ann Francis Shimek, daughter of the late Wenceslaus and Helen Kurtz Shimek of Hallettsville, was born in Victoria. She completed grammar grades at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. She graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria and became a postulant on Sept. 8, 1969, and made her profession of vows on Aug. 6, 1971. She received a bachelor’s degree from Incarnate Word College.

During 50 years as a professed member of the congregation, she taught at St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School in Shiner, St. Michael School in Cuero, Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. During her years of teaching, she taught primary, elementary and secondary grades religion and music. Her mission was also in reaching out as musician at San Jose Mission. Then she reached out to many when she became a massage therapist. She is now in ministry at Incarnate Word Convent as organist and gardener. She enjoys cooking, gardening, music and camping.
Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

El 15 de agosto celebraré misa a las 10 a.m. en St. Mary’s en Praha. La Fiesta de la Asunción de María es un Día Santo de Oblicación y la Fiesta de la Parroquia en Praha. Durante muchos años esta Misa y picnic ha representado una forma de honrar a María, nuestra Santísima Virgen Madre que entró de lleno en el cielo, en cuerpo y alma. Porque ella no pecó y sola entre todas las personas estaba “llena de gracia” María no experimentó la descomposición de su cuerpo. Creemos que su cuerpo y alma fueron creados, “ascendidos” al cielo inmediatamente después de su tiempo en la tierra.

Los discípulos conocieron a María personalmente. Como madre de Jesús, sabía perfectamente que Él era el Hijo de Dios y que, al resucitar de entre los muertos, abrió el camino a la vida eterna. Como madre de Jesús, conocía más plenamente el dolor de Su rechazo por parte de la gente, Su tortura y Su muerte. De todas las personas, María comprendió y vio los efectos del mal y la victoria de Dios sobre el pecado y la muerte.

María es una persona histórica real que fue testigo de lo que escuchó, vio y experimentó. Desde su lugar en el cielo, continúa impulsando a la gente hacia la victoria de la vida sobre la muerte. Y Dios sigue respetando nuestra libertad humana como individuos para elegir entre la vida o la muerte.

Sobre la cuestión de por qué Dios permite la muerte, Santo Tomás de Aquino escribió en su Summa Theologiae III, 1, 3: “No hay nada que impida que la naturaleza humana sea elevada a algo más grande, incluso después del pecado; Dios permite el mal para extraer un bien mayor”. (citado en el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica # 412)

Tenemos la libertad de volver nuestro corazón hacia el bien mayor y, si lo hacemos, tenemos la promesa de la vida eterna.

Inmediatamente después de la Misa de la Fiesta de la Asunción, iré al salón parroquial a por el mejor pollo frito de la zona. La fiesta de Praha también es un día para honrar a la comunidad de fe que forma la Iglesia.

Los picnics parroquiales de este verano me recuerdan la importancia de la comunidad para nuestra vida espiritual, emocional y personal.

Durante generaciones, hombres y mujeres han venido a las iglesias de nuestra zona y han ofrecido alabanza y adoración, oraciones y súplicas a Dios. También han celebrado todos los sacramentos y los días especiales en los que queremos pedir especialmente la guía de Dios. La cultura, la música, la comida y el baile en los picnics parroquiales elevan la acción de gracias a Dios y el apoyo a nuestras iglesias.

Que seamos hijos fieles de nuestra Madre celestial y que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias este verano con paz, alegría y descanso. Mantengamos el uno al otro en oración.

+Brendan

Conferencia católica se centra en los sacramentos

El reverendo Eleicer Patiño dará el discurso de apertura en español durante la 34a Conferencia Católica Anual el 25 de septiembre. El reverendo Jacob Kether será el discurso de apertura en inglés. Todos los talleres se llevarán a cabo en St. Joseph Catholic High School, 110 E. Red River en Victoria este año. La conferencia incluirá talleres en ambos idiomas que los participantes pueden elegir y concluirá con una misa celebrada por el obispo Brendan Cahill. La conferencia de medio día comenzará a las 8 a.m. con la inscripción y la misa comienza a las 10 a.m. La conferencia incluirá talleres en ambos idiomas que los participantes pueden elegir y concluirá con una misa celebrada por el obispo Brendan Cahill. La conferencia de medio día comenzará a las 8 a.m. con la inscripción y la misa comienza a las 10 a.m.

