"The faithful children of the rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven" reads the dedicating plaque of the rosary garden. October is the Month of the Rosary, and the students of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg will begin a month long dedication to Mary. The Catholic school honors Mary in the months of May and October as they focus their classroom lessons and pray a rosary at the rosary garden every week after Mass in her honor. It has been almost 10 years since the rosary garden in memory of Fred H. Lero was constructed at the entry of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School.

Mr. Lero’s daughter, Michele James and her husband Guy, whose children attended St. Rose, wanted to find a way to honor the memory of Michele’s father. When speaking with a friend, Stevie Thompson, who owns The Garden Company, the idea of a rosary garden was mentioned. Mrs. Thompson was familiar with designing a rosary garden including which plants would be liturgically appropriate in honor of Mary and conducive to the area. The idea was born from this discussion and the research and planning began.

When the rosary garden was constructed a cross and flat rocks were used to represent every bead of the rosary. A white angelic statue of Mary stands in the rose garden that weaves through the landscaping. The 8th grade students traditionally...
Solidarity in Prayer

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year Pope Francis invites all the new bishops from around the world to participate in a week-long training. This September I went to Rome for the “New Bishops School”. The first day I arrived there I was walking around getting accustomed to the dormitory and I saw another bishop reading in his room. We spoke to each other in Italian (his was much better than mine) and introduced ourselves, his name was Archbishop Joseph Tobji. The 45 year old Maronite Catholic Archbishop of Aleppo in Syria had been ordained the Archbishop in December, 2015.

The next evening we had a presentation on the Eastern Rite Churches, with their rich history and tradition. As the conversation turned to the situation of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East, someone invited Archbishop Tobji to say a few words. He spoke about a traditional image of the relationship between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches – we are “two lungs” breathing the same Holy Spirit for the salvation of the world. The Eastern Rite Churches stand in a particular way as a cell of society, increasingly menaced by forces of disintegration on both the ideological and practical planes, so as to make us fear for the future of this fundamental and indispensable institution and, with it, for the future of society as a whole. The revival of the rosary in Christian families, within the context of a broader pastoral ministry to the family, will be an effective aid to counter the devastating effects of this crisis typical of our age.

As we dedicate this issue of the Light to the rosary, please know of my daily love and prayers for each one of you and your families – that with one heart and one Spirit we may bring healing and peace to a broken world. God bless you and your families, let’s keep one another in prayer, +Brendan

Bishop Brendan Cahill
A Shepherd’s Message

Ordained as Bishop June 29, 2015

Compliment more than we can ever imagine. Thank God for the beautiful priests we have that offer this sacrifice faithfully for the healing and salvation of the world.

At the beginning of his teaching on the rosary, St. John Paul II wrote of the need to pray the rosary for peace and for our families:

“A number of historical circumstances also make a revival of the rosary quite timely. First of all, the need to implore from God the gift of peace. The rosary has many times been proposed by my predecessors and myself as a prayer for peace. At the start of a millennium which began with the terrifying attacks of 11 September 2001, a millennium which witnesses every day in numerous parts of the world fresh scenes of bloodshed and violence, to rediscover the rosary means to immerse oneself in contemplation of the mystery of Christ who “is our peace”, since he made “the two of us one, and broke down the dividing wall of hostility” (Eph 2:14). Consequently, one cannot recite the rosary without feeling caught up in a clear commitment to advancing peace, especially in the land of Jesus, still so sorely afflicted and so close to the heart of every Christian.

A similar need for commitment and prayer arises in relation to another critical contemporary issue: the family, the primary cell of society, increasingly menaced by forces of disintegration on both the ideological and practical planes, so as to make us fear for the future of this fundamental and indispensable institution and, with it, for the future of society as a whole. The revival of the rosary in Christian families, within the context of a broader pastoral ministry to the family, will be an effective aid to counter the devastating effects of this crisis typical of our age.”

October

7 8:00 a.m. First Friday Mass and tour at Our Lady of Victory School
8 9:00 a.m. Diocesan staff family picnic, Spiritual Renewal Center
9-10 TCC General Assembly, Austin
12 4:00 p.m. Building Board Meeting, Chancery Office
14-16 Holy Sepulchre Meeting, Little Rock, Arkansas
17 & 18 5:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church, Sealy
18 8:00 a.m. School Mass & Visit at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
20 6:00 p.m. Serra Club Deacon Dinner at St. Mary, Victoria
23 1:00 p.m. A Glimpse Inside, Immaculate Conception, Goliad
24 6:30 p.m. V Encuentro Meeting, Spiritual Renewal Center
26 Holy Trinity Advisory Board Meeting, Dallas
27 8:00 a.m. School Mass & Visit at St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg
28 8:00 a.m. School Mass & Visit at St. Michael School, Weimar
30 11:30 a.m. Knights of Columbus Mass for Families, OLV Cathedral

November

1 8:10 a.m. School Mass & Visit at Nazareth Academy School, Victoria
2-3 Catholic Rural Life Meeting, Minneapolis – St. Paul
7 5:00 p.m. Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Chancery Office
In Memory of...

Neal Flagg Father of Rev. Wayne Flagg

EL CAMPO - Neal Flagg, 88, of El Campo (formerly of Victoria), passed away September 18, 2016. Neal was born October 30, 1927 in West Columbia, Texas to the late William Dandridge Sr. and Moody Dorough Flagg.

Neal is survived by his wife of 61 years, Irene Hansen Flagg; son, The Rev. Wayne Flagg of Weimar; daughter, Denise Flagg; son, The Rev. Wayne Flagg of Weimar; daughter, Denise Flagg; nieces and nephews.

May the souls of faithful departed rest in peace.

Rev. Dan Morales, Pastor of Holy Family Victoria

Father Dan Morales, Pastor of Holy Family Church in Victoria, died on Saturday, September 3, 2016 after a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer. He was born June 17, 1964 in Palacios and after attending public schools there, entered Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the fall of 1982 as one of the first seminarians for the newly formed Diocese of Victoria. He finished seminary studies at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, Texas and was ordained a transitional deacon on January 27, 1990 at St. Theresa Church by Bishop Enrique San Pedro.

