The Catholic Lighthouse

The cradle of Texas Immigration

VOL. 30, NO. 2

JUNE 2016

Coming in July Ordination Coverage

Priesthood

Deacon Max Alexander Landman

Deacon Peter Oscar Kofi-Amo

Diaconate

Jacob Aaron Mendoza

Stephen Paul Vacek

The Crowning of a Queen

In our very own diocese, the churches and schools honored Mary with their own versions of a crowning ceremony. Our Lady of Victory Catholic School was one school that celebrated Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Each year, one “lucky” 8th grade girl is chosen to crown Mary. This year, Mariana Valdivia, who will be a freshman at St. Joseph, was the 8th grader chosen to crown Mary. Mariana, who has been a student at OLV for 6 years, has been a part of many May Crowning, but this one

See The Crowning of a Queen, pg. 9

Reflections From First Year

From Priest to Bishop

Seems like yesterday that Bishop Brendan’s family, friends, brother priests and parishioners joined with the people of the Diocese of Victoria for his ordination on June 29, 2015. A full year has quickly come and gone. Accepting Pope Francis’ invitation for him to shepherd the people of the Diocese of Victoria was exciting yet daunting. Bishop Brendan reflects on his first year as a bishop with gratitude and love.

When asked how he would describe his first year as a bishop, he shares, “I spent my whole life before coming to Victoria in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; it was like getting a whole new start in life. It has been a whirlwind of new experiences!” Bishop Brendan was raised in Houston, where his entire family still resides. He attended St. Cecilia Catholic School, graduated from St. Thomas High School in 1981, attended Rice University for a year then entered St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston in 1982. He explained, if anything at all was difficult about his first year, it was realizing the reality that this assignment was not temporary, but for the first time would be for the rest of his life.

He was concerned that he may feel overwhelmed with the new administrative responsibilities he would have as a bishop. Bishop Brendan said however, “When I began my work, I felt at peace with it. I am aware of the number of people who pray for me and I credit the power of prayer for this peacefulness.

Bishop Brendan describes the transition from a priest to a bishop as being very similar to one another. He shares, “The heart of a priest is always with the people; what a pastor most desires for the people is that they can know and love God and know how much God cares for them in their daily life. As priests we work in communion with one another for the benefit of the people. As a bishop, I realize an added administrative responsibility but the heart is pretty

See From Priest to Bishop, pg. 8

Our Lady of Victory 8th grader, Mariana Valdivia crowned Mary during the May Crowning celebration. First grader, Helen D., carried the crown for Mary. The student body brought many flowers for Mary and prayed a rosary together.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When I was the Rector of St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, Msgr. Michael Mulvey (now the Bishop of Corpus Christi) referred to a teaching of Pope (now Saint) John Paul II in one of the talks he gave us. After listening to this and praying about it, I made copies and placed it on every floor of every building on campus! These copies were on yellow paper – the color of the Vatican and the color of hope. Here is the quote from Novo Millennio Ineunte (At the Beginning of the New Millennium):

43. To make the Church the home and the school of communion: that is the great challenge facing us in the millennium which is now beginning, if we wish to be faithful to God’s plan and respond to the world’s deepest yearnings.

But what does this mean in practice? Here too, our thoughts could run impossibly to the action to be undertaken, but that would not be the right impulse to follow. Before making practical plans, we need to promote a spirituality of communion, making it the guiding principle of education wherever individuals and Christians are formed, wherever ministers of the altar, consecrated persons, and pastoral workers are trained, wherever families and communities are being built up. A spirituality of communion indicates above all the heart’s contemplation of the mystery of the Trinity dwelling in us, and whose light we must also be able to see shining on the face of the brothers and sisters around us. A spirituality of communion also means an ability to think of our brothers and sisters in faith within the profound unity of the Mystical Body, and therefore as “those who are a part of me”. This makes us able to share their joys and sufferings, to sense their desires and attend to their needs, to offer them deep and genuine friendship. A spirituality of communion also implies the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it as a gift for the brother or sister who has received it directly, but also as a “gift for me”. A spirituality of communion means, finally, to know how to “make room” for our brothers and sisters, bearing “each other’s burdens” (Gal 6:2) and resisting the selfish temptations which constantly beset us and provoke competition, careerism, distrust and jealousy. Let us make no illusions: unless we follow this spiritual path, external structures of communion will serve very little purpose. They would become mechanisms without a soul, “masks” of communion rather than its means of expression and growth.

As we’ve been celebrating this Year of Mercy it seems to me that a beautiful gift of this Year may be the sense of union that grows in hearts committed to mercy for one another. Just for myself I can acknowledge and thank God for many benefits.

See “The Mystery of the Trinity...”, pg. 3
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.

May 27, 2016

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<th>Burse Name</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
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<td>Ron and Diane Broussard, Beau and Courtney Broussard, Brooke, Adam and Gage Janak, Hubert and Iris Smolik, Sherry Hale, Gladys Hermes, Kent and Cindy Neuvair, Anthony and Bonnie Hermes, Tom and Lisa Hermes, Robert and Terry Hermes, Susan and Kevin Wood</td>
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Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians!

Deacon Jacob Mendoza June 6 Theology IV
Deacon Stephen Vacek June 26 Theology IV

“The Mystery of the Trinity Dwelling in Us”

Continued from pg. 2

special moments - reading and listening to stories about Father Kram and his family; completing the requirements and offering plenary indulgences for two loved ones; offering my heart again to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary in union with the people of the Diocese; confirming and sealing with the Holy Spirit brothers and sisters committed to be missionary disciples... With our priests committed to the merciful love of Jesus we have the opportunity and blessing this year to grow in union with one another. The closer that we grow as the Mystical Body, the more that our Light shines for the world to see!

Thank you for the many ways that you and your families shine the Light of Christ every day, may we grow deeper in love and gratitude each day in order that God the Father may be glorified through us! God bless you all, let’s keep each other in prayer.

Brendan +

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

DSA update

2016 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: $1,936,221.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $732,608.18
Parish Contribution Totals: $586,291.18
Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,443

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
Year of Early Growth

(Con’t from last month)

Travel may have been difficult; the aftermath of the Civil War and the Reconstruction which followed it proved to be difficult for the residents; and the periodic occurrences of diseases sickened and often killed its victims; however the fledgling “Convent School” associated with the “Monastery of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, Texas” prospered. The number of day students and boarding students rapidly increased; so that more buildings were necessary. By 1872 (remember that the school opened in 1867) three new buildings were added. Much of the construction was done free of charge; among the volunteers was Bishop Dubuis, who was Bishop of Texas at that time.

Meanwhile, in 1868, Father Augustine Gardet, who had so graciously welcomed the Sisters to Victoria and given them his house, opened a school for boys across the street on the site of the current South Main Street Post Office. Since there were no public schools at the time, the two schools provided educational opportunities for the students of the some 5,000 residents of Victoria County. Girls, from local areas and from faraway places attended the school as boarders.

At this time the Sisters were cloistered; that is, they did not generally go outside the Monastery (Convent). Within the Monastery, there were lay Sisters who were devoted to domestic or manual labor. These Sisters wore simple black habits instead of the white habits and maroon scapulars worn by the teaching Sisters. These lay Sisters took care of shopping and business outside the cloister. You will notice the wall surrounding the buildings in the accompanying picture. Even the chapel which was attached to the church had a grill separating the Sisters from the public. Within the Convent itself there was a grill separating the Sisters from their visitors.

Because of the cloister, the students had to come into the Monastery; the Sisters did not go out to teach in the parishes until many years later. Not only were the numbers of the students and of the buildings increasing, the numbers of the Sisters were likewise growing. American girls, many of whom were former students, were entering the order, enabling the group to reach out to future new foundations.

In 1871, Bishop Dubuis, the Bishop of Texas, had asked that a new foundation begin in Corpus Christi, a rapidly growing area with nearly a thousand residents, many of whom had come from Mexico during the unrest that followed the French support of Maximilian as emperor of Mexico. So three Sisters from Victoria, along with two from Brownsville, were sent to Corpus Christi in response to the Bishop’s request. This foundation in Corpus Christi, along with the initial foundation in Brownsville, would minister throughout South Texas and would be instrumental in establishing foundations in Mexico.

Then in 1873, a call came to found a monastery in Houston, a bustling shipping center consisting of some 9,383 persons. So five members were sent there and the foundation continues to extend its influence to that part of the state to this day.

The year 1874, brought significant events which affected the foundation. Prior to this date, all of Texas consisted of the Diocese of Galveston under the guidance of Right Reverend Claude Marie Dubuis. Due to the growing Catholic population, a new diocese was created. Bishop Dubuis would remain the Bishop of the Galveston Diocese and Bishop Anthony Pellicer would be the first bishop of the newly established Diocese of San Antonio. The Colorado River was the boundary between the two dioceses, so Victoria was part of the Diocese of San Antonio. In this division, the Sisters lost the guidance of their good friend, Bishop Dubuis; however, they soon learned that Bishop Pellicer was also a strong advocate of Catholic education, so all was well.

(to be continued)

Pictured is Nazareth Convent facing Church Street around 1872. Above is a close-up of a two-story frame building. The boarders were on the second floor and classrooms were below. It joined to the reception room and the Sisters’ Chapel, as well as old St Mary’s Church, which stood on the corner of Church Street and Bridge Street. There are more buildings behind the church. Later land would be swapped and the current St. Mary’s Church would be built on its current location on Main Street. The fence around the buildings enclosed the cloistered area for the Sisters.

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament cordially invite you to join us as we celebrate the

150th Anniversary of our Victoria Foundation in 1866

Jubilee Year Opening Mass
Friday, July 22, 2016 | 5:30 p.m.
Most Reverend Brendan Cahill to preside
Holy Family Catholic Church
704 Mallette Drive
Victoria, TX 77904
Reception to Follow

If you really want to read about the early days of the Sisters in Victoria—and much, much more—, I would invite you to come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad’s new book: TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time.
STJ FACULTY RECEIVES SERVICE AWARDS—St. Joseph High School, Victoria, faculty and staff members received Service Awards and were recognized by the student body. Congratulations to (from left): Bill McArdle, president/principal, 19 years; Laura Grunewald, math teacher, 10 years; Gretchen Boyle, English teacher, 30 years; Sabra Sauer, science teacher, 20 years; Alvin Mumphord, coach and maintenance coordinator, 10 years; Galen Gerdes, technology director and teacher, 20 years; Cheryl Guthrie, director of advancement, 5 years; Jen Korinek, admissions coordinator, 5 years; Jennifer Carson, advancement services coordinator, 5 years; and Darryl McCulloch, choir and band director, 5 years. Also, not pictured is Adrian Canas, custodian, 10 years.

STJ TEACHER RETIRING—Mrs. Debbie Horton is retiring after 26 years of teaching Biology, AP Environmental Science, and other courses, at St. Joseph High School in Victoria. She has taught 42 1/2 total years. On May 12, 2016 she was honored by the student body with roses during the kick off to Field Day.

ST. ISIDORE—PreK3 at St. Philip in El Campo have been learning about and praying to St. Isidore for area farmers. He is the patron saint of farmers and his feast day was May 15. Students enjoyed a bountiful harvest! They cleaned their own sweet corn-on-the-cob, it was cooked by the cafeteria ladies, and students then enjoyed it with their lunch! The response was unanimous - Yum!

SCHOOL IS OUT—Students of St. Michael School in Weimar enjoy a day at Splashway Water Park as their end of school party. The Diocese of Victoria wishes all a safe summer break.

PSIA WINNER—Jodi McAfee attended the Private School Interscholastic Academic Competition-AA in Ft. Worth Saturday, April 30, at Texas Christian University. She won 4th place in Modern Oratory and 1st place in Impromptu Speaking. Jodi is an 8th grader at St. Michael School, Weimar.

Holy Family K of C Council #9088 Presents the Fourteenth Annual Readin', Ritin' & Reelin' Fishing Tournament August 5 & 6 Port O'Connor Community Center Door Prizes Cash Prizes Live Auction Raffle For information on enteries, 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
Vocations to the Priesthood
Vocations to the priesthood are BOOMING! Up 20% since 2012! PRAISE GOD! 549 new priests in 2016 in the USA! Please pray for all priests and affirm them at your parish! Learn how at www.vocationministry.com
St. John Vianney, pray for our priests!
Diocese of Victoria Vocations website: www.victoriavocations.org

FIRST PLACE WINNERS—First place winners in the 2016 State Education Contest of the Catholic Daughters of Americas Court St. Michael #559, Weimar. Local winners going on to state are: bottom row: Ana Klesel (Div I Computer Art), Kelly McAfee (Div I Art & Div I Essay), Zane Wanjura (Div II Essay); top row: Mary Luchak (Catholic Daughters Court #559), Skylar Heger (Div II Computer Art), Laurece Silcox (Div II Poetry), and Colby Rainosek (Div II Art).

Celebrating 128 Years
Annual 4th of July PICNIC at St. John Parish
7026 FM 957 · 6 miles SW Schulenburg
Monday, July 4th
Mass at 9:00 a.m.
Flag Raising Ceremonies at 10:00 a.m.
All Veterans Are Encouraged to Attend
Dinner at 10:30 a.m.
Stew, Fried Chicken and All the Trimmings
Adults · $9 — Children · $5 · Take Home Plates · $9
Auction at 12:30 p.m.
Beer, Soda Water, Snow Cones, Home-Churned Ice Cream, Hamburgers and more-Country Store, Bingo, Cakewalk, Ball Throw, Ring Toss, Lil diggers Sandbox, and more Entertainment
Free Dance Under the Pavilion
Music Begins at 10:30 a.m.
The Shiner Hobo Band · The Dujka Brothers
Red Ravens · Texas Dream
Raffle Drawing · 8:00 p.m. — Fireworks Show · 9:00 p.m.
Everybody Welcome - Fun For All - Young and Old!
Visit Our 128 Year Old Church
Check Out our Website: http://www.StJohnPicnic.com
Like our Facebook page - St. John 4th of July Picnic

Europe Trip
August 15-26, 2016
Tour Rome, Italian Riviera, Venice, Salzburg, Austria & Prague

French Rhone River Cruise
September 20-28, 2016
Lyon, Macon, Vienne, Touron, Viviers & Avignon, Air Discounted

Rhine Riverboat Getaway
August 5-13, 2017
Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands, Air Discounted

ABCATS TRAVEL
Call Jim or Malvina Slovak
(361) 578-0828
slovakjim@att.net
www.abcatstravel.com

This Special Day
This is a special day in the life of the graduates. As they embark on the next chapter in their lives we pray that the same hand that has kept them thus far will continue to be in their lives.

May Your hand of protection be about them, and may Your Word continue to be a light unto their path. Help them to make wise decisions and to always keep You first in everything that they do.

Amen
Employment Opportunity

The Diocese of Victoria is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Bishop. Responsibilities include: maintain Bishop’s calendar/schedule; greet visitors and answer telephone; process incoming and outgoing mail; complete yearly reports; answer correspondence; coordinate office meetings and record meeting minutes; maintain files; and other duties as assigned.

Qualifications include: being a practicing Catholic in good standing; two to three years related experience and/or training; proficiency in Microsoft Office, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Outlook programs; trustworthy with highly sensitive confidential information; exceptional organizational and communication skills; possess a high degree of flexibility; ability to multi-task; and bi-lingual (English/Spanish) is highly preferred.

Interested candidates should submit a resume to: mbrown@victoriadiocese.org or mail to:

Diocese of Victoria
Attn: Business Manager
1505 E. Mesquite Ln.
Victoria, TX 77901

Timeline booklets and bookmarks for The Great Adventure, A Journey Through the Bible, DVD education series that will be provided to 75 offenders in the faith based dorm.

117th Commencement at the Pontifical College Josephinum

COLUMBUS, Ohio — It was a day of joy at the Pontifical College Josephinum, as the seminary celebrated its 117th Commencement Exercises on May 14, 2016. Members of the graduating class of 2016, numbering 49 students from 23 dioceses in the United States, (including Deacon Max Landman of the Diocese of Victoria) were awarded degrees from the College of Liberal Arts, Pre-Theology Program or School of Theology, and thereby became alumni of the only pontifical seminary outside of Italy.

Reverend Paul Sullivan, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Phoenix, homilist for the Baccalaureate Mass. Graduation, he said, “is a time of going forth, of being sent out…. It is a day of wonder and dreams, yes, but the dreams of the man of God are the will of God. In a seminary graduation, we do not celebrate our plans. This is not a celebration of self will. With gratitude we can glory in the plans God has for each one of us, which are far greater, far more glorious than we could imagine.”

The Master of Divinity degree, which signifies fulfillment of the requirements for priestly ordination, was awarded to 16 graduates of the School of Theology.

Graduates of the School of Theology will return to their respective dioceses for ordination to the priesthood; the Ordination Class of 2016 will join nearly 1,200 ordained alumni who currently serve the universal Church in nearly every U.S. state and in 18 different countries.
much the same. To teach the authentic Catholic faith, to give a joyful witness to this faith and to discern ways to preach and evangelize to all people is the heart of a priest and bishop.” He credits an easy transition to a great mentor and welcoming people. He said of Bishop Fellhauer, “He has been a great mentor to me. I admire him and have known him for a long time.”

It has been evident throughout the year by his actions that Bishop Brendan practices what he preaches. He made a commitment to himself that he would visit all the Catholic Schools and many of the Wednesday night CCD programs. He upheld this promise and more! Many special moments stood out to Bishop Brendan throughout the year, but time with people and special liturgies were more powerful than the rest. The Chrism Mass was one of these special liturgies. He shares, “I really felt the identity of ‘the Bishop’ during the Chrism Mass; while blessing the holy oils, seeing the deacons, being surrounded by all the priests as they renewed their vows, and having the schools kids, and representatives of the parishes present.”

Visiting the CCD programs and the Catholic schools allowed Bishop Brendan to travel the Diocese of Victoria and make personal connections. He spent many days on the road and shares, “Those visits meant a lot to me; it has been a joy. I got the opportunity to be with and listen to the teachers, catechists and students and know what was on their minds. I have a new appreciation for them. I also found that many people have a lot of hope and joy when they see the bishop. I understood then the significance of being ‘the bishop’. I realize my humanity, but know that I represent someone much greater than myself.”

In his first year as a new bishop, Bishop Brendan travelled all over the United States and the World representing the Diocese of Victoria at many special events. He was privileged to travel to El Paso for Pope Francis’ Mexico tour, meet personally with Pope Francis in Rome, travel to Washington D.C. to the U.S. Papal visit and attend 3 bishop ordinations this year.

Bishop Brendan looks forward to the coming year and among many visions for the diocese hopes to see two pastoral initiatives flourish that began this year: The Emmanus Center Counseling in the Catholic Tradition and The 5th Encuentro. Bishop shares, “It is great to see civic leaders, religious leaders and people in our diocese interested in creating a wholesome environment for the betterment of our families. I’m happy to share Encuentro’s national goal to train 20 to 25 thousand missionary disciples from within the Hispanic/ the Latino culture by 2018.”

As Bishop Brendan begins his second year, his message to the people of the diocese comes from Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before others so they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven.” Bishop Brendan explains, “As Catholics in the Diocese of Victoria, we are that light for the world. For me personally it is always important to focus on the beauty, the truth and the good and to encourage people who are living the faith so strongly. It is seeing the beauty in people and letting that inspire us like the story of Father Kram. He and his family represent to me, the best in all of us. As we focus on the good that people like this do, we are motivated to be better. As the lighthouse image is a symbol of giving light in the darkness, we are called to be the light and the light is so clear and true.”

As Bishop Brendan signs off on his letters, “let us keep one another in prayer”, we remember to keep him in prayer as he leads the people of the Diocese of Victoria.

Bishop Brendan graciously received a gift from Archbishop Matthias K. Nketsiah of Cape Coast, Ghana. These are traditional vestments made from Ghanaian kente cloth for kings and dignitaries to be worn for very special occasions. He is pictured with Father Charles E. Otsiwah from Meyersville.

Bishop Brendan consecrated the Diocese of Victoria to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 99th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima.
The Crowning of a Queen

Continued from pg. 1

was different for her, as she was given the honor of crowning Mary. She remembers, as a little girl, picking her flowers from her backyard the morning of the crowning. Mariana wanted to make sure they were the prettiest ones, and there were no thorns on the roses. She shared, “I wanted them to be a little different from the other kids. I wanted Mary to have all sorts of flowers that weren’t all the same.” Mariana sees Mary as the Mother of God and feels that Mary is a symbol of peace, kindness and gentleness. She shares, “I was astonished to be chosen; I didn’t expect it. I was very happy to have this honor, because there are a bunch of great kids in my class, and I didn’t expect to be the one. It didn’t cross my mind that it could be me.”

As the student body sang “Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above,” four 8th grade boys carried the statue of Mary up to the altar. The students then laid flowers at Mary’s feet. After the flowers surrounded Mary, Mariana and a 1st grade student, Helen, processed in together. Helen carried the crown on a little pillow, and Mariana crowned Mary. Once Mary had been crowned, two other 8th graders led a school-wide rosary. The flowers were gathered after the rosary, put into vases, and taken to each classroom, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, and the Chancery.

The tradition of a May Crowning is a great opportunity for us, as Catholics, to teach others that Catholics do not worship Mary, but rather honor her as the greatest of the saints, in her absolutely unique role as the Mother of Jesus. Mariana shared that her religion teacher, Mr. Brett Hager, helped her understand exactly how Jesus suffered and more about her Catholic faith. She said, “I’ve learned, through my Catholic education, that we are all a family at church and at school.” As a Catholic family, we honor Mary, Our Mother, and through her intercession, ask for protection and prosperity on us as a community and a diocese.
**Prayer: The Faith Prayed**

**XXIX Annual Conference**

**For Catechesis & Ministry**

The XXIX Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry will focus on the Catechetical Sunday theme: “Prayer: The Faith Prayed”. The Most Reverend Brendan Cahill will open the conference with the keynote address, speaking from the theological aspect of prayer. Mrs. Charleen Katra, Associate Director in the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, will offer her keynote on prayer through our experience of daily life. Ms. Rita Martinez, Educational Consultant for Loyola Press and the Most Reverend Brendan Cahill will each present Spanish keynote presentations at the conference.

This year’s theme offers all adult Catholics the opportunity to devote themselves to a deeper study and practice of prayer, for their own spiritual growth. Prayer opens our minds and hearts to a deeper relationship with God. According to St. Francis de Sales, “Every one of us needs half an hour of prayer each day except when we’re busy – then we need an hour.”

The conference will be held at Holy Family Parish in Wharton, Saturday, October 1, 2016. A multitude of workshops will be provided throughout the day. Catholic vendors will also have religious articles, prayer books, and an assortment of resources available for purchase. For more information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828.

~ Annual Conference • October 1, 2016 • Holy Family- Wharton ~

**Library Fun Days!**

**Upcoming Pilgrimages**

**Journeys of Faith with Ceci**

**Rome Pilgrimage for Holy Year & Mercy Canonization of Bl. Theresa of Calcutta**

August 30 - September 6 ~ $3,695

Spiritual Director: Fr. Michael Rother

**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

All prices include flights, hotels, guides and meals as per itinerary.

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Almost 50 years ago, the second Vatican Council established that it would be possible to restore the diaconate as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy. Three reasons lay behind this choice: (i) a desire to enrich the Church with the functions of the diaconate, which otherwise, in many regions, could only be exercised with great difficulty; (ii) the intention of strengthening with the grace of diaconal ordination those who already exercised many of the functions of the diaconate; (iii) a concern to provide regions, where there was a shortage of clergy, with sacred ministers.

From the lived experience of the restored diaconate in the United States, certain behavioral patterns have been discerned among exemplary deacons: a natural inclination of service to the Christian community, and to all in need; psychological integrity; a capacity for dialogue, which implies a sense of docility and openness; the ability to share one’s faith yet listen respectfully to other points of view; the capacity to listen carefully and without prejudices—respecting people in the context of their religion, race, gender, ethnicity, and culture; good communication skills; a sense of responsibility that includes the fulfilling of one’s word and completing one’s work; self-directed and collaborative accountability; balanced and prudent judgment; generosity in service; and the ability to lead, motivate, facilitate, and animate others into appropriate action and service.

The initial discernment period for the next Permanent Deacon formation class will officially begin this fall. If you are interested in discerning a possible vocation to the diaconate, please discuss your interest with your pastor, and send contact information to Deacon Chuck Glynn, cglynn@victoriadiocese.org. Informational meetings will be held in September.

**Reporting Abuse**

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

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

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria. If you are unsure about bringing forth a complaint or need more information, please contact: Fr. Gary Janak at (361) 573-4741.

**Reporting Child Abuse Hotline** • 1 (800) 252-5400 • www.txabusehotline.org

If you know or suspect a child or person has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours. If the person is in immediate danger, call 911.
Cause for the Canonization of Father Charles W. Kram, Jr.

Thank you for your prayers and support of the canonization process of Father Charles W. Kram, Jr. These prayers and support are greatly appreciated!

The canonization process is twofold. The first phase of the process takes place on the diocesan level and the second at the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. We are just beginning on the diocesan phase.

The diocesan phase is a period of gathering information. The first task is to assemble information about the life of Father Kram. Deacon Anthony Warzecha has written a biography of Father Kram entitled Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities: A Joyful Journey through Life Despite Enormous Suffering. It is available from the Association for the Canonization of Father Kram, on the Amazon or Barnes & Nobles websites. From this information, reasons for the canonization are formulated. Once these reasons are formulated, further investigation is necessary. Anything that Father Kram wrote is being gathered and will be scrutinized by a censor. This censor checks the writings for sound doctrine. A list of witnesses is also formulated. These are people who would have firsthand knowledge of Father Kram and his work. These witnesses are then interviewed. Information from the witnesses will be gathered together and added to the information on Father Kram that has already been collected. Once this information and documentation of Father Kram’s life is compiled, a paper is written, promoting the position held for his canonization. Copies of this paper are sent to Rome for the beginning of the Roman phase of this process. During this time, an inquiry into any alleged miracles also takes place.

There is a set procedure for the investigation of miracles. Experts are used in determining the authenticity of the alleged miracle. Documentation of miracles is also sent to the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Both theologians and experts discuss these miracles.

Once information reaches Rome, the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints verifies that the rules of law have been followed. Theological consultants examine the documents. These consultants then vote on whether there is ample and compelling evidence for the case to continue. Once an affirmative vote is reached, votes and documents are submitted to the designated cardinals and bishops for the recommendation to the Pope.

The canonization process is quite extensive and will not happen overnight. We would like to enlist your help in furthering this process. The Association for the Canonization of Father Kram has been established to help promote the cause of Father Kram and to act as a means to gather necessary information about his life and alleged miracles.

The Association will publish a newsletter from time to time to keep people informed on the progress of the cause. We would also like to interview those who personally knew Father Kram or who believe they have been blessed by a miracle or favor due to Father Kram’s intercession. If you have information to share please contact the Association.

Pope names Bishop of Tulsa—On May 13, 2016 Father David Konderla, pastor of St. Mary’s in College Station was appointed the fourth bishop of Tulsa. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass at St. Mary’s in February 2016. The two men were classmates at St. Mary’s Seminary at St. Thomas University in Houston. Little did either know that three months later Father David would be asked to be the Bishop of Tulsa. Bishop Brendan, as a first-year bishop says that his advice to his friend is to listen before speaking, understand before judging and love before acting, simply to trust in God. The ordination and installation of Bishop-designate Konderla, is set for June 29, 2016, the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul. Msgr. John Peters, Vicar General for the Diocese of Victoria was Bishop-elect Konderla’s formation director. He plans to attend the ordination.

Sunday Readings from June 5 - July 10

June 5 - Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 17:17-24
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13
Galatians 1:11-14A, 15AC, 16A, 17, 19
Luke 7:11-17

June 12 - Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13
Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11
Galatians 2:16, 19-21
Luke 7:36—8:3

June 19 - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1
Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Galatians 3:26-29

June 26 - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 19:16B, 19-21
Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
Galatians 5:1, 13-18

July 3 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 66:10-14C
Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20
Galatians 6:14-18
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

July 10 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Psalms 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37

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

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Obispo Brendan Cahill -
“La Trinidad Que Vive en Nosotros”

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Cuando yo era el Rector del Seminario de Santa María en Houston, el Monseñor Michael Mulvey (ahora el Obispo de Corpus Christi) refirió a la enseñanza del Papa (ahora Santo) Juan Pablo II en una de las reflexiones que él nos dio. Después de escuchar esto, orté y decidí hacer copias y los coloqué en cada suelo de cada edificio del campus! Estas copias estaban en papel amarillo – el color del Vaticano y el color de esperanza. Aquí está la cita de Novo Milennio Ineunte (Al comienzo del Nuevo Milenio):

43. Hacer de la Iglesia la casa y la escuela de la comunión: éste es el gran desafío que tenemos ante nosotros en el milenio que comienza, si queremos ser fieles a la realidad de nos cristianos, a la misericordia de Cristo y a la promesa de la coexistencia del Cuerpo místico, que es el Cuerpo de Cristo y, por tanto, como « uno que me pertenece », para saber compartir sus alegrías y sus sufrimientos, para invitar sus deseos y atender a sus necesidades, para ofrecerle una verdadera y profunda amistad. Espiritualidad de la comunión es también capacidad de ver ante todo lo que hay de positivo en el otro, para acogerlo y valorarlo como regalo de Dios: un « don para mí », además de ser un don para el hermano que lo ha recibido directamente. En fin, espiritualidad de la comunión es saber « dar espacio » al hermano, llevando mutuamente la carga de los otros (cf. Ga 6,2) y rechazando las tentaciones egoístas que continuamente nos asechan y engendran competitividad, ganas de hacer carrera, desconfianza y envidias. No nos hagamos ilusiones: sin este camino espiritual, de poco servirían los instrumentos externos de la comunión. Se convertirían en medios sin alma, máscaras de comunión más que sus modos de expresión y crecimiento.

Como hemos estado celebrando este Año de la Misericordia me parece que un hermoso regalo de este año puede ser el sentido del unión que crece en las zonas comprometidas a la misericordia uno para el otro.

De mi parte puedo reconocer y agra-

cuo luz ha de ser reconocida también en el rostro de los hermanos que están a nuestro lado. Espiritualidad de la comunión significa, además, capacidad de sentir al hermano de fe en la unidad profunda del Cuerpo místico y, por tanto, como « uno que me pertenece », para saber compartir sus alegrías y sus sufrimientos, para invitar sus deseos y atender a sus necesidades, para ofrecerle una verdadera y profunda amistad. Espiritualidad de la comunión es también capacidad de ver ante todo lo que hay de positivo en el otro, para acogerlo y valorarlo como regalo de Dios: un « don para mí »., además de ser un don para el hermano que lo ha recibido directamente. En fin, espiritualidad de la comunión es saber « dar espacio » al hermano, llevando mutuamente la carga de los otros (cf. Ga 6,2) y rechazando las tentaciones egoístas que continuamente nos asechan y engendran competitividad, ganas de hacer carrera, desconfianza y envidias. No nos hagamos ilusiones: sin este camino espiritual, de poco servirían los instrumentos externos de la comunión. Se convertirían en medios sin alma, máscaras de comunión más que sus modos de expresión y crecimiento.

Como hemos estado celebrando este Año de la Misericordia me parece que un hermoso regalo de este año puede ser el sentido del unión que crece en las zonas comprometidas a la misericordia uno para el otro.

De mi parte puedo reconocer y agra-

decer a Dios por muchos momentos especiales- leer y escuchar historias sobre Padre Kram y su familia; completando los requisitos y ofreciendo indulgencias plenarias para dos seres queridos; ofreciendo mi corazón otra vez a Jesús por el Corazón Inmaculado de María en unión con la gente de la diócesis; confirmándolo y sellando con el Espíritu Santo hermanos y hermanas comprometidos ser discípulos misioneros...

Con nuestros sacerdotes comprometidos al amor misericordioso de Jesús tenemos la oportunidad y bendición este año crecer en la union uno con el otro. ¡Lo más cerca que crecemos como el Cuerpo Místico, más que brilla nuestra luz para que todo el mundo lo vea!

Gracias por las muchas maneras en que usted y sus familias brillan la luz de Cristo todos los días, que podemos crecer más profundamente en amor y gratitud cada día para que Dios el Padre pueda ser glorificado a través de nosotros!

Que Dios los bendiga a todos, mantenemos uno al otro en el oración.

Brendan+

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Sean campeones en el campo de juego; pero sobre todo, sean campeones en la vida, les dice el papa a los jugadores italianos que han llegado al encuentro final de la copa italiana

El Papa Francisco hizo sus comentarios el 20 de mayo durante una audiencia especial en la que se reunió con dueños de equipos, entrenadores, personal administrativo y jugadores del equipo italiano del Milán y del Juventus. Juventus ganó la Coppa Italiana 2016.

Sean ustedes campeones en el campo de juego y en la vida, les dice el papa a los jugadores italianos que han llegado al encuentro final de la copa italiana

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Sean campeones en el campo de juego; pero sobre todo, sean campeones en la vida, les dijo el papa Francisco a los jugadores de futbol profesional que se enfrentarían para competir por la copa de la liga italiana.

“Siempre glorifiquen lo que es verdaderamente bueno y bello por medio de un testimonio sincero de los valores que deben de caracterizar un deporte auténtico. Y no teman mostrarse al mundo de los aficionados que los siguen, con serenidad y aplomo, los principios morales y religiosos con los que ustedes quieren llenar su vida”, dijo.

El papa hizo sus comentarios el 20 de mayo durante una audiencia especial en la que se reunió con dueños de equipos, entrenadores, personal administrativo y jugadores del equipo italiano del Milán y del Juventus, que se enfrentarían más tarde, el 21 de mayo en el estadio Olímpico de Roma. El Juventus buscaría su segunda copa consecutiva de la liga italiana y el título anual.

El papa Francisco, aficionado él mismo de hueso colorado, les dijo a los presentes lo mucho que apreciaba el talento profesional de todos ellos y “las bellas tradiciones que distinguen a sus respectivos equipos y al mundo del futbol soccer en general”.

Y el papa les recordó a los jugadores...
Lectura del primer libro de los reyes: En aquellos días, dijo Elías a Ajab: “Vete a comer y a beber, pues ya se oye el ruido de la lluvia”. Ajab se fue a comer y a beber. Elías, mientras tanto, subió a la cumbre del monte Carmelo, se arrodilló y con su cabeza tocó la tierra. Entonces le dijo a su criado: “Ve a divisar el mar”. El criado fue a ver y le dijo: “No se ve nada”. Elías insistió: “Ve otra vez”. El criado volvió siete veces, y a la séptima le dijo: “Una nube seca, como la palma de la mano, sube del mar”. Entonces Elías le dijo: “Vé a decirle a Ajab que enganche su carro y se vaya, para que no lo detenga la lluvia”. Y en un instante el cielo se oscureció de nubes, empezó a soplar el viento y cayó un fuerte aguacero. Ajab montó en su carro y se fue a Yezrael, y Elías, por inspiración y con la fuerza del Señor, se cistó la túnica y fue corriendo delante del carro de Ajab hasta la entrada de Yezrael.

Después de llegar a Ciudad Juárez, México, el 9 