Ver Conferencia católica, pg. 15

La fiesta es un recordatorio de la importancia de la comunidad

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill

The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads is selling raffle tickets for an online drawing. There are dozens of prizes valued at $100 to be won. Tickets are $25 each and can be purchased online. The drawing will take place as a Facebook live event at 7 p.m. Oct 1. Proceeds will benefit the Gabriel Project and the new Bethlehem Maternity Home. Visit www.victoriagabrielproject.org/raffle to buy tickets.
Experimentar la diversidad despierta el deseo de dominar el idioma

POR LUKE PRIHODA
Seminarista de la Diócesis de Victoria

El Cuerpo Místico de Cristo es una característica verdaderamente única y bendecida de nuestra fe católica. Todos los bautizados en la Iglesia forman el Cuerpo místico de Cristo, el cual es llamado a dar testimonio de la realidad celestial.

Mientras iba creciendo en Weimar, mi visión de la Iglesia consistía típicamente en que era conformada por muchos descendientes de alemanes y checos. Sin embargo, mis años de formación en el seminario para el sacerdocio ministerial me han abierto los ojos a la universalidad de la Iglesia que profesamos todos los domingos en el Credo de Nicaea, en el cual oramos por la Iglesia una, santa, católica y apostólica.

Cada persona está hecha a imagen y semejanza de nuestro Dios Trino y, como un buen equipo de béisbol, los miembros deben esforzarse por lograr el éxito para ellos y sus compañeros de equipo.

Como cristianos, nuestro éxito se medirá por la fidelidad con que edifiquemos Su Cuerpo y guiemos a otros a la salvación mientras buscamos alcanzar nuestra propia salvación.

Durante mis cinco años de formación, he llegado a comprender la necesidad de abrir mi mente a la diversidad del Pueblo de Dios. Tuve la bendición de viajar a España, Francia, Italia y Guatemala en el verano de 2018. Esa experiencia, combinada con mi experiencia de vivir en Puebla, México, en el verano del 2019 para aprender español, me brindó una bendición en la que nunca podré expresar la debida gratitud al Señor.

El tiempo que pasé con la comunidad Hispánica ha reforzado mi deseo de continuar aprendiendo español para ser verdaderamente una Palabra espiritual para todos después de la ordenación. Quiero poder enseñar y ofrecer consejo a los que se me han confiado. Les pido que oren por mi capacidad de comprender el español para poder servir a nuestro Señor más plenamente en su Cuerpo Místico aquí en la Diócesis de Victoria. Están todos en mis oraciones.

Conferencia católica se centra en los sacramentos

12:15 p.m. Visite www.victoriadioces.org para registrarse u obtener más información.

Talleres / Formato de mesa redonda

9:45 a.m.-12 p.m.
AS-1 Devociones Católicas Y Piedad Popular; Presentador: Gerardo Salazar / Sadlier
AS-2 “Mi Cabeza No Para” – Entendiendo la Ansiedad desde un lugar de esperanza y de encuentro con la paz del Señor; Presentadora: Valeria Dubourdieu

Línea de talleres: Sesión de una hora
(Los participantes de estos talleres eligen un taller de la sesión B y otro de la sesión C.)
JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

Cindy Brewer used to buy prayer journals at local bookstores – pages to write on with some biblical inspiration on the pages. But she wanted to focus on her Catholic identity when journaling, and that inspired her to create her first prayer journal, The Bread of Life, with New Testament verses focusing on the Eucharist.

Brewer, former editor of The Catholic Lighthouse, and a member of the Catholic Writer’s Guild, approached a publisher about the idea and they liked it. But the wheels of the publishing world turn slowly. They wanted her to add a reflection, then a prayer, then a writing prompt. But, she said, that was not what she had in mind when she began the project.

Following the advice of a friend, she decided to self-publish her simpler journal project. She said that decision was partly inspired by the words of Father Dalton Ervin during a Women’s Day of Reflection at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. He told the women not to be surprised if God changes their plans, based on a reflection about the Woman at the Well, who came to draw water, met Jesus and wound up discovering “living water” instead, as chronicled in the Gospel of John.

That project is complete and printed in six different cover designs. It includes 34 carefully chosen Bible verses and is 214 pages of lined, undated space for writing reflections.

