Keeping the season of Lent holy

Lent, February 18-April 5, 2015, is the time in which we rediscover the reality of the holiness that abounds and surrounds us- within and around us. Lent calls us to a new awakening.

Some ways include to readily forgive anyone who has hurt you, help someone without being asked, call someone who is lonely, visit a shut-in, be patient with others, refuse to gossip, refuse to whine, thank God for the gift of life, pray for an enemy, and refuse to judge or criticize others.

Ash Wednesday • Feb. 18, 2015
Easter Sunday • April 5, 2015

Ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. They are christened with holy water and are scented by exposure to incense. While ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer, and penance.

Mass attendance largest ever

The pope visited the Philippines last month. Millions gathered, breaking all attendance records! According to Reuters, Vatican spokesman Fr. Federico Lombardi said between 6 and 7 million attended the Mass in Manila’s Rizal Park and surrounding areas. “We are not able to count all, or verify this, but we have seen so many people we believe it is true; that this is the largest event in the history of the popes,” he said, noting Pope John Paul drew some 5 million to the same area in 1995.

Above, Pope Francis prays near a crucifix in Manila. (CNS photo/Paul Haring) At left, Filipino business owner Lilian Borromeo, 74, prepares biscuits with the image of Pope Francis. (CNS photo/Romeo Ranoco, Reuters)

Longest married in the diocese

Frank and Melvera Fossati of Our Lady of Victory parish in Victoria will celebrate 74 years of marriage on Nov. 27th this year. They married in 1941 at Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria.

See Year of Consecrated Life, pg. 10

Frank and Melvera Fossati

February 8, 2015

See Longest married, pg. 12
Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

February

8 4:00 p.m. Mass, 4th Degree Knights Assembly #1131, St. Andrew, Hillje
9 9:00 a.m. Diocesan Insurance Committee Meeting, 1st Floor Chancery, Victoria
   5:00 p.m. Liturgical Commission Meeting, 1st Floor Chancery, Victoria
15 4:30 p.m. Youth Spectacular Closing Mass, Holy Family Church, Wharton
17 6:30 p.m. Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Victoria
19 4:00 p.m. Building Board Meeting, Chancery, Victoria
22 3:00 p.m. Diocesan-wide Rite of Election and “Call to Conversion”, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria

March

1 1:30 p.m. Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria
4 10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council Meeting, Chancery, Victoria
7 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Religious Recognition Mass and Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria

Thank you note

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America (CLA), I would like to express my gratitude to you and the Diocese of Victoria for the generous contribution of $32,364.57. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo M.Sp.S.
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the CLA

DSA update

2014 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: $ 1,824,625.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $ 984,136.03
Parish Contribution Totals: $ 960,584.70
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,597

Savannah: May 13-26
Fall Foliage in Vermont: Oct. 16-24
Canadian Rockies: July 23-29
Oregon: Sept 2-26

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Port Lavaca, TX 77979
(361) 552.2695 or (361) 920.3216

The Catholic Lighthouse
USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740) is published monthly at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901.

DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.
(361) 573-0828
(361) 573-5725 FAX
www.victoriadiocese.org

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

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The Diocese of Victoria is comprised of more than 50 parishes in 69 communities.

Estimated Catholic population: 107,000.

Thank you note

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Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the CLA

TCL deadlines:
See page 11 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org and download the pdf of 2015 dates under TCL tab!

Diocesan directory

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.

Free downloads!
Available in English or Spanish!

For more information about Disciples on the Journey, a valuable Lenten resource, or to place an order call (361) 485-0866, toll free 1 (866) 590-3688, e-mail dj@disciplesonthejourney.org, or visit www.disciplesonthejourney.org.

