Hispanic leaders in a new season

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

A Hispanic Leadership Team comprised of representatives from around the diocese, were presented their certifications and installed during a Jan. 29 Mass celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill. Years of formation in several phases since 2016 have gone into the develop-

See Hispanic Ministry, pg. 20

Between here and there, airport chaplains bring mercy

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

HIGH HILL, Texas – You can find just about every kind of person at an airport -- from vacationers heading for a little piece of heaven to businesspeople whose schedules seem like hell on earth. The concourses are a limbo of sorts as people wait to get to their destinations.

If any of these travelers are carrying around too much emotional baggage, they might find an airport chaplain to lighten the load.

The Rev. Charlie Samperi re-called a man who saw his priest's collar and approached him because he was weighted down with the need for reconciliation. Father Samperi said they found a quiet spot off the concourse where he heard this man's confession. “He just unloaded, and it was a wonderful confession,” he said, adding that it had been a long time since the man had been to confession.

Father Samperi serves in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Hous-

See Between here and there, pg. 12

Members of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains toured the painted churches during their retreat in February. Two of them, shown here, are photographing parts of St. Mary’s in High Hill, where Bishop Cahill celebrated a Mass for them. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The bishops of the Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S. wrote the following appeal on Feb. 12. I don’t know what will happen between today and the day you read this letter. What I am sure of is our need to offer prayer, fasting and acts of mercy for peace in Ukraine and throughout the world.

With a heart united with my brother bishops of the Eastern Rites, I hope that we can offer some of our Lenten observances this year in communion with the spirit of this appeal:

“Over the last weeks, the world has become fully aware of the fact that democratic Ukraine and its freedom-loving people are increasingly surrounded by hostile military forces prone for invasion. A full escalation of the eight-year Kremlin-led war will bring about devastating bloodshed and untold human suffering. Deaths could be in the tens of thousands and refugees in the millions. The economic and political shockwaves of the social devastation and material destruction in Ukraine will be worldwide. There is ample access to analysis that explains the potential of a disaster with global repercussions.

We appeal to you not as politicians nor strategists. We entreat you as persons of faith in God: “Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever” (Ps 125:1). As pastors we appeal to you and to all people of good will to pray for peace and justice in Ukraine.

We ask that beginning tomorrow, Sunday February 13, our priests and parishes, religious communities, families and individual faithful conduct a three-day vigil of prayer for peace and the conversion of the hearts of those who preach violence and escalate war.

Given the immediacy of our appeal, we ask that each pastor and community, each family and each person participate in this vigil in whatever way is possible for them. May our churches be open throughout the day, may the prayer of the Church interchange with personal contemplation. Conduct and participate in services, pray the Jesus Prayer, the Marian Rosary, the Paraclesis, sit with the Scriptures. Fast in order to focus on the hope that only God gives. May our eyes be upon the Lord, may God’s Word be upon our lips, may our hearts be full of hope. “Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares about you. Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings.” (1 Pt 5:7-9).

Ukrainian faithful of all confessions have witnessed miracles. In recent history we saw the collapse of the Iron Curtain, the dissolution of the Soviet prison of nations, the liberation of our Churches, which occurred without war and bloodshed.

We put our trust in God and ask for divine intervention. “Some boast of chariots, and some of horses; but we boast of the name of the Lord our God. They will collapse and fall; but we shall rise and stand upright” (Ps 20:8-9). We pray for the safety and courage of the people of Ukraine. We admire their faith and fortitude. We beseech the Lord to preserve the country and its people from further invasion.

Pray and be full of hope. Share that hope. Know the Lord and God’s love for the world!

+Borys Gudziak
Archbishop of Philadelphia, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States
Head of the Department of External Church Relations, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Eparch of Stamford
+Benedict Aleksiychuk
Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago
+ Bohdan J. Danylo
Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma
+Andriy Ruby
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

May God bless you and your families with peace and joy. Let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

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**Annual Catholic Conference coming April 2**

Focusing on the sacraments, the Annual Catholic Conference will feature workshops as well as roundtable discussions on April 2 at St. Joseph Catholic High School in Victoria.

It was originally set to happen in September and postponed because of COVID concerns.

The Rev. Jacob Koether and the Rev. Eliecer Patino Hurtado will give keynote addresses in English and Spanish, respectively. Workshops will be available in both languages as well.

The day begins at 8 a.m. and concludes with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill at 12:15 p.m.

The conference schedule and listing of workshops is available on the Diocese of Victoria website at www.victoriadiocese.org. Participants are asked to register through the website.

For help or information, contact Christella Alvarez, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry at calvarez@victoriadiocese.org, or call 361-573-0828, Ext. 2225.
### Bishop Cahill’s Schedule

<table>
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<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon Committee Meeting for Catholic Relief Services; virtual</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass for St. John Nepomucene Church; New Taiton</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 8 a.m. Ash Wednesday Mass with Staff at the Chancery</td>
<td>2 Annual Catholic Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 10 a.m.</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon Mass with UHV at St. Anthony’s Catholic School; Columbus</td>
<td>Catholic Relief Services board meeting; virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 10 a.m.</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Rural Life monthly meeting; virtual</td>
<td>Mass at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church; Seadrift</td>
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<td>5 11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Sister’s Week Luncheon; Chancery</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church; East Bernard</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 11 a.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>closing Mass for women’s retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church; East Bernard</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 10 a.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Rural Life monthly meeting; virtual</td>
<td>Finance Board meeting; Chancery</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center; Victoria</td>
<td>Building Board meeting; Chancery</td>
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<td>9 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>10 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s Seminary Board Meeting; Houston</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass at Cathedral Center; Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 8:15 a.m.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>school Mass and Visit at St. Anthony’s Catholic School; Columbus</td>
<td>Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards; Shiner</td>
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<td>12 11 a.m.</td>
<td>6:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass and luncheon at Incarnate Word Convent; Houston</td>
<td>Relevant Radio Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 11 a.m.</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass with the Carmelite Sisters; Meyersville</td>
<td>Legion of Mary Praesidium meeting; Cathedral Center; Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass with students and staff for Victoria College and UHV at Victoria College</td>
<td>Communities of Faith Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rite of Election at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass for St. Michael’s Church; Weimar</td>
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<td>16 2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communities of Faith Meeting</td>
<td>Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists; Victoria</td>
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<td>17 3 p.m.</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Confirmation Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodious; Shiner</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass for Girl Scouts; Victoria</td>
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<td>18 4 p.m.</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Confirmation Mass for St. John Nepomucene Church; New Taiton</td>
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<td>19 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass with Carmelite Sisters; Meyersville</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church; East Bernard</td>
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<td>20 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory</td>
<td>Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes; Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon Mass with UHV at St. Anthony’s Catholic School; Columbus</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>26 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Mass at Holy Family Church; Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 4 p.m.</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory; Victoria</td>
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**Yoakum parish**

YOAKUM -- The Rev. Marco Rodriguez arrived in January at St. Joseph parish to assist the Very Rev. Matthew Heuhlefeld, pastor.

