This past Summer (2015), The Diocese of Victoria was blessed with four newly ordained priests and one transitional deacon who accepted an extraordinary calling from God. The ordination to the Order of the Diaconate and Order of the Priesthood was held on June 6 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria. Scott Hill, Francis Nguyen, Jacob Koether, and Kristopher Fuchs, joined the Diocese as new priests. They have been busy serving their assigned parishes for the past 6 months. Deacon Max Landman, has been serving in Ohio as a Transitional Deacon. He will be ordained a priest in June of 2016. Pictured also above is Bishop Brendan Cahill and Bishop David Fellhauer.

Meet the 4 newest priests, a friar, and others in formation in the Diocese of Victoria in the Vocations Section of this paper!! Pgs. 7-10

“As We Enter The Jubilee Year of Mercy....

How to Obtain Indulgences
~ Go to a Pilgrimage Church
~ Do Works of Mercy
~ Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
~ Walk Through A Holy Door
~ Read Scripture
~ Receive Holy Communion
~ Pray Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

Learn about Indulgences on page 4.

“This past Summer (2015), The Diocese of Victoria was blessed with four newly ordained priests and one transitional deacon who accepted an extraordinary calling from God. The ordination to the Order of the Diaconate and Order of the Priesthood was held on June 6 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria. Scott Hill, Francis Nguyen, Jacob Koether, and Kristopher Fuchs, joined the Diocese as new priests. They have been busy serving their assigned parishes for the past 6 months. Deacon Max Landman, has been serving in Ohio as a Transitional Deacon. He will be ordained a priest in June of 2016. Pictured also above is Bishop Brendan Cahill and Bishop David Fellhauer.

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The Bishops dinner was held December 6, to benefit the Spiritual Renewal Center. A Mass, entertainment by the Theatre Victoria Junior Company, dinner and an auction was enjoyed by all. Pictured (left-right) Deacon Jim and Laurie Koenig, Deacon Jarrel and Irene Novhavitza, Deacon John and Eileen McCourt and a young lady from the Theatre Victoria Junior Company.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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

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

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

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

+Brendan

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**St. Mary’s Annual Parish Festival**

**Sunday – February 14, 2016**

**Victoria Community Center**

**ROAST BEEF MEAL**

Roast Beef, Gravy, Country Potatoes, Green Beans, Squash Casserole, Roll, Dessert & Drink

Served 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. • $9.00 PER PLATE

Plates to Go @ 10:30

**LIVE AUCTION at 12:30 p.m.**

Antiques – Collectibles – Crafts – Jewelry – Quilts

GAMES, BOOTHS, SILENT AUCTION – FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
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.

December 18, 2015

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<td>January 4-8</td>
<td>Bishop’s Retreat, Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio</td>
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<td>11-15</td>
<td>Priests’ Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>6:30 p.m., Gabriel Project Appreciation Dinner, St. Mary Church Activity Center, Victoria</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>10:00 a.m., Diocesan Ordination of Oscar Amo, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Columbus</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council Meeting, Chancery, 2nd Floor</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m., Celebration of Life Program, St. Agnes Church, Edna</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>9:00 a.m., Catholic Schools Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victoria, Victoria</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Feb. 3 Bishops’ Jesus Caritas Meeting, El Paso Texas</td>
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DSA update

Heavenly Helpers
Christian Store
(979) 543-2850
1603 N Church Street
M-F 9:30 - 5:30
El Campo, TX 77437
Sat. 9:30 - 3:00
M-F 9:30 - 5:30 Sat. 9:30 - 3:00

Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals
Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts

2015 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal: $1,826,700.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $1,051,011.52
Parish Contribution Totals: $1,008,692.00
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,442

9th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl

The Office of Catechetical Ministry is preparing for the Ninth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl, which will take place on Sunday, February 21, at the Our Lady of Victory Gym from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Study questions along with the answers can be found at www.victoriadiocese.org (Ministries/Catholic Knowledge Bowl/Documents). Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each division.

Forming a team is simple. There are three divisions: adults, teens, and families. Each team can be comprised of four persons. The first five teams who register and pay $25 per four persons will receive free t-shirts for team member. Register online at www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828 for more information. Early registration is encouraged.

All are invited to come and cheer your favorite team. Refreshments will be available.
Jubilee Year of Mercy

Happy New Year! If you haven’t made any New Year’s resolutions (or even if you have and are still keeping them), there are some suggestions for you below.

We had not even finished the Year of Consecrated Life as our focus was being shifted to Pope Francis’ proclaimed Jubilee Year of Mercy which began last month on December 8. Pope Francis tells us that “Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel”; he also tells us how to practice this mercy. He asks us “… to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed.” (Misericordias Vultus, 16)

Now let us reflect on our own response to Pope Francis’ plea, “to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor”; so who are the poor among us? Could it be someone who is struggling financially because of unemployment, illness, or unfortunate circumstances? Could it be someone who is experiencing physical loss of family members or friends who have died or moved out of their lives? Could it be someone who is suffering emotionally or mentally? Or could it be someone who is facing the loss of their independence due to age or declining health? These poor among us can give us ample opportunity to extend an encouraging word and/or a supporting hand.