Our Lady of Lourdes Prayer for Healing

O ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; look with mercy on me. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. (mention petition) Through gratitude for your favours, I will endeavour to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity. Amen.
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 February 2, 2015

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<td>by Terry and Sarah Wick and family</td>
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<td>In loving memory of Rev. Msgr. John Peters’ parents by Deacon Joey and Mary Targac</td>
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<tr>
<td>by Rita and Frank Zaruba</td>
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In memory of Dyrel Holmes
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- by Willie E. Barborak: $20.00

In memory of Frank M. Dornak
- by Larry and Doris Grubert: $20.00
- by Ervin and Bernice Neslora: $20.00
- by Willie E. Barborak: $10.00

In memory of William Gertner
- by Ervin and Bernice Neslora: $20.00

In memory of Mary Krischke
- by Rita and Frank Zaruba: $20.00

In memory of Emil Grahmann
- by Rita and Frank Zaruba: $25.00

In memory of Dyrel Holmes
- by Ervin and Bernice Neslora: $25.00
- by Willie E. Barborak: $20.00

In memory of Frank M. Dornak
- by Larry and Doris Grubert: $20.00
- by Ervin and Bernice Neslora: $20.00
- by Willie E. Barborak: $10.00

In memory of William Gertner
- by Ervin and Bernice Neslora: $20.00

In memory of Mary Krischke
- by Rita and Frank Zaruba: $20.00

Last month, Life & Family Advocates sponsored the Candlelight March for Life marking the 28th year of the event. Above, participants hold glowing candles and signs during the procession which began at Deleon Plaza in downtown Victoria and ended at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. (Yi-Chin Lee/Victoria Advocate)

Journeys of Faith with Ceci Pilgrimages

Make your summer vacation one that will not only make memories, but enrich your faith!

Give your graduate a gift that will make a difference in their future.

JOIN FR. ALBERT YANKEY ON A PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF ITALY

JUNE 15-26, 2015

See the Shroud of Turin, which is on exhibit for the 1st time in 10 years and only for 3 months! Pray at the Tomb of Padre Pio. See the home town of Sts. Benedict and Scholistica. Visit the Holy House of Loreto. Walk the peaceful streets of Assisi and pray at St. Francis’ Tomb. Attend the papal audience in Rome! $4,395 per person including air, taxes, transportation, hotels, breakfast, dinner, and guide.

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- Business Office
- Catholic Cemeteries Office
- Catholic Schools Office
- Office of Vocations
- Safe Environment Office
- Spiritual Renewal Center
- The Catholic Lighthouse...

and more!

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(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org
IWBS Vocation Days

CRS Rice Bowl provides a feast of resources for the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Catholics in the Diocese of Victoria and throughout the U.S. live a vibrant Lenten experience through CRS Rice Bowl. The cardboard box is familiar and the Lenten calendar tucked inside is the primary resource for families and individuals. Its weekly family stories, recipes, and daily prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. CRS Rice Bowl’s small box and calendar are free resources that focus on the Lenten traditions of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. (CRS photo)

Dominican Sr. Donna Markham has been chosen to succeed Fr. Larry Snyder as the new president of Catholic Charities USA. The announcement was made last month at Catholic Charities headquarters in Alexandria, a suburb of Washington.

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) is the national office for Catholic Charities agencies nationwide. Members provide help and create hope for more than 9 million people a year regardless of religious, social, or economic backgrounds. (CNS photo/courtesy Catholic Charities USA)

On behalf of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (MCSH), we extend our sincere appreciation of support and generosity with our recent benefit. May God’s abundant graces be over each of you. ~MCSH Sisters

Reporting Child Abuse Hotline • 1 (800) 252-5400
www.txabusehotline.org
If you know or suspect a child or person has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours.
If the person is in immediate danger, call 911.

Reporting Abuse
If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

• Call the bishop or the chancellor at the Chancery at (361) 573-0828;
or
• Call Fr. Gary Janak (361) 575-4741 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
or
• Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903
Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the dioce if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.
If you are unsure about bringing forth a complaint or need more information, please contact: Fr. Gary Janak at (361) 575-4741.

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Sharing our faith one gift at a time!

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Knights of Columbus Council #2902, Schulenberg, presented a $10,000 check to St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church towards the purchase of a new organ. Left to right: Fr. George Kunnath, parochial vicar of St. Rose of Lima; Joe Kurtz IV, KC member and Fr. Tim Kosler, pastor of St. Rose of Lima.