Father Dan was ordained to the priesthood on September 8, 1990 by Bishop David Fellhauer at St. Anthony Church in Palacios. From that moment, his identity was rooted in who he is: a Priest of Jesus Christ. He faithfully served many parishes throughout the Diocese of Victoria. After his ordination to the priesthood, he served as Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. In 1993 he became the first pastor from the Diocese of Victoria for Sts. Peter and Paul in Freiburg and St. Roch in Mentz. In 1995, Father Dan began his pastorate at Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca where he founded Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in 1996. In 2011 Father Dan returned to Victoria as pastor of St. Mary’s and then in 2013 as pastor of Holy Family. From 2006 - 2016 Father Dan served as Director of Vocations and Director of Seminarians. In 2006, he also began missionary work in Guatemala.

His ministry to the people of Antigua and the residents of the orphanage of Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro has been a big part of his life ever since.

Father Dan is loved and remembered by the many people whose lives he touched, first of which are his parents, Paz and Andrea Morales of Palacios; sisters, Sylvia Cartier (Jim) of Fort Worth, Rose Mary Mallia of Santa Fe, Texas, Kathy Matheny (Kevin) of Lakehillls, Patty Morales of Austin, Margaret Espinosa (Roland) of Edna and Jo Ann Reyes of Austin; brothers, Paz Morales, Jr. (Fina) and Ted Morales (Nina) both of Austin; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of other family members, friends, brother priests, parishioners, and those seeking Jesus in their lives.

Funeral services included a vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer in Palacios. On Thursday, September 8, at Holy Family Church, a Rosary was recited by Bishop Oscar Cantu and the Mass of Christian Burial was officiated by Bishop Brendan J. Cahill along with the two other bishops, many priests from the Diocese of Victoria and other places. Graveside services were at the Palacios Cemetery conducted by Bishop Oscar Cantu.

Pallbearers were Father Jacob Koether, Father Scott Hill, Father Kristopher Fuchs, Father Max Landman, Father Jasper Ligio, Father Philip Brune, Father Francisco Maldonado, and Father Adam Ortega.

Father Dan has requested, in lieu of flowers, that memorials be made to the Diocese of Victoria for the Education of Seminarians, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903-4070; Holy Family Catholic Church (Guataemalan Orphanage), 704 Mallette Dr., Victoria, TX 77904; or Hospice of South Texas, 605 E. Locust Ave., Victoria, TX 77901.

The Catholic Lighthouse
Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as 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.

September 26, 2016

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**Education of Seminarian Fund**

The Education of Seminarian Fund is where all of the monies donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarians Fund. Publication of this fund will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

In memory of Father Dan Morales:


- M/M Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of His Work for Vocations:

  - Previous Balance: $4,558.00
  - In memory of Garolicia Ricciar by DeWayne and Adeline Dvorak: $50.00
  - In loving memory of Rev. Dan Morales by: Paula Schoener: $25.00, Stanley Stryk: $20.00, Pat and Ginger Wagner: $100.00, Bernard and Madelene Rother: $100.00, Jeff and Denise Dickinson: $100.00, Martha Pearson: $40.00, Imogene A. Klare: $50.00, Dorothy H. Dearing: $50.00, Wayne Marek: $50.00, Catholic Life Insurance: Branch #55, Port Lavaca: $100.00, Paul and Helen Flessner: $50.00, Celestine (Tina) Hubenak: $50.00, Pazi and Andrea Morales: $25.00, Daryl and Joan Hill: $250.00, Daniel Stryk: $50.00, Faye and Gilbert Melnar: $50.00, Dr. Gary and Susan Fries: $50.00, Jim and Michelle Kubicek: $25.00, In memory of Dan Morales, former Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Frelsburg by Robert and Carol Schertz: $100.00, Total: $5,893.00

- Rev. Gabriel Maison Seminary Burse:

  - Previously reported: $1,500.00
  - In honor of Rev. Gabriel Maison, Pastor of St. Joseph Church, Moulton by the St. Joseph's Altar Society: $500.00, Total: $2,000.00

- Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse:

  - Previously reported: $4,235.00
  - In memory of Henry Schoenfeld, on his 2nd anniversary of death by Bernice: $50.00, Happy Birthday blessings to Matthew: $25.00, Happy Birthday blessings to Regina: $25.00, Total: $4,335.00

- Cora Wostarek Seminary Burse:

  - Previously reported: $6,850.00
  - Donation to the burse from a friend: $150.00
  - Donation to the burse from Mike and Lisa Moeller Family: $100.00, Total: $7,100.00

Those wanting to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

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

To contribute to the Education of Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Changes to be Made

Changes are coming effective January 1, 2017 to the way the Seminary Endowment Fund, formerly known as the Seminary Burses is published. Individual contributions will no longer be listed. They will be published by level categories. We will also include donations made to the Education of Seminarian Fund with the exception to donations made through the Holy Thursday Collection.

Seminary Enrollment Reaches Record Despite Flood Damages

COVINGTON, L.A. — Saint Joseph Seminary College, located in Covington, La., welcomed a record 153 seminarians this year for the Fall 2016 semester, more than double the enrollment from just six years ago, when 75 seminarians enrolled.

Saint Joseph Seminary College is a community of faith and learning in the liberal arts rooted in the Benedictine tradition that promotes the development of the whole person. The formation program fosters the commitment of seminarians to the Roman Catholic priesthood in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Program of Priestly Formation. The Seminary College also supports preparation for service in lay ministries and makes available its educational and other resources to the local community.

Seminarians this year are representing 22 archdioceses and dioceses from seven states across the Gulf South region, including two dioceses new to the Seminary College this year: Brownsville, Texas, and Nashville, Tenn.

As part of the strategic plan to accommodate an expected surge in enrollment over the next several years, Seminary College leaders broke ground on a new library on February 27, which would free up the current library to be used as a residence hall. Just 13 days later those plans changed when the entire campus was devastated by flooding from the Bogue Falaya River.

In the midst of the disaster as well as unprecedented growth, Father Gregory Boquet, O.S.B, President-Rector of the Seminary College, was determined to ensure that not only would the seminarians finish the Spring semester on time, but that the campus would be ready for their return this semester. While some classroom and dorm rooms have yet to come back online, modular units were brought onto campus over the summer.

“The commitment I have to making sure that these young men continue their education uninterrupted is only matched by their willingness to rise to the challenges we have encountered. I have faith that they will eventually, if not already, view these challenges as an integral part of their formation, preparing them to be a spiritual leader in their parish,” said Father Boquet.

According to one seminarian, the inconveniences of a campus still recovering are minute compared to the bigger picture.