Father Marco is from the Diocese of Malaga Soatá in Columbia, where he served for 29 years. He will focus on Spanish-language ministry in the community while he works to learn more English to serve the entire community.

According to Father Marco, his ministry in his homeland has included being a professor of religion, a vice chancellor in the Diocese Curia and a parish priest.

His arrival has meant new Spanish-language Masses have been added to the church schedule at 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays with confessed afterwards.
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 - $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte - $100 - $499.99; Candidate - $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon - $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest - $2,500 >>.

February 16, 2022
• General Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
In honor of Rev. Werner Bucco by Sts Peter and Paul Church, Freulsburg St. Ann’s Altar Society

• Rev. Msgr. Gerald “Gerry” Cernoch
  Seminary Burse
  Lector
Donation in memory of Annie Dolezal by Joe and Bobbie Kana

• Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by Sts Peter and Paul Church, Freulsburg St. Ann’s Altar Society

• Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse
  Lector
Donation in memory of Brandon Allan Janak by Joe and Bobbie Kana

• Rev. Kristopher Fuchs Seminary Burse
  Lector
In memory of Rev. James Ramsey’s Mother, June Ramsey by Paul and Helen Flessner

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse
  Lector
In honor of Rev. Philip Brune’s birthday by Mark and Sharon Kubicek

• Rev. George Henninger Seminary Burse
  Acolyte
In honor of Rev. George Henninger by Sts Peter and Paul Church, Freulsburg St. Ann’s Altar Society

• Catholic Daughters Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374 Seminary Burse
  Lector
Donation in memory of Evelyn Dornak by CDA Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374

To contribute to an existing Seminary Endowment Fund, send contributions with the appropriate fund designation to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which all of the monies donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received. Donation categories: Lector – $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499.99; Priest – $2,500 >.

Lector
Paz & Andrea Morales
in Memory of Father Dan Morales
Catholic Daughters of America,
Court St. Michael #559, Weimar

Acolyte
Catholic Daughters of America, Court Our Lady Queen of the Clergy, #1990
in Memory of Father Timothy Bucek
Robert Hermes
Catholic Daughters of America,
Court Our Lady of the Blessings #2546

Candidate
Texas State Court, Catholic Daughters of America
John Lee & Virginia Korenek,
in Memory of Joe & Alice Bludau

Transitional Deacon
Catholic Union of Texas, the KJT

Priest
Knights of Columbus, #1329, Victoria

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

Heavenly Helpers

Christian Store
(979) 543-2850
1603 N Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
M-F 9:30 - 5:30  Sat. 9:30 - 3:00
First Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals, Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,

God our Father, thank you for our Priests and for calling the Diocese of Victoria Seminarians to prepare for priesthood and grant them the grace to grow closer to You through daily prayer. Help them to form their personality as a credible witness to others. Bless them while they study Your word and the teachings of the Church and give them a generous heart to serve Your people. Amen.

Pray 4 Vocations

Do you have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life?

Contact:
Father Tommy Chen, Director of Vocations
361-552-6140 / tchen@victoriadiocese.org

Raffle proceeds benefit seminarians

Bishop Brendan Cahill received a check for $15,500 from the Knights of Columbus Victoria Council 1329 for the Education of Seminarians Fund. All donations to this fund, as well as its earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. Councils 9088, 8388 as well as Goliad and El Campo councils assisted with the fundraising effort through a gun raffle. Pictured from left are Silvano Silva, raffle chairman; the Rev. Kristopher Fuchs, pastor of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Victoria and associate director of vocations for the diocese; Donald Shellenbarger, grand knight of Council 1329; and Bishop Cahill. (Regina Janak/The Catholic Lighthouse)

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

Rev. Msgr. Michael O’Shaughnessy 03/02/2013
Rev. Gabriel Franks 03/19/2018
Rev. Daniel Giorgi 03/22/2007

“May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.”
EDITORS NOTE: The following sermon was written for the third Sunday of Lent, Cycle C. Father Kram titled it, “The Need of Ongoing Reform.”

There are all kinds of old sayings like, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks,” or the opposite, “You’re never too old to learn.” In some ways as we grow older, we grow better, while in other ways we come to a standstill. Still, to move ahead two steps and back one is progress and to be alive is to grow.

We are most aware of our growth in our early years. We change a lot in a short time, but at any age, the secret of a meaningful and happy life is to keep growing and to mature in the process.

Some individuals go through several distinct stages of growth, while others change almost unnoticeably. Military men, for example, may be able to retire a second time from a new career. Often a retired person will work harder than when he worked. Married men complain of all the “honey do” jobs their wives assign to them. Women say, “Woman’s work is never done.”

Perhaps the most obvious fact in the lives of all of us is that we are constantly changing, hopefully for the better overall. So, as our old cells are replaced by new ones, and arthritis and high blood pressure and senility threaten us, and we move on toward our departure from this world, we take great consolation in the fact that God will not be finished with us until we have breathed our last breath, and that he will continue to cultivate us and help us to accomplish every reason for which we were born.

So, when we are young, we try to grow up being respectful to our elders and try to learn responsibility and self-discipline. In adult life, we strive to fulfill the duties of our state of life. In our old age, we support those younger than ourselves by our prayers and our example. And when we can no longer do even this, we, because of our special needs, become the occasion for others doing many acts of love that, except for our need, would forever have been left undone. We all have a part in God’s providence for the whole world. Indeed, rather than be discouraged by our failures, we consider how day follows night and the buds of spring grow on to the harvest time and, how we too go on to our final happiness.

The life of every Christian thrives by constant reconversion and reform and growth for the better. Lent is a special time for each of us to improve ourselves.

How are you observing Lent this year? We all need to do penance but the choice is largely left to us. Prayer and fasting and almsgiving are still old standbys. We can give up something, but another thing everyone can do is strive to do the most ordinary things extraordinarily well.

For example, we can make it a point to be kind and courteous when we feel tired and grouchy. We can spread joy by encouraging others when we feel like complaining. Even in our thoughts, we can crowd out frustrations and resentments by frequently reminding ourselves of how much God has loved us.

It is not difficult to change for the better if we keep trying and if we do not allow ourselves to be discouraged by our failures.

Lord Jesus, thank you for the parable of the fig tree. Help us, especially during Lent, to improve and to grow. Grant that, when our lives on earth are finished, we may find fullness of life in you. Amen.

A Church That Listens

The 2022 Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) 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-2022 to learn how your dollars help others.
Father Dalton Ervin, spiritual director for the Women’s Discipleship Team in the Diocese of Victoria, gives a guided reflection during the “Leading With Love” workshop on Feb. 19. The workshop was designed to inspire women who felt a calling to be involved in women’s ministry in their parishes. (Janet Jones/ The Catholic Lighthouse)

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse
And CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VICTORIA — Women from various parishes in the Diocese of Victoria gathered at the DOV chancery Saturday for the “Leading With Love” workshop.