Then, how can we “proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society”? I think that the first step is to become more knowledgeable about and aware of human trafficking; I heard that our state is, unfortunately, one of the leading states in this exploitative endeavor.

Also, through our example of humility we can “restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves”. We can encourage them, or better yet, have them accompany us in outreach activities so that they can see Christ, often suffering Christ, in those about us.

Finally, how can we “restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed”? Society has a way of excluding the “other”-, those who are different, those who do not live up to our expectations or our way of thinking. Let us become more respectful to others, remembering that whatever we do to these “others”, we do to Christ, himself.

Just imagine how our society could be transformed if everyone of us took our Holy Father’s words seriously and made them part of our practice.

Indulgences

What is an indulgence?
An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven” (Indulgentiarum Doctrina 1)

How does an indulgence wipe away the effects of sin?
It is not the forgiveness of a sin. Forgiveness of a sin is separate from the punishment of a sin. Indulgences deal with the punishments left after sins have been forgiven.

What are the effects of sin?
Every sin has a double consequence. Sin weakens our relationship with God. If it is a venial sin and it destroys our relationship with God if it is a mortal sin. Sin gives us an unhealthy attachment to created things, therefore making our conscience dull.

What is temporal punishment?
An indulgence takes away the temporal punishment one would receive in Purgatory. It purifies the soul of the temporal effects of sin. Partial indulgence takes part of the temporal punishment away and plenary indulgence takes away all temporal punishment. Temporal punishment could be compared to spilling coffee. The coffee can be wiped away but the stain remains. The stain that would be left behind is like the temporal punishment.

What are the conditions that must be met to receive indulgences?

The gaining of indulgences requires certain conditions and the performance of certain prescribed works. One must one must be in the state of grace, have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, received Holy Communion and offered prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

How quickly after conditions are met must the works be carried out?
It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope’s intentions take place on the same day that the indulged work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulged act. Prayer for the Pope’s intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an “Our Father” and a “Hail Mary” are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father’s intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.

Who can receive indulgences?
Indulgences can always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased (once a day), but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.

What are the requirements for the Year of Mercy?
The requirements for the Diocese of Victoria are:

Requirements to Obtain Plenary Indulgences

Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Diocese and 2 of the other four Pilgrim sites. (The four Pilgrim sites in the Diocese of Victoria are: Holy Cross, Bay City; Holy Cross, East Bernard; Holy Cross, Yorktown; and Raphael’s Refuge, Flatonia.)

• Pray for the pope and his intentions.
• Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in a timely manner.
• Make an act of faith by reciting the creed.

Year of Mercy
December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016

Resources and information about upcoming events for the Year of Mercy available at http://www.victoriadiocese.org/year-of-mercy.
**ST. PHILIP STUDENTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**—Mary (Katie Gubbels), Joseph (Brian Miska), and donkey lead the way to Bethlehem during the St. Philip Catholic School, El Campo, Christmas program held on December 9, 2015, as the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades presented Sights and Sounds of a Jr. High Christmas.

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

**for**

Prospective Parents and Students ~ Pre-K3 through 8th Grade

**Monday, February 1, 2016**

6:30 p.m. • School Cafeteria

(361) 575-5391 or www.ourladyvictory.org

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**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
- Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential". Write to: Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese 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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**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.
2016
January 9-10 – YLT retreat (Cooper Farms)
February 4 – Foundations – Justice and Service
February 28 – Youth Spectacular-El Campo
March 3 – Ethics and Crisis Management – Policy and Procedures
March 6 – Confirmation Retreat (Watch website for updates)
March 11-13 – Abbey Youth Fest (Registration coming in September)
March 11-13 – Abbey Youth Fest (Record coming in September)
March 21-23 – Confirmation Retreat (Watch website for updates)
April 3 – Foundations – Retreat Formation
April 24 – Camp David Planning
June 12-14 – Camp David (Jr. High Session 1)
June 15 – Camp David (Elementary Session)
June 15-17 – Camp David (Jr. High Session 2)
June 20-23 – D-Week
July 9-17 – Rocky Mountain High

YOUTH GATHER AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH, INEZ—The CCD children 6th through 12th grade had a coke float social. The event included a picture booth. Pictured top left, is Father Gabriel Bentil, pastor, joining in the fun at the picture booth.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH OTHERS—St. Mary’s, Nada, LLC High School Class (9th-11th grades) went Christmas caroling on the evening of December 9. This is the 4th year that they share their gift of music!