Also, the council presented a $5,000 donation to St. Rose of Lima School Bus Fund. The fund is used for bus repairs and fuel purchases. Majority of the money was raised at the annual chicken fried steak drive-through dinner. Representing KC Council #2902, left to right: Stanley Pesek, Fr. George Kunnath, Melvin Kunz, Edward Kusy, Joe Kurtz IV, Gene Berger, Fr. Tim Kosler, and Harvey Michna.

Life-giving God, transform our purpose. Reveal to us our part in making the human community whole. Walk with us from insight to action. Let our attitude be Christ’s. —Good Ground Press

God’s Embrace Renewal Center offers one day and weekend retreats. They are presented by Dr. Michael Fonseca and include adoration and prayer sessions with Scripture, sharing sessions, rosary/chaplet, sacrament of reconciliation, Mass, and group spiritual direction.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a program participant to attend retreats! For more information or to register for an upcoming retreat, contact Sandy Reese at (979) 541-6881, sandy.reese@godsembrace.org, or visit www.godsembrace.org. Also, see TCL Events on page 11!

KJT Society #13, Yoakum, recently presented a $500 KJT headquarters matching fundraiser check to St. Joseph Catholic Church. The society also presented a $500 headquarters technology grant to St. Joseph Catholic School. Left to right: Robert Hybner, society president and Fr. Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

As a service project during the School Book Fair, St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar, collected 100 new books that were donated to University Hospital in San Antonio. Books were given to the hospital’s new Pediatric Oncology Unit where children are currently undergoing treatments for cancer. Front row, left to right: Cullen Marek, Lily Berger, Trey Billeck, Rayleigh Huette, and Madelyn Kerich. Back row, left to right: Hudson Ervin, Amy Jo Wick, Jodi McAfee, Emily Elstner, and Michael Koeth.
The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2015 was Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service focusing on the principles of a Catholic education.

"Pope Francis has reminded us that the New Evangelization is not precisely about what we do and what programs we adopt; rather, it is about what God is doing, the graces we are being blessed with, and the Spirit that is always being poured-out over our ministry," said Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Education.

Schools celebrated with Masses, open houses, and other activities for students, families, parishioners, and their communities during CSW last month. It was a time of focusing on the importance of academics, faith-building, and societal contributions that a Catholic education provides. Our 15 Catholic schools, located on 13 campuses and totaling approximately 3,000 students, joined the 2.1 million students around the nation to celebrate the contributions of Catholic education.

Let us continue to celebrate our Catholic school heritage and the importance of Catholic education for yesterday, today, tomorrow, and hopefully… eternity.

For more information, visit www.nceea.org or www.usccb.org.

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www.victoriadiocese.org

Catholic Schools
Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service

The theme for the national Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2015 was Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service focusing on the principles of a Catholic education.

“Pope Francis has reminded us that the New Evangelization is not precisely about what we do and what programs we adopt; rather, it is about what God is doing, the graces we are being blessed with, and the Spirit that is always being poured-out over our ministry,” said Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Education.

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For more information, visit www.nceea.org or www.usccb.org.

Holy Cross, Bay City, students at St. Vincent de Paul recognition

Our Lady of Sorrows School
Holy Cross School
Nazareth Academy
Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School
Sacred Heart Catholic School

www.bcholycrossschool.org
www.ourladyvictory.org
www.shschool.org
www.nazarethacademy.org
www.shinercatholicschool.org

Our mission aims to build character, achieve academic excellence, and honor Christ through our Catholic faith. Our focus is on the Beatitudes this year. Our students are routinely recognized in art and handwriting competitions, the Duke University Talent Search, PSIA, and more. Our electives help students discover talents and gain a sense of individuality as citizens of the community.

During CSW, we celebrated with a special Mass, luncheon, and Open House. All enjoyed a soup and sandwich supper, a coronation, a flag-raising ceremony, an awards ceremony, and the religion knowledge bowl. We continue to collaborate with families to develop our children into future church leaders and citizens. Teachers, staff, parents, students, volunteers, and all in the community truly make our school rich in faith, knowledge, and service.

Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, students in their new classrooms

A signed proclamation was presented for CSW at OLV. Left to right: Paul Polasek, mayor of Victoria and OLV alumnus; Bishop Fellhauer, and John Quary, superintendent of Catholic schools.

7th grade Duke Talent Search recipients, Shiner

We celebrated CSW by participating in the Walk for Life, Mass, a school-wide chaplet, Field Day activities, a spelling bee, a practice for PSIA, and by holding one-act-play tryouts. We also cleaned our school and neighborhood, prepared care packages for soldiers serving overseas, organized a shoe drive, and shared in a meal prepared by a local charity group.

St. Anthony Catholic School

www.shseshool.org
Our school provides a high standard of Catholic education. Students enjoy a unique high school experience combining academics, spiritual, athletic, and social activities. Last year, students logged 6,500 hours of service during their 4 years at STJ. Construction of the Tom O’Connor Jr. Athletic Center is underway and set to open this fall. The current gym will be completely renovated to be the site of the David Pozzi Fine Arts Center housing art, theatre arts, music, and journalism departments, the dance and cheer teams, and a small theatre.

In honor of CSW, we celebrated a special Mass, held an Open House, a variety show, and a special luncheon. We had a JClub Catholic Book Fair in our library. Students decorated quilt squares for the Boys and Girls Club of Dewitt County. Donations of art and school supplies were collected. Entertainment was provided by storyteller and musician, Rickey Pitman. Students dressed in red, white, and blue to honor our nation and gathered on the sports field to pray a living rosary. Balloons were released. Fr. David Berger spoke to students about religious vocations. Thank you letters were written by students to their parents and teachers.

During CSW, students served at all Mass times. We held a potluck dinner, an Open House, a movie night, and participated in service projects including Valentines for Vets, playing Bingo with an assisted living community, visiting a childcare facility, and taking part in the Great Kindness Challenge. Advisory Board Members and parents spearheaded projects adding a covered awning for the front entry and installing a sprinkler system for new plants.

For CSW, we held Mass, an Open House, a variety show, and a special luncheon. We had a JClub Catholic Book Fair in our library. Students decorated quilt squares for the Boys and Girls Club of DeWitt County. Donations of art and school supplies were collected. Entertainment was provided by storyteller and musician, Rickey Pitman. Students dressed in red, white, and blue to honor our nation and gathered on the sports field to pray a living rosary. Balloons were released. Fr. David Berger spoke to students about religious vocations. Thank you letters were written by students to their parents and teachers.

In our 65-year history, we have provided students a foundation of personal spirituality, faith development, and a strong academic program. For CSW, we held Faith Trot- a family fun run, celebrated Mass, visited a book fair, attended a special appreciation breakfast, coffee, and several luncheons. Students participated in a praise and worship music session. Jam 4 God’s entertainment was provided by country music singer, Travis Clark.
Lenten preparation, with love

It is disheartening when people walk away from the Church. Sometimes, when we try to talk, they run at us like some kid on the opposite team in a game of Red Rover. They want to break through our line and pull somebody else from the Church. They may even attempt to pull us away.

We have a choice. When they run toward us, even if it is with a kind of adversarial spirit, we must be ready to receive them, ready to hold them tightly in our arms, ready to defend the faith, and maybe even ready to reclaim them for Our Lord and His Church. Red Rover, Red Rover, send them on over, we pray.

It has happened to me many times. I write an article or post something on social media. Someone sends an email explaining why he is glad I am happy being Catholic, but he wants me to know that his choice was clear. It was time to walk away. Somebody disappointed him. Something someone did scandalized her. She lost the joy of being Catholic. He decided to walk away from God or just find God in some other faith community.

Many build a relationship with Jesus somewhere else. Usually, it is in a church with a name that does not fit categories. No denomination. No labels. No hierarchy. They find a place where they can begin again. It feels wonderful and they are happy, they say.

It makes me think. I believe we all have reasons to be bitter and walk away. There are plenty of offenses exit doors. Most of the hate the faith. There rubbed them the wrong sacraments and enough to keep them

It sometimes makes my love endure? Am persevere when others

If I encounter a pastoral or an administrator in a Catholic workplace who has more vices than virtues, will I stay?

What about the young Catholic whose spouse cheats after sponsoring her husband into the faith? Will he have the strength to stay when she leaves their family and the Church?

What about the young person who hears about a charitable organization squandering funds and it becomes common knowledge that those who could have stopped the whole thing just looked the other way, will the spiritually fragile young person stay after that?

These are not made-up scenarios. For some people, these things were enough to send them in the opposite direction. For others, nothing would take them away from the Church.

We have a choice. When they run toward us, even if it is with a kind of adversarial spirit, we must be ready to receive them, ready to hold them tightly in our arms, ready to defend the faith, and maybe even ready to reclaim them for Our Lord and His Church. Red Rover, Red Rover, send them on over, we pray.

It has happened to me many times. I write an article or post something on social media. Someone sends an email explaining why he is glad I am happy being Catholic, but he wants me to know that his choice was clear. It was time to walk away. Somebody disappointed him. Something someone did scandalized her. She lost the joy of being Catholic. He decided to walk away from God or just find God in some other faith community.

Many build a relationship with Jesus somewhere else. Usually, it is in a church with a name that does not fit categories. No denomination. No labels. No hierarchy. They find a place where they can begin again. It feels wonderful and they are happy, they say.

It makes me think. I believe we all have reasons to be bitter and walk away. There are plenty of offenses exit doors. Most of the hate the faith. There rubbed them the wrong sacraments and enough to keep them

It sometimes makes my love endure? Am persevere when others

If I encounter a pastoral or an administrator in a Catholic workplace who has more vices than virtues, will I stay?

What about the young Catholic whose spouse cheats after sponsoring her husband into the faith? Will he have the strength to stay when she leaves their family and the Church?

What about the young person who hears about a charitable organization squandering funds and it becomes common knowledge that those who could have stopped the whole thing just looked the other way, will the spiritually fragile young person stay after that?

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JCDA Court St. Paul #1604. Shiner, practiced corporal works of mercy and spread Christmas joy this past December to the residents of Bluebonnet Youth Ranch located in Yoakum. They elected to forego gift exchange and brought gifts of toys, perfumes, shampoo, lotion, nail kits, polish, socks, chocolates, and many other toiletries so young ladies would have a welcoming gift upon arrival. A scroll of prayers was also included to remind them of Christ's unconditional love.

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

Brought to you by: Catholic Communication Campaign

JCDA #206. Yoakum, recently met Cat Smith and Amanda Thompson of Journey House. Since 2013, Journey House has offered housing and mentoring to young women in need of a fresh start. In addition to providing shelter, Journey House teaches job skills, interviewing tips, and financial skills to young ladies. JCDA members created gift totes of shampoo, lotion, nail kits, polish, socks, chocolates, and many other toiletries so young women would have a welcoming gift upon arrival. A scroll of prayers was also included to remind them of Christ’s unconditional love.

Sunday Readings
from February 8 to March 8, 2015

**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

**Feb. 15- Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
- Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
- Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11
- 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
- Mark 1:40-45

**Feb. 18- Ash Wednesday**
- Joel 2:12-18
- Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6AB, 12-13, 14,17
- 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**Feb. 22- First Sunday of Lent**
- Genesis 9:8-15
- Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Mark 1:12-15

**Mar. 1- Second Sunday of Lent**
- Genesis 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18
- Psalms 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19
- Romans 8:31B-34
- Mark 9:2-10

**Mar. 8- Third Sunday of Lent**
- Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11
- 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
- John 2:13-25

From the Catholic Schools Office

35 years
- Michael Shimek/ STJ-Victoria

30 years
- Cynthia Sunderman/ St. Anthony-Columbus
- Caroline Grohmann/ St. Michael-Weimar