“It seems to me that God doesn’t take away our brokenness or burdens—He consoles us by taking them on Himself with us, which is way better. Consequently, our constant struggle becomes the very thing that calls down Jesus, that keeps us humble and One with Him. I see this in the Flood of 2016—had no effect on our historical enrollment at the seminary. And I think our community and fraternity of good men shows how the Church only flourishes in her weakness,” said seminarian John Guerra, a junior from New Orleans.

In addition to Brownsville and Nashville, seminarians this semester also hail from Atlanta, Georgia.; Galveston-Houston, Texas; Mobile Alabama.; New Orleans; Alexandria, Louisiana.; Austin, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana.; Beaumont, Texas; Biloxi, Mississippi; Corpus Christi, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana; Jackson, Mississippi; Lafayette, Louisiana; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Shreveport, Louisiana; St. Augustine, Florida; and Victoria, Texas.

DSA update

2016 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: $1,936,221.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $841,119.35
Parish Contribution Totals: $770,140.54
Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,910

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarian!

Jordan Morgan is in College 1 at St. Joseph College Seminary in St. Benedict, Louisiana. His home parish is Our Lady Queen of Peace, Kenedy, Texas of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. His birthday is October 31. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Jordan Morgan, St. Joseph College Seminary, 75376 River Road, St. Benedict, LA 70457

Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop
(361) 575-7111
1101 NE Water St.
(in Old Victoria)
Victoria, TX 77901
M-F 8:30-4:30  Sat. 9:30-3:30
Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals
Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts

Immaculate Conception Fall Festival
Goliad
October 16
Church Grounds • 238 N. Commercial

11 a.m. Barbecue Beef (Buffet Style) Dinner at $9 per plate
Music @ 11 a.m. • Polka Music
Cakewalk • Country Store • Children’s Games • Christmas Store
Auction @ 1 p.m.

Entertainment For All To Enjoy!
STJ GRANDPARENT’S DAY CELEBRATION MASS—In honor of Grandparent’s Day, St. Joseph High School, Victoria, held a special Grandparent’s Day Celebration Mass on Tuesday, September 13. It was a special time for STJ’s students to be able to share in the celebration of Mass with their grandparents or other special people that serve the role of a grandparent. Father Gary Janak from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory presided over the Mass and gave a special blessing for the bookmarks that were given to each grandparent.

Prayer to Saint Anne and Saint Joachim

St. Anne and St. Joachim, you were especially favoured by God, on the threshold of the New Testament, to be the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. You provided your daughter with a loving home, family and faithful teaching, and brought her up to be the worthy Mother of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Your way of parenting was for her an example to bring forth the only-begotten Son of God, Jesus, treasuring all things in her heart. (cf. Lk.2.19,51). Your faith laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed Mary to stand by the Cross as her Son was crucified and to still believe (cf. Jn. 19.25-27). In communion with Mary and Joseph, intercede to your grandson, Jesus, for all parents, so that they may help their children to grow in strength and in knowledge and to discover the mission that God entrusts to them in the world and in the Church.
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL—On Thursday, September 29, the students of St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar celebrated the Feast of the Archangels (St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael) with a special prayer service. Students and faculty celebrated the Feast day of St. Michael the Archangel with prayer and the planting of bulbs in the school’s front flower bed. The church assigns a feast day in the autumn for the archangels, St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael. Angels are messengers from God offering us guidance and support. As the earth begins to slow down and winter approaches, we might feel uncertainty, but the angels remind us of the hope we have in God’s promises to us. Planting bulbs in the autumn is also a reminder of God’s promises. As we anticipate their blooms, we remain hopeful of the joy that is to come when the earth reawakens in the spring.

STJ FRESHMAN BIBLE MASS—St. Joseph High School, Victoria, honored all incoming freshmen and transfer students at Mass on Wednesday, September 7. The Mass was presided over by Father Kristopher Fuchs from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Each student was recognized and given a holy Bible by St. Joseph High School. Many parents and guests were in attendance to celebrate the beginning of the St. Joseph High School journey for these students. Pictured Ryan Bazan, Carly Pickett, Madison Longoria, Lauren Pena, and Madison Barton. Photo courtesy of Dyeana Pena.

DOV FunRun2
5K & 1 Mile Walk/Run
11/5/16
Riverside Park Victoria, TX
9:00 a.m.

Save the Date for the 2nd Annual

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
FUN RUN2
November 5, 2016
Catholic Schools: Your child, Your Choice!®

Registration Information:
www.victoriadiocese.org/catholic-schools-fun-run

Participants can donate non-perishable food items to the local food banks that will be dispersed back into the community.
Entering a New Century

As the nineteenth century ended, the ever-growing school and convent continued to prosper, in spite of the deaths of Father Gardet and Mother Claire Valentine. Its growth mirrored that of the bustling city of Victoria, which itself, had reached a population of nearly 5,000 inhabitants, and was profiting from bountiful herds of cattle and agricultural products made possible by the fertile soil and temperate climate. Consequently, the city contained numerous business enterprises, cultural opportunities, and several banks. Its location as the “Crossroads of South Texas” guaranteed its role as a center of commercial activity.

However, with an ever-growing school population, an old worry resurfaced: there was not enough room for all the students: so a painful decision had to be made. The two-story brick edifice constructed in 1972 would have to be demolished in order to provide room for a new modern building facing Church Street. At the time, St. Mary’s Church was located on the North-West corner of the property (Bridge and Church Street). It, too, would be demolished. The property on which the Church stood would be swapped for the North-East corner (Church and Main Streets) of the block where the current St. Mary’s Church stands.

Another worry loomed before them; where would they get the tremendous sum of $58,082.91 that the building was estimated to cost? In great faith the Sisters went forward with the project. They knew that the Incarnate Word would see them through and He did. With donations from the people of Victoria, the sisters’ carefully saved money from the days of public school salaries, and a legacy of $12,000.00 from Father Gardet, the financial challenge was met. The building which would house the sisters, the boarding students and the classrooms was dedicated on January 3, 1905. This building would provide adequate classroom space for nearly a quarter of a century.

(to be continued)

Nazareth Convent and Academy in 1905.

For more about the building of Nazareth Convent in Victoria — please come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad’s new book: “TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time”.