She is now working on a new one that focuses on Mary the Blessed Mother. The Bread of Life journals are available locally at Texian Books, an indie bookstore on Main Street in Victoria, and at the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop in the convent on Water Street.

People can also buy them online at Amazon for $14.99 in a regular bound paperback, or, as Brewer prefers, a coil-bound version printed by Lulu.com for $16.99. She said the coil-bound journal was important for her to have because it’s much easier to hold in one hand while writing with the other.

Brewer wants to make the journal available at more places soon as well.

A book signing at the Texian is set for Aug. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

As for the more detailed journal sent to the publisher, Brewer added the things they suggested and it’s now out of her hands, she said. She still awaits their final decision.

Besides her journaling and journal-making, Brewer is a contributor to CatholicMom.com and The Victoria Advocate’s “Gardener’s Dirt” column. To learn more about the author, visit www.cynthialovebrewer.com.

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings.
**EDITOR’S NOTE: Diocese of Victoria seminarian Philippe Daboudieu is filling in for Justin Reyes again this month.**

The calendars have flipped to August and back-to-school displays and commercials have popped back up. Parents, teachers, and students are all preparing. It can be a stressful, yet exciting time. Preparations can range from buying new books and school supplies to finally getting a haircut and some new shoes.

I think that there should be some prayerful and mental preparation, too. The Church teaches us that our intellects and wisdom are gifts of the Holy Spirit. In a sense, pertaining to students and those who help them, a return to school means a return to an exercise of these gifts in an academic setting. It is important to understand these capacities that we have as being from God, so that we can make sure that we use them for the glory of God.

Academic curriculums are increasingly focused on highlighting the S.T.E.M. subjects – science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Church is also supportive of these fields. There even exists the Pontifical Academy of Science whose mission is to “honor pure science wherever it may be found, ensure its freedom and encourage research for the progress of science.”

The academy can be a model for the proper approach to the empirical sciences, those that rely only on sensory experience and data.

On the other hand, we must not forget that wisdom and our intellects can explore in realms outside of what is immediately sensible. Truth can also be found outside of the data reports in a scientific journal. It may seem obvious, but some deny this. Strict empiricists will argue that questions on the existence of God or on the dignity of human life are only conceptual theological/philosophical questions that could never be tested and proven through the scientific method, and, as a result, not worthy of our time.

Where scientific research may be limited to what it can test, all people, from a scientist at Texas A&M to a second-grader at Nazareth Academy in Victoria, have been gifted with intellects capable of truly knowing God and His will. It is not only something we are capable of doing, but also something we are meant to do. God speaks through His scriptures saying, “Happy the man who mediates on wisdom and reasons intelligently, who reflects in his heart on her ways and ponders her secrets. He pursues her like a hunter and lives in wait on her paths.” (Sirach 14:20-22)

Why is it good to meditate on these things? Because God himself is the truth and it is to meditate on Him. “I am the way and the truth and the life,” our Lord says. (John 14:6) Catholics believe God created us, and we are made to return to Him. We are made by Him and made to desire him. This is why we naturally desire truth and knowledge. It is an action towards God, the ultimate good.

Pope Saint John Paul II writes, “The desire for knowledge is so great and it works in such a way that the human heart, despite its experience of insurmountable limitation, yearns for the infinite riches which lie beyond, knowing that there is to be found the satisfying answer to every question as yet unanswered.” (Fides et Verbum, 17)

Families who desire to receive greater of knowledge of God can first pray to grow in the gift of wisdom. They can also prayerfully meditate on the Book of Wisdom in the Bible. Parents and other adults can read “church documents” like “Faith and Reason,” or “Dei Verbum” for themselves and to catechize their loved ones.

Finally, as we enter into this upcoming school year, may we be ready and willing to enter into conversations on these topics in a pursuit of truth that will lead into a deeper communion with God. To Him be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

---

**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](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com) or contact me at [ceci.triska@gmail.com](mailto:ceci.triska@gmail.com) and I will email it to you

---

**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.

---

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.

---

**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.
Camp David 2021: After a missed year the youth were ready for it

JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

Camp David returned this summer with great success, according to Wendy Eggert and Shannon Thomas, directors of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria.

“It was nice to have a sense of normalcy return,” said Thomas.

In the thick of the pandemic, their office canceled all of last year’s in-person activities and found “virtual” ways to interact with the youth.

This year, the two Camp David sessions for junior high students were offered at the Spiritual Renewal Center (at half capacity for social distancing) and much of it took place outdoors, apropos for the theme “Caring for God’s Creation.”

Both sessions filled up and had waiting lists.

The camp is designed for team-building, recreation, teaching Catholic social justice themes and “spending quality time with Jesus,” Thomas said. The three-day camps included prayer services, a nature walk for teams to find things to make rosaries, a water day, a movie night and more.

Eggert said all the work put into the camp, with the help of a leadership team, is worth the smiling faces of the youth who often say, “See you next year” as they head home. “That’s the best reward – to see their smiling faces when they get in the car with their parents,” she said.

The directors were also happy to report two weeks after the camp ended that the coronavirus didn’t touch the gatherings.

Others who helped make the camps possible were the Revs. Dalton Ervin and Michael Rother, as well as Bishop Brendan Cahill, who spent time with the young people, and team members Taylor Janak, Allison Klimitchek, Tracey Trevino, Kayla Janysek, Joey Sablatura and seminarian Philippe Dubourdieu.

The difference between boys and girls is evident in the items chosen for their outdoor rosaries during nature walks. The girls’ rosary was very floral, while the boys’ rosary beads included a lot of cicada shells.

The youth office is now taking applications for its Youth Leadership Training for high school students. For more information, contact Eggert at weggert@victoriadiocese.org, or Thomas at stthomas@victoriadiocese.org; or call their office at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2250 or Ext. 2232.

St. Joseph Catholic Church - Inez
148th Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 12, 2021 at Inez Community Center
Famous Fried Chicken, Sausage & Brisket, with All the Trimmings $12

Plates to Go at 10:30 a.m.

The Raffle Drawing has over $9,000.00 in gift cards
Raffle tickets are for a $5 each donation.
Please pick up raffle tickets in the church or ask a member for tickets to buy and sell.

All meals, Dine-In and To-Go, will be pre-plated & served in plates-to-go.
Serving Begins at 11:00 a.m.
Live Auction at 1:00 p.m.

Please check our website for updated information. https://www.stjoephinez.org/

We are the Church together

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

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

Retrouvaille, meaning "rediscovery," is a mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Following Mass a breakfast will be held in the Cathedral Center (St. Gabriel Hall).

Weimar – St. Michael Harvest Feast, Aug. 8 at Veterans Hall. A fried chicken and stew dinner will be served for $10 per plate.

Hillje – St. Andrew Summer Festival Aug. 15 at the parish hall. A prime-beef bbq and homemade sausage dinner at $12 per plate starts at 11 a.m. (drive-thru plates-to-go only). For more information see ad on pg. 5.

Praha – 166th Przasna 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.

Victoria – KIJT Society District IX social Aug. 21 at the Cathedral Center (St. Gabriel Hall). Registration starts at 11 a.m., with a noon meal followed by a meeting.

Cistern – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Picnic Aug. 22 on the parish grounds. A fried chicken and V & V sausage dinner will be served for $12 per plate. See ad on pg. 16 for more details.

Meals • Picnics and More

Yorktown – Holy Cross Festival will be held Sept. 12 at the Yorktown Community Hall. A bbq beef shoulder clad and sausage dinner will be served for $12 per plate. For more information see ad on pg. 11.

Holman – St. Wenceslaus Annual Church Feast takes place Sept. 19 at 9937 FM 155, between Weimar and La Grange. Featuring fried chicken, sausage dinner starting at 10:30 a.m. at $12 per plate, drive-thru ONLY. The online auction website is www.charityauction.bid/HolmanPicnic.

Moulton – St. Joseph Picnic, Sept. 19 at the St. Joseph's Social Center located on the parish grounds. A fried chicken and stew dinner beginning at 10:30 a.m. at $12 per plate.

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

Catholic Family Services – To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at http://www.nacflm.org.

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

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria – A sister organization to the Gabriel Project staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. New volunteers are welcome. For information call 361-575-6171.

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 jrgies@victoriadiocese.org.

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

Engaged Encounter – 2021 Dates: 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 an 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 work and assistance, contact Lisa Kainer at 361-676-3264 or lisa_hysquisiero@yahoo.com; DeWitt County meetings have changed: For meetings, call or text the coordinator for the Dewitt chapter, Wayne Smith, at 361-491-0339.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

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 Sharan at 361-578-7572 before attending.

30:16 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. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For information, or to RSVP for events, e-mail id816victoria@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 annemuse@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/Mothersofgracelov.

Natural Family Planning – NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (fCMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or mailto: susanmekoch6414@gmail.com. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or e-mail ashleyfay09@gmail.com.

Raphael’s Refuge – To build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flavelton. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. For information, contact Midge Elam at 361-865-3021, 361-258-1514, or visit http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

Retrouvaille – Retrouvaille, meaning “rediscovey,” is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit http://www.helpformarrriage.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. The upcoming meetings will be Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14. For more information, please call Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or email phoelscher@ victoriadiocese.org.
Keeping up with the clergy

Many priests serving in new parishes, roles this year

Continued from pg. 11

Father Kosler, who has relocated to the Shiner area, is working on a house that he is living in. There is also a family farm that he helps run.

“IT doesn’t seem like 50 years has gone by that fast,” he said. He said he thanks Jesus for his calling and is grateful for all the support he received from his parents in becoming a priest and the support from parishioners in his ministry. Though more than half of his priesthood has been spent at St. Rose, he also served St. Matthew’s in San Antonio, Notre Dame in Kerrville, St. Philip in El Campo, St. John in Moravia, and had a dual assignment once as parochial vicar of St. Rose and pastor of St. Anthony in Columbus. After he became full-time pastor at St. Rose, he eventually took on the administration of the churches in Ammannsville, Holman and High Hill.

NEW PASTORS

Bishop Brendan Cahill has been to all corners of the Diocese of Victoria this summer to install new pastors in the wake of retirements and other changes.

On Aug. 21 he will celebrate the installation of the Rev. Scott Hill, who was named pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg after Father Kosler’s retirement. Father Hill was previously assigned as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville.

The Rev. Patrick Knippenberg, formerly parochial vicar at Holy Family in Victoria, became the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria in May. Bishop Cahill installed him during an afternoon Mass on May 12.

The Very Rev. Greg Korenek, who served last year as the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, is now pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Ganado. His installation was June 23. Father Korenek also has assumed the duties of Director of Pro-Life Activities for the Diocese of Victoria.

In May, the Very Rev. Kirby Hlavaty moved from ABVM in Ganado to become the new rector/pastor at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory following Bishop Gary Janak’s move to the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Father Hlavaty also has taken on the role of Executive Director of the Emmaus Center, another title Bishop Janak held while in the Diocese of Victoria.

Following the retirement of Father Lyons, the Rev. Robert Knippenberg assumed the duties of pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg and St. Roch in Mentz. Father Knippenberg was most recently at Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn after Father Kalich’s retirement last year. Because he is one of a few priests in the diocese who can celebrate the traditional Latin Mass, Knippenberg will be able to carry on the schedule of Latin Masses that Father Lyons did in that area.

The Rev. Jacob Mendoza was named pastor of St. Michael in Cuero and installed during a Mass on July 31. St. Michael Catholic Church was in need of a new pastor after the Rev. Jasper Liggio was called to be spiritual director for St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. Father Liggio joined the faculty at St. Mary’s in July. Father Liggio also previously served as the Director of Pro-Life Activities.

On July 24, Bishop Cahill celebrated the installation Mass for the Rev. Felix Twumasi, the new pastor of Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum. Twumasi was most recently the parochial vicar at St. Rose in Schulenberg. Last year, Twumasi spent months working full-time as hospital chaplain for COVID-19 patients in the Diocese of Victoria area.

NEW FACES

Two new faces in the Diocese of Victoria are the Rev. Richard Bediako and the Rev. Isaac Maunger. Both men came from Ghana this summer and began their appointments July 1.

Father Bediako is the new parochial vicar for St. Michael’s in Cuero, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero, Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville and St. Aloysius in Westhoff.

Father Maunger is the new parochial vicar for St. Rose of Lima in Schulenberg, St. Mary in High Hill, St. John the Baptist in Ammannsville, and St. Wenceslaus in Holman.