In declaring the Year of Consecrated Religious Life (YCL), Pope Francis has invited us to Wake up the World! and to raise awareness of consecrated life. As 5 religious congregations of consecrated men and women in the Diocese of Victoria prepare for the opening of the 2015 Year of Consecrated Life, there is much enthusiasm and joy. The 3 congregations of women include: Dominican of Mary Immaculate OP, Missionary Catholic of the Sacred Heart, and Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. The 2 congregations of men include: Trinitarian OSST and Missionary Society of St. Paul.

A committee has been formed and the Serra Club is helping to plan events for the upcoming year. The focus is three-fold: renewal for women and men in consecrated life, celebrate the time of thanksgiving among the faithful for consecrated life, and invite young Catholics to consider a religious vocation. As Catholic Schools Week approaches, Jan. 25-31, 2015, schools are invited to utilize this time for teaching and prayer about consecrated life.

The Year of Consecrated Life began on the First Sunday of Advent and will close on the World Day of Consecrated Life on Feb. 2, 2016. All of us are called to journey together during this year. A site on consecrated life has been created under the Vocations tab on the diocesan website. For more information and resources, visit www.victoriadiocese.org or www.usccb.org.

See Wake up the world!, pg. 12

Pope Francis urges us to recognize the equal dignity of our brothers and sisters

To celebrate the World Day of Peace (January 1, 2015) and throughout the year, the theme for this year’s message is drawn from St. Paul’s letter to Philemon, in which the Apostle asks his co-worker to welcome Onesimus, formerly Philemon’s slave, now a Christian and, therefore, according to Paul, worthy of being considered a brother. The Apostle of the Gentiles writes: “Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother” (vv. 15-16). Onesimus became Philemon’s brother when he became a Christian. Conversion to Christ, the beginning of a life lived Christian discipleship, thus constitutes a new birth (cf. 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Pet 1:3) which generates fraternity as the fundamental bond of family life and the basis of life in society.

We know that God will ask each of us: What did you do for your brother? (cf. Gen 4:9-10). The globalization of indifference, which today burdens the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters, requires all of us to forge a new worldwide solidarity and fraternity capable of giving them new hope and helping them to advance with courage amid the problems of our time and the new horizons which they disclose and which God places in our hands. To read more, visit www.w2.vatican.va.
Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

January
5-9 Region X Bishops’ Retreat, Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio
10 6:00 p.m. Confirmation, Sts. Peter & Paul, Freistburg; including St. Roch, Mentz and St. Anthony, Columbus
12-15 Diocesan Priests’ Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
19-22 Diocesan Priests’ Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
24 4:00 p.m. Mass, Boy Scout Retreat, Camp Mauritz, Ganado
25 9:00 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
31 9:00 a.m. RCIA Workshop, Chancery, Victoria

February
4 2:00 p.m. Spelling Bee, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria
8 4:00 p.m. Mass, 4th Degree Knights Assembly #1131, St. Andrew, Hillje
9 5:00 p.m. Liturgical Commission Meeting, 1st Floor Chancery, Victoria

Thank you notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,
The USCCB Office of National Collections is grateful for the generous gift of $4,021.79. I extend a great ‘thank you’ to you and to the Diocese of Victoria.

Sincerely,
Bevin Kennedy
Assistant Director
Catholic Communication Campaign

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,
I write with gratitude for the amount of $44,710.48 for the Peter’s Pence diocesan contribution. May God reward you and continue to bless you and the faithful parishioners of the Diocese of Victoria.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Carlo Vigano
Apostolic Nunciature of the U.S.

Diocesan directory update

The official Diocese of Victoria directory is available for purchase- get yours today!
Features include: Mass times, priests, deacons, Catholic schools, diocesan services, education services, health services, parish information, clergy assignments, women religious, and more…all in one accessible book! Loose-page fillers are available for $6 if picked up at the Chancery; $12 if mailed. To order a full directory, with the diocesan binder, cost is $8 if picked up at the Chancery and $17 if mailed. A free pdf is also available.
For more information, call (361) 573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org under the Parishes tab.

2015 TCL deadlines

For deadlines, see pg. 11 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org and download the pdf of 2015 dates under TCL tab!