YNIA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DONATION—The Young Neighbors in Action of the Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn and Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Plum, recently held a Pancake Supper to raise funds for Fayette County Habitat for Humanity. Pictured is Aaron Janda of YNIA presenting a check for $1,356.59 to Habitat representatives Leonard Leffler and Richard Copeland.

BAKING FOR FUNDS—The Youth Ministry of Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn and Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Plum recently made home made apple strudels to raise funds for the middle school and high school summer mission trips. Pictured is Jennifer Faldyn, checking the progress of the dough.
Father Kristopher Fuchs
Father Kristopher is the son of, Kevon Fuchs and Lynette Butler. He is blessed to have two younger brothers: Jayson and Dylan. Jayson and his wife Maggie are expecting their first child at the end of February. Father Kris shares, “I am excited about being “Uncle Father!” His parents and brothers live in Needville, Texas, where he grew up. Needville is in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Father Kris attended Needville public schools from Kindergarten to 12th grade and is proud to be a Blue Jay! He was baptized at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Needville and was active in his parish life throughout his childhood. In the fourth grade, he started serving as an altar boy at Mass. He served at the altar until the seventh grade when his talents at the piano brought him to the choir loft, and he started playing the organ for Mass. This ended his being at the altar... at least for a while. Father Kris says, “I couldn’t be at both the altar and the choir loft at the same time! In fact, now that I am a priest, this is probably the first time since the seventh grade that I have not played the organ every week for Mass!”

After graduating from Needville High School he went to Texas A&M and received a degree in architecture in 2009.

Father Scott Hill
Father Scott grew up in Mentz and attend St. Roch Catholic Church. He attended both St. Anthony School and the public school in Columbus, but ended up graduating high school from Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. He attended Blinn in Brenham his freshman year of college and then transferred to Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, where he graduated in 2010. After Franciscan, he then moved to Houston and attended St. Mary Seminary to continue his studies towards the priesthood. His parents, Daryl and Joan Hill, still reside in Mentz. Father Scott is the third of four children and has three sisters. All three are married and he has seven nieces/nephews under the age of 5.

He was drawn to religious life at an early age. His parish priest at an early age had a profound impact on him. Father Scott shares, “In him, I saw a very excited and happy priest. At such a young age, the only thing I knew that was different between him and any other male role models in my life was that he was a priest.” Therefore, at such a young age he was attracted to the priesthood and that attraction remained with him into college. During college, he finally decided to do something about his calling and became a seminarian during the summer of 2008.

Meet the Newest Priests From The Diocese of Victoria

Continued on pg. 8
Father Kristopher Fuchs

He was very fortunate enough to study for a semester in Italy during that time. Although he really enjoyed his time at Texas A&M, he knew God was calling him to the priesthood. During the Fall semester of his senior year at A&M, Father Kris called Father Dan Morales about possibly applying for the seminary. A meeting was scheduled and Father Dan drove up to College Station. Father Kris shares, “I’ll never forget us sitting on those wooden benches in Potato Shack on Northgate while I told him my life story!” After being accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria, he was sent to Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas for his first two years of studies. During the first few summers as a seminarian, he worked in the chancery. Although he thought Dallas was “up north,” he was later sent even further north to finish his last four years in the seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

When asked what drew him to the priesthood Father Kris answered, “For as long as I can remember, I have felt a deep connection with God. I always enjoyed being at church and would sometimes be asked by people if I ever thought about being a priest. I would say that I had thought about it, but that I was not going to be a priest.” When he was in high school, he went through a time in his life where he came to appreciate the Catholic Faith in a way that he had not before. When he turned 16, he was moved to make a promise to God to spend an hour once a week in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Kris went every week in the middle of the night. He shares, “While I sat still in that very quiet chapel, I learned how to listen in prayer. It would be in those moments of silence before Jesus, that I first heard that call. There was a desire, deep in my heart, to be His priest. However, it scared me, so I tried to push it aside.” He also remembers being very appreciative of his pastor, Father James Ramsey, who was his pastor from when he was 3 until he was 21. Father Ramsey asked if he would be on a parish vocations committee, which Archbishop Fiorenza asked that every parish have. The members of this committee went to a workshop at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. Father Kris said, “After attending the workshop, the idea of the priesthood never left my mind and heart. Through continued prayer and guidance, I came to understand that I needed to enter the seminary to become a priest if I was truly going to be happy and live out the purpose for which God made me.”

Father Kris grew up on a farm outside the small town of Needville. When he was considering the seminary, he naturally thought of applying for his home Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, however, realized that the majority of that archdiocese is made up of Houston and its suburbs. Small towns like Needville are not very common. He just couldn’t see himself living in Houston for the rest of his life. Father Kris told this to a seminarian friend at the time, who is now a priest in the Diocese of Austin, and he suggested that he consider the Diocese of Victoria. It really made perfect sense. Victoria is a rural diocese and the culture is very similar to where he grew up.

When Father Kris was asked if there were any special moments during his ordination he said, “The Litany of Saints, the Laying on of Hands, and the Anointing with Sacred Chrism at the ordination and the Consecration at the first Mass were all very special moments. But there was a point at each where I got emotional and started to cry. At the ordination I started to cry during the third verse of the Offertory Hymn, “I Want to Walk as I Child of the Light” at the phrase, “I’m looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.” I guess this just summed up everything. My whole life, my desires, everything that led me to that moment, could be summed up with that phrase.

He is assigned as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. He is very grateful for this assignment. There is always something going on from being with the kids at the school and CCD program, to the people who come to “talk to Father.” He is able to interact with many different people which brings much fulfillment in his ministry.

Father Kris shares, “There’s so much peace in my life right now, and six months later, that is still how I feel. God has given me peace as I live this vocation.”

Father Kris would like to thank the people of the Diocese of Victoria who have been so supportive over the years. He says, “I am very thankful for all of you. Most of all, it is you, the people of this diocese, who have made this diocese home for me.”

Other information about
Father Kristopher Fuchs, Father Scott Hill, Father Jacob Koether and Father Francis Nguyen:

**Ordained to the diaconate:**
- May 2014
- The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

**Ordained as priests:**
- June 6, 2015
- Holy Family Church, Victoria

For more information about priestly vocations contact: Diocese of Victoria Vocations Office at (361) 573-5304

For women religious vocations contact: Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at (361) 575-7111
Bryan Hajoysky is the youngest of five children of Bernie and Nancy Hajoysky of Cuero. He and his siblings attended grade school at Saint Michael's School and received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and Holy Communion at Saint Michael’s Catholic Church. They attended catechism classes at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria and received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Family. In 2002, he graduated from Cuero High School. In 2006, he completed a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in College Station. In 2012, he completed an S.T.B. and Master of Divinity from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He loves being a being an uncle and shares, “It is delightful! For some reason, my nieces and nephews find me mysteriously interesting. If only they actually knew how practical and predictable I actually am!”

Father Bryan was drawn to the priesthood during his years at Texas A&M. He had a sense that the Lord may be calling him to religious life and specifically, within the Franciscan spirituality. During his final year at Texas A&M, he became acquainted with the Conventual Franciscan Friars, who have a friary in San Antonio. It was there that he established a good relationship with Brother Tim Unser and with the other friars, and was exposed to their— at times, chaotic— rhythm of prayer, ministry and fraternity. He shares, “Life with the friars is far from the epitome of orderliness and solemnity, but it is certainly a Christ-centered, dynamic and comical life!”

Father Bryan is often asked, “What is a friar?” He explained, that all the [male] Franciscans are friars, and are called “friar”, however; some of the friars are called to the Franciscan brotherhood, and are called “brother”. Those called to the Franciscan priesthood are called “Father.” Within the Franciscan Family, there are 3 Orders. The First Order is directly founded by Francis of Assisi himself, and it composed of three branches. The Second Order is directly related to Clare of Assisi and includes all the Poor Clares. The Third Order is composed of any and all other Franciscan groups throughout the world. Historically, the Conventual Franciscans were the friars who chose to dwell in cities and live in “convents.” The Conventuals care for the tomb and Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi and the tomb and Basilica of Anthony in Padua. There are some distinct differences between friars and diocesan priests. One difference is that religious orders express the charism of their founders. Franciscans are supposed to manifest a Franciscan spirituality: to be brotherly/sisterly to all people and to help others understand Jesus Christ through the lens of Francis. Another difference involves obediences. Diocesan priests have direct obedience to the bishop of their diocese. Franciscans have direct obedience to the friar they elect to govern their province. Father Bryan is currently assigned to the Diocese of Toledo, therefore; the Bishop of Toledo governs where he will minister. Another difference involves poverty. Diocesan priests are able to maintain their own bank accounts and receive stipends. Friars vow to live without anything of our own, including a bank account.

Father Bryan professed simple vows to the Order Friars Minor Conventual in Mishawaka, IN. In August of 2014, he professed solemn vows to the Order in Carey, OH. In November of 2014, he received the Sacrament of Orders to the presbyterate from Archbishop Gustavo in San Antonio. In October of 2015, he received the Sacrament of Orders to the presbyterate from Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, in San Antonio. Father Bryan shares, “Oddly enough, as the presbyterate ordination date drew nearer, I actually became more at-ease! I assume it was because I was stepping into the fullness of what our Lord had called me toward: Franciscan priesthood.” He was honored that Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, his mentor and friary guardian was willing and able to travel from Lexington, KY, to San Antonio to celebrate the Mass of Ordination.

Although his family and fellow friars could attend the Mass of Ordination, sadly, his dad had to remain in the ICU at Saint Luke’s Hospital in Houston during the ordination. Father Bryan shared, “Dad and my family were on FaceTime the entire time. During the responsorial Psalm, I looked over and saw Dad’s face on the telephone screen and saw how intently he was watching. That certainly brought tears of mixed and fervent emotion.”

He celebrated his first Mass in his hometown of Cuero. While he loves being a friar, Father Bryan admits that he misses South Texas! Father Bryan lives in Carey, OH and ministers at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. He is a full-time teacher at OLC High School and was recently appointed as Parochial Vicar of the Basilica & Shrine. Father Bryan knows that life is undoubt-edly filled with grace and challenges! He shares, “I used to wonder what religious and priests do all day. Now I no longer wonder! My days and nights are readily consumed with a multitude of tasks within community life, Franciscan life, ministry, etc. Nonetheless, I love being a friar!”
Sr. Patricia Marie Lohre
Annually professed
“It was put on my heart when I was a teenager that I would live my life in God’s service. Many years I searched for a religious order to join yet it was always blocked in some way. When I was 50 I met Sister Laura Toman who invited me to consider being an IWBS Sister. There were no blocks this time except my own reluctance. Once in formation I have grown in knowing myself and God which has enabled my relationship with God to deepen.”

Sr. Veronica Marie Munos
Novice Sr.
“I have been drawn to religious life since the age of five. When I met the IWBS sisters of the it was their joy, love and service to others that drew me to this IWBS sisters of the Incarnation. This is the mission of this order and, God willing, I will find my home among these sisters.”

Maria del Rosario Novice
“The desire to devote my life to the Lord was what actually brought me to this life. At home I volunteered at my parish and was involved with many ministries but I never felt like it was quite enough. I can say that I have learned much during this process and it is like a very long engagement, which is great! I learned much about prayer life; the IWBS congregation and Canon law.”

Cherise Keklar
Hallettsville, Texas
“I first started seriously considering a possible call to the consecrated life when the Lord spoke to my heart in prayer and told me that my primary identity is that I am loved by Love Himself. I look forward to adding another “yes” to the string of “yes’s” that I desire my life to be to the Lord. In the end, my deepest desire is to just live in the simplicity of being His.”

Robin Reinhold
Postulant
“One thing that drew me to religious life were unique persons gathered together in like minds, in communion with one another, on their own spiritual journey. I have learned that God calls persons of many diversities and talents to live and work together. I look forward to being closer with God, learning about our foundress, and being more patient with the process of my journey.”

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Pope names Dallas priest as auxiliary bishop of Dallas Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has named Msgr. Gregory Kelly, a priest of the Diocese of Dallas and vicar for clergy, as an auxiliary bishop of the diocese.

The appointment was announced Dec. 16 in Washington by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the U.S. A native of Iowa, Bishop-designate Kelly, 59, was ordained a priest of the Dallas Diocese May 5, 1982. He has been vicar for clergy since 2008. Pope Benedict XVI named him monsignor in 2013.

Dallas Bishop Kevin J. Farrell will ordain him a bishop Feb. 11 at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in downtown Dallas. That date coincides with the day in 2002 when Bishop Farrell was ordained an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington. He has headed the Dallas Diocese since 2007.

Bishops from throughout Texas and the Southwest along with hundreds of priests, deacons, nuns, religious brothers and consecrated men and women from the Dallas Diocese of Dallas will be invited to join Bishop-designate Kelly’s family, friends and former parishioners at his ordination Mass.

What will you do for Lent this year?

Lent, a season of spiritual renewal and transformation, offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to stop and reflect upon how we are living our life, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we’ve done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. It is like a 40-day retreat for growing in holiness. What will you do this Lent in this “Year of Mercy”?

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament invite you to join a faith-sharing group using Disciples on the Journey Lent 2016. This resource, first published in 2004 by the Diocese of Victoria and by the Incarnate Word sisters since 2012, has been used in parishes in 46 states.

Taking an hour and a half each week of Lent to meet with a small group of fellow parishioners, family, or friends to talk about what Jesus means to you can be the best decision you will make on your Lenten journey toward Easter. There are no right or wrong answers; it is faith sharing.

You might think, “But I have done this program for the last 15 years; it’s the same readings!” Then ask yourself, “Why go to Mass, I hear the same readings year after year in the Liturgy of the Word.” Hearing and reflecting on Scripture is not like reading a novel or a detective story. The Word of God is always fresh and new. Each time you read Scripture you are in a different place on your faith journey, and God’s word can have a powerful transformative impact on your spiritual life right now.

Call your parish today to see about joining a Disciples on the Journey group or form your own group. Visit the website: www.disciplesonthelourney.org, email dj@disciplesonthelourney.org, or call (361) 485-0866 to order. Books are sold in packs of 10 for $30.

Beginning at DeLeon Plaza to Our Lady of Sorrows with guest speaker following. Watch church bulletins for details.