Calendar of Events

2016

October 9 — YLT meeting
October 11 — Youth Formation: Policy & Procedures class, Our Lady of Guadalupe Family Education Center, Bay City. Call the Youth & Young Adult Office to register.
November 6 — YLT meeting
December 11 — YLT meeting

2017

January 22 — YLT meeting
February 5 — Confirmation Retreat (Eagle Lake)
February 22 — Confirmation Retreat (Ganado)
April 30 — Camp David Planning
June 9-16 — Camp David
June 24-27 — Rocky Mountain High

Formation Training Dates

2016

October 6 — Pastoral Care
November 10 — Leadership Development, Planning and Programming
December 8 — Prayer and Worship

2017

February 2 — Justice and Service
March 2 — Ethics and Crisis Management, Policy and Procedures
April 6 — Retreat Formation

College Campus Ministry

The Diocese of Victoria Youth & Young Adult Office is privileged to have the opportunity to collaborate with Victoria College. The Catholic Student Association is an organization for Catholics and others exploring their faith. Activities include: Campus Mass, Recitation of the Rosary, Singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Bible Studies, Adoration, See You at the Pole, Life Chain, Social Nights, Praise and Worship, and more. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Catholic Student Association Advisors for Victoria College are Melanie Yosko, Rachel Winkenwerder and Donna Rodriguez.

For more information visit the web at victoriadiocese.org/catholic-campus-ministry for schedule or contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (361) 573-0828.
WEIMAR—St. Michael Catholic School commemorated the 15th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks with prayer, discussions, and displays in the school library. Students were able to read about different events from 9/11 including stories such as the cross formed at Ground Zero and the chapel that survived the fall of the Twin Towers. In addition, faculty and staff members recounted what they were doing on the morning of the terrorist attacks.

The students today in elementary and junior high were not even born when the attacks took place.

Kelly McAfee, 5th grader, and Brett Sestak, 6th grader, look at the display of books about 9/11 in the library.

SERVING THE LORD—
Father Kristopher Fuchs with altar servers prior to weekday school Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. School Masses are held Tuesday, Thursday and First Friday at 8:00 a.m.
NEW OFFICERS—The Altar Society of Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus Church, Victoria, elected officers for the 2016-2017 term. The officers are, from left Kay Jasek, Treasurer; Maria Sobczak, first Vice President; Kathy Motley, Corresponding Secretary; Betty Frederick, President; Barbara Wenske, second Vice President; Debbie Bartram, Recording Secretary; and Cathy Myers, Parliamentarian. Board members and committee chairpersons meet the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. and hold regular monthly meetings with all members at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Peter Parish Hall on the second Monday of each month.

TWO NEW MEMBERS—Audrey Donihoo and Kallee Kifer were welcomed and installed at the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas September meeting. The installation ceremony was performed by District Deputy, Dorothy Zabransky, who has 49 years of membership with the Catholic Daughters and Local Regent, Mary McQuillen who has 68 years of membership with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

THANK YOU—St. Michael’s School in Cuero, said thank you to local law enforcement, fire department and retired law enforcement. They prayed for them and will continue to pray for them. Thank you to some awesome individuals!

MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH—At the Annual Queen of Peace Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 25, Mrs. Lillie Janak was recognized for 27 years of service as the parish secretary for Queen of Peace in Sweet Home and St. John the Baptist in Keorth. Mrs. Janak retired this past summer after years of dedication and hard work. A Papal Blessing by Pope Francis was presented to her as a token of gratitude and appreciation by Father Matthew Huehlefeld on behalf of the parish families.

PRAYING FOR YOUNG CANCER PATIENTS—Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, students wore gold/yellow to raise awareness and to ask for prayers for the 15,000 children under the age of 21 who are diagnosed yearly with cancer in the US. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and they continue to pray for one of their students Ryan, a special little boy Remington and all those currently battling cancer. Right, one of the wonderful cards the students made for Remington and Ryan. One of their Pre-K3 students, Preslie was visiting St. Jude’s and delivered cards and gifts.

TWO NEW MEMBERS—Audrey Donihoo and Kallee Kifer were welcomed and installed at the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas September meeting. The installation ceremony was performed by District Deputy, Dorothy Zabransky, who has 49 years of membership with the Catholic Daughters and Local Regent, Mary McQuillen who has 68 years of membership with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.
ROME—A group of over 150 bishops who were appointed by Pope Francis during the past year were in Rome to participate in the annual formation course for new bishops.

Since its inception, the week-long course is addressed to all the bishops appointed by the pontiff in the previous year, aiming to teach them what is involved in managing a diocese.

The pontiff reminded them of the fact that they were appointed during the Holy Year of Mercy, and for this reason, the most “precious richness” each of them can bring to their diocese from their week in Rome is the “awareness of the mercy with which you have been seen and chosen.” “Mercy,” Francis told them, “should form and inform the pastoral structures of our Churches.” Bishops, he said, are called to make mercy pastoral, for they have experienced “the thrill of being loved by God.”

Bishop Cahill from the Diocese of Victoria was among the new bishops present for this gathering at the Vatican.

FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS CELEBRATED—Parishioners at Our Lady of Sorrows (OLS), Victoria, gathered for a Mass to celebrate the feast of their patron. Father Philip Brune also bid farewell to the parishioners and clergy at OLS. It was hard to say good-bye as this was his first priestly assignment. He has been appointed to serve St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo.
DIOCESAN HOMETOWN BOY MAKES GOOD—Kaye Durio of Nordheim now has a family member in the National Football League (NFL). Her grandson, Cole Wick, was selected to the Detroit Lions’ 53 man roster Saturday, September 3, 2016 as a tight end. A native of Hallettsville, Wick and former teammate Myke Tavarres, are the first two football players from the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio to sign as free agents in the NFL. Cole became only the second player from Hallettsville to make the NFL since Andy Rice in the 1960s. “I am very proud of him,” said Pat Henke, who coached Cole at Sacred Heart. “I told him before he went to college to keep working and you never know - you may end up in the NFL. He replied ‘I wish.’” “It’s pretty special when someone from Sacred Heart and Hallettsville makes an NFL team,” said Pat. “He was so overwhelmed and it was an emotional roller coaster because one by one some of his good friends from rookie camp were all getting cut. We were needles and pins,” Cole’s mother, Pam Wick, said.

NEW IWBS ASSOCIATES RECEIVED—The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament received four new First Consecration Associates. Left to right, Brenda Ortmann, Diana Filip, Maryjean Seiler, Debra Myers are pictured with Sister Stephana Marbach and Sister Emiliana Grafe. One member, Rosie Rodriguez (inset), made her Perpetual Commitment. Father Michael Petering, an Associate of the Incarnate Word, celebrated Mass at Incarnate Word Chapel and presided over the ceremony on Sunday, September 11.
By Deacon Leo Sharron

As this year of mercy began, I remember thinking of how much I was in need of God’s mercy in my life. I was now moving into my tenth year as a deacon and felt disconnected in many ways from God and from the people I am called to serve in my ministries. I felt confused, unsure about myself, and unworthy of work that God had called me to. My daily prayer was a plea for clarity, for guidance, and for the strength and courage needed to live out my deaconate as God intended for me.

Then in October of last year, 2015, Father David Berger invited me along with other members of the parish staff to attend a “Healing the Whole Person” retreat in Georgetown, Texas coming up that November. I must admit I was apprehensive at first because of my busy schedule and because I had also attended other retreats in the past that simply provided a feel good Band-Aid that usually only lasted a few days. Through prayer and in talking with Father Jacob Koether and Deacon Steve Borowicz, I was encouraged to give it a try. Trusting in their wisdom, I reluctantly agreed to attend.

In hindsight, I can now say that attending the Healing the Whole Person retreat became a pivotal point in my ministry and in my life. During that weekend I experienced God’s grace and mercy in a way I never had before and I was able to uncover some of the wounds of fear, rejection, shame, and confusion that had been crippling me spiritually and in some ways physically in my life. I came to know that God is much closer to us than we could ever imagine and that God sees us not as we are in our woundedness, but rather in our wholeness as children created in the image of our loving God.

Through his passion and death on the cross, Christ experienced every wound that we could ever experience in our lives. Through that experience Christ can intimately relate to us in our own woundedness. Look at the picture of The Incredulity of Saint Thomas and think of Thomas as Jesus draws the hand of Thomas to his own wounds in the presence of his disciples in the upper room after his resurrection. In the same way, Jesus wants to draw each of us close to himself so that we may experience that close, intimate, and healing encounter with our resurrected Lord.

Through this retreat I came to know that God’s love for us is deeper than we can ever imagine and that God’s mercy and gift of healing is always closest to our deepest wounds, whatever they may be. We only need to open our hearts and minds to God and allow him to work in our life.

After that weekend in Georgetown, I was so moved by the experience that I drove to Tallahassee, Florida to attend two additional week long retreats. These additional retreats deepened my understanding of myself and deepened my relationship with God in a way that continues today.

My prayer is that in reading this you will take some time to consider the wounds in your own life, those places that we feel fear, rejection, abandonment, shame, confusion, hopelessness, and powerlessness, and consider taking the opportunity to let this weekend be a new beginning toward healing and a deepening of your relationship with our loving God.

The Healing the Whole Person Conference will be held on November 10-12 at Holy Family Parish in Victoria. To register, or to get more information, visit www.jspihealingcenter.org and look for the Victoria Healing the Whole Person event. Space is limited and registration is well underway. We have people registering from around the country as well as several from other countries.

I leave you with this quote from Isaiah “The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners” Isaiah 61: 1-2.

May God continue to bless you and I hope to see you at the retreat.

Pregnant? Need Help?

Confidential and caring assistance available for the following needs: emotional, material, spiritual, educational. Providing immediate and practical help. We have a special concern for you and your unborn child.

Gabriel Project
Toll Free 1-866-MARY AID
1-866-627-9243

Daylight-Saving Time Ends
November 6
Fall back an hour at 2:00 a.m.

Pregnant? Need Help?

Barbeque Turkey with
Dressing Dinner
Dine-in or Drive-thru • 11:00 a.m. • $10 p/p
St. Peter’s Church • Blessing
Sunday, October 30
Country Store • Raffle

Mass
9:30 a.m.

Live Auction
12:00 p.m.
One young woman shared that she felt this was surely a Year of Mercy. After taking the class for her Confirmation, she realized the need to have her marriage convalidated. She felt moved by the Spirit to ask her previously reluctant husband if he would be willing to work with her on what it would take to convalidate their marriage, and he surprised her with his full support. In a letter of thanks, she wrote: “I am so glad that Our Lady of Victory had the vision and desire to offer this class to the parish and beyond.”

The response to this program has been so positive that there is already a waiting list of those who wish to attend the next course. The next course for Adult Confirmation preparation begins on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 and runs weekly through Tuesday, February 28, 2017. The bishop has graciously agreed to set the next Confirmation Mass on Thursday, February 23, 2017. The last class, which occurs after the Confirmation Mass, focuses on encouraging the confirmandi to now live as Christian Witnesses in their world, especially through active participation in their parishes.

Above are sixteen adults from the Victoria Deanery who completed the first Adult Confirmation Preparation Course offered here in this deanery. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated the Mass along with Father Gabriel Espinoza and Deacon Edward Molina. Father Gary Janak served as master of ceremonies.

**Victoria Deanery Adult Confirmation**

The Victoria Deanery completed its first Adult Confirmation Preparation Course, The Power of Christian Witness, on Tuesday, September 13, 2016. At the request of Father Gary Janak, the course was developed and implemented by master catechist Chris Kallus and Pastoral Associate Jenny Vincent at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Of the 26 who began the course, sixteen completed it and were confirmed on Thursday, September 8, with Bishop Brendan Cahill officiating, and Father Gary Janak, Father Gabriel Espinoza, and Deacon Edward Molina concelebrating.

The confirmandi ranged in age from 72 years young to 17 years. One of the “wiser” women mentioned to the catechists that the lack of her Confirmation had weighed heavy on her heart for years, but she didn’t know she could even hope to receive it until she had seen the article in her parish bulletin.

Another blessing that has come from this program is the convalidation of several marriages and beginning the process for several more marriages to be convalidated. One young woman shared that she felt this

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**St. Theresa, La Salle Annual Turkey Dinner & Festival**

**Sunday, October 16**

*Turkey and Dressing Dinner - 11:00 a.m. - $9 p/p*  
*Catered by Robert Werner of Shiner*  
*Dine-in or Drive-thru Plates-To-Go Available*  

**Live Auction @ 12:30 p.m.**  
*Cakewalk • Children’s Games and More*

For information call Dianne at (361) 284-3275 or Agnes at (361) 782-5026

**FIRST RESPONDERS HONORED BY KC’S—**Victoria Police Chief J.J. Craig gave the keynote address to a crowd of over 350 first responders, judicial personnel, KC’s and their spouses at the 29th Annual Public Servant’s Appreciation Dinner Tuesday evening. The event, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9088, was held at the Holy Family Church Activity Center in Victoria. This was the Chief’s 6th year attending and was one of the first events he attended when he joined the Victoria Police Department. He thanked the KC’s for showing their appreciation in a time where anti-police sentiment is rising across America. He added, “In Victoria, we enjoy strong community support” and the credit goes to each officer that goes out into the community and does their job. The Chief said the important issue is to retain the public’s trust and to “always remember who we work for”. Craig said today’s public servants choose their profession because of a passion and true calling for service. They are the best trained and held to the highest level of scrutiny. “Each officer took an oath to serve others-they didn’t do it for the money” Craig said. He went on to thank the families of those who serve for providing the much needed support in the home for the many stressful times our servants face.

**SHARING WITH OTHERS—**Brian Buckmeyer and other representatives from the Marianist Life Program at St. Mary’s University recently visited St. Joseph High School, Victoria. The Marianist Life Program representatives met with student members of St. Joseph’s Marianist L.I.F.E. (Living In Faith Experience) Community (MLC) to encourage them to be active in their faith and service throughout the year. St. Joseph’s MLC is a student organization that provides opportunities for faith sharing, community service and student fellowship.

**SEE YOU AT THE POLE (SYATP)—**Students from Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria participated in See You at the Pole prayer serie. SYATP is an annual gathering of Christian students of all ages at a flagpole in front of their local school for prayer, scripture-reading and hymn-singing, during the early morning before school starts. The American SYATP events occur every fourth Wednesday of September. The events began in 1990, in the United States, where public schools cannot sponsor prayers. It has grown by word of mouth, announcements at youth rallies and churches, and the Internet and now occurs internationally.
PROLIFE—A Glimpse Inside is one of many educational programs offered by St. John Paul II Life Center located in Austin, Texas. Dr. Jeremy Kalamarides is the Medical Director of The Vitae Clinic, a unique medical practice providing women with state-of-the-art holistic healthcare. A free and informative event will be held in Goliad on October 23, at Immaculate Conception Church in Goliad Parish Hall from 2:00-3:30 p.m. For more information call (361) 645-2381, email g-smiles@sbcglobal.net or visit www.victoriadiocese.org/pro-life.

Texas Bishops Encourage Tax Credit Scholarship Program

AUSTIN — Texans can benefit from the insights coming from the 20 tax credit scholarship programs which exist around the nation, the executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference testified to the state’s Senate Education Committee in Austin.

“We have the opportunity to develop a program that replicates the success in other states while avoiding some basic flaws in program design,” Jennifer Carr Allmon explained in written testimony.

While the Texas bishops are primarily concerned with the intellectual and moral formation of students, they also recognize that there are other benefits to the state if it were to implement a tax credit scholarship program for students in private schools. Independent entities have noted that the state would realize a net gain of $582 million to the Foundation School Fund. In 2008, the state of Florida announced it had a net savings of $38.9 million because of its tax credit scholarship program. In addition, Allmon offered five factors leading to successful implementation of a tax credit scholarship program, based on the experiences of other states. These include having one statewide scholarship granting organization, such as The Texas Private School Accreditation Commission, prioritizing students with greater academic and financial need, and recognizing the capacity and interest of private schools in Texas.
CATHOLIC EXTENSION CUBA PUERTO RICO—The roofless St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Havana was a chapel for a former Catholic university operated by the Augustinians. The church was recently returned to the Havana Archdiocese, and church officials hope to renovate it to create a Catholic presence in an area where many foreign embassies line the streets. (CNS photo/Rich Kalonick, Catholic Extension)

Let your light shine by doing good, shunning jealousy, pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Good works “do not keep well in the fridge,” Pope Francis said; they need to be shared the minute there is a need.

Reacting to someone in need by thinking, “I’ll take care of it tomorrow” is a classic, recurring form of hiding the light of faith and runs counter to the Gospel message of God’s special love for the meek and the poor.

Besides, the pope said, “the same worms that will eat us will eat them. The very same! In the end, we will all be judged and the worms that will eat us will eat them. The very same!”

Pope Francis said this summer to leaders in Poland, “Life must always be welcomed and protected… from conception to natural death. All of us are called to respect life and care for it.”

CFC’s extreme ads promote abortion as if it were a social good. But abortion kills the most defenseless among us, harms women, and tears at the heart of families. Pushing for public funding would force all taxpaying Americans to be complicit in the violence of abortion and an industry that puts profit above the well-being of women and children.

According to a July 2016 poll conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, 62 percent of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion, including 45 percent of those who say they are pro-choice.

Finally, the CFC pits the needs of pregnant women against those of their unborn children. This is a false choice. Catholics and all people of good will are called to love them both. Consider supporting local pregnancy help centers, which do incredible work caring for mothers and children alike in a manner consistent with true social justice and mercy.
Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Cada año el Papa Francisco invita a todos los nuevos obispos de todo el mundo a participar en un entrenamiento de una semana. Este mes de septiembre fui a Roma para la “Escuela de nuevos obispos”. El primer día que llegué allí estaba caminando por el dormitorio para acostumbrarme del lugar y vi otro obispo en su habitación leyendo. Hablamos uno al otro en italiano (el de él era mucho mejor que el mío) y nos presentamos. Su nombre era el arzobispo Joseph Tobji, el arzobispo católico maronita que tiene 45 años y es de Alepo en Siria. Se había ordenado al arzobispo en diciembre de 2015.

La siguiente noche tuvimos una presentación sobre las Iglesias de rito oriental, con su rica historia y tradición. A medida que la conversación giró en torno a la situación de nuestros hermanos y hermanas en el Medio Oriente, alguien invitó a Arzobispo Tobji a decir unas pocas palabras. Habló de una imagen tradicional de la relación entre la Iglesia católica y la ortodoxa - que son “dos pulmones” respirando el mismo Espíritu Santo para la salvación del mundo. Las Iglesias de rito oriental destacan de manera particular como puente entre ortodoxos y católicos - que preservan la rica tradición litúrgica y espiritual de los ortodoxos y respetan la autoridad especial del Papa, Obispo de Roma.

Con la imagen de los dos pulmones Tobji dijo que si uno de los pulmones está sufriendo, todo el cuerpo está en el dolor. Después él nos imploró: “Oren por la Iglesia en Alepo.” En ese momento me di cuenta que Alepo no es sólo un lugar que vemos en las noticias, es el hogar de muchos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas que están sufriendo enormemente. Y cuando nos sentimos impotentes y sin esperanza acerca de qué hacer para ayudar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas, la respuesta más obvia se hace evidente - “¡Oren!” Quiero destacar este mes dos formas de oración que podemos ofrecer para el pueblo de Alepo, y todos que están sufriendo enormemente. Y cuando nos siento afligido por la situación, de todos los lados que se hace presente y ofrecer una petición en unión con el sacrificio de Jesús - esto puede lograr más de lo que podemos imaginar. Gracias a Dios por los sacerdotes hermosos que tenemos que ofrecen este sacrificio fielmente para la curación y la salvación del mundo.

Al principio de su enseñanza sobre el rosario, San Juan Pablo II escribió acerca de la necesidad de rezar el rosario por la paz y por nuestros hermanos y hermanas en el Medio Oriente. Cuando habló de la situación de Alepo, dijo que había que rezar por la paz y la curación de todos los heridos. También mencionó el uso del rosario para combatir la violencia y la muerte en el mundo.

Solidaridad en la Oración

Amén.

+ Brendan

Préstamos de la Escuela de nuevos obispos.

A medida que dedicamos esta edición del Lighthouse al rosario, por favor sean seguros de mi amor diaria y oraciones para cada uno de ustedes y sus familias - que con un solo corazón y un solo Espíritu, podemos traer sanación y paz a un mundo roto. Dios te bendiga y a sus familias, vamos a mantener unos a otros en la oración,

+ Brendan
**PEARL HARBOR CHAPLAIN IDENTIFIED**—Father Aloysius Schmitt, the first chaplain killed in World War II, is pictured in an undated photo. He died during the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941 while helping others escape his ship. Nearly 75 years after his death, the remains of Father Schmitt, a native of St. Lucas, Iowa, and graduate of Loras College, have been identified and are coming home to the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa. (CNS photo/Witness files)

**BASEBALL MARLINS FERNANDEZ**—After his team defeated the New York Mets 7-3 at Marlins Park Sept. 26, Miami Marlins manager Don Mattingly watches as his team takes a knee around the pitcher’s mound to honor teammate starting pitcher Jose Fernandez. The 24-year-old pitcher, who defected from Cuba at 15 and went on to become one of baseball’s brightest stars, South Florida’s Cuban-American Catholic community and other Miami Marlins baseball fans honored Jose Fernandez with prayers at the Cuban shrine and a public parade Sept. 28, a day before his private funeral. Fernandez, a pitcher and popular Cuban-American member of the Marlins team, died Sept. 25 following a tragic boat accident that also took the lives of two of his companions. They were on a late-night outing when their craft struck a jetty near Miami Beach. Fans gathered at the West Plaza at Marlins Park, organizers said the Sept. 28 procession departed at 2:16 p.m. local time – “16” was Fernandez’s uniform number – and then moved on to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity near Miami’s Biscayne Bay and not far from the accident. The procession then proceeded to St. Brendan Catholic Church in Miami for a public visitation. A private funeral for Fernandez was held Sept. 29. Father Juan Rumin Dominguez, rector of Our Lady of Charity shrine, described Fernandez as “the young face of the Cuban diaspora. This is a young man who is a source of pride for us Cubans, an example for our community and especially for Cuban young people,” said Father Dominguez. (CNS photo/Jasen Vinlove, USA TODAY Sports via Reuters)

**V ENCUENTRO PILGRIMAGE TO ROME**—Leaders in ministry to Hispanic Catholics in the United States stand in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Sept. 26 with the Encuentro cross. Making a pilgrimage to Rome in preparation for launching the four-year Encuentro process are Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, director of the V Encuentro; Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church; Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles; and Mar Munoz-Visoso, executive director of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church. (CNS photo/Robert Duncan)

**Pope accepts Lubbock bishop’s resignation, names Dallas priest successor**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Placido Rodriguez of Lubbock, Texas, and has named as his successor Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, a priest of the Diocese of Dallas.

Bishop-designate Coerver, 62, will become the third bishop of the Diocese of Lubbock. His episcopal ordination and installation Mass will be celebrated Nov. 21 at Christ the King Cathedral in Lubbock.

In a statement, he said he looked forward to “this new role as chief shepherd of the Catholic faithful in Lubbock,” though he said he’ll miss his home diocese. He asked for prayers from the people of Dallas “as I prepare to assume my new responsibilities.”

“I was born and raised here in Dallas; my family roots are here and my ancestors were among Dallas’ first Catholics,” said Bishop-designate Coerver, pastor of St. Rita Parish in Dallas since 2010. “I have developed so many fantastic relationships over the years and it will be difficult to have them take on a different nature. I have cherished my work among my brother priests, and upon hearing of my appointment, a slight pang of sadness came upon me.”

But as a priest, he continued, “I have always known that I must follow wherever the Lord leads me, and so when asked if I would accept the appointment, I did so immediately because I have promised to serve wherever the church needs me.”

He has a master’s degree in counseling and guidance from Texas A&M University. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Dallas in 1980.
Columbus—St. Anthony Fall Festival, Oct. 9, at the KC Hall starting at 11:00 a.m. with a barbecue beef and sausage dinner.

East Bernard—Holy Cross Bazaar, Oct. 9, at Riverside Hall, 11:00 a.m. with a barbecue beef, chicken and sausage dinner with homemade dressing.

Victoria—Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Festival, Oct. 9, at Victoria Community Center starting at 11:00 a.m. with a barbecue beef and sausage dinner. Entertainment for the entire family.

Seadrift—St. Patrick Annual Fall Fundraiser Friday, Oct. 14-Saturday, Oct. 15, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with a rummage sale in the new hall. The following weekend on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 11:00 a.m. will be serving carne guisada, rice, pinto beans and tortillas for $9 p/p. Bake sale, eggrolls and rice will be sold.

Eagle Lake—Parish of the Nativity Fall Festival, Oct. 16. A barbecue chicken and sausage dinner. See ad on pg. 9.

Goliad—Immaculate Conception Festival, Oct. 16 on church grounds. A barbecue beef dinner at $9 p/p. auction, music and more. See ad on pg. 5.

La Salle—St. Theresa Annual Turkey Dinner at $9 p/p on Oct. 16 catered by Robert Werner of Shiner. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available. A live auction beginning at 12:30 p.m. Also there will be a cakeWalk, children’s games and more. See ad on pg. 14.

Wharton—Holy Family Fall Festival, Oct. 16, serving turkey and dressing dinner. Entertainment throughout the day. See ad on pg. 18.

Blessing—St. Peter Turkey Dinner, Oct. 30, along with a country store and auction. See ad on pg. 13.

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society Turkey Dinner, catered by Werners, Nov. 6 at St. Jude Hall. Plates are $8 p/p from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with dine-in or drive-thru available. Baked goods and raffle tickets will be sold.

Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival at the Victoria Community Center, doors open at 10:00 a.m. Serving a turkey and dressing dinner at 11:00 a.m. See ad on pg. 12.

Yorktown—Christmas Craft Show sponsored by the Holy Cross Catholic Daughters #1598 on Dec. 10. Looking for vendor; prices starting at $25 to rent. For more information, call Myra Yeretsky at (361) 564-9663 or (281) 794-9213 (cell). See their event page on Facebook, Christmas Craft Show and Café - Holy Cross CDA.

Amor Meus—October 15–9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Amor Meus Spirituality Center 1101 N.E. Water Street. Deacon Mike Tankersley will present a day retreat entitled, God’s Unconditional Love and Infinite Mercy. Guided day retreats include at least two reflections, liturgy or prayer service and ample time for personal prayer, walking and reflecting. For more information, call (361) 575-7111.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center—On-going opportunity for guidance and discussion on one’s spiritual journey with experienced spiritual directors. Call for appointment. Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N.E. Water St., Victoria, TX 77901; (361) 575-7111; e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com; website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org.

Catholic Family Services—To find 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.couragerc.net.

Emmaus Center—Offers Individual, Couples, Family, Adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized Support Groups for Men, Women and those afflicted by Grief. Spiritual Direction is also available on request. The Emmaus Center is located at 1908 N. Laurent St., Suite #140 (behind the VA Clinic). Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830.

Engaged Encounter—Nov. 4-6. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy—alternative to abortion. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 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—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Every adult, who has experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months has passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

Spiritual Director: Father Christopher Fuchs (OLV) – 12 Day Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain & France visiting Lisbon, Aljmistrel, Valinhos, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Burgos, Leon, Lourdes, Zaragoza & Madrid on June 14-27, 2017. For a copy of the itinerary, please e-mail Dora Silva at dsilva4415@gmail.com. Deposit and payments must be submitted to Little Flower Tours & Travel, for further payment information please contact Susan at (888) 843-7373.

Spiritual Director: Bishop Brendan Cahill – Holy Land Prayer & Encounter Jan. 23-Feb. 3, 2017, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The Gospels and the Rosary come to Life as we visit Nazareth, Bethlehem, Cana, sail on the Sea of Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Jericho, and pray the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem on the way to an early Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Contact: Ceci Triska by email at jctriska@sbcglobal.net or call (979) 543-8575.

High Hill—God’s Embrace Ministries introduces a new Team-Based retreat experience with talks including: Laying the Foundation, Receiving New Life in Jesus, Creating Space in Your Life for Jesus, Forgiveness, Receiving the Holy Spirit and Being Mentored by the Holy Spirit. Retreat will be held at God’s Embrace Retreat Center, 1601 High Hill Rd, Schulenburg (78956). Begins 5:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, and concludes with Sunday Mass Oct. 16 at St. Mary, High Hill. Open to everyone, space is limited. $150/pp. Register online at www.godsembrace.org or call (979) 561-8883.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For dates, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858 or visit www.jostrescompaneros-sfo.org.

Incarnate 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 amormeus@yahoo.com.

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the NFP class schedules in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com.

Raphael’s Refuge—RR’s mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flotation. 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.raphaelrefuge.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 jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.helppourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For dates, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858 or visit www.jostrescompaneros-sfo.org.

Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

God’s Embrace Retreat Center, 1601 High Hill Rd, Schulenburg (78956). Begins 5:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, and concludes with Sunday Mass Oct. 16 at St. Mary, High Hill. Open to everyone, space is limited. $150/pp. Register online at www.godsembrace.org or call (979) 561-8883.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For dates, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858 or visit www.jostrescompaneros-sfo.org.

ACTS Retreats—For information, visit www.actmissions.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. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.
St. Rose of Lima 8th grade students lead school-wide rosary in rosary garden. During the month of October, 1st through 8th grade students gather after Thursday morning Mass and pray together.

lead the rosary. They stand at each “Glory Be” and move as each “Hail Mary” is prayed. Students from 1st to 8th grade, each holding a rosary, participate in reciting the rosary in the garden. Rosanne Gallia, who has been the principal at St. Rose for 11 years shares, “Having the rosary garden has been a wonderful way to teach the students how to pray the rosary by following the stepping stones.”

Mrs. Pat Lero, grandmother to the James children, was very instrumental in the planning and construction of the rosary garden. Mrs. Lero who lives in Houston and is a parishioner of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Memorial Park loved the idea of a rosary garden to honor her late husband’s memory.

Mr. and Mrs. Lero attended many events at St. Rose School and Church and visited often to be a part of their grandchildren’s participation in the liturgy and school events. Mrs. Lero shares, “St. Rose is a very special place to me.”

The rosary garden in Schulenburg was such a blessing and a great way to honor her late husband that Mrs. Lero decided to have a second memorial installed at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Houston, where she and her daughter Cheryl and granddaughter attend church. The parish, the school, RCIA program and others are able to use the garden. Mrs. Lero shares, “It is a lovely thing for worship; on a daily basis people walk over to the garden even if it is just to reflect and sit quietly.”

As Mary is honored this October by the students, parishioners and friends of St. Rose Catholic Church and School and around the world, may we remember the words of St. Francis de Sales, “The greatest method of praying is to pray the rosary.”

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**The Rosary**

The rosary is a Scripture-based prayer. It begins with the Apostles’ Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. The Our Father, which introduces each mystery, is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary is the angel’s words announcing Christ’s birth and Elizabeth’s greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary. The mysteries of the rosary center on the events of Christ’s life. There are four sets of mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and—aumed by Pope John Paul II in 2002—the Luminous.

The repetition in the rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ’s spirit dwells. The rosary can be said privately or with a group.

**Joyful Mysteries**

Monday & Saturday

Happy times of the lives of Jesus and Mary.
1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity of Jesus
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

**Sorrowful Mysteries**

Tuesday & Friday

Sad moments of the lives of Jesus and Mary.
1. The Agony the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

**Glorious Mysteries**

Wednesday & Sunday

These Mysteries show the Divinity of Jesus.
1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Mary
5. The Coronation of Mary

**Luminous Mysteries**

Thursday

These recall times in Jesus’ life when he revealed God’s kingdom.
1. The Baptism of Jesus
2. The wedding of Cana
3. The proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The institution of the Eucharist

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