DSA update

2014 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: $ 1,824,625.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $ 941,078.03
Parish Contribution Totals: $ 912,669.20
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,507

We are taking deposit for all trips!

Pathways ~with Patti
334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
(361) 552-2695 or (361) 526-2444

Need a brochure? Contact:
Pathways ~with Patti
334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
(361) 552-2695 or (361) 920-3216
Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are 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 lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received. Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to: DIOCESE OF VICTORIA • SEMINARY BURSES • P. O. BOX 4070 • VICTORIA, TX 77903.

As of January 5, 2015

TOTALS

— Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch

Previously reported $10,284.00

Special intentions for Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch by

Allan and Cyndi Stryk 200.00

In memory of Frances Hermis by Bennie Beale, Sharon Fredrich, Cyndi and Allan Stryk and Denise and Gary Greive 50.00

Total $10,534.00

— CDA Our Lady Queen of Peace Ct. #1374

Previously reported $7,502.12

In honor of B.G. and Betty Parma (godparents) by Justin Turner (godchild) 20.00

In honor of Chris Goerig (confirmation sponsor) by Justin Turner 20.00

In honor of Kimberly Hailey (godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner (godparents) 20.00

In honor of Scott Kulcak by Tommy Turner (confirmation sponsor) 20.00

In honor of Lee Orr (godchild) by Tommy Turner (godparent and confirmation sponsor) 20.00

In honor of Will Orr by Tommy Turner (confirmation sponsor) 20.00

In honor of Lindsey Riha (godchild) by Carol Turner (confirmation sponsor) 20.00

In honor of Toby Riha (godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner (godparents) 20.00

In honor of Troy Riha (godchild) by Carol Turner (godparent) 20.00

In honor of Kody Witcher (godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner (godparents) 20.00

Total $7,702.12

— Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer/ Catholic Life Insurance: Nada, Moulton-Flatonia, Hallettsville, El Campo, and Edna-Ganado Branches Burse #2

Previously reported $4,200.00

Christmas blessings for the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer by a friend 1,000.00

Total $5,200.00

— Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune

Previously reported $2,375.00

In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg by Michael and Julie Koch 500.00

In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune by Rick and Sara Vandel 100.00

In honor of Deacon Charles Glynn’s 20th anniversary of his diaconate ordination by Victor and Gail Dvorak 50.00

In honor of Rev. Philip Brune by Allen and Bernice Kahlden 25.00

In honor of Irene Wavra’s birthday celebration by Donna Kunz 20.00

Total $3,070.00

— Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek Burse #2

Previously reported $3,196.00

In honor of John J. and Hazel L. Kobersky’s 72nd wedding anniversary (Nov. 9th) by

M/M John J. Kobersky 400.00

In loving memory of the Doerrich Family by M/M John J. Kobersky 20.00

In loving memory of the Kazmir Family by M/M John J. Kobersky 20.00

In loving memory of the Kobersky Family by M/M John J. Kobersky 20.00

In loving memory of Sr. Michael Kopecky, Sr. M. Therese Kopecky, and Sr. M. Lucy Kopecky by M/M John J. Kobersky 20.00

In loving memory of Suzanne Renee (Huebner) Wilganowski by M/M John J. Kobersky 20.00

In loving memory of Joyce Zak by M/M John J. Kobersky 20.00

Total $3,716.00

— Louis and Edith Hickl

Previously reported $11,520.00

In loving memory of deceased family members of Vincent and Elizabeth Vacek and John and Julia Hickl by Edith Hickl 1,000.00

Total $12,520.00

— Anthony and Rose Marie Trippodo Liggio

In loving memory of my parents, Anthony and Rose Marie Trippodo Liggio by Rev. Jasper Liggio 25,000.00

Total $25,000.00

(All Seminary Burses close with a balance of $15,000)

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #7

Previously reported $5,755.00

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ 40th ordination anniversary by Lillian Besetzny 50.00

In loving memory of Agnes Svetlik by Carol Konvicka 10.00

In loving memory of Agnes Svetlik by Stacy Kubecka 10.00

Total $5,825.00

TCL advertising reminder for 2015

We are updating our ads for consistency, clarity, and more up-to-date look. If you have advertised with us in the past, please know ads may be updated, refreshed, or recreated. A $10 fee may also be assessed.

Advertising requirements for TCL include:

• Appealing, eye-catching design
• Consistent punctuation throughout: a.m., p.m. drive-thru, to-go-plates, dine-in, etc.
• Crisp, clear, artwork (preferably not clip art)
• Updated/refreshed fonts
• Created and/or recreated in InDesign format; no scans or faxes
• Required: date, time, cost, location, contact information

Ad space is available! Position your organization as a key business in the Catholic publishing community and throughout the Diocese of Victoria. Advertising with TLC is an effective way to promote your local event, charity or business. Advertise with us!

Looking for a way to get noticed?

The Diocese of Victoria also provides many services:

- Business Office
- Catholic Cemeteries Office
- Catholic Schools Office
- Safe Environment Office
- Spiritual Renewal Center
- Office of Vocations... and more!

For more information, contact:

The Diocese of Victoria
1505 E. Mesquite Lane
Victoria, TX 77901
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org

Sharing Christmas joy and a special show last month, students from the Bell Choir at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca, performed at the Chancery.
A note of thanks

The first few days of a new school year are always exciting. This year, there was more excitement than usual at Sacred Heart Catholic School, Hallettsville, as teachers and students prepared to move into newly remodeled classrooms. Faculty and students worked together to make the move as efficient as possible. High school and junior high students helped teachers move desks, chairs, and supplies, while coaches supervised the elementary students.

Remodeling of the junior high classrooms began soon after school ended in May and the results are spectacular. Students and teachers are thrilled with the larger space, additional storage, and state-of-the-art technology. Janice Bludau, kindergarten teacher, said, “There is so much room for the students to learn and do activities. We are very blessed to have such an awesome classroom.” Pam Bohuslav, 2nd grade teacher, is happy they can do more activities with the larger space. “It is just an overall good feeling every day to walk into school and start my day in such a beautiful classroom.” Katherine Pavliska feels like she is in a dream classroom, while Garrett Ridgeway believes the classroom size makes it easy to stay organized. Many students agree with Kenzie Chance, “It’s beautiful and super cool!” Eve Roberts likes that “we have a lot of space to work and move around.” Klayton Chance shared that the new projector is used every day in religion, math, and reading. The new technology has also impressed 4th grade teacher, Jennifer Noska, who stated, “It is such a great tool for teaching and learning!” The extra space is what 1st grade teacher, Kim Henke, likes the most.

Janice Bludau’s kindergarten class

Janice Bludau’s kindergarten class

A much anticipated follow-up to of the smash hit, The Bible, from executive producers Mark Burnett and Roma Downey, A.D. will be a new series premiering Easter Sunday 2015 on NBC. Season 1 will take viewers through the first 10 chapters of the Acts of the Apostles and the world changing events that immediately followed the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

For more information, visit www.ShareADTheSeries.com.
The children of St. Rose Early Childhood Center, Schulenburg, visited the Garden Company on the eve of St. Nicholas’ feast day to celebrate the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

3K and 4K school children were greeted by St. Nicholas, Mr. Lew Edwards. Each child was given a small spiritual gift to help them remember the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of God’s son. With assistance, children found special trees to take to school and decorate. Edwards also visited elementary classes at St. Rose. St. Nicholas is a saint from which the modern day legends of Santa Claus derives. He is an authentic example of Christian love and generosity. To learn more about St. Nicholas, visit www.stnicholascenter.org.

January 22nd – Day of Penance and Prayer: A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.

~ Pope St. John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, no. 100

St. Mary’s Annual Parish Festival
Sunday – February 8, 2015
Victoria Community Center

ROAST BEEF MEAL
Roast Beef, Country Potatoes, Savory Green Beans, Squash Casserole, Roll, Dessert, & Drink
11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. • $8 p/p.
Plates-to-go: 10:30 a.m.

LIVE AUCTION: 12:30 p.m.
Games – Booths – Silent Auction
Antiques – Collectibles – Crafts – Jewelry – Quilts
Family Entertainment

Students in grades 1-8 at St. Philip Catholic School, El Campo, presented Fact or Fiction, The Christmas Edition pageant at the high school gym last month.

CDA Court #2267, Port Lavaca, recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Charter members received 30-year certificates at the Catholic Daughters of the Americas/Knights of Columbus Award Banquet last month. Left to right: Susie Daigle, Peggy Motl, Dolores Miller, Rosemary Knobles, Elsie Escamia, Madeline Garica, and Margaret Hilscher. Not pictured is Doris Winter.
SPIRITUALITY

Won’t you join us to fulfill Christ’s promise of the miracle of life?

What is God calling you to?

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me.”
—Isaiah 61:1

Come learn and discern God’s mission for you!

January is the month for celebrating God’s miracle of life!

The spirit of giving is within our youth! Members of the JCDA #206, Yoakum, presented the Yoakum Fire Dept with gifts to use at the station. Gifts included Blu-ray DVD players and a complete silverware set with an organizer. Members donated the gifts to thank the department for their service and dedication to keeping the community safe.

The RCIA Steering Committee of the Diocese of Victoria recently met at the Chancery. Their mission is to promote the vision, value, and implementation of the RCIA as promulgated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (1988) and flows from Christ’s command to, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” Matt: 28:19-20.

Goals include to be a collaborative team, under the guidance of the Bishop and the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, with scheduled and structured meetings; to be as aware as possible of the diocese and RCIA needs within the diocese; to address as best as possible; support courage-pastors to help and sustain the formation of new parish RCIA teams; to provide guidance for the Christian initiation of children of catechetical age and to sponsor diocesan workshops with local, regional, and national leaders. Workshops are designed for pastors, parochial administrators, deacons, RCIA teams, and interested parish members. Register online now!

This is what The Gabriel Project is all about!

Mary said, “I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.” With that the angel left her. Thenceupon Mary set out, proceeding in haste into the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out in a loud voice, “Blest are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby leapt in my womb for joy. Blest is she who trusted that the Lord’s words to her would be fulfilled.” ~Luke 1:38-45

Mary and Joseph went to Nazareth and remained there until he was old enough according to the law of Moses to be presented at the temple. After that he went down to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, the temple officials were astonished at his understanding and his answers. ~Luke 2:41-47

January is the month for celebrating God’s miracle of life!

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission
RCIA Workshop
The Rites: Meaning and Implementation
January 31, 2015
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Chancery
$10 (for lunch and materials)

For more information, visit www.victoriadiocese.org
A wonderful time at
The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer Advent Dinner

Entertainment by Ministers of Music of the Diocese; hospitality provided by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry; dinner prepared by Chef Julia Amador and Theresa Garcia; photos by Deacon Ed Molina of Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria

(A) Bishop Fellhauer offers a special blessing; (B) Festivities and meal at the Spiritual Renewal Center

Deacon Joe Duplan and Bishop Fellhauer

Bishop Fellhauer celebrates Mass

Bishop Fellhauer and seminarians of the Diocese of Victoria at the Serra Club Christmas Party at Holy Family Church, Victoria

Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria, held a Magi Party and Appreciation Dinner on the Feast of the Epiphany.

The Magi discovered Jesus in a family setting and presented gifts. Much in the same way, the catechists’ discovery of Jesus is in their own families and within the Catholic Church family. After the dinner, there was a gift exchange, followed by a circle of prayer formation and blessing.

Left to right: Laurie Bautista, PCL and Msgr. Celestino Say, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes.
PI Extended 3-Year Program

Under the direction of Bishop David E. Fellhauer, the Pastoral Institute is committed to making adult faith formation and education a high priority in the Diocese of Victoria by providing a solid curriculum of basic courses pertaining to the Catholic faith. Over 120 adult Catholics throughout the diocese have experienced the importance of the courses.

Classes are Jan. 6-Feb. 10, held every Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.-9:15 p.m. Classes will be offered at the Chancery in Victoria and projected to St. Roch Church in Mentz and Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville.

The course will focus on Psalms and Wisdom. The Book of Psalms, Israel’s prayer book, the Wisdom literature of Israel to include the Book of Job will also be explored. It is not too late! To register or for more information, call (361) 573-0828 x2223, e-mail Sherry Kainer at pissetary@victoriadiocese.org, or visit www.victoriadiocese.org and click on Ministries, the Pastoral Institute, Extended Program, then Extended Online Registration.

New directors in the diocese

As of last fall, the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer appointed Christella Alvarez as director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria. Much growth can be attributed to her previous experience as associate director, involvement in the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, coordination of the Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, service as vice president of the Liturgical Commission, and much more including classes being provided online and assistance in starting Disciples on the Journey.

She stated, “I am grateful for the opportunity to serve God and his people in this capacity. My prayer is that all I do will be for the honor and glory of God. I know am blessed.”

Scott Mcmahon has been named director of the Presidio La Bahia. He has 10 years of experience in the heritage tourism field. He has been a historical interpreter with Texas Parks and Wildlife at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site for several years and has more than 20 years experience in reenactments. Currently, he is building a list of events for the community. He is also looking forward to working with local organizations in Goliad.

Family comes first

It was 2 years ago this month.

Our unmarried daughter met us for dinner and announced she was pregnant with her third child. I tossed and turned that night as I thought about this third grandson who would be born into my daughter’s single-parent family.

Less than 24 hours later, my son called to say his baby girl had arrived, but was being taken by life flight to Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. They did not know if the baby would survive. The neurological team said she would have brain damage if she managed to make it through her first day of life.

In the moment my daughter told me she was pregnant again, I immediately began doing damage control. Instantly, I knew I would not sign a teaching contract for the following year. Maybe my daughter could move back in with us. Maybe we could babysit, and she could work. Maybe these grandchildren would have some concept of family through grandparents and extended family.

When my son called with the news about his baby girl less than a day later, I could not think at all. I was not planning. There was no strategy in my head. It was too big, the news too unexpected, too and mitigate. We took each family crisis sent me into second family crisis left me her arms around this.

I took the overnight shift in-law could barely walk in traumatic birth. She and my traumatic stress. That is how without life signs, when you when you watch her have 2 of life, and the experts say

Instinctively, I activated a that is not talked about very much. The Compendium on Social Doctrine of the Church says there is to be a “social priority of the family” (252). It goes on to say there must be “the recognition on the part of civil society and the state of the priority of the family over every other community” (254).

In short, family comes first.

That night, my husband and I talked it over. I talked to my parish priest. I prayed a lot and then I submitted a letter of resignation. We both knew what I had to do. It was time to be a mother and grandmother before anything else.

I believe God honored our desire to put family first. Within months, my daughter and her 3 sons converted and entered the Catholic Church. The very next day, an MRI showed my granddaughter had been miraculously spared brain damage. She has had 2 surgeries since her birth to address other complications stemming from the traumatic birth. My son and his family stay with us often to be close to physical therapy sessions in St. Louis, but the 2 year-old that was supposed to have brain damage has met or exceeded all mental development milestones. The physical therapy is helping in the areas affected by the nerve damage.

The eyes of the Church are on the World Meeting on Families in September 2015. It is an important time in the life of our Church. Now, more than ever, we are being called to put family above all earthly things, and that includes our employment.

Family comes first.

We must help to meet their temporal needs, but we must also meet their spiritual needs. Corporal works of mercy and spiritual works of mercy begin at home. Our number one job is to get our family members to heaven. Just as the Church helps us along our personal pilgrimage to heaven, the domestic church is a vehicle for the salvation of the family.

Rarely is one called upon to set aside work for family. Typically, work is necessary for the financial viability of the family—but we must never get our priorities out of whack. The family has priority over every other community on earth. Solidarity begins in the home.
Sunday Readings from January 11 to February 8

Jan. 11- Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 1:7-11

Jan. 18- Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 3:3B-10, 19
Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Corinthians 6:13C-15A, 17-20
John 1:35-42

Jan. 25- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Feb. 1- Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 8- Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalms 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

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

Puzzle contest

The winner of the January contest will win Answers: Catholic Advice for Your Spiritual Questions by Fr. John Bartunek. How can I know God's will in my life? Does God really hear me when I pray? The book provides answers to questions regarding prayer, spiritual growth, living in the world today, overcoming sin, and more.

Puzzle contest were Shirley Womble from St. Michael's Parish in Cuero, 12 year-old Addison Belicek from Sacred Heart Parish in Halletsville, and 9 year-old Bruce Rasmussen from St. Philip’s Parish in El Campo.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past 6 months, please mail a completed Jan. puzzle form by Jan. 30, 2015 to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win!

Important dates:
Jan. 10-11- Youth Leadership Training Retreat, Cooper Farms
Jan. 25- Confirmation Retreat, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton
Feb. 1- Confirmation Retreat, St. Joseph Church, Inez
Feb. 5- Foundation- Justice and Service
Feb. 15- Youth Spectacular, Holy Family, Wharton

The Foundations class is for coordinators of youth ministry as well as junior high and high school religious education teachers. It is a requirement for all youth ministry leaders as outlined in the promulgated document: Policy and Procedure Resource Manual for Youth Ministry and Parish Catechetical Programs.

For session dates, an application, or more information, contact The Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Presidio La Bahia • February 7, 2015

Are you familiar with the Texian War for Independence? Then you are aware of Goliad. Most know about the Battle of Coleto Creek, Fannin’s surrender and subsequent massacre, but how many know about the day-to-day life of Fort Defiance and the garrison? Join reenactors from Captain Shackelford’s Company of Alabama Red Rovers for an opportunity to witness the chores, drill, and daily routine of the garrison of Fort Defiance as it would have been in February of 1836.

Visit the camps, interact with the reenactors and take your turn standing guard as the garrison of Fort Defiance is brought to life! For more information, see page 10.
The Guadalupe Society at Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria, celebrated the Feast Day of La Virgen de Guadalupe last month on Dec. 12th. Numerous //members accompanied the Day began with the traditional mañanitas at 5:30 a.m. Fr. Gabriel Espinoza recited the rosary. Pan dulce (sweet bread) and hot chocolate were served. In the evening, a procession from DeLeon Plaza to Our Lady of Sorrow Catholic Church was held. Afterwards, Bishop David E. Fellhauer celebrated Mass.

Left to right: Ismael Perez, Bacilio Cantu, Adelaido Posada, and Coste Martin. Not pictured is Ted Cabral.

Members of the Knights of Columbus #10751, Bloomington, displayed a nativity scene at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. Left to right: Mike Nichols, grand knight; Rob Suarez, Knight of the Year; Tommy Calzada, Peter Pham and Billy Mikosh, Knights of the Quarter and John Leal, deputy grand knight.

Knights of Columbus Council #3253, Port Lavaca, recently presented the Knight of the Year and Knights of the Quarter awards. Left to right: Mike Nichols, grand knight; Rob Suarez, Knight of the Year; Tommy Calzada, Peter Pham and Billy Mikosh, Knights of the Quarter and John Leal, deputy grand knight.

FAITH & FAMILY

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Longest married contest

World Marriage Day • Feb. 8, 2015

Do you know of a couple you think might be the longest married couple in the Diocese of Victoria? If so, please send their names, name of parish, the number of years married, and the date of their sacramental wedding to The Catholic Lighthouse by January 16, 2015! Also, include submitter’s contact information. In honor of the World Day of Marriage, an announcement will feature the couple in TCL February 2015 issue!

lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org • (361) 573-0828

Catholic Family Services—To find listings of e-mails or websites of Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at 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 more information, visit www.couragec.net.

Engaged Encounter—Dates for 2015: Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Apr. 17-19, June 5-7, Aug. 28-30, and Oct. 16-18. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 x2230 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy-an alternative to abortion. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or barbaramcain85@yahoo.com. Holy Family, Wharton, meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or visit www.gabrielproject.com.

Grief Group—Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in conference/brides’ room at Holy Family Church, Victoria. Before attending, call Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

Incaruncate Word Prayer Group—Praise and worship on Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111 or amormenus@yahoo.com.

Marriage Encounter—This program is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria. Replacing it is Retrouvaille (see below). To find a Marriage Encounter weekend outside of the diocese, visit www.wwme.org.

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the sympto-thermal method in the Victoria area and NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com.

Presidio La Bahia (PLB) Museum and Visitor Center—Fort Defiance Garrison Feb. 7. Green Flag of Gutierrez and Magee Feb. 21. The Presidio, located in Goliad, is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic church in North America and is a National Historic Landmark. The museum is open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. For more information, contact (361) 645-3752 or visit www.presidiolabahia.org.

Raphael’s Refuge—RR’s mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. This ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are also available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. For more information, visit 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 jbjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For meeting dates in Victoria, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858 or visit victoriadiocese.org.

To Love as God Loves—This marriage preparation program is for couples 40 and over, couples seeking convalidation, and couples seeking a second marriage and beyond. For more information, brochure, or registration form, visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

St. Vincent’s Center—A baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. For more information, contact Barbara at (361) 578-7572.

Ups for Families—For family friendly events, visit www.wwme.org.

World Marriage Day—Feb. 8, 2015

Do you know of a couple you think might be the longest married couple in the Diocese of Victoria? If so, please send their names, name of parish, the number of years married, and the date of their sacramental wedding to The Catholic Lighthouse by January 16, 2015! Also, include submitter’s contact information. In honor of the World Day of Marriage, an announcement will feature the couple in TCL February 2015 issue!

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**EVENTS**

**2015 TCL submission deadlines**

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**Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more**

**ACTS Retreats**—For information, visit www.actssmissions.org.

**Amarillo**—53rd Annual Study Week Southwest Liturgical Conference Jan. 21-24. At the Amarillo Civic Center. For more information, visit www.swlc.org.

**Baltimore, MD**—Encounter Christ in Faith, Worship, and Witness Mid-Atlantic Congress Feb. 12-14 at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel. Keynote speakers include Cardinal Thomas Collins, Fr. Ricky Manalo, and others. For more information, visit www.midatlanticcongress.org.

**Corpus Christi**—26th Annual Ministry Conference, The Family Fully Alive! Jan. 10 at the American Bank Center. Dr. Jim Healy will be the keynote speaker. For more information, visit www.diocesecc.org.

**Edna**—St. Agnes Catholic Church sponsors Celebration of Life Jan. 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Services Bldg. The program will show the importance and need of respect, dignity, and justice for the unborn and for all human life. For all denominations, youth, parents, ministers, and general public. Free admission and refreshments will be served.

**Lubbock**—Mary, Our Lady Undoer of Knots Workshop Feb. 21 at the Catholic Renewal Center. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. For more information, call (806) 792-3943.

**Marion**—Super Youth Spectacular: Selfless Revolution Feb. 14 at Rio Cibolo Ranch. For more information, visit www.archsa.org.

**San Antonio**—Hope for the Future Khaki & Plaid Gala Jan. 31 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Proceeds benefit economically disadvantaged students attending Catholic school in the form of tuition assistance. For more information, visit www.hopeforfuture.org.

**San Antonio**—Living with Less Fear in Our Lives: Trusting in a Wise, Prodigal, and Fully Emphatic God Retreat Feb. 22-26 with Fr. Ron. Rolheiser, OMI at the Oblate Renewal Center. For more information, call (210) 341-1366 x212 or visit www.ost.edu.

**San Antonio**—St. John’s Assumption Seminary Centennial Celebration interfaith service Jan. 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pastoral Center. Lecture series Feb. 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Oblate School of Theology. Guest speaker is Sr. Barbara Reid of the Catholic Theological Union. For more information, contact Mike Davis at (210) 734-5137 x1414 or mike.davis@archsa.org.

**Tivoli**—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrates the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the 1st Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. at 501B William St. with Fr. Paulson Panakal. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.

**Victoria**—Come and See Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women 18-50 years of age Jan. 24-25 at the Incarnate Word Convent. For more information, call Lupe Chacon at (361) 575-7111, e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or visit www.iwbsvictoria.org.

**Victoria**—Your Faith Moves Mountains Grand Concert! Ti Fe Mueves Montañas Gran Concierto features Gela, a Catholic singer, Feb. 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows. For more information, call Lupe Chacon at (361) 575-5127.

**Victoria**—For Amor Meus Spirituality Center upcoming events, see ad on pg. 12.

**Victoria**—Holy Family Men’s ACTS Retreat Jan. 22-25. For more information, contact Andrew Vasquez, director, at (361) 575-2804 or (361) 571-6715; Michael Hanes, co-director at (361) 648-5599, or Eddie Longoria at (361) 648-2602.

**Victoria**—Jesus, the Light of the World! Retreat Jan. 9-11 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Presiding priest will be Fr. Robert Guerra. For more information, call (361) 572-0836.

**Victoria**—Our Lady of Lourdes holds Healing Mass and Prayer the 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 105 N. William St. with Fr. Phu Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

**Victoria**—Our Lady of the Gulf 5K Run March 21. For more information, call (361) 552-6140.


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**Meals • Picnics and more**

**East Bernard**—CDA St. Bernadette Ct. #1108 Chicken Noodle Soup/Sandwich Supper and Raffle Jan. 28 at 5:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Hwy. 60. 6:00 p.m. Barbecue chicken and trimmings. $8 p/p. Pre-sale tickets only. There will be a raffle, country store, baked goods, and more.

**Victoria**—Candlelight March for Life Jan. 22 at DeLeon Plaza Downtown and process to Our Lady of Sorrows.

**Victoria**—Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Benefit Dinner Jan. 18 at the CWV Hall. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Barbecue chicken and trimmings. $8 p/p. 11:45 a.m. live auction.

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**February**

**Moulton**—St. Joseph’s Catholic Church Altar Society Noodle Soup Dinner and Raffle Feb. 22. Serving begins at 10:00 a.m. Raffle will be between noon and 1:00 p.m.

**Shiner**—Sts. Cyril & Methodius Legacy Endowment Gala Feb. 14. For more information, contact Betty Kosler at bkosler@sscmshiner.org or the Parish Office at (361) 594-3836.

**Victoria**—St. Mary’s Parish Festival Feb. 8 at the Victoria Community Center. 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Roast beef meal. $8 p/p. 12:30 p.m. auction. See ad on pg. 5.

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**March**

**Blessing**—KC Council #307 Lenten Fish Fry Mar. 8 at St. Peter’s Catholic Church Parish Hall. 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Fried catfish, trimmings, dessert, and drink. $9 p/p. There will be an auction and a raffle.

**Hillje**—St. Procopius Spring Festival Mar. 1 at Hillje Parish Hall. 11:00 a.m. Fried chicken, rice, coleslaw, and corn. $9 p/p. Dine-in or plates-to-go available. There will be a bake sale and raffle.

**New Tafton**—St. John Altar Society Chicken Dinner and Spring Festival Mar. 8 at the Tafton Community Center. 11:00 a.m. Fried chicken, homemade dressing, and trimmings. $9 p/p. There will be an auction, Bingo, cake walk, country store, games, and more.

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**Lead Me Into the Deep, Lord**

An amazing journey with the Holy Trinity for 12 weeks! The program will meet twice a month for 2 1/2 hours for presentation of the session, brief discussion, and daily prayer on God is telling you through the journal notes with Scripture and at home, and group spiritual readings and daily prayer discussion and over any topic mentioned in the session.

For more information, contact Sandy Reese at (979) 541-6881, sandy.reese@godsembrace.org or visit www.godsembrace.org.
A personal account by Christella Alvarez

As featured in TCL’s November 2014 issue, the Diocese of Victoria began the Year of Consecrated Life with the celebration of the Eucharist at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria. As I heard the sounds of the gathering hymn, I was immediately moved when I saw the procession which included several of the women religious from our diocese. Each of their faces glowed with love for God, their voices were singing with joy, and their presence truly conveyed holiness. I was moved to tears. I felt God’s presence.

Two religious priests, Fr. Oliver Obele of the Missionary Society of St. Paul and Fr. Bill Moorman, a member of the Trinitarians, concelebrated the Mass. For the Liturgy of the Word, Sr. Donna Bonorden, of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, proclaimed the first reading in English. Sr. Juana Jaimes of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary offered the second reading in Spanish. At the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word, the Prayers of the Faithful were announced in English and Spanish, as well as in Vietnamese by Sr. Maria Le of the Vietnamese Dominicans of our diocese.

During the homily, the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer spoke about the 3 vows or sacred promises of chastity, poverty, and obedience- all of which a person who enters a religious congregation takes publicly. He explained it is a free response which enables a person to give his/her life entirely to God.

We are blessed to have men and women from 5 religious communities in our diocese. Pope Francis has declared that a Year of Consecrated Life be celebrated throughout the world. Let us take the time to thank God for all the clergy (diocesan and ordered) and the women religious who have said ‘yes’ to God and who are examples to all who have been blessed to know, work, and pray with them.