Sunday Readings from Jan. 10 - Feb. 10

**January 10 - The Baptism of the Lord**

- Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
- Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
- Acts 10:34-38

**January 17 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Psalms 96:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 9-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- John 2:1-11

**January 24 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- Nehemiah 8:2-4A, 5-6, 8-10
- Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
- Luke 1:14-4:14-21

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

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign

**Victoria March for Life**

January 28 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Beginning at DeLeon Plaza

**Five Ways Abortion Rules Are Changing For Texas Minors**

Underage Texas women seeking abortions without their parents’ consent will face a tougher set of legal hurdles in the new year. State law already requires minors — those under age 18 — to get sign-off from at least one parent before receiving an abortion, unless doing so could put the young woman in danger of physical, sexual or emotional abuse. In those cases, a judge can be asked to approve the procedure.

New legislation that takes effect Friday tightens the rules for seeking such “judicial bypass,” including heightening reporting requirements and adding a new civil penalty of up to $10,000 for anyone found “intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with gross negligence” violate the law. For complete story go to www.texastribune.org/2015/12/31/how-abortion-rules-are-changing-minors-texas/
Mensajeo de Nuestro Obispo Brendan

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

El testimonio de su santidad y la santidad de la familia, los amigos y las comunidades de origen de Shiner y Yoakum han sido bellamente grabado en un libro “Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmitie” por Deacon Anthony Warzecha. Después de leer el libro, y escuchar muchas historias de su ministerio, me sentí llamado a fomentar la devoción a él, como parte de nuestra celebración diocesana del Año Jubileo de la Misericordia. Permítame compartir contigo todos estos momentos de sanación de las que creo que su testimonio sigue siendo tan oportuna para nosotros hoy.

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

En segundo lugar, Padre Kram ayudó a otros a ser ordenados en la santidad cada día. Después de este retrato inicial, sus amigos y la familia siguieron manteniéndose en contacto y sintiendo cariño por él. Muchos de sus amigos del seminario mantuvieron viva una esperanza que un día él podría ser ordenado al sacerdocio.

Durante más de veinte años se quedaron en contacto él y sus amigos del seminario. Finalmente llegaría el día en que sería ordenado sacerdote! Debe haber sido uno de los más alegres, santo días en la historia de este área.

Hay mucho más para compartir de la vida de Padre Kram, que puede ser una inspiración para nuestra fe. En el día de hoy, cuando parece que tenemos una tendencia a juzgar uno al otro en lo que podemos conseguir de ellos, es hermoso recordar que es mucho más de lo que podemos dar.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias en este año nuevo con un conocimiento personal del amor y la misericordia de Jesús, Vamos a mantener unos a otros en oración.

Brendan+

¿Qué son los requisitos para las indulgencias del Año de la Misericordia?

Los requisitos para las indulgencias son:

* Peregrinación a la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria en Victoria y dos de los otros cuatro sitios de peregrinación.

Los Otros Sitios Son:

Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, Yorktown, TX
Refugio De Rafael, Flatonia, TX
Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, Bay City, TX
Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, East Bernard, TX

* Rezar por el Papa y sus intenciones.

* Confesarse y recibir la Sagrada Comunión de manera oportuna.

* Hacer un acto de fe recitando el Credo.

¿Qué harás para la Cuaresma este año?

Cuaresma, un tiempo de renovación espiritual y la transformación, nos ofrece a todos una oportunidad muy especial para crecer en nuestra relación con Dios y profundizar nuestro compromiso con una forma de vida arraigada en nuestro bautismo. En nuestro mundo ocupado, la Cuaresma nos ofrece la oportunidad de parar y reflexionar sobre cómo estamos viviendo nuestra vida, a orar con mayor profundidad, la experiencia triunfa por lo que hemos hecho y dejado de hacer, y ser generosos con los necesitados. Es como un retiro de 40 días para crecer en la santidad. ¿Qué vas a hacer esta Cuaresma en este “Año de la Misericordia”?

Las Hermanas del Verbo Encarnado y Santísimo Sacramento le invitamos a unirse a un grupo de compartimiento de fe usando Discípulos en el Camino Cuaresma 2016. Este recurso, publicado por primera vez en 2004 por la Diócesis de Victoria y por las hermanas del Verbo Encarnado desde 2012, se ha utilizado en las parroquias en 46 estados.

Tomando una hora y media cada semana de la Cuaresma para reunirse con un pequeño grupo de feligreses, familiares o amigos para hablar de lo que Jesús significa para usted puede ser la mejor decisión que usted hará en su camino cuaresmal. No existen respuestas correctas o incorrectas; es compartir la fe.

Se podría pensar, “¿Pero me ha hecho este programa durante los últimos 15 años; son las mismas lecturas!” Entonces te preguntas, “¿Por qué ir a misa, oigo un año tras otro las mismas lecturas en la Liturgia de la Palabra?”