Each shared their reason for being at the workshop. Some have been involved in women’s ministry before and want to do more, and some were simply looking for a way to get started. But all of them agreed that women need other women to accompany them in their formation and their lives in general.

The Rev. Dalton Ervin, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Victory parish who serves as the spiritual director for the Diocese of Victoria’s Women’s Discipleship Team, and Justin Reyes, director of Family Evangelization for the diocese, led the workshop.

“As we approach any sort of ministry, we know that it starts with God,” Father Dalton said, speaking to the women. He asked them to spend prayerful time reflecting on what was in their hearts that led them to seeking guidance in women’s ministry. “The question is, ‘What has nudged you to come here?’ What has nudged you to see the need for women’s ministry in your own parish?”

The day before at the Vatican, a panel of women spoke during the Vatican conference on priesthood to stress just how important that women be called to ministry.

“The church needs women and must call them to serve for the good of all people,” said Michelina Tenace, a professor of dogmatic theology at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University and consultant for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In her talk, Tenace spoke about the work of the commission she was appointed to by Pope Francis in 2016 to study the women referred to as deaconesses in the New Testament and the role of women deacons in the early church. A second commission with different members was set up in 2020 after the first commission said more study was needed and it was unable to reach a full consensus on whether there was an ordination with the same form and same aim as the ordination of men.

The disappearance of women deacons in the Latin-rite church did not mean women disappeared from the church or no longer had a place, she said. Their holiness continued to be recognized and their service was absolutely utilized.

All the baptized are called to serve humanity, she said, so the question is not about restoring what existed in the past, but “what ministry do the people of God need today?”

“And why is it so urgent to establish ministries for women?” she asked.

“Please,” she said, “let it be not to recognize the dignity of women, but to recognize the true identity of the church.”

Father Dalton asked the women in the Diocese of Victoria to discern their individual gifts and to not make their ministry a job. “Volunteerism is not what you want. You want vocation to continue being inspired by the Holy Spirit.”

After time for reflection Reyes, presented some “nuts and bolts” of organized ministry to help them get started.

Reyes said it was exciting to see the energy in the room full of women. “I think the day really helped inspire some people to start something new and gain some new ideas and perspective.”

He said if other women feel the call to ministry and don’t know where to turn, they could contact him at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265 or jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.
Don’t freak out: Pause and pray before swatting at a problem

A couple of months back, I was talking to someone and noticed when he turned to look at me that he had a huge yellowjacket on his shoulder. This yellowjacket was so big that for a moment I thought it was one of those murder hornets that were on the news last year.

It always amazes me how fast one’s mind can go when one’s adrenaline starts pumping. My first thought was, “How did he get one of those on his shoulder inside this building? Do we have a nest somewhere inside that I don’t know about?” My second thought was, “How do I get this off of him?”

As ideas traveled in my head at the speed of light, I thought I could just smack the yellowjacket with the folder I was holding. Then I thought, what if I didn’t kill it and succeeded in only making it mad? Yellowjackets aren’t bees. They can sting many times and if I angered it, both of us could be in trouble, getting stung probably multiple times each. I saw no benefit in that scenario, so I quickly scratched that idea off the list.

My next idea was to hit it with something heavier than my folder. Then I thought, “What if, when I hit the yellowjacket, it stings this person before it dies. I don’t know if he’s allergic to the sting. Does he have an EpiPen? Would I be able to use it or be too nervous? Not to mention the fact that maybe I could knock him out with the book I was considering using.”

Here I am thinking all these scenarios in my head, but the reality was; there in front of me was someone I cared about with something potentially painful and possibly deadly on his shoulder and he still didn’t know it was there.

Even though I was on the verge of freaking out, I took a deep breath, said a quick prayer, and calmly said, “You have a really big yellowjacket on your shoulder and I’m going to try to take it off of you.”

I remembered that some creatures can sense your emotions, so if you freak out, it will freak out, and that was something that I was trying to avoid at all costs. I noticed nervousness flash in his eyes but it was quickly replaced with trust (maybe it was my calm voice), but seeing that trust made me feel like it was now my responsibility to make sure this went well and no one got stung or killed (speaking of the yellowjacket here). Using the folder I had in my hand I was able to coax the yellowjacket to crawl onto the folder and then I took it outside. SUCCESS!

So what did I learn from my experience with the yellowjacket? The importance of pausing. The importance of approaching any situation calmly and slowly and most especially, with prayer. There were so many different ways this could have turned out. Trust me, they all were going through my head, but the one that benefitted us all was to pause, reel in my emotions, and then act.

There is a reason that, before we make a decision, we should first take it to prayer. Not only are we asking God for assistance on the matter, we are taking time to pause so we can approach the situation calmly and slowly. How many times have we been so angry about something but slept on it and woke up the next morning feeling much better?

Maybe this Lent, in the midst of us doing our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we can also add in pausing – pausing before reacting; taking the time to approach things slowly, calmly, but most importantly with prayer. Let us invite God to direct our lives in a more intentional matter.

In scripture we read that, many times, Jesus would go off on His own to pray. He knew the importance of pausing to spend a moment in prayer. This season of Lent, when we start to think about what we are going to “give up,” let us first take time to pause and reflect but most of all pray how it may be that our Lord, Jesus, is inviting us to grow.

Finding Beauty in Mystery

By Sister Rosario Revendez, IWBS

Amor Meus has special events for reflection and meditation during Lent

VICTORIA -- The Amor Meus Spiritual Center at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St., is hosting a Lenten Taize Prayer Service on Tuesday, March 15, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Amor Meus Prayer Room.

Taize prayer is a meditative/contemplative prayer, which originated in an ecumenical monastic order in Taize, France, in 1940. This prayer is filled with song, Scripture and silence for reflection. Those who have attended this type of prayer service find a profound peace and tranquility. Everyone is welcome, regardless of faith tradition.

On Saturday, March 26, a Lenten Silent Guided Retreat, “You are Invited to be Transformed in Christ,” will be presented. Because Lent is a special time to reflect on our relationships and how we live our lives in a love relationship with God and others concretely, we will reflect on how we can live out the passion, death and resurrection now, so that we might be transformed in Christ.

A silent guided retreat consists of two presentations with a period of silence between for reflection, and personal prayer. Reflection time may be spent on the spacious, beautiful convent grounds of Amor Meus or in the chapel. Spiritual direction is offered if it is desired.

Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS, who holds a master’s degree in theology, is a certified spiritual director and has experience in presenting retreats, will facilitate this retreat.

Sign-in is at 9:30 a.m.; an introduction and opening prayer begins at 10, and the closing is at 3 p.m.

Masks are required for both events. Parking is in the back of the convent for Taize prayer and in the front of the convent for the retreat. Participants must bring their lunch. A free-will offering be accepted.

Amor Meus also will host solemn vespers at Incarnate Word Chapel, 5-5:45 p.m. during the Sundays of Lent. It consists of chanting the psalms, giving thanks for the day, offering praise to God and a short reflection. Benediction follows solemn vespers. We ask that you enter through the side chapel door and wear a mask.