25 years
- Trey Kraatz/ Sacred Heart (6-11)- Hallettsville
- Debbie Horton/ STJ-Victoria
- Valerie McDaniel/ STJ-Victoria
- Kathy Villafranca/ Nazareth Academy-Victoria
- Jackie Porter/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria

20 years
- Donna Culliton/ St. Anthony-Columbus
- Vickie Glynn/ St. Anthony-Columbus
- Linda Balderaz/ STJ-Victoria
- Linda Hernandez/ Nazareth Academy-Victoria
- Jackie Porter/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria

15 years
- Theresa Dent/ Our Lady of the Gulf- Port Lavaca
- Janie Ortega/ Our Lady of the Gulf- Port Lavaca
- Elida Menchaca/ Our Lady of the Gulf- Port Lavaca
- Mary Braden/ St. Anthony-Columbus
- Ember Dooling/ STJ-Victoria
- Gwen Edwards/ St. Philip-El Campo
- Lark Peseke/ Nazareth Academy-Victoria
- Mary Flores/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria
- Gloria Lara/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria

10 years
- Irene Matula/ Sacred Heart HS- Hallettsville
- Tracy Theut/ St. Anthony-Columbus
- Sylvia Martin/ STJ-Victoria
- Rachel Krutilek/ St. Philip-El Campo
- Diann Srubar/ St. Philip-El Campo
- Amanda Stary/ St. Philip-El Campo
- Rose Burkett/ Nazareth Academy-Victoria
- Harvey Schoener/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria

5 years
- BJ Chavez/ Holy Cross-Bay City
- Rose Larson/ Holy Cross-Bay City
- Susan De La Garza/ Our Lady of the Gulf- Port Lavaca
- Gayln Franke/ Our Lady of the Gulf- Port Lavaca
- Lynn Cook/ Sacred Heart HS-Hallettsville
- Christina Halata/ Sacred Heart (K-12)- Hallettsville
- Kerry Pflughaupt/ St. Anthony-Columbus
- Abraham Garcia/ STJ-Victoria
- Debbie Michalski/ STJ-Victoria
- Kimberly Sepe/ STJ-Victoria
- Marvin Sturm/ STJ-Victoria
- Linda Dixon/ St. Philip-El Campo
- Maria Perez/ St. Philip-El Campo
- Janie Saucedo/ St. Philip-El Campo
- Amy Gwosdz/ Nazareth Academy-Victoria
- Arlene Mumford/ Nazareth Academy-Victoria
- Jennifer Pilat/ St. Ludmila-Shiner
- Sr. Maria Raphael Tran/ St. Paul-Shiner
- Sr. Laura Toman/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria
- Marcella Gonzales/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria
- Laura Janis/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria
- Angie Pena/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria
- Pia Gaspard/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria
- Jesse Garcia/ Our Lady of Victory-Victoria
- Cheri Demel/ St. Rose-Schulenburg
- Lindsey Schiffl/ St. Rose-Schulenbug
- Barbara Schroeder/ St. Rose-Schulenbug

Important dates:

Feb. 15 - Youth Spectacular, Holy Family, Wharton
Mar. 5 - Foundation- Ethics and Crisis Management- Policy and Procedures
Year of Consecrated Life

Continued from page 4

gradually and consistently from early on in my primary grades. I attended a Catholic school in a rural parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, TX. In God’s providential plan, the principal and teachers were Sisters. A Sister began when I first entered into their lives and their intermingling with the Church sparked a desire in me to expend all my energies to make the Incarnate Word known and loved. I strive to be a Sister even though it was difficult for them. They simply wanted me to fulfill my vocation to which I was called.

A deep joy for me is the fact that I am living in community with my 1st through 4th grade teachers: Sr. Pauline Marie Ermis, Sr. Carmelita Casso, and Sr. Claudia Klesel. They continue to inspire me as they did in days of old when I began school as a little German girl who did not know English. Their ‘Gospel of Love’ lives continue to motivate me to remember that they be everyone else. This proved to be a very valuable and apt-life unfurled. Throughout my life I have been filled with gratitude for God’s call to this consecrated life. My life’s cup has been filled to overflowing! Each new day finds me renewed by my ‘yes’ to God in my call to Consecrated Life as the love of my life, Jesus the Incarnate Word, continues to fulfill all my dreams.

Last month at the Chancery, the RCIA workshop included pastors, parochial administrators, deacons, RCIA, and parish members. At left, Linda Krehmeier led The Rites: Meaning, Importance, and Implementation. She is the pastoral associate for evangelization and formation at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Community in Spring, TX. For more information, visit www.victoriadiocese.org under the Ministries tab.

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TCC policy issues:

Protecting Human Life • Children and Families
Justice for Immigrants • The Poor and Vulnerable
Health and Human Services • Criminal Justice
Catholics Care.

Health and Human Services

Health care is essential for the proper development of life. Justice demands medical and behavioral health care be easily available for all. Particular care must be offered to those who have special needs because of age, addiction, physical, or mental disabilities. Support improvements to Texas’ critical public health safety net, especially expanding opportunities for acquiring health insurance, including Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Support access to basic and preventative health care for low income uninsured women, as well as prenatal and pediatric care for children. Support care for persons who are aging, live with disabilities, or need mental health services.

For more information, visit www.txcatholic.org, www.faithfulcitizenship.org, or www.usccb.org.

Join the people of Catholic health care across the U.S. and pray for the days leading up to and on the

World Day of the Sick

February 11, 2015!

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. Dates: Mar. 1, May 17, and Sept. 27. For more information, brochure, or registration form, visit www.victoriadiocese.org.
**Special collections**
- Feb. 18: Aid to Church in Central and Eastern Europe
- Feb. 18-Apr. 5: Operation Rice Bowl
- Feb. 22: Black and Native American Aid

**Meals • Picnics and more**

### February

**El Campo**—Taste of Texas Dinner and Dance Feb. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. Proceeds benefit St. Philip Catholic School. For more information, see ad on pg. 5.

**Hallettsville**—The Orient at Nightfall Extravaganza Feb. 7 at the KC Hall. 6:00 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. dinner. Music by Southern Express. For more information, call (361) 798-4251.

**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 Catholic School presents their Chili Supper. Tickets are $8 at the door. 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (361) 573-5304.

**Texas**—KJZT #101 Bake Sale after all Masses Mar. 21 at St. Peter-electric Church. 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. For more information, see pg. 5.

**Victoria**—Holy Family Denim & Diamonds Gala Feb. 14. For more information, contact 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.

**Wharton**—Holy Family Lenten Fish Fry 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 & 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20, & 27. $10 p/p. $5 children ages 6-10. Free for children under 5.

### March

**Blessing**—KC Council #4307 Lenten Fish Fry Mar. 8. Fried catfish, trimmings, dessert, and drink. $9 p/p. There will be a auction and aaffle.

**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 aaffle.

**New Taiton**—St. John Altar Society Chicken Dinner and Spring Festival Mar. 8 at the Taiton 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.

**Schulenburg**—St. Rose Spring Festival Mar. 8 at KC Hall. 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Turkey dinner with trimmings, $9 p/p. 11:30 a.m. live auction. 1:00 p.m. sweepstakes. There will be cake walk, music, and more.

**Victoria**—KZT #101 Bake Sale after all Masses Mar. 21 & 22 at Holy Family. Proceeds benefit the Victoria Food Bank.

**Yorktown**—KC Council #2840 BBQ Chicken Dinner Mar. 1 at the Yorktown Community Hall. 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. $10 p/p.
The Polish choir, Tryl, performed at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Yorktown last month. Their voices could be described as anieliskie grosy (angels’ voices). Tryl is from the town of Toszek in Silesia, Poland. The choir was formed in 1995 by conductor and artistic director, Maria Garbal. The choir is made up of nurses, teachers, book keepers, office assistants, an overseer of highway construction, a music major, and a baker. Tryl has received awards in various competitions and has performed in many towns in Poland and abroad including Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.