Al escuchar y reflexionar sobre la Escritura no es como leer una novela o una historia de detectives. La Palabra de Dios es siempre fresca y nueva. Cada vez que usted lee las Escrituras que se encuentran en un lugar diferente en su camino de fe, y de la palabra de Dios puede tener un poderoso impacto transformador en su vida espiritual en este momento.

Llame a su parroquia hoy para ver en unirse a un grupo de discípulos en el viaje o formar su propio grupo. Visite el sitio web: www.disciplesontheway.org, dj@disciplesontheway.org correo electrónico, o llame al (361) 485-0866 para pedirlo. Los libros se venden en paquetes de 10 por $ 30.
Las Vocaciones en la diócesis de Victoria

“Desde que puedo recordar, me he sentido una profunda conexión con Dios. Hay mucha paz en mi vida en este momento, y después de seis meses todavía es cómo me siento. Dios me ha dado paz en mi vocación.”

“Fui atraído a la vida religiosa cuando era joven. La ordenación y mi primera Misa fueron increíbles. Es a veces difícil creer que soy un sacerdote! Estoy muy contento y en paz.”

“Es realmente profundo ver tanta gente apoyando y afirmando mi vocación!” Cada día ha sido mejor que el día antes. Yo sé que esto es lo que yo debería estar haciendo con mi vida. “

“En el día de la ordenación, cuando fui al altar para celebrar con todos los sacerdotes y el obispo, me sentí muy emocional que quise gritar que ahora soy un sacerdote de Dios porque seguí mi vocación durante 26 años y perseguí hacia el sacerdocio”

¿Qué es la ordenación?

1. ¿Qué es la ordenación? Es el acto sacramental en la que un hombre se convierte en un diácono, sacerdote o un obispo. Hay tres ordenaciones en el sacramento del Orden: diaconado; sacerdocio; y episcopal. La ceremonia de ordenación incluye diversos rituales, rico en significado y la historia.

2. ¿Cuándo realmente ocurre la ordenación? El rito esencial del sacramento, ocurre con la imposición de manos y la oración de consagración.

3. ¿Quién puede ordenar a un sacerdote? Sólo un obispo puede ordenar a un sacerdote.

4. ¿Cuál es el significado de la imposición de manos? El obispo ordenante y los otros sacerdotes invocan al Espíritu Santo que desciende sobre aquel ser ordenado, dándole un carácter sagrado y lo aparta para el ministerio designado.

5. ¿Por qué la próstata se encuentran ordenando durante la ordenación? Simboliza su dignidad para la oficina para ser asumido y su dependencia de Dios y de la oración de la comunidad cristiana.

6. ¿Cuál es el significado del sacerdote recién ordenado recibir la estola y la casula? Estas son las vestiduras que se refieren a su oficina y que tienen un significado simbólico. La estola simboliza la autoridad y la responsabilidad de servir y comenzar en la vida de Cristo. La casula es el principio de prendas de vestir del sacerdote que celebra la Eucaristía y es la vestidura exterior.

7. ¿Qué significa la unción de las manos significa? Unción con aceite se deriva del Antiguo Testamento e indica que alguien está apartado para una tarea sagrada. La unción de las manos significa que las manos del sacerdote recién ordenado se están preparando para los deberes sagrados y los vasos que van a formar parte del ministerio sacerdotal, por ejemplo, ofreciendo el pan y el vino, la unción de los enfermos y la bendición de la gente.

8. ¿Por qué le da el obispo al ordenante un cáliz y la patena? Este ritual relieve la importancia de la celebración de la Eucaristía en la vida del sacerdote y su significado, como se ve en las palabras que se hablan por el obispo:

9. ¿Cómo se prepara uno para la ordenación al sacerdocio? Un hombre tiene que participar en un programa ambicioso de formación sacerdotal que dura de cinco a trece años. Hay tres niveles de seminario: la escuela secundaria; universidad / pre-teología; y la teología. Seminarios abordan cuatro tipos de formación: humana, espiritual, académica (intelectual) y pastorales. Además del trabajo del curso académico, seminaristas participan en un programa completo de actividades espirituales, por ejemplo, la misa diaria, Liturgia de las Horas, y la dirección espiritual y retiros. En cada nivel de formación en el seminario, el seminarista se prepara para el futuro ministerio pastoral en diversos ámbitos. Toda la formación tiene en cuenta la persona humana. La formación de los futuros sacerdotes incluye aprendizaje práctico como presidar en la Misa y la consecjería pastoral.

10. Sacerdotes hacen votos? Sacerdotes que pertenecen a una orden religiosa. Toman los votos de pobreza, castidad y obediencia. Los sacerdotes diocesanos hacen dos, castidad y obediencia; estas promesas son parte de la ceremonia de ordenación. También se espera que los sacerdotes diocesanos llevarán una vida de simplicidad en consonancia con las personas a las que sirven.