To learn more about the Amor Meus center or its events, call 361-485-0866 or 361-575-7111, emailamormeuscenter@gmail.com, or visit their website at https://amormeusspiritualitycenter.org.
Reynaldo Rosas received the St. George medal, a national Scouting award, given for outstanding contribution to the spiritual development of the Scouts. Bishop Brendan Cahill presented the Scouting awards at Mass on Feb. 6 -- Scout Sunday. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Scouts recognized with religious medals

VICTORIA – Scout Sunday was celebrated Feb. 6 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory with Bishop Brendan Cahill as celebrant.

Scouts from Troop 364 served as readers, ushers, and altar servers, and also participated by presenting the gifts.

After the Mass, Bishop Cahill presented religious medals and adult awards to the Scouts.

Peyton Galvan, Elijah Garcia and Luke Novak each received the Agnus Dei Award, given to boys preparing to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Communion for the first time. Agnus Dei means Lamb of God.

Jake Kovar and Sean Novak received the Light of Christ Award for their participation in the program designed to foster a personal relationship with Jesus.

Isaac Bonorden, Alexander Dickson, Isaiah Garcia, Henry Neisser, Cooper Novak and Leland Scott were given the Parvuli Dei (Children of God) Award. In that program, the boys are given the chance to explore activities to learn about how God works in their lives as part of a family and community.

A Bronze Pelican award was presented to Michael Muniz. This award is for adults who have been ongoing and dedicated leaders in Scouting.

Reynaldo Rosas received the St. George medal, a national award of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, for clergy or laity who have made an outstanding contribution to the spiritual development of the Scouts.

LA GRANGE — Funeral services for Theodore Adolph Janda, 85, of La Grange were held Thursday, Feb. 24, at Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn. Interment followed at the church cemetery.

Theodore “Ted” Adolph Janda passed away on Feb. 21 in the company of his wife and family. Born Sept. 7, 1936, Ted was raised in La Grange. He was the middle child of three children born to Marcella and Joseph Janda.

Ted attended school through the eighth grade. After leaving school to help support his family, he worked on the family farm.

Ted married Anna Kalina on Oct. 11, 1960. They were blessed with seven children: Doug Janda of Hostyn; Paul Janda and his wife, Kathy, of Schulenburg; Sister Liliane Janda of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria; Alan Janda of Idaho; Maurice Janda and his wife, Catherine, of Seguin; Collette Abbey of College Station; and Jolette Janda of College Station.

Theodore Adolph Janda, 85, of La Grange passed away on Feb. 21 in the company of his wife and family. Born Sept. 7, 1936, Ted was raised in La Grange. He was the middle child of three children born to Marcella and Joseph Janda.

Being married to his wife, Loretta. He was preceded in death by his parents, Marcella and Joseph Janda and his sister Polly Wied.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn, 936 FM 2436, La Grange, TX 78945-5523.

SCHULENBURG — Community members pray the rosary during the Knights of Columbus Council 2902 Prayer for Life event on Feb. 6 inside the Schulenburg Hall.

Those gathered prayed for the precious gift of life, thanked God for His many blessings and listened to music by local favorite Matt Bonner. The Rev. Scott Hill, pastor of St. Rose of Lima, lead the prayers. (Contributed Photo)

They know their Catholic

Olivia Huang, Ella Lange, Adrian Ruiz, Katie Chen and Stella Nguyen were the Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School Knowledge Bowl winners. These sixth-grade students competed against teams in grades five through eight as well as a faculty team, answering questions about the Old and New Testaments, Catholic doctrine and the liturgy. The Rev. Richard Barfield and Principal Theresa Dent hosted with the Rev. Tommy Chen, pastor of the parish, as the arbiter. (Contributed Photo)
In early February, I had the rewarding opportunity to serve as retreat master for the aspirants in the diaconate formation program of our diocese. The retreats we attend throughout the formation process are vital for both preparation and discernment. I recall very early in my formation of butting up against the reality that to be a deacon is far beyond that of volunteering to be a “super layman” for doing parish work and charitable acts that others were unwilling to do. Questions regarding my productive competencies, or lack of, were set aside until this one was addressed: “Am I willing to be affected by and responsive to the spiritual truth that Christ Jesus wants to embrace me into full communion with Him through His sacramental Church?”

During this February retreat, while I attempted to challenge the retreatants to answer such questions for themselves, I found myself provoked to answer a few of my own. Is the pulse of my own diaconate in practice in sync with the principles of a genuine diaconal heart? To what degree might I be living with the appearance, rather than the full substance, of being a deacon? How wide is the gap between the form I profess and the substance I actualize? If I took the Beach Challenge today, how would I fare?

When I was a young boy, my parents would occasionally take my brother and I to a beach on Padre Island. After parking beachside and setting up camp, my mother would minister the rites of dismissal: a thick coat of Coppertone and cautions against going out too far. After charging into the water and jumping upward to catch the waves in our chests, we would begin the traditional routines of dunking and splashing, throwing and catching a ball, all done with youthful exuberance and oblivious to anything but our play.

Then came ‘The Voice: “Michael, come back! You’ve gone too far!” Wanting to calm my mother who was obviously ignorant of my capabilities, I would look back to shore and wave as a proof that all was well. But all was not well, for as I looked back, I saw that camp was no longer where I had expected it to be. Sometime unknown and for reasons I could not then figure, my parents must have packed up and moved camp 100 yards down the beach. I was left to battle my way through waves, now much higher and forceful, and fight a current much stronger than I faced when coming out. Gradually, I would make my way into shallower, calmer waters, and begin to realize safety. I would also begin to realize that it had not been my parents who had moved; rather, in the busy-ness of play and activity, in the distractions of doing and going, it had been me who had drifted off-course and away from the safety of the shore. When I would finally stumble my way back to camp, with my brother in tow, my dad would toss a towel and often say, “Good thing you looked back when you did.”

While retreats invite me to take the Beach Challenge, Lenten season requires it. I know that I can be lured by the Siren’s song to my ego, or my need to be in control, and to our shared tendency to substitute “my will” for “Thy will.” At times I am tempted to choose (and admittedly have chosen) to wear the uniform of rank rather than the apron of service. Especially in the ordinary and routine busy-ness of my life, the currents of play and work can draw me away from the shore of Christ’s presence. It is essential for me, then, to remain tethered to the spiritual life. I know that if I do not draw from the well of our Lord and Savior, my vocational life – as deacon, as husband, as father and grandfather – will only be skeletal and never full-bodied.

I suggest that the call of Lent is a call to look to the Divine shore. In doing so, our journey will be homeward bound rather than mapped by our own desires or riding random currents. Through engagement in the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we will be turned in the direction of God and recognize that He has been turned to us.

We pray to keep prominent our focus on an intimacy with Christ, increasing our openness and availability to His mystery. We fast because, like Eve, we often feast on the temporary goods of this world that are “pleasing to the eye,” while we only nibble the offerings from the Table of Plenty.

We give alms – the gifts from the Divine – because we often choose the alternative between being wrapped up in our egoism and being open to the love of God and others, we could say corresponds to the alternatives to the temptations of Jesus: the alternative, that is, between human power and love of the Cross, between a redemption seen only in material well-being and redemption as the work of God, to whom we give primacy in our lives. Conversion means not closing in on our work can draw me away from the shore of Christ’s presence. It is essential for me, then, to remain tethered to the spiritual life. I know that if I do not draw from the well of our Lord and Savior, my vocational life – as deacon, as husband, as father and grandfather – will only be skeletal and never full-bodied.

I leave you the beautiful Lenten thoughts as offered by then-Pope Benedict XIV in his General Audience address of Feb. 13, 2013:

“In this time of Lent … we renew our commitment to the process of conversion, to overcoming the tendency to close in on ourselves and, instead, to making room for God, looking at our daily reality with His eyes. The alternative between being wrapped up in our egoism and being open to the love of God and others, we could say corresponds to the alternatives to the temptations of Jesus: the alternative, that is, between human power and love of the Cross, between a redemption seen only in material well-being and redemption as the work of God, to whom we give primacy in our lives. Conversion means not closing in on ourselves in the pursuit of success, prestige, position, but making sure that each and every day, in the small things, truth, faith in God and love become most important.

Pax tibi,
Deacon Michael T.
Youth Spectacular:
Hundreds were present for ‘The Real Presence’

More than 400 young people – almost double the pre-pandemic number – poured into the Cathedral Center in Victoria for the 2022 Youth Spectacular.

Groups from all parts the diocese were present.

Fitting for this time of Eucharistic revival, the theme was “The Real Presence.”

It was a high-energy gathering that began with Mass followed by singing, laughing and a skit portraying the love the Blessed Carlos Acutis, a millennial who loved the Eucharist and died at age 15 of leukemia.

The youth spent time with Bishop Brendan Cahill who celebrated Mass, spoke and even danced with them. Vern Crockett, the youth ministry director at Our Lady of Victory, gave a talk about how Jesus is revealed in the breaking of the bread.

“They needed this,” Wendy Eggert, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry said as she watched them sing and dance to the praise and worship music provided by the Clay Crockett and Nation of Believers group.

Those same words were on the lips of many as the day unfolded.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is planning other events in the coming months including Camp David for junior high and Rocky Mountain High for high schoolers this summer.

They also are beginning to prepare for World Youth Day that will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, July 31-Aug. 10, 2023.

To register or get more information on any of these events, visit the website at www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-and-young-adult-ministry. Or call Wendy Eggert or Shannon Thomas at 361-573-0828, Exts. 2232 or 2250.
The Diocese of Victoria’s Youth Leadership Team planned icebreakers and skits for their peers during the 2022 Youth Spectacular. The presence of Jesus in the Eucharist was the focus of the day, which also included Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and praise and worship music.

Photos by Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse
Celebrating the 25th Annual Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, individuals and businesses from all over the Diocese of Victoria have supported the seminarians and youth by contributing to this event. The average cost to educate one seminarian a year is $35,000. There are currently 6 seminarians studying for the Diocese of Victoria. There are several different sponsorship levels available for the tournament. Every “Bishop” level sponsorship of $1,000 goes directly to the education fund for seminarians. Half of the remaining proceeds benefit the Office of Vocations while the other half benefits the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The contributions received help fund scholarships making it more affordable for youth to attend retreats such as Camp David, Rocky Mountain High, and March for Life. Please prayerfully consider how you can best support this event.

Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament

April 29•1:00 p.m. The Club at Colony Creek in Victoria

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Sponsorship levels:
- Bishop ~ $1,000
- Monsignor ~ $500
- Priest ~ $200
- Deacon ~ $100
- Seminarian ~ $50

Mail Sponsorships to:
Diocese of Victoria
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

Deadline: April 20, 2022

More information at: victoriadiocese.org/bishop-david-fellhauer-invitational-golf-tournament or call the Youth Office at (361) 573-0828

Celebrating Consecrated Life

World Day for Consecrated Life was Feb. 6 and Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, the Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province, Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, and the Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin, were celebrated during Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Bishop Brendan Cahill presided. The Diocese of Victoria’s Youth Leadership Team attended and presented roses to each of the Sisters attending. (Janet Jones/The Catholic Lighthouse)

Between here and there, airport chaplains bring mercy

Continued from pg. 1

don, which hosted a recent retreat for Catholic airport chaplains in mid-February. The retreat has been held “virtually” for the last two years and the chaplains said they were happy for their own getaway and face-to-face time with colleagues from around the country.

The Rev. Michael Zaniolo of Chicago, who ministers at one of the busiest airports in the nation, is the president of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains. He said he was drawn to the ministry as a young priest. He was leading a group of boys in an exploration of the priesthood and, to demonstrate the different types of ministry, took them on a field trip to the airport. The priest in that position seemed to have had an effect on everyone, he said.

“I thought, ‘This is a great place to be a priest,’” he said.

In the spirit of “synodality,” or becoming a listening church, it fits right in. “We literally are walking with these people,” Father Zaniolo said.

He gets approached with people who are fearful of flying. “You give them a blessing and it’s like a burden has been lifted off their shoulders,” he said. “Within just a few moments you can have an impact on someone.”

Deacon Alfred Mitchell who ministers in Atlanta, home of the busiest airport in the U.S., said you never know how your day at the airport will go. The retreat, he said, offered all of them a lot of quiet time to reflect as well as time to do some training.

The chaplains took a field trip to tour the painted churches in the Diocese of Victoria on Feb. 19, and Bishop Brenden Cahill celebrated Mass for the chaplains at St. Mary’s in High Hill. He said he sees the chaplains as ministers who truly love others “without any exception.”

“You are striving to get us to go beyond making any exceptions – finding people where they are,” Bishop said. “... people who work at the ticket counter, business people traveling eight months a year who want someone to talk to – where people may often feel forgotten. We are constantly trying to see who’s in the shadows, who may feel forgotten, and who I can be present to and listen to, to bring them the heart of Jesus, and, as we come to realize, to experience the heart of Jesus through them.”

The chaplains said some airports offer Masses during the week and will have the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday for travelers who cannot make it to church. Chapels are often shared with other faiths that provide chaplains, as well. Between formal services, they simply visit with anyone who wants a clergyman to talk to.

Rev. David Reiser, chaplain at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, said their motto is, “We loiter with purpose.”
Czech Catholics gather to celebrate dedication of shrine in Texas

By JANET JONES
The Catholic Lighthouse

DUBINA, Texas – As Bishop Brendan J. Cahill formally dedicated Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church as a shrine in the Diocese of Victoria, he said his prayer is for the faithful, “under the tutelage and guidance of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, to be a bridge among people.”

The church was declared a pilgrimage site during a Mass on Feb. 14, the saints’ feast day in the U.S., with Czech representatives from many Texas cities and fraternal organizations. The Czech Catholic Foundation of Texas, inaugurated on Feb. 14, 2020, at the Dubina church, coordinated the liturgy and celebration. It was that group, created to preserve and continue the Czech Catholic traditions, that made the request for the designation because the church was the first in Texas to be named for the saints.

Brian Vaniček of the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Temple, Texas, attended and brought a written greeting from Ambassador Hynek Kmoníček of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C.

“What a tremendous and enduring influence these two Thessalonian brothers had on the Czech lands!” the letter states, explaining that the contributions of the saints wasn’t only Christianity, but also written language that enhanced all aspects of life for the Slavic peoples.

“The Czech Republic and the Great State of Texas share a long and special kinship. Over the years and through my visits to Texas, I have come to know and develop a fondness and admiration for Texas and its people,” Kmoníček wrote. “Texans of Czech ancestry have a deep and abiding affinity for the Czech lands and continue to display a robust appreciation for their cultural and spiritual heritage of those who preceded them. The communal support which springs from these enduring ties is truly a joy to behold!”

The original Dubina church was built in 1876 on land donated by Joseph Peter, Jr., son of early settlers from Moravia. In 1909 that building was demolished in a storm and the present building – one of the well-known “painted churches” – was built to replace it.

The Rev. Wayne Flagg, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel in Weimar, speaks to the people gathered for the Mass on the feast day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Apostle to the Slavs. He said there is still a lot of evangelizing to be done today.

Father Flagg spoke before the final blessing. He offered some thoughts from his interactions with visitors touring the painted churches. He read a simple card expressing the appreciation of a young couple who had the opportunity to see the church. The other encounter, he called a “step on your toes” moment, was the visit with four senior adults who came with a girl around age 12, a granddaughter. As they walked out, the child pointed to one of two crucifixes mounted on beams near the back pews and asked, “Who is this man?”

That moment, Father Flagg said, was a “See Czech Catholics gather, pg. 14
Czech Catholics gather to celebrate dedication of shrine in Texas

Continued from pg. 13

realization that there is still a lot of evangelizing to be done.

Bishop Cahill said that Catholics need a “continued evangelizing spirit” no matter what the world’s circumstances are. “One of my personal theories is no time is worse than others. Every age is called to renewal and evangelization by Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Cahill also said he wanted to impart two special thoughts during the celebration. First, he said, our respect for all cultures is an important step to being the bridge between peoples as Sts. Cyril and Methodius were a bridge between Eastern and Western traditions.

“The second thing I think about often,” Cahill said, “is an appreciation for the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world. The Holy Spirit enlightens our mind, enflames our heart and brings us all to God.”

The Most Rev. Gary Janak, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, and one of two Czech bishops (Bishop Patrick Zurek of Amarillo is the other) in Texas also sent a written greeting, which Bishop Cahill read during his homily. “I offer my prayers in wholehearted support,” Bishop Janak wrote. “I believe that it’s most fitting that this special distinction should be attached to this beautiful church. I’ve had the privilege of celebrating Mass in this historic church on several occasions. It has always been an honor to do so. … I pray many of God’s faithful will embark on a pilgrimage to this church and depart spiritually enriched and personally inspired.”

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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.
Oren por la paz y la conversión de los corazones
Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Los obispos de los católicos ucranianos en los EE. UU. escribieron el siguiente llamamiento el 12 de febrero. Mientras escribo esta carta, no sé qué pasará entre hoy y el día en que leas esta carta. De lo que estoy seguro es de nuestra necesidad de ofrecer oración, ayuno y actos de misericordia por la paz en Ucrania y en todo el mundo. Con un corazón unido a mis hermanos obispos de los ritos orientales, espero que podamos ofrecer algunas de nuestras celebraciones de Cuaresma este año en común con el espíritu de este llamamiento:

“Durante las últimas semanas, el mundo se ha vuelto plenamente consciente del hecho de que la Ucrania democrática y su pueblo amante de la libertad están cada vez más rodeados por fuerzas militares hostiles propensas a la invasión. Una escalada completa de la guerra de ocho años dirigida por el Kremlín provocará un derramamiento de sangre devastador y un sufrimiento humano incalculable. Las muertes podrían ser de decenas de miles y los refugiados de millones. Las ondas de choque económicas y políticas de la devastación social y la destrucción material en Ucrania serán mundiales. Hay amplio acceso a análisis que explican el potencial de un desastre con repercusiones globales.

Apelamos a ustedes no como políticos ni estrategas. Os rogamos como personas de fe en Dios: ‘Los que confían en el Señor son como el monte de Sión, que no se mueve, sino que permanece para siempre’ (Sal 125, 1). Como pastores, apelamos a ustedes ya todas las personas de buena voluntad para orar por la paz y la justicia en Ucrania. Pedimos que a partir de mañana, domingo 13 de febrero, nuestros sacerdotes y parroquias, comunidades religiosas, familias y fieles realicen una vigilia de tres días de oración por la paz y la conversión de los corazones de quienes predicen la violencia y escalan la guerra.

Dada la inmediatez de nuestro llamamiento, pedimos que cada pastor y comunidad, cada familia y cada persona participen en esta vigilia de la forma que les sea posible. Que nuestras iglesias estén abiertas durante todo el día, que la oración de la Iglesia se intercambie con la contemplación personal. Dirigir y participar en los servicios, rezar la Oración de Jesús, el Rosario Mariano, la Parálisisis, sentarse con las Escrituras. Ayuna para enfocarte en la esperanza que solo Dios da. Que nuestros ojos estén puestos en el Señor, que la Palabra de Dios esté en nuestros labios, que nuestros corazones estén llenos de esperanza. ¡Echad todas vuestras preocupaciones sobre Él, porque Él se preocupa por vosotros. Sé sobrio y vigilante. Vuestro adversario, el diablo, rondará como león rugiente, buscando a quien devorar. Resistámonos, firmes en la fe, sabiendo que sus hermanos en la fe en todo el mundo sufren los mismos sufrimientos’. (1 P 5, 7-9). Fieles ucranianos de todas las confesiones han sido testigos de milagros. En la historia reciente vimos el colapso de la Cortina de Hierro, la disolución de la prisión soviética de las naciones, la liberación de nuestras Iglesias, que ocurrió sin guerra ni derramamiento de sangre. Ponemos nuestra confianza en Dios y pedimos la intervención divina. ‘Algunos se jactan de carros, y otros de caballos: pero nos gloriamos en el nombre del Señor nuestro Dios. Se derrumbarán y caerán; pero nos levantaremos y nos mantendremos erguidos’ (Sal 20, 8-9). Oramos por la seguridad y el coraje del pueblo de Ucrania. Admiramos su fe y fortaleza. Rogamos al Señor que proteja al país y a su gente de nuevas invasiones. Oren y estén llenos de esperanza. Comparte esa esperanza. ¡Conoce al Señor y el amor de Dios por el mundo!’

+Borys Gudzjak
Archbishop of Philadelphia, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States
Head of the Department of External Church Relations, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Líderes hispanos en una nueva temporada

Un equipo diocesano de Ministerio Hispano compuesto por representantes de toda la diáconesis recibió sus certificaciones y se instaló durante una Misa celebrada el 29 de enero por el Obispo Brendan Cahill. Los resonance en varias fases desde 2016 se han dedicado al desarrollo del ministerio hispano en la Diócesis de Victoria, comenzando con el proceso del V Encuentro.

Aldo Camacho, coordinador del Ministerio Hispánico de la Diócesis de Victoria, agradece a la comunidad hispánica por su apoyo. (Janet Jones / The Catholic Lighthouse)
Discerning a vocation: A journey of ups and downs

I was 11 years ago, and I was a 20-something, single youth minister at a parish. Basically everyone thought God was calling me to be a priest, and I did, too. I remember this giving me a lot of angst, as I always dreamed of having a family, in particular a wife to share the journey of life with, but I thought to myself again and again, “It’s OK! Just grin and bear it. This is not what God has for you.” And I carried on, trying to answer my “calling” to become a priest.

I was shocked to find so much anxiety for me on this path. Nothing about it gave me any peace. It was a conversation with a dear friend, who ended up becoming a priest for me on this path. Nothing about it gave me a lot of angst, as I always dreamed to be a priest, and I did, too. I remember this cal
cally everyone thought God was calling me to myself again and again, “It’s OK! Just grin and bear it. This is not what God has for you.” And I carried on, trying to answer

I began to spend more and more time in prayer, specifically Eucharistic Adoration, in addition to prayer at home and whenever I could find time, especially with Scripture. I’ll never forget a moment when I was alone in my room praying about all of this, and given how all of my experiences for several months kept leading me to want to pursue marriage, I said to Him, “OK, if this is true and You’re really speaking to me, I’m going to buy tickets to a concert and trust you to provide a date.”

To make a long story short, the date He provided that night is my now wife, Laura. Looking back to that night, it’s amazing to see God’s hand in our lives and how after 7 plus years of marriage we have four beautiful boys who wouldn’t be here without His leading.

I share this story to remind us that God’s plan for us is good. He loves us. The only way we can know His plan is to spend time in prayer listening to Him. Everyone in the world may think they know what is best for us, but the only opinion that truly matters is God’s.

I encourage you to make more time for prayer, specifically just listening for His voice, which will often speak to us in an inaudible way, directly to our hearts, in a way that only we can understand. If we are pursuing Him, and living a life of grace in line with the teachings of the church, we won’t go astray, for He promises us, “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand,” (John 10:27-28)

• Justin Reyes is the Director of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. He can be reached at 361-573-0828 x 2265 or jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.

One-day grief retreat April 2

The Strength for the Journey ministry for parents who have lost a child of any age is offering a one-day retreat on April 2. This retreat will be held at the Cathedral Center (St. Gabriel Hall) in Victoria.

This day will 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 that day, and may remain silent and listen if they’d like.

Snacks and lunch will be provided, and there will be a good will offering that day. For more information, contact Pat Hoelscher at 979-257-9984, phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org or Deacon Larry Hoelscher at 979-578-3934.

Register for free at www.victoriadiocese.org/grief-day-retreat

Saving some memories

WEIMAR -- At 2:22 p.m. on Feb. 2, 2022, the first-grade class at St. Michael Catholic School closed up a little time capsule they put together. It will stay in the main trophy case at the school so that it can be opened up at 3:33 p.m. on March 3, 2033 (3/3/33), by those students who, by then, will be seniors in high school. The students are Jesse Janecka, Finley Marshall, Lane Anders, Beau Anders, Parker Helmcamp, Mason Bitner, Myla Pavlu and Kassie Moeller. Their teacher is Kaylyn Tousek. (Contributed photo)
Questions and answers about Lent and Lenten practices

From the USCCB

Q. Why do we say that there are 40 days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 46.

A. It might be more accurate to say that there is the “40-day fast within Lent.” Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days. The 40-day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.

Q. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays?

A. Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.

Q. I’ve noticed that restaurants and grocery stores advertise specials on expensive types of fish and seafood on Fridays during Lent. Some of my Catholic friends take advantage of these deals, but somehow I don’t feel right treating myself to the lobster special on Fridays during Lent.

A. While fish, lobster and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer.

Sunday Readings from March 6 - April 10

March 6 ~ First Sunday of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalms 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
Romans 10:8-13

March 13 ~ Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Psalms 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14
Philippians 3:17—4:1

March 20 ~ Third Sunday of Lent
Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

March 27 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent
Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

April 3 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

April 10 ~ Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion
Mass Readings:
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11

Special Days in the Catholic Church
Tuesday, April 12 ~ Chrism Mass
Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
Psalms 89:21-22, 25 and 27
Revelation 1:5-8
Luke 4:16-21

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

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith-in-action program. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is an opportunity for us as a parish/school to come together as a community and reflect on what it means to live out our Gospel call; to go out and encounter those most in need.

All parishes take up a weekly rice bowl collection during Lent - all those collections go to CRS. People may also donate directly online at https://www.crs.org/
Wind: our heavenly companion, sister, consipito and inspiration. She breezes into woodlands, soars past mountain-tops, sweeps over plains and deserts, and skims the oceans. She can come from any direction, sometimes gentle, sometimes harsh, and wanders to the ends of the earth fulfilling her sacred mission.

In appointed service, she swoops up fertile pollen and airy seed, she lavishes grandly ushers in misty clouds, and then de-swoops up fertile pollen and airy seed, she condicto and inspiration. She breezes into its animation and experience the liveliness of your Spirit. Blow into our hearts with your life-giving Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise: Psalm 104:1, 3-4, 29-30; Proverbs 30:4; Psalm 135:5, 7

Response: God has weighed out the wind, whose breath fills the world.

Bless the LORD, my soul! LORD, my God, you are great indeed! You spread out the heavens like a tent; setting the beams of your chambers upon the waters. You make the clouds your chariot; traveling on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers; flaming fire, your ministers. Response: When you hide your face, they panic. Take away their breath, they perish and return to the dust. Send forth your spirit, they are created and you renew the face of the earth. Response: Who has gone up to heaven and come down again – who has cupped the wind in the hollow of the hand? Who has bound up the waters in a cloak – who has established all the ends of the earth? Response: For I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. Whatever the LORD desires He does in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the depths. It is He who raises storm clouds from the end of the earth, makes lightning for the rain, and brings forth wind from His storehouse. Response: Let us pray: Lord of wind and spirit, your playful breath refreshes us, carrying away our many cares and lifting the burden of hectic schedules. Let us rejoice in

Closing Blessing

Loving God, as the winnowing wind blows through the grain and carries the chaff away, blow through our thoughts and sift out all that is unworthy. As an arid wind dries grain for the harvest, draw from us the greenness of our faith and make us ripe for nourishing others. As moist wind blowing over parched earth conveys hope, breathe renewal into our weared hearts. As the mighty wind pushed back the floodwaters for Noah and created space for new life, sweep your spirit into our beings and recreaeate wholesomeness. Lord of all, bless the wind in its fertile vocation as it swrolls through crops and hearts bearing gifts of both heaven and earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
**EVENTS**

**Meals • Picnics and More**

**March**

**Hillje** – St. Procopius Spring Festival March 6, at the parish hall. A fried chicken with white rice and corn dinner will be served starting at 11 a.m. with drive-thru plates to go only at $12 each. There will also be a bake sale and raffle.

**Blessing** – The Knights of Columbus Council #4307 is sponsoring a Lenten shrimp etouffee and gumbo meal fundraiser on March 13, at the St. Peter's Church Parish Hall. Serving will start at 10:30 a.m. The meal will consist of shrimp etouffee and gumbo with rice, dessert, and tea or coffee. A large bowl with dessert and beverage is $12 each. The raffle for gift cards will also be held during the day. The proceeds of the fundraiser will be used for Knights of Columbus charities and high school senior scholarships.

**Victoria** – Our Lady of Lourdes Holy Name Society Annual Chicken/Sausage Dinner, March 27, at the church (105 N. William St.) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The plates are $12 p/p (all plates are to-go only). See ad on pg. 18.

**April**

**Victoria** – A free one-day grief retreat will be held April 2 at the Cathedral Center (St. Gabriel Hall). The Strength for the Journey Ministry for parents who have lost a child of any age is hosting this retreat. For more information see pg. 16.

**Cuero** – Knights of Columbus Council #1682 Annual Shrimp Dinner April 3, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Michael's Parish Hall. Plates are “to go” only for $12. For more information, see ad on pg. 2.

**Bloomington** – St. Patrick’s, April 24

**Weimar** – St. Michael Spring Festival, April 24

**Victoria** – 25th Annual Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament to be held April 29 at The Club at Colony Creek. For more information and to be a sponsor see pg. 12.

**May**

**Victoria** – Holy Family Festival, May 1 on the parish grounds

**Frelsburg** – Sts. Peter and Paul Festival, May 8

**Hallettsville** – Sacred Heart Picnic, May 29

**Shiner** – Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 29

**Mission Trip Planned**

The next mission trip to Las Obras in Antigua, Guatemala, will take place July 10-17. The late Father Dan Morales led many mission trips to the orphanage and an endowment in his name was created to help support Las Obras. More information will be coming soon about how to register for the trip. For more information about the mission, visit https://frdanendowment.org.

**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.naclfml.org.

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

**Emmanua 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** – 2022 Dates: Apr. 22-24; June 3-5; Sept. 16-18; Nov. 11-13. 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** – Our mission is to protect the unborn by providing spiritual and emotional support as well as supplies for the pregnant mother and her baby. We provide housing through the Bethlehem Maternity Home, and have an outreach ministry that visits pregnant women in our community. Our services cover Victoria, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda and Wharton. For more information, please contact our helpline at 361-576-1156.

**Grief Ministry** – An ongoing Grief Group meets at the Holy Family Church conference room in Victoria at 7 p.m., on the first and third Thursdays each month. Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one may attend (after three months have passed). Call Sharon at 361-578-7572 before attending.

**Id9:16 Ministry** – For adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with 6 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan and fellowship. 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 anomrueus@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/MothersofGraceV.

**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:susannekoch614@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 501c(3) nonprofit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. For information, contact Midge Elam at 361-865-3021, 361-258-1514, or visit http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

**Retrouvaille** – Retrouvaille, meaning “rediscovery,” is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at 979-257-9984 or jvcreative@texas.net. Meetings are held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Saturday of the month. For more information, please call Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or e-mail pashetoc@yahoo.com.

**Strength for the Journey** – A grief ministry for parents who have lost their child meets monthly at Assumption Church parish hall, 108 6th St., in Ganado from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The upcoming meetings will be Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, Jun. 14, Jul. 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13. For more information, please call Patricia Hoelscher 979-257-9984 or e-mail pashetoc@yahoo.com.

**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 through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce; and find support from 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

**Roth and Toast**

Dinner and drinks
Live auction
Silent auction

May 6, 2022
6-9 p.m.
Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Center

To benefit the Emmanua Center

**Honoring Monsignor John Peters**

For information, call Justin Reyes, 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265, or the Emmanua Center at 361-212-0830

**The Catholic Lighthouse**
Page 19 – March 2022
Hispanic leaders in a new season

Continued from pg. 1

Vasquez has been working with Hispanic ministry formation in the Diocese of Victoria since 2016 with the V Encuentro process – a period of development that consists of listening and discovering the spiritual needs of the community.

Children in Hispanic families might speak English in their school and CCD classes, but go home to Spanish-speaking households. With more resources in Spanish, generation gaps might be bridged in whole family formation, and get more people actively involved in their churches.

One of the biggest needs was to have Spanish speakers who could help coordinate Safe Environment programs in their parishes to enable them to plan activities that were compliant with diocesan policies.

“The mission of this diocesan team is to collaborate with parishes to offer programs and retreats that can help evangelize and promote Christian values in Hispanic families. In addition to offering more opportunities for spiritual growth and training in Spanish for all those who need it,” according to Camacho.

During the installation Mass, the 25 received the certificates they earned and as well as Spanish-language study Bibles for their work and personal formation.

Bishop Cahill told the group, “It’s not the end of a journey. It’s the beginning of a journey. You are being sent forth to bring that mercy of God to the world.”

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 20 — March 2022

Stations remind faithful of Christ’s perfect example, depth of his love

BY KATIE PETERSON
Catholic News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — From partaking in the sacrament of reconciliation to fasting to choosing what to give up, Lent is full of traditions that Catholics around the world take part in as they prepare to celebrate Christ’s passion, death and resurrection.

But there’s another sacred tradition that dates back to the early days of the Crusades: one that allows them to “walk” the Via Dolorosa with Christ: the Stations of the Cross.

The Stations of the Cross are a mini-pilgrimage, taking believers through the steps taken by Jesus on Good Friday, from his condemnation to his burial.

The stations are a “way of prayerfully uniting oneself to the sacrifice of the Lord and his love for us,” said Father Eric Fowlkes, pastor of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville. “It’s also an invitation for us to place ourselves within that journey.”

The Stations of the Cross date back to the Middle Ages during the religious wars between Christians and Muslims, known as the Crusades.

“The Crusades awakened an interest in Europe in the places associated with Christ in the Holy Land. For the first time, Europeans were traveling there regularly and wanted to see the holy places where the biblical events took place,” said Father Bede Price, pastor of Church of the Assumption in Nashville.

“One of those was, of course, the Via Dolorosa, which is the path that Christ took to Calvary, and there were certain spots along that path where things were said to have happened,” he told the Tennessee Register, the newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.

“The most famous one probably is Veronica” wiping the face of Christ, he continued. “That’s not in the Bible. It’s a legend, a story about a woman who had compassion (for) Christ and wiped his face with a veil.”

But trips to the Holy Land weren’t easy ones to take for everyone in Europe, so “people started erecting these stations in churches in Europe so they can virtually go on a pilgrimage to the Via Dolorosa,” Father Price said. The devotion was further popularized by St. Francis of Assisi, Father Price said.