Counselors Annie Coffey and John Lenihan sit in one of the Emmaus Center offices. They consider it a privilege to be invited into the lives of their clients and entrusted with the opportunity to provide professional counseling services.

A Dream, A Vision, A Reality

A dream to one day be able to offer Catholic Counseling in the Diocese of Victoria was a dream that Father Gary Janak, Father Dan Morales and other priests in the Diocese of Victoria have shared in common for over a decade. Father Gary shared, “We had the dream in 2000. I even had the name Emmaus Center. I was 10 years into my priesthood and realized I didn’t know enough to meet the needs of those coming to me for counsel, so I returned to college to obtain a degree in counseling.”

While counseling parishioners on different psychological and spiritual matters, the priests have noticed a need for a counseling service where they could refer people, knowing they would receive Catholic-based professional counseling.

One of the goals of the Diocese of Victoria, when it was formed on May 29, 1982, was to provide spiritual care and professional counseling services for the Catholics in the ten counties that comprise the Diocese of Victoria. The Emmaus Center-Counseling in the Catholic Tradition became a reality and opened its doors in November of 2015. The official ribbon cutting ceremony occurred on December 8, 2015, in conjunction with the opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

When the Crossroads area hospitals, and those dealing with mental health services in the city, began to talk about the needs of the Victoria Area regarding mental health issues, once again the idea of opening a Catholic counseling center was mentioned. Bishop Cahill who has a passion for serving others especially the downtrodden, poor, and those with mental health issues approved the founding of a center.

The staff at the Emmaus Center in Victoria were given the opportunity to provide professional counseling services. Counselors Annie Coffey and John Lenihan sit in one of the Emmaus Center offices. They consider it a privilege to be invited into the lives of their clients and entrusted with the opportunity to provide professional counseling services. The staff at the Emmaus Center in Victoria were given the opportunity to provide professional counseling services.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the second volume of his book, *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*, the Dominican theologian Yves Congar quoted the first homily that St. John Chrysostom gave on the Feast of Pentecost. I’ve always been struck by the power of this homily coming from the tradition of the Church and share part of it with you as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on the weekend of May 14-15.

“…you as initiated ones know that the priest does not touch the offerings before he has implored for you the grace of the Lord or before you have replied: ‘And with your spirit’. This response reminds you that the one who is there does nothing by himself and that the gifts that are expected are in no ways the works of man, but it is the grace of the Spirit that has descended on all of you that brings about this mystical sacrifice…. Do not therefore cling to what strikes your eyes, but think of grace which is invisible.”

From the moment the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples at the original Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has gathered the community together to offer thanksgiving, worship and praise to God. The Sunday Eucharist is the fullest experience of this reality of our faith. Each Sunday that we come together in Church we acknowledge that the grace of the Holy Spirit has descended upon us all. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts and eyes to see the deeper truth of our lives, and gives us the freedom of the children of God.

Someone might ask – “well, Bishop, what does this truth and freedom look like?” The Acts of the Apostles are filled with examples of this life, let me offer an example. Acts 7:61-8:1 records the last words of St. Stephen as he was killed by an angry mob – “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” – and observes that “Saul approved of their killing him.” The freedom of St. Stephen to love and pray for even his persecutors may have been an instrument of God’s grace leading to the eventual conversion of Saul. The deeper truth of Saul’s life was not that he was a misguided murderer, but that he was seeking to give his life entirely to God. Eventually he came to know the truth about God when Jesus personally spoke to him. With his personal conversion and witness to Jesus he received the healing that comes through forgiveness and would call himself a “new creation.”

When a person can reach a point in life where he or she is not ruled by fear, anger or resentment, and can offer genuine prayer and compassion even for an enemy - this person is experiencing a freedom that comes from the power of the Holy Spirit of God. I think we can see examples of this type of freedom and power every day. It’s evident whenever a person can turn away from the seven deadly sources of sin - pride, envy, gluttony, lust, wrath, sloth, greed – and reach out in love and service to another human being. One of my prayers for us this Pentecost is that as individuals and as a united Body of Christ we can receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit – Who is constantly calling us together, teaching us the truth about God and opening our hearts to love one another.

May you and your families be blessed in this season; thank you for the many ways in which you witness to me the truth and freedom of the Holy Spirit every day,

+Brendan

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**Bishop Brendan’s Schedule**

**May**

5  10:00 a.m., Pension Board Meeting, Chancery
5  7:00 p.m., 8th Grade Bishop’s Award, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
7  5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
8  10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
9  9:00 a.m., New Provincial Chapter Mass, Missionary Catechist Sisters, Victoria
  5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission Meeting, Chancery
11 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council Meeting, Chancery
13 7:00 p.m., Concert, David Kaufman, Holy Family Church, Victoria
14 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
15 9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John the Baptist Church, Hallettsville
  6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Ganado
18 10:00 a.m., Pension Board Meeting, Chancery
19 4:00 p.m., Building Board Meeting, Chancery
22 12:00 p.m., Mass for Home School Families, St. Mary Church, Victoria
29 9:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Hallettsville

**June**

2  3:00 p.m., Gathering for World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, Holy Family Church, Victoria
4  10:00 a.m., Ordination Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
5  10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Bloomington

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**DSA update**

2016 Diocesan Services Appeal

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The Catholic Lighthouse

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Brendan J. Cahill

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

Estimated Catholic population: 107,000.

The Most Rev. Bishop Brendan

+Brendan

The Diocese of Victoria

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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.

April 28, 2016

**Total $13,764.00 by Gary and Denise Grieve**
103.00
In honor of Stazy Hajek’s 103rd birthday
by Gary and Denise Grieve
103.00
Special Intention by
Allan and Cyndi Stryk
100.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch
C. Bartsch celebrating the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood by
Midge Elam
50.00
Total $13,764.00

**Previously reported $13,511.00**

**Seminary Burse**

- Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch
  Previously reported $14,374.84
  • Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak Seminary Burse
    Previously reported $1,040.00
    Donation for all living and deceased members of Joe and Cecelia Fikac
    Family by Mary DeLoach
    50.00
    Total $1,095.00
  Total $14,424.84

- Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2
  Previously reported $6,249.77
  In honor of Rev. Gary Janak’s 28th ordination anniversary to the priesthood on May 14, 1988,
  by Rose Marie Janak and Family
  20.00
  Total $6,269.77

- Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #4
  Balance from burse #3 $467.50
  In memory of Richard “Dick” Knebel by
  K of C Victoria Co. #1329
  100.00
  In memory of Matt Vanek by
  K of C Victoria Co. #1329
  100.00
  Total $667.50

- Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse
  Correction to previously reported $875.00
  In honor of Rev. Timothy Kosler’s 45th priestly ordination by
  Henrietta Veselka
  45.00
  In memory of Sister Pauline Marie Ermis by Henrietta Veselka
  10.00
  Total $930.00

- Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations
  Previous Balance $3,931.00
  Donation in honor of Rev. Dan Morales by
  Pazo and Andrea Morales
  25.00
  Total $3,956.00

- Jacob Mendoza Seminary Burse
  Previously reported $740.00
  In memory of Matthew Ernest Gonzalez by John Tinoco
  100.00
  Total $840.00

- Our Lady of Victory Altar Society Seminary Burse
  Previously reported $2,327.00
  In memory of Richard “Dick” Knebel by
  Grace E. Rigamonti
  25.00
  In memory of “Woody” Keller by
  Grace E. Rigamonti
  25.00
  Total $2,377.00

- Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse
  Previously reported $1,040.00
  In celebration of Rev. Kristopher Fuchs’ birthday on May 13 and for the 1st anniversary of his ordination to
  the priesthood on June 6 by his Grandparents,
  Paul and Helen Flessner
  100.00
  In honor of Rev. Kristopher Fuchs’ Great-Aunt Patricia Flessner
  Kuntschik’s 81st birthday celebration
  by Paul and Helen Flessner
  25.00
  Total $1,165.00

- Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7
  Previously reported $10,075.00
  Donation by Soila Sanchez
  20.00
  Total $10,095.00

- Rev. Theophil Okruhlik and Rev. Vincent Verderame Seminary Burse
  Previously reported $10,512.89
  In memory of Anton Okruhlik by
  Geralyn and Charles Klimitchek
  25.00
  Total $10,537.89

- Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse
  Previously reported $4,000.00
  Birthday blessings for Chelsea
  25.00
  Birthday blessings for Katelyn
  25.00
  In memory of Mildred Kalinec
  25.00
  Total $4,075.00

- Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse #2
  Previously reported $1,984.50
  In memory of deceased Stryk and Lev Family members by Dan Stryk
  50.00
  Total $2,034.50

- Cora Wostarek Seminary Burse
  Previously reported $5,750.00
  Donation in memory of Justin and Cora Wostarek by
  M/M DeWayne Dvorak
  1,000.00
  Total $6,750.00

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

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

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Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

**May 8**
10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Church, Hillje

**May 15**
10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes, Edna

**May 22**
9:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton

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The Catholic Lighthouse
May 2016

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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

Pray for Vocations

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[Image of Incarnate Word Gift Shop]
More Triumphs and Trials

(As the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrate the sesquicentennial of their foundation in Victoria, let us continue to review their story)

(Con’t from last month) The multi-day trip of those first Sisters by railroad from Port Lavaca may not have been an unusual experience at the time. Many parts of Texas did not even have rail transportation yet; the segment from Port Lavaca to Victoria had been completed in 1861, then destroyed during the U.S. Civil War, and then rebuilt by Union Troops during the Reconstruction following the Civil War. While travel by ship from port to port along the Gulf coast was quite dependable, most overland transportation was powered by oxen, mules, or horses. Roads, where they existed, often were muddy when it rained, or rutted and dusty when it didn’t rain. A newly-arrived nun from Ireland had written home that the peat bogs were nothing when compared with the Texan mud. A Galveston newspaper classified the roads in Victoria as the worst in the state. Travel by individuals, including the early missionaries to Texas, was best done on horseback.

According to some early accounts, the Sisters (and the Brothers who later staffed St. Joseph School in Victoria) on occasion traveled by buckboard, a wagon that had a board across the front that protected the driver and any passenger beside him from the horses’ hoofs and any mud that might be kicked up. I don’t know if the usual mode of transportation for the early religious in Texas was by private carriage or by part of the public transportation (wagons and stage coaches) which accompanied the mail service. I do remember reading about the early Brothers at St. Joseph School in Victoria returning to their headquarters in San Antonio in 1906 via stage coach. They started out early in the morning, rode all day and night with short stops to change horses, and arrived in San Antonio at the end of the next day. They were exhausted and some were seasick from the constant swaying of the suspended carriage body and the jolting as they traveled over the primitive roads. One has to admire these pioneers whose ministry involved travel that now is done on hard-topped roads, in short periods of time in climate-controlled comfort.

As we had noted before, in spite of various trials, the Sisters and their “Convent School” were off to a successful start. I would imagine that their presence would have been a stabilizing force in Victoria during the aftermath of the Civil War. There were simmering hostilities, even among Catholics, between the former Confederates and those whose sympathies and loyalty may have been with the Union. The some 2000 citizens (1860 census indicated a population of 1896, including 521 slaves) were adjusting to a new way of understanding the human rights of each of God’s children after the announcement in Galveston on June 19, 1865, that all slaves were to be freed. If they, as many did, continued to work for their former masters they were to be paid.

Unfortunately, the evil institution of slavery had been accepted as part of life by many of the property owners of the South. Prior to the war, Catholic slaveholders were obliged to make sure that their slaves were to receive religious education, that their marriages were to be respected and that their families would not be separated. After the slaves were freed the U.S. Bishops (yes, the Bishops met periodically) declared that the Bishops and priests were to see that the Church would take care of the spiritual needs of the recently freed persons. Unfortunately, for many of them to be fully integrated into society would be a long pains-taking journey.

Today, as we face the cultural, political, and social upheavals of our times, we may find it enriching to remember how our early pioneers brought awareness of the presence of God to their era through their faith and generosity. With the help of God’s grace, may we continue their legacy!
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Principal To Bid Fond Farewell

YOAKUM—St. Joseph Elementary, Yoakum, will be bidding a fond farewell to its current principal, Susan Kelley, who will be resigning at the close of this school year. The school family expresses their sincere appreciation and debt of gratitude to Mrs. Susan Kelley, who has been at the helm of St. Joseph Elementary for the past nine years. Susan began working at St. Joseph Elementary as a teacher in the late 1990s. Due to family obligations, Susan took a few years off from teaching at St. Joseph, but returned and became its principal in 2007. Since that time, Mrs. Kelley has been the school administrator and has successfully led the school through its most recent accreditation of 2014.

Susan received her Bachelor of Science in Education, as a Magna Cum Laude graduate, in 1986, from Texas A&M, College Station. She received her Master’s degree in Education, in 2013, from the University of Houston, Victoria.

Susan is a resident of Yoakum, where she lives with her husband. She is the mother of two adult children, one of whom, Lindsay, is the first grade teacher at St. Joseph Elementary.

Susan has served as both a team member and chairperson of accreditation teams for the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department during her tenure. She has also been responsible for leading St. Joseph Elementary through its recent renovation process and continues to be a supportive parishioner of St. Joseph.

Thanks and well wishes go with Susan, as she embarks on the next phase of her educational career.

Susan Kelley

St. Rose Receives KJT Catholic School Grant 2016

SCHULENBURG—St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Schulenburg, requested financial aid to purchase “The Way of The Cross” booklets for use during the Lenten Season. St. Augustine KJT Society #129 of Schulenburg applied for the “KJT Catholic School Grant” provided by The Catholic Union of Texas, The KJT Home Office. The request was approved and St. Augustine’s Society’s Level II Award for 2015 program performance accomplishments qualified for a $400 grant.

A $400 check was presented to Ms. Rosanne E. Gallia, Principal of St. Rose by Society #129 President, Matthew Prihoda upon receipt of the funds.

Holy Family K of C Council #9088 Presents the Fourteenth Annual Fishing Tournament

August 5 & 6 Port O’Connor Community Center

Door Prizes Cash Prizes Raffle

For information on entrees, contact: www.nazarethacademy.org Sister Ann Meletio at 361-485-2044 Julie Fulgham at 979-649-5516 George Wenzel at 361-649-7707 All Proceeds Benefit Nazareth Academy School, Victoria

Congratulations Dr. Quary

Superintendent of Catholic Schools of Victoria, John Quary recently finished and earned his Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership, Ed.D from Lamar University. He felt called to pursue his doctorate for a number of years and feels blessed to have accomplished this life goal.

Sister Ann Meletio at 361-485-2044 Julie Fulgham at 979-649-5516 George Wenzel at 361-649-7707 All Proceeds Benefit Nazareth Academy School, Victoria
2016
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

Camp David 2016
Registration Now Open!

A fun-filled overnight retreat offered for junior high age (student entering 6th or finishing 8th grade) and a day camp for elementary (students entering 3rd grade to students entering 5th grade). A trained staff of high school and college youth, supervised by qualified adults, from throughout the diocese offer caring relationships to assist these young people. Two different overnight sessions will be offered. The first one is Sunday, June 12 at 5:30 p.m. and ending at noon on Tuesday, June 14. The second session begins Wednesday, June 15 at 5:30 p.m. and ends at noon on Friday, June 17.