Este verano de 2015, la diócesis de Victoria fue bendecida con cuatro recién ordenados sacerdotes y un diácono transitorio que aceptó un llamado extraordinario de Dios. La ordenación al orden del diaconado y el orden del sacerdocio se celebró el 6 de junio en Sagrada Familia la iglesia católica en Victoria. Francis Nguyen, Kristopher Fuchs, Scott Hill y Jacob Koether, se unió a la diócesis como nuevos sacerdotes. Ellos han estado muy ocupados sirviendo a sus parroquias asignadas durante los últimos 6 meses. Max Landman, ha estado sirviendo en Ohio como un diácono transitorio. Él será ordenado a sacerdote en junio de 2016.

Diácono Transitorio

Max Landman

Max dice, “He aprendido mucho sobre teología y la vida de la iglesia. También amar la Misa y la cruz especialmente durante el tumulto de la vida.”

Max espera sobre todo la celebración de los sacramentos, especialmente la reconciliación, la Eucaristía y unción.

Invitación a la Ordenación de Diacónos

Peter Oscar Kofi

Peter Oscar Kofi Amo será ordenado diácono por el Obispo Cahill el Sábado, 23 enero, 2016 a las 10:00 a.m. en la iglesia Nuestra Señora de Los Dolores en Victoria. Todos están invitados a su ordenación.
Catholic Family Services—To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.nacflm.org.

Catholic School Office, First State Bank, Yoakum Na-ral and can be purchased at St. Joseph Pastoral Center, St. Joseph Family Center. A chicken-fried steak dinner with dessert served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dine-in or take-out. Soup is $3 a bowl and a chicken salad sandwich is $3. Dine-in or bring your own containers and enjoy at home. A variety of pastries will be available. Check out the silent auction.

Retrouvaille—Retrovaille, meaning rediscovery, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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 more information, contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021, (361) 258-1514, or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. Meetings are 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 barbaramccain85@yahoo.com. Holy Family, Wharton, meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville, meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Grief Ministry—Meetings are 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.

Hospice of South Texas—Volunteer to provide continuity of inpatient care, home care, and bereavement services. Free grief support group meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Victoria and the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in Hallettsville. For more information, call (800) 874-6908, (361) 572-4300, or visit www.hospiceofsouthtexas.org.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—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.

Grief Ministry—Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Victoria and the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in Hallettsville. For more information, contact John and Jennifer Jacob Koether leading the Lenten retreat, “THE ALTAR OF YOUR HEART!” Lunch will be served and there is no fee for the retreat. All are welcome, men and women. For reservations please call Margaret Svetlik at (361) 798-4009, Betty Frederick (361) 573-5850 or Jan Tisdale after 6:00 p.m. at (361) 894-5059.

ACTS Retreats—For information, visit www.actsmissions.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 Father Paulson Panakal. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.

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 Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.
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Position Available: High School Principal

Established in 1868 in Victoria, Texas, St. Joseph High School, with a current enrollment of 330 students is actively seeking a dynamic leader to serve as President/Principal. St. Joseph’s current President/Principal is retiring after 17 years of innovative and productive leadership. The school’s talented faculty, staff and administration have contributed to the supportive atmosphere that permeates every aspect of the school. The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic who will honor the unique culture, traditions and history of St. Joseph High School and will provide the necessary leadership in taking the school to the next level of achievement.

To learn more about St. Joseph and the President/Principal position see www.stjvictoria.com.

To apply, submit an application in PDF format to:
STJPresidentPrincipal@stjvictoria.com

OLV Breaks Ground for Parish Center

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory broke ground on Sunday, December 6 for a new Parish Center. The old J.C. Penney building (inset) is 60,000 square feet but the church can afford to renovate about 24,000 at this time. Phase one and two should be completed in early 2017. The first two phases will include a new roof, fix the parking lot, gym, family center, kitchen and meeting rooms. When more funds are raised, the remainder of the renovation will begin.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE—Parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bay City watch dancers participate in the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the streets. Other events took place in the church.

SPREADING THE CHRISTMAS JOY—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Roch of Mentz No. 2328 and the Knights of Columbus No. 10249, put together goody bags to deliver to local nursing homes in Columbus. The group went that afternoon caroling and handing the Christmas bags to residents.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE—The Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Daughters Court #2282 of Hostyn participated in the Sole Hope project as their 2015 Make a Difference activity. The project helps children in Uganda by providing shoes. These shoes protect their feet from jiggers, also known as sand mites, from embedding into the feet. The diseases can lead to paralysis, amputation and even death in these children. The members were able to send 60 pairs of cut material to be made into shoes to help this cause.

COUNSELING CENTER OPENS—Bishop Brendan Cahill blesses The Emmaus Counseling Center on the day of the ribbon cutting ceremony. The center is now open and taking appointments by calling (361) 212-0830.