The cost per person is $65 (includes food and lodging for two nights). Space is limited to 50 participants per session and registration will close when this number is reached. A $20 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a space. This deposit is considered part of the registration fee so the balance due after the deposit is $45. If you wish to order a 2016 Camp David t-shirt, please include an additional $10 with your deposit.

The elementary day camp cost $15 per person, which includes food and all craft supplies. Pre-ordered t-shirts are available for $10. Space is limited and will close when spots are filled.

For more information call the Youth Office at (361) 573-0828 or visit the website at www.victoriadiocese.org.

The Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament Was Held on April 22

The Knights of Columbus Council #9088 from Holy Family Victoria were sponsors for the Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament. Pictured, left, are KC members playing dominoes.

The proceeds from this tournament are used by the youth and vocation offices. This year the tournament honored Father Dan Morales. Bishop Cahill is pictured writing a few words on a poster for Fa-
Catechesis: What’s In The Name?  
An Opportunity For Online Catechist Formation

As Summer approaches, the Office of Catechetical Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria is looking forward to working with Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs) and Catechists as they continue their catechetical formation through the online program ECHOES 3.0. This online program makes it easier for PCLs and catechists to receive their on-going catechetical formation throughout the year, in the convenience of their own homes.

At the heart of catechesis is the person of Jesus Christ, the center of the Christian message of salvation. Therefore, catechesis must explicitly and consistently proclaim the name, teaching, promises, and mystery of Jesus Christ, who is the Truth. Its purpose is to promote a conversion to Jesus Christ, and develop a personal relationship with Christ through prayer and the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist.

Catechesis (a Greek word, meaning “to echo”) is the name given to all “the efforts within the Church to make disciples, to help people believe that Jesus is the Son of God, so that believing they might have life in his name, and to educate and instruct them in this life and thus build up the Body of Christ.” (Catechesi Tradendae #1)

Catechesis is central to the Church’s mission of evangelization. If there were no catechesis, our initial faith would not mature. We would not have a deeper knowledge of the person and message of Jesus Christ. Our ongoing discipleship in Christ would not be fostered. The seeds of faith would not be nurtured. A deeper understanding of the mystery of Christ would not be developed.

Therefore, catechesis aims to make each person’s faith living, explicit and active through the light of instruction. Every form of catechesis is directed in some way to the catechesis of adults because they are capable of a more full response to God’s word. Therefore, catechesis is a lifelong process for the individual and the Christian community.

Because a catechist is called by God to “echo God’s word”, that calling is dependent on ongoing formation in the Catholic faith as well as a life of prayer. Having this formation, the catechist as well as the parish catechetical leader is sent to catechize or “echo” God’s Word to children, youth, and adults.

To help PCLs and catechists in their formation, the Pastoral Institute through the Catechetical Office is offering an online catechetical formation program called ECHOES 3.0. This program is a free gift to the PCLs and catechists of every parish in the diocese, which has been made available through funds from the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA).

To register for ECHOES 3.0, PCLs and catechists are encouraged to go to www.victoriadiocese.org, click on “Ministries”, scroll down to “Pastoral Institute Echoes 3.0”, click on “online registration”, read the instructions, complete the form and submit it. You will receive an email from msturm@victoriadiocese.org with instructions and an activation code to proceed.

Echoes 3.0 consists of fourteen modules that answer three essential questions new and old catechists ask: Who am I and what do I do? (three Catechist Modules) What do I teach? (six Theology Modules) How do I teach? (four Methods Modules) and a Human Development Module. Echoes 3.0 also has in-depth interviews by recognized experts in the catechetical field and bonus interviews and enrichment articles to extend learning.

The catechetical office encourages all PCLs and catechists to use Echoes 3.0 especially during the Summer months when perhaps there is more time to dedicate to catechetical formation. If anyone has questions, call Christella Alvarez, Sr. Marian Sturm, IWBS, or Brenda Morales at (361) 573-0828 or email. Email addresses can be found on the Pastoral Institute Echoes 3.0 homepage.
Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann #369 Education Contest First Place winners who will advance to state are, front row (L-R): Darcy Leinen, Emily Chandler, Jose Andres Ramos, Ava Hale, and Julie Anna Stevens; back row (L-R): Logan Rivera, Reed Rivera, Andrew Barton, Faith Barton, Neha Chandra, and Hannah Kristynik.

CDA Court St. Ann Education Winners

Court St. Ann held their local Education Award Ceremony at the April 5th meeting to recognize students representing Our Lady of Victory, St. Joseph High School and the Barton Home School. The 1st Place winners in each Division advanced to the Texas State Education Award Competition.

The winners were as follows:

ESSAY
Elementary (Grades 3-5)
1st – Darcy Leinen (OLV);
2nd – Nathan Adamek (OLV);
3rd – Hannah Zimmerman (OLV)
Middle School (Grades 6-8)
1st – Reed Rivera (OLV);
2nd – Annabelle Gasaway (OLV);
3rd – Collin Omecinski (OLV)
High School (Grades 9-12)
1st – Andrew Barton (BHS);
2nd – Faith Barton (BHS);
3rd – Pranav Jain (STJ)

POETRY
Elementary (Grades 3-5)
1st – Ava Hale (OLV);
2nd – Nicholas Angerstein (OLV);
3rd – Carly DeDear (OLV) and Amelia Sparkman (OLV)
Middle School (Grades 6-8)
1st – Neha Chandra (OLV);
2nd – Raymond McCormick (OLV);
3rd – Quinn Ruschhaupt (OLV)
High School (Grades 9-12)
1st – Andrew Barton (BHS);
2nd – Benjamin Paul Adams (STJ)

COMPUTER ART
Elementary (Grades 3-5)
1st – Julie Anna Stevens (OLV);
2nd – Thomas Copeland (OLV)
Middle School (Grades 6-8)
1st – Reed Rivera (OLV);
2nd – Sarah Ybarra (OLV);
3rd – Matthew Barton (BHS)
High School (Grades 9-12)
1st – Logan Rivera (STJ)

Winners of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education Contest from Court Our Lady of the Gulf #2267 in Port Lavaca.

Education Contest Winners Named

PORT LAVACA—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Our Lady of the Gulf #2267 winners for the 2016 Education Contest were as follows:

Div. 1- Art
Stella Motl - 1st place
Christopher Villarreal- 2nd place
Kristina Villareal- 3rd place

Div. 2- Art
Erin Dent- 1st place
Melbourn Motl- 2nd place
Kristen Pham- 3rd place

Div. 1- Essay
Stella Motl- 1st place
Katie Carmichael- 2nd place
Alexis Odefey- 3rd place

Div. 2- Essay
Emily Llanes -1st place
Sara Doggett - 2nd place
Erin Dent- 3rd place

First place winners advanced to state.
A mother comforts her infant daughter at home. In his apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” (“The Joy of Love”), Pope Francis repeated his earlier reflection on motherhood: “Mothers are the strongest antidote to the spread of self-centered individualism. ... It is they who testify to the beauty of life.” Mother’s Day is May 8 this year. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

The Emmaus Center

Continued from pg. 1

The Emmaus Center currently offers three formats: individual, marital/couples and family counseling. The center looks forward to adding more support groups that include grief, parenting, healthy nutrition, addictions, retirement and more.

The Emmaus Center does not accept third party insurance. In order to provide professional and Christian-based counseling to as many people as possible, each session is $25, which is substantially lower than other counseling centers and individual therapists. Cash, credit cards and checks are accepted. Donations are also welcomed, to enable the Center to offer counseling services to those who cannot afford the established fee.

Appointment sessions are scheduled weekly, bi-weekly or as needed by calling (361) 212-0830.

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
VOLUNTEERS HONORED—The Seventeenth Annual Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented recently in Shiner by the Office of Catholic Schools. A dinner was served, followed by the presentation of the awards. Making the presentations were Bishop Brendan Cahill, Dr. John Quarry, Superintendent; and Janie Carrales, Administrative Assistant for Diocesan Catholic Schools. The recipients of the award for the year 2016 were front row (l-r): Angela Rabel, St. Michael School, Weimar; Heidi Easley, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Anna Rippamonti, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria; Cheryl Pavliska, Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville; Patricia Pesek, Shiner Catholic School (St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School); Shannon Armstrong, Our Lady of the Gulf School, Port Lavaca; Brittany Orsak, Holy Cross School, Bay City; back row (l-r) Bishop Brendan Cahill, Jeff Balcar, St. Philip School, El Campo; Ray Villa, St. Joseph School, Yoakum; Charles Russell Theut, St. Anthony School, Columbus; Chuck Pavliska, Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville; Walter Hermis, St. Rose School, Schulenburg; Greg Haynes, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; and Dr. John Quarry. Not pictured is Kim Noack, St. Michael School, Cuero.

LENT PROGRAM BENEFITS IWBS AFRICAN MISSION—St. Rose of Lima School decided their Lent project this year would be to collect money for Sr. Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, and her African Mission. She is a missionary to the Pokot people of northwestern Kenya in Rotu. Principal Rosanne Gallia presented a check to Sr. Laura Toman, IWBS, a check for $2,100. Sr. Laura has been on the mission trip before and said the money will be put to good use. The students collected the money by free will offering and Change for Change. For example, they paid to have a free dress day.

SRC RECEIVES GIFTS—The Spiritual Renewal Center recently received the gift of a brand new mule from Mr. and Mrs. David Delgado and a piano from Mr. and Mrs. Duane Kainer. It is with gratitude that Deacon Joe Duplan accepted these two gifts that will serve the needs of the center. Donations are always welcome and can be in memory of a loved one.

DIVINE MERCY—The Hallettsville Deanery celebrated the Jubilee Year of Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday with a procession around the courthouse square and back to Sacred Heart Catholic Church for the Chaplet of Mercy. Rev. Msgr. John Peters led the procession. Members of the Knights of Columbus and parishioners also processed with the group for Divine Mercy Sunday. Saint Pope John Paul II designated the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday.
MARRIED COUPLES RECOGNIZED—Daniel and Lillie Jemelka celebrated their 74th Wedding Anniversary with their family on Friday, March 18, at St. Joseph Church, in Yoakum as the parish gathered to observe the vigil of the patronal feast. Their anniversary was recognized, along with other notable anniversaries of other couples in the parish at the annual special Mass. Yoakum Council #1582 of the Knights of Columbus provided a fried fish dinner afterwards for all present. Pictured, left, are Daniel and Lillie Brom Jemelka who were married on April 6, 1942, at St. Joseph in Moulton, Texas. From the union came seven children, 25 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. The Jemelkas have been devout and active members of St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum where they have raised their family. Also pictured, at left, Fr. Patrick Knippenberg, Parochial Vicar and Fr. Matthew Huehlefeld, Pastor of St. Joseph Church.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN PLAYGROUND IS TOO MUDDY?—Come visit the chancery chapel. Our Lady of Victory 3-k class was unable to play on the playground due to the rain earlier, so the teachers brought them to the chancery. While in the chapel, they said their prayers. The children were excited and enjoyed it so much, they went home talking about their field trip.

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR—The 8th graders at St. Michael School, Weimar, traveled to Washington D.C. the first week in May. Each student was expected to research and then construct a replica of one of the sites they were to visit while in DC. They each gave a short presentation on their site. The following projects were completed: Lincoln Memorial, Holocaust Museum, Washington Monument, Vietnam Wall, FBI Building, White House, Iwo Jima, Jefferson Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, Supreme Court Building, and the Pentagon.
Passing of an Inspirational Pastor

Continued from pg. 1

I’ll never forget Father Sonnier - he was my first priest in Bay City at Holy Cross and was always interacting with us students at the school. He lived on campus and was always around. He invited us into his home on several occasions while he was cooking and I’ll always remember his Hawaiian shirts. God bless his soul.
- Jennifer Pustka Korinek

Father Charles Sonnier was a one of a kind. He was so wise and compassionate. For want of a better way of putting it, I “enjoyed” participating in funerals with him. He has a wonderful way of putting things. He loved to read, and was very well-versed. One of his favorites was Abbott von Zeller. He often quoted him. One of the things that I found most comforting was the way that he closed the casket. He did it himself, softly, slowly, and gently, all the while talking about the life of the person. The most comforting was his quoting Abbott von Zeller about death. He said the soul is a living, vibrant being, and there comes a time when the body can no longer contain it, and it leaves the body to return to the Father. How beautiful is that thought? How comforting to grieving loved ones... what a wonderful man of God.
- Denise Drozd

Some were:

He was the kindest man I’ve ever met. I worked for him for 27 years. He never once got angry or mad at me, and I know I deserved it on occasion.
- Lillie Janak, secretary
Queen of Peace Church
Sweet Home.

People were drawn by his unique style of ministry.
- Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor
St. Joseph Church in Yoakum

Father Sonnier was a wonderful man who meant a lot to our family, shared rest in peace.
- Mary Valadez Arias

He made me feel so welcome during Mass at Sacred Heart. He welcomed me as a Protestant to the table of communion. I respected him and embraced his invitation. He was a good man and will be rejoicing with the Angels.
- Amanda Hartley

“May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

Journeys of Faith with Ceci

Upcoming Pilgrimages

Rome Pilgrimage for Holy Year & Mercy Canonization of Bl. Theresa of Calcutta
August 30 - September 6 ~ $3,695
Spiritual Director: Fr. Michael Rother
Deposit Deadline: May 23, 2016

Lourdes-Fatima with Lisieux
October 2-14 ~ $3,895
Spiritual Director: Fr. Tommy Chen

Holy Land - A Pilgrimage of Prayer and Encounter with Bishop Brendan Cahill
January 23 - February 3, 2017 ~ $3,395
(early registration discount of $100 by June 1, 2016)
All prices include flights, hotels, guides and meals as per itinerary.
Ceci Triska · (979) 543-8575 (leave message)
ceci.triska@gmail.com · www.selectinternationaltours.com

WE WALK - WE PRAY—On Monday, April 11, Shiner Catholic School held its 30th Annual Marathon. This year’s theme was “We Walk - We Pray”. The Marathon is an extension of SCS faith and an avenue in which to teach students to stop and think beyond their own needs and reflect and pray for the intentions of others. In the weeks before the Marathon, students gathered pledges and prayer intentions. Marathon day started with an all school Mass dedicated to the monastery of St. Clare in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she will be laid to rest with the Sisters there in the mortuary chapel.

As many may recall Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369 in Victoria had sponsored them when they came to Victoria in 1987. Sr. Katherine was one of the last to leave here.

According to the June 2007 issue of The Catholic Lighthouse at a public farewell in April Sister Katherine joyfully, yet sternly, said, “It isn’t good-bye, it’s until we meet again.”

On May 16 the Sisters held one last Mass at the monastery prior to taking down the altar. It was a small, quiet Mass with their closest friends and benefactors. They left Victoria the following morning.

In Memory of...
Sr. Katherine Vallone

The Catholic Lighthouse at a public farewell in April Sister Katherine joyfully, yet sternly, said, “It isn’t good-bye, it’s until we meet again.”

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Fr. David Berger with Sr. Katherine Vallone.
(TCL file photo, 2007)
When Your Phone Becomes Your Prayer Book

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh
Director of Media Relations, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Many media snickered when the Vatican announced that people who followed the World Youth Day pilgrimage via social media could derive the same spiritual benefits earned by those present in Rio de Janeiro for the international church event. Were they worried that it made a spiritual effort too easy?

Certainly tuning in on social media is a far stretch from the work of Chaucer’s pilgrims of the Canterbury Tales. But from the church’s standpoint, social media allows World Youth Day to include those who could not travel to walk alongside the youth on pilgrimage.

Going social media follows the church’s tradition of keeping up with the communications arts. No surprise here. In the mid-eighties, the Vatican announced people could receive the pope’s Urbi et Orbi (To the city and to the world) apostolic blessing on Christmas and Easter via TV without standing in St. Peter’s Square. Earlier in that century the church moved into the then-new medium, radio. Guglielmo Marconi considered the inventor of the new medium, launched Vatican Radio in 1931. The worldwide service now airs in 47 languages. Voice of America went on the air in 1942.

To bring the Gospel into people’s lives, the Church has no choice but to engage with contemporary media. Given what some consider the usual glacial movement of the Holy See — when you’re 2,000 years old, why hurry? — the Church has entered social media with lightning speed. After all, the World Wide Web only took off in the mid-90s. Facebook was born in 2004, Twitter in 2006.

The church searches for ways to use media for its mission. For those who want a few moments with Scripture, for example, the U.S. bishops accommodate them with daily readings and a meditation on them via www.usccb.org/bible.

For those who want to spend more time with daily prayer the Irish Jesuits have Sacred Space at www.sacredspace.ie. Such media aids have replaced the prayer books of a generation or more ago. For many, iPhones have become prayer books. One may not find the same religious sensory appeal in holding an iPad as in holding a Bible, but that downside may be offset by the accessibility to Scripture found on the Web.

Church entrepreneurs have developed apps for everything from the rosary to the Divine Office. (Caution: Don’t judge someone looking at his phone before Mass — he may be praying the Liturgy of the Hours, as the Office is called.)

Pope Francis tweets virtually every day with challenging and inspiring messages. USCCB shares them via USCCB Facebook and Twitter accounts. It’s a spiritual boost from the man who is charming the world with his down-to-earth spirituality. It’s also a connection with the Vicar of Christ.

Believers accept the fact that God is everywhere. It shouldn’t surprise us when God shows up in social media.

What does the word “Pentecost” mean?

The English word “Pentecost” is a transliteration of the Greek word pentekostos, which means “fifty.” It comes from the ancient Christian expression pentekostē hemera, which means “fiftieth day.”

But Christians did not invent the phrase “fiftieth day.” Rather, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday. This holiday was known as the Festival of Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks (Shavuot in Hebrew). This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or “fifty days” from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday (pentekonta hemeras in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture).

Shavuot was the second great feast in Israel’s yearly cycle of holy days. It was originally a harvest festival (Exodus 23:16), but, in time, turned into a day to commemorate the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. This day became especially signifi-
Obispo Brendan Cahill - Ven Espíritu Santo

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

En el segundo volumen de su libro Creo en el Espíritu Santo, el Teólogo Dominico, Yves Congar cita la primera homilía que San Juan Crisóstomo dio en la Fiesta de Pentecostés. Siempre me ha impresionado el poder de esta homilía, que viene de la tradición de la iglesia y me gustaría compartir una parte con ustedes mientras que celebramos la fiesta de Pentecostés la semana de mayo 14-15.

"ustedes como los iniciados saben que el sacerdote no toca las ofrendas antes de que él ha implorado por ustedes la gracia del Señor o antes de que hayan contestado: ‘Y con tu espíritu’. Esta respuesta le recuerda que él que está allí no hace nada solo y que tu espíritu’. Esta respuesta le recuerda que no toca las ofrendas antes de que él ha

Desde el momento en que el Espíritu Santo descendió sobre los discípulos en el primer Pentecostés, el Espíritu Santo ha reunido a la comunidad para ofrecer la gracia de Dios. La Eucaristía domínica es la experiencia más completa de esta realidad de nuestra fe. Cada domingo que nos reunimos en la iglesia reconocemos que la gracia del Espíritu Santo ha descendido sobre todos nosotros. El Espíritu Santo abre nuestros corazones y ojos para ver la verdad más profunda de nuestras vidas, y nos da la libertad de los hijos de Dios. Alguien podría preguntar: “Obispo, a qué parece esta verdad y libertad?” Los Hechos de los Apóstoles están llenos de ejemplos de esta vida, permitanme dar un ejemplo. Actos 7:61-8:1 documenta las últimas palabras de San Esteban, mientras que fue asesinado por una turba enfurecida –“Señor, no mantenga este pecado contra ellos” y observa que “Saul aprobó de su muerte”. La libertad de San Esteban amar y rezar por sus perseguidores puede haber sido un instrumento de la gracia de Dios llevando a la conversión eventual de Saulo. La verdad más profunda de la vida de Saúl no era que él era un asesino desenfocado, sino que él estaba tratando de dar su vida completamente a Dios. Por fin, llegó a conocer la verdad acerca de Dios cuando Jesús personalmente habló con él. Con su conversión personal y testimonio a Jesús recibió la reconciliación que viene a través del perdón y se llamaría una “nueva creación”.

Cuando una persona puede llegar a un punto en la vida donde él o ella no está gobernado por el miedo, la indignación o resentimiento, y pueden ofrecer una oración verdadera y compasiva, hasta para un enemigo- esta persona experimenta una libertad que viene del poder del Espíritu Santo de Dios. Creo que podemos ver ejemplos de este tipo de libertad y poder cada día. Es evidente cuando una persona puede alejarse de las siete fuentes mortales de pecado - orgullo, envidia, glotonería, lujuria, ira, pereza, avaricia – y ofrecer amor y servicio a otro ser humano. Una de mis oraciones para nosotros este Pentecostés es que como individuos y como un cuerpo unido de Cristo podemos recibir una nueva efusión del Espíritu Santo Quien nos llama constantemente juntos, enseñándonos la verdad sobre Dios y abriendo nuestros corazones para amar el uno al otro.

Que ustedes y sus familias sean bendecidos en esta temporada, gracias por las muchas maneras en que ustedes me muestran la verdad y la libertad del Espíritu Santo cada día.

Brendan+

Habrá Que Compartir La Verdad De La Familia Con Misericordia Y Ayudar A Los Que Se Las Ven Duras, Dice El Papa

Por Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Deberá demostrárseles la misma misericordia y paciencia que son esenciales para edificar una familia fuerte a aquellos cuya familia se encuentra en problemas o se ha disuelto, dijo el papa Francisco en su altamente anticipada exhortación posterior al Sínodo.

El documento lleva el título en latín de ‘Amoris Laetitia’ (La alegría del amor) y el subtítulo de “Amor en la familia” y fue dado a conocer el 8 de abril. No contiene nuevas reglas o normas; sin embargo, en él se estimula a que se haga un cuidadosa revisión de las enseñanzas de la iglesia y se ejerza el ministerio con aquellas personas que no viven del todo conforme tales enseñanzas.

“Ninguna familia cae del cielo perfectamente formada. Las familias necesitan un constante crecimiento y adquisición de madurez en su capacidad de amor”, escribió el papa Francisco. Las personas crecen en santidad y la iglesia debe de estar presente allí para darles una mano y no para ahuyentarlos porque no han adquirido cierto grado de perfección.

En la exhortación se encuentran las reflexiones que hizo el papa Francisco sobre las discusiones, debates y sugerencias que se tuvieron durante las reuniones del 2014 y 2015 en el Sínodo de obispos en relación a la familia. Y de la misma manera como lo expresaron los miembros del Sínodo, el papa insistió en que el plan de Dios para la familia es el que se edifique una unión de por vida entre un hombre y una mujer, dispuestos a procrear hijos.

Los miembros del Sínodo, incluyendo sacerdotes, religiosos y seglares que actuaron como expertos y observadores, hablaron de todo, desde formas diversas de hacer la corte hasta la preparación del matrimonio; y los efectos que causa la inmigración en las familias y en el cuidado de padres ancianos.

En su documento, el papa Francisco toca todos los asuntos presentados en el Sínodo y da consejos prácticos de cómo educar a los hijos, pide una revisión de los programas de educación sexual y lamenta las muchas formas de “una cultura del descarte” que se ha colado en la vida de familia y en la sexualidad, al extremo que muchas personas se sienten libres de usar al prójimo y después irse camuflada.

“Cada uno usa y tira, toma y destruye, explota y exprime hasta la última gota; y después, adiós”, escribió.

La mayor parte del documento se enlaza con el tema de la misericordia de Dios, incluyendo la discusión del papa sobre dar la bienvenida a las personas vulnerables.

“La dedicación y preocupación que se les demuestran a los inmigrantes y a las personas que tienen necesidades particulares por igual es una señal del Espíritu”, escribió. Ambas propuestas son “un examen de nuestro compromiso de demostrar misericordia al darle la bienvenida a otros y al ayudar a que las personas vulnerables formen parte completa de nuestra comunidad”.

Los temas tratados en el Sínodo que atrajeron mayor número de titulares en los medios de difusión giraron sobre la cuestión de darles o no la Sagrada Comunión a las personas divorciadas y vueltas a casar por el civil, como también las actitudes de los católicos ante la homosexeualidad.

“De ninguna manera debe la iglesia desistir de proponer un ideal completo del matrimonio, del plan de Dios en toda su grandeza”, dijo el papa Francisco.

Y el papa Francisco insistió, como
Habrá Que Compartir
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lo hicieron los miembros del Sínodo, en que la iglesia no puede considerar como matrimonio la unión de dos personas del mismo sexo; pero también insistió en que “se debe de respetar en toda su dignidad a cada persona sin consideración de su orientación sexual”.

Sobre la cuestión de familias que experimentan dificultades, separación o, incluso, el divorcio y un nuevo matrimonio, el papa Francisco dijo que en las respuestas recibidas del cuestionario que se envió por todo el mundo antes del Sínodo “se demuestra que la mayoría de las personas que se encuentran en dificultades o situaciones críticas no se acercan al pastor para buscar ayuda pues no la encuentran para casos individuales”.

En las respuestas, escribió el papa, se le hace un llamado a la iglesia para que “se trate un acercamiento de mayor sensibilidad ante el peso de pena y ansiedad para con los matrimonios en crisis”.

Especially en el ministerio de personas católicas que se hayan divorciado y se hayan vuelto a casar por el civil, dijo el papa Francisco, los pastores deben ayudar a cada pareja a que analicen sus respectivas acciones y circunstancias, a que reconozcan su parte de responsabilidad por la ruptura del matrimonio, que acepten las enseñanzas de la iglesia de que el matrimonio es indisoluble y a que adquieran un discernimiento de lo que Dios los llama a hacer por medio de una vida de oración.

El papa Francisco dijo que sería “un serio peligro” darle la impresión a la gente de que “cualquier sacerdote pudiera en forma rápida conceder ‘excepciones’ y de que algunas personas pudieran obtener privilegios sacramentales a cambio de favores”.

Pero, al mismo tiempo, insistió el papa, “la forma en la que la iglesia debe de conducirse no es la de condenar por siempre a nadie; y sí es la de derramar el bálsamo de misericordia de Dios sobre todo a aquél que lo pide con corazón sincero”.

A las parejas divorciadas y vueltas a casar por el civil, especialmente las que tienen hijos, se les debe de recibir en las parroquias católicas y se deben de apoyar sus esfuerzos en la educación dentro de la fe de sus hijos respectivos.

Generalmente, sin anulación del matrimonio sacramental, a tal pareja no se le permitirá acercarse a la Comunión ni a la absolución de sus pecados, a menos que prometan vivir “como hermano y hermana”. Sin embargo, cada situación es diferente, dijo el papa, y es por esto que la iglesia no necesita nuevas reglas sino un nuevo compromiso por parte de los pastores a fin de que brinden guía espiritual y asistencia con discernimiento.

La diversidad de situaciones; como por ejemplo, la situación de la esposa que ha sido abandonada en contraste con la esposa que fue quien abandonó, hace que no sea sabio establecer “un nuevo grupo de reglas generales, de naturaleza canónica y aplicables a todos los casos”, escribió el papa. Y haciendo una cita de San Juan Pablo II, dijo: “Debido a que el grado de responsabilidad no es igual en todos los casos, las consecuencias o efectos de una regla no necesitan ser siempre iguales”.

Y refiriéndose a aquellas personas que creen que permitirles a las personas católicas divorciadas y vueltas a casar que reciban la Comunión debilita las enseñanzas de la iglesia sobre la indisolubilidad del matrimonio, dijo el papa, “puesto que las personas que quieren, alguien las ayuda a que la vayan de su significado concreto y su significado real. Esa es la peor manera de debilitar el Evangelio”.

En muchos aspectos, escribió el papa Francisco, los mismos miembros de la iglesia han presentado y promovido tal pintura deprimente de la vida de casado que muchas personas no quieren nada con eso, aunque sueñen con un amor que dure toda una vida y sea fiel.

El papel de la conciencia individual aparece con frecuencia en el documento, no solamente en cuanto a la situación de las personas que determinen que su nueva unión sea lo mejor para la familia, sino también en cuanto a decisiones del número de hijos que se quiera procrear.

El papa Francisco alabó la encíclica del beato Pablo VI, llamada en latín “Humanae Vitae” (Sobre la vida humana), en la que se insiste en que cada acto sexual dentro del matrimonio debe de estar abierto a la posibilidad de preñez, y se incluye una larga sección en la que se reitera lo que ha llegado a conocerse como “la teología del cuerpo” atribuida a San Juan Pablo II”.

El santo padre se opuso a la idea antiqua por la que se consideraba “la dimensión erótica del amor simplemente un mal permisible o un yugo que debía tolerarse por el bien de la familia”, dijo el papa Francisco. “En lugar de eso, se debe de ver como dón de Dios que enriquece la relación entre los esposos”.

El papa Francisco les hizo un llamado a los dirigentes de la iglesia para que asegure que un mayor número de parejas casadas se involucre como dirigentes en el diseño y desarrollo de programas pastorales para la familia. El testimonio de esas personas es algo clave, dijo.

“El amor marital no se define en principio presentándolo como deber o repitiendo la doctrina; sino ayudando a que crezca aún más fuerte bajo el impulso de la gracia”, dijo. “Un amor que no crece está en riesgo. El crecimiento solamente puede ocurrir si nosotros respondemos a la gracia de Dios por medio de actos constantes de amor, actos de bondad que se hagan todavía más frecuentes, más intensos, más generosos, más tiernos y más entusiastas”.

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**NOTA**

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Alabama’s coach, wife devoted members of Catholic parish on campus

By Paul Dykewicz
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The University of Alabama’s national championship-winning football coach Nick Saban and his wife, Terry, have teamed up to be advocates and donors to support two major construction projects at the Catholic church on campus where they worship.

At St. Francis of Assisi Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, construction is underway for a $1.9 million, 4,600-square-foot Saban Catholic Student Center. It is scheduled for completion this August so students who arrive this fall will be able to use it. That endeavor follows closely behind the building of a $6.8 million, 750-seat church that includes a 50-seat chapel for daily Mass, with an adjacent parking lot needed for a growing congregation.

Saban, whom Fortune magazine recently named the world’s 11th best leader for 2016, and his wife have been consistent Sunday Massgoers at the campus church since the coach’s 2007 arrival at Alabama, joining roughly 800 families and 800 to 900 students who regularly attend Mass there, said Father Gerald Holloway, the football team’s chaplain and former pastor at the church.

In fact, the coach attends the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass with such regularity when he is in town that Alabama alumni began calling that liturgy “Nick at Nine,” Father Holloway added.

The Saban Catholic Student Center will have three main spaces, including a study room that can be used for instructional purposes, for large group meetings and for hosting guest speakers, said Father Tom Ackerman, who last July succeeded Father Holloway as St. Francis of Assisi’s pastor.

“This will be a flexible space for our parish and will provide many opportunities for our ministries,” Father Ackerman said in a telephone interview. “The center space will be a gathering room in which our parish and students can assemble in fellowship for casual gatherings. Finally, a recreation space will be located within the new building and will include fun and exciting opportunities for our students.”

Site work for the project began earlier this year, the priest said.

Roughly $1.4 million of the approximately $1.9 million price of the student center’s construction has been raised and another $129,540 has been pledged, Father Ackerman said.

The new church was built while Father Holloway was pastor and $1.46 million of the $6.8 million total remains outstanding. Saban and his wife have spoken at the parish to assist in fundraising efforts.

“When they are in town, they’re here,” Father Ackerman said, adding that the Sabans are joined at church by the coach’s mother when she visits them.

Somehow, Saban even managed to arrive in time for the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass Dec. 13, even though the previous evening he was in New York City for the Heisman Trophy award presentation to his team’s star running back, Derrick Henry.

“My observance is that people have gotten used to them being there (at church), and they don’t garner a lot of extra attention,” said Father Ackerman, who was a student at the University of Alabama in the late 1980s. “They sort of come in and go out.”

Both Saban and his wife spoke to kick off the fundraising campaign for the church project, the priest said. They also made a “substantial contribution” of seed money for the Saban Student Center that parish leaders chose to name in honor of the coach and his family, with their permission.

Terry Saban has addressed the congregation at Mass on the Sundays after football games in the fall to seek additional donations for the student center. She has proven to be “quite an effective speaker,” Father Ackerman said.

He recalled that in remarks at the Feb. 1 groundbreaking for the student center, Coach Saban said he asks his players if they pray to be blessed or pray to be a blessing to other people.

“As Christians, we should not be looking after ourselves but looking to help others,” Father Ackerman said.

Father Holloway, now an associate pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Hoover, Alabama, has been the football team’s chaplain for the past 13 years.

A chaplain’s contributions to a football team can be meaningful, he said, even though critics contend public institutions should not provide such a spiritual presence.

Father Holloway says weekly Mass and leads pre-game and post-game prayers for Saban and his team during football season. Mass attendance is voluntary and anyone involved with the team who wants to come is welcomed, Father Holloway said. The Mass, which attracts “mostly Catholic players,” is celebrated Friday night when a Saturday game starts at 11 a.m. or is celebrated the morning of the gridiron contest when it is scheduled for 2 p.m. or later, he added.

The chaplain said he has received and carried out requests for prayers and one-on-one counseling with some of the student-athletes. He said some have spent time talking to him as they try to adjust to the demands of school and playing on the football team.

With Father Holloway’s transfer before last season to Prince of Peace Parish more than an hour drive away, those conversations are less likely to occur regularly.

However, Father John Fallon, the pastor there, is an avid “Bama fan” who Father Holloway said made it possible for him to continue his role as Saban’s team chaplain.

The Crimson Tide won its fourth national title Jan. 11 in just nine seasons with Saban as its coach and with Father Holloway as chaplain. The priest said he hoped he can remain the team’s chaplain, despite the distance of his latest parish assignment.

“It has been a tremendous blessing for me to be a part of the football team,” said Father Holloway, who added he tries to offer motivational words for Coach Saban and his team during his pre-game Mass homilies and prayers. The priest said he also attempts to help the student-athletes develop into productive citizens.
The Joy of the Family

Continued from pg. 1

where they are.

“The church,” he said, quoting the final report from the 2014-15 family synods, “must accompany with attention and care the weakest of her children, who show signs of a wounded and troubled love, by restoring in them hope and confidence ...” While not changing doctrine, Pope Francis conveys how necessary it is for the church to witness to the beauty and joy that abound when marriage and family life are centered on Christ -- even within all the messiness and realities of 21st-century humanity. This, he admits, is a challenge for the church. “We find it difficult to present marriage more as a dynamic path to personal development and fulfilment than as a lifelong burden,” he writes.

Yet this is what we are called to do. Unlike “Laudato Si’,” Francis’ encyclical on ecology that was addressed to “every person living on this planet,” “Amoris Laetitia” is addressed directly to Catholics. It is first and foremost a document written for the new evangelization. “We need to find the right language, arguments and forms of witness that can help us reach the hearts of young people, appealing to their capacity for generosity, commitment, love and even heroism, and in this way inviting them to take up the challenge of marriage with enthusiasm and courage,” he writes (No. 40).

In its practicality and accessibility, “Amoris Laetitia” is a highly effective document for encouraging and inspiring couples and families in the trenches of everyday life. The pope’s goal is the mission of the church: to bring Christ to people and the people to Christ. It is rich in practical advice and conveys a real understanding of humanity in all its successes and failings. It will be effective in offering support to couples and families and in renewing and sustaining their efforts to live as Christ intends.

Of course, “Amoris Laetitia” isn’t without its challenges. The eighth chapter alone, on “Accompanying, Discerning and Integrating Weakness,” has been the cause of much immediate consternation within the Catholic community. Some are concerned that the pope was too pastoral and still others that he wasn’t accommodating enough. Here, we echo the words of the pope himself, as well as many church leaders: that it is critical to read the document carefully, slowly and in its entirety. It is helpful, too, to remember that “Amoris Laetitia” is written fully within the context of Catholic teaching. Kurt Martens, a professor of canon law at The Catholic University of America, spells this out explicitly.

Perhaps the biggest loss, however, would be for Catholics to focus only on the controversy rather than on the majority of the content that is both rich and inspiring. “Amoris Laetitia” is an opportunity for evangelization. Let us embrace it.

NOTE:
The views or positions presented in this or any guest editorial are those of the individual publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Catholic News Service or of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
**ENTERTAINMENT**

“**The Huntsman: Winter’s War**” (Universal)

Positioned to bookend the action of 2012’s “Snow White and the Huntsman,” this lavishly-staged adventure -- at once a prequel and a sequel to the original -- is well intentioned but dull and derivative. Director Cedric Nicolas-Troyan and screenwriters Evan Spiliotopoulos and Craig Mazin have doubled up on everything from the first outing, matching their two time frames with a duo of wicked queens (Charlize Theron, Emily Blunt), a pair of rival kingdoms and a brace of brave huntsmen (Chris Hemsworth, Jessica Chastain). A quartet of dwarves (Nick Frost, Rob Brydon, Sheridan Smith and Alexandra Roach) is thrown in for good measure. With barely a nod to the Brothers Grimm, the filmmakers cobble together a silly plot involving a quest to locate a missing magic mirror and prevent it from falling into the wrong hands. Cartoonish action violence, implied premarital sexual activity, an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, a few crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The Top 10 Family Films

-- Directed by Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey, the wildlife documentary “Bears,” which follows the lives of an Alaskan brown bear and her two cubs, is a marvel of moments great and small captured in stunning cinematography (G -- general audiences).

-- In the action-packed animated adventure “Big Hero 6,” a teenage inventor (voice of Ryan Potter) uncovers an evil conspiracy, then assembles an unlikely team of aspiring superheroes to fight it. Directors Don Hall and Chris Williams’ loose adaptation of a series of Marvel comics offers good lessons in friendship, self-sacrifice, and resisting temptation (A-II).

-- With “The Boxtrolls,” Alan Snow’s 2005 children’s novel “Here Be Monsters!” becomes a charmingly bizarre screen fable about rich and poor, featuring first-rate voice work by Jared Harris, Ben Kingsley and Elle Fanning. Directors Graham Annable and Anthony Stacchi use stunning animation to celebrate family, loyalty and cooperation (A-II).

-- The big guy with the red, white, and blue shield (Chris Evans) returns to save the planet in the rousing sequel “Captain America: The Winter Soldier.” Directors (and brothers) Anthony and Joe Russo’s extension of the Marvel Comics franchise is sure to please fans of the superhero with its patriotic, gung-ho tone and grandiose action sequences (A-II, PG-13).

-- “Dolphin Tale 2” continues the real-life story of Winter, the female dolphin with the prosthetic tail. As her original rescuers (Nathan Gamble and Cozi Zuehlsdorff) help her face a new crisis, returning director Charles Martin Smith delivers a wholesome movie that carries valuable messages about responsibility and perseverance.

-- Director and co-writer Peter Jack-son’s trilogy of films based on Catholic novelist J.R.R. Tolkien’s 1937 fantasy for children reaches a rousing finale in “The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies.” The warping effects of avarice are poised against the redeeming consequences of heroic selflessness as the title character (Martin Freeman) concludes his many adventures (A-II, PG-13).

-- In the animated sequel “How to Train Your Dragon 2” -- adapted, like its predecessor, from Cressida Cowell’s series children’s books -- writer-director Dean DeBlois oversees the creation of outstanding visuals as he charts the ongoing efforts of an enlightened Viking (voice of Jay Baruchel) to protect dragons from human prejudice.

-- “The Lego Movie” centers on an ordinary construction worker (voice of Chris Pratt) who finds himself taken for a prophesied hero. Colorful, fast-paced and diverting, directors and co-writers Phil Lord and Christopher Miller’s animated adventure is also surprisingly pointed in its satire of conformist consumerism.

-- “Muppets Most Wanted,” another sprightly musical outing for the beloved puppet ensemble created by Jim Henson, hinges on the most unlikely of plot twists: Kermit the Frog’s (voice of Steve Whitmire) confinement in a Siberian gulag. Director and co-writer James Bobin’s follow-up to his 2011 franchise re-launch combines singing, dancing, innocent humor and entertaining cameos.

-- Comic possibilities drive the free-wheeling plot of directors Eric Darnell and Simon J. Smith’s lark, “Penguins of Madagascar.” As it trots around the globe following a quartet of the title creatures, this animated espionage-themed adventure instills lessons about the positive results of loyalty, teamwork and cooperation.

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**Puzzle Prize Winners Announced**

Thank you to all who sent in the completed crossword puzzles. The following will receive a book compliments of Eli’s Spiritual Treasures: Emily Sulak, Mary Ann Pavliska, Martha Stika, Cresencia Longoria, Sylvia Berger, Anthony Petru, Lillian Kohleffel, JoAnn Swoboda, Tammy Wittig, Trey Lawrence, and Sylvia Peter. The next crossword puzzle will be published in Spanish for the first time in the June paper and again in the August issue of the Lighthouse in English.

**Retrouvaille™**

August 12-14, 2016

Diocese of Victoria Spiritual Renewal Center

**FOR MARRIED COUPLES WHO ARE:**
- Anxious about their marriage relationship
- Alone or distant from their spouse
- Disillusioned or bored in their marriage
- Without the time or desire to communicate
- Experiencing coldness or conflict
- Frustrated, hurt or angry with their spouse
- Unable to see how to change their situation

For confidential inquires call: (800) 470-2230 or visit our web site at www.retrouvaille.org
Cuero—St. Michael Festival, May 22, at the parish hall. A roast beef dinner served at 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., $10 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Games, country store, plant store, auction begins at 12:30 p.m. See ad on pg. 5.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 29, at the KC Hall. A fried chicken and stew dinner with homemade cornbread dressing starting at 10:30 a.m. at $9 p/p dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available. Lots of entertainment, see pg. 9 for more information.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 29, at the KC Hall. A three meat dinner, stew, fried chicken and sausage, served from 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at $10 p/p. Plates-to-go available at Kaspar Pavilion at Green-Dixon Park. Games, auction, dance and much more, see ad on pg. 17 for more information.

East Bernard—Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival, Saturday, June 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Hall sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. Admission is $8 p/p and children 12 and under free. Entertainment indoors and under pavilion with water fan cooled comfort. Sausage/BBQ chicken plate lunches available beginning at 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers and sausage sandwiches available in the afternoon. Arts/crafts and family fun. For more information, go to www.kkfest.com or call 979-335-7907.

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe BBQ and live auction, June 12, at the parish gym. A beef brisket dinner served from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at $8 p/p. The auction begins at 11:30 a.m. See pg. 16 for ad.

Port Lavaca—Court Our Lady of the Gulf #2267 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas annual games party, June 12, 1:00-5:00 p.m. at St. Jude’s Hall, 300 W. Austin St., $7 p/p. Bring your favorite game to play, also enjoying a variety of refreshments. Along with door prizes, a raffle and silent auction and country store. For more information or table reservations, please call Margaret (361) 552-3233, Doris (361) 987-2387, or Georgia (361) 552-6844.

St. Mary—St. Mary Picnic June 12, at the parish hall (1648 FM 340) just outside of Hallettsville. Mass will be celebrated at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m., $9 p/p. Auction, bingo, cake and plant walk, country store, children’s games, raffle and more! Cold refreshments and food all afternoon. Live music 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. by Texas Sound Check, J & S Playboys, and Red Ravens.

Schulenburger—St. Rose of Lima Annual Parish Picnic June 12, at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m.

Plum—Sts. Peter and Paul Feast, June 26, serving sausage and fried chicken from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., auction at 1:30 p.m., music during the day by Ken Brothers, free dance from 7 to 10:30 PM with music by the Incredible Music Makers.

Dubina—Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Feast July 3, Mass at 8:45 a.m. A fried chicken and sausage dinner begins at 11:00 a.m., auction at 1:30 p.m. Music by Shiner Hobo Band, Mark Halata & Texavia and Incredible Music Makers. Games and more. Washer Pitching Tournament 4:00 p.m.

St. John—St. John Parish Picnic, July 4, with Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by a stew and fried chicken dinner at 10:30 a.m. at $9 p/p. Auction at 12:30 p.m.

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 minister 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.

Engaged Encounter—June 3-5, Sept. 16-18, 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—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.

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 (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (361) 865-3021, (361) 874-5200 or susannekoch614@gmail.com. Retrouvaille—Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

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

This may well be the most misunderstood sacrament; and yet it is essential to our formation and growth in the Catholic Church. When children are baptized, they are washed clean of their original sin and they are baptized by water and the Spirit. We say that it is the new and definitive birth that they experience. They are already born of the flesh, but with Baptism, they are now born in the Spirit as Mother Church “births” them into their new life as sons and daughters of the Father. They receive the Holy Spirit, yet not in its fullness. So one could be led to ask, “If they receive the Holy Spirit, then why do they need Confirmation?” The answer is, because they receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. I tell parents and sponsors in my Baptismal Preparation Class, that baptism is like receiving car keys. They are fine, but do not allow you to move great distances since the car has not yet arrived. The keys are like a promise that indicates that something more is in store; that the car is on its way. Confirmation in a sense is the delivery of the car that we have been awaiting. And when the key is put into the ignition of the car, then the Spirit supplies the power and sends you to places that you could not imagine. Confirmation completes the fullness of our initiation into the Christian life. To be fully initiated as Catholic Christians, we must be Baptized, receive First Communion and be Confirmed. You can clearly see this in the life of the apostles. A bulletin excerpt written by Father Gabriel Espinosa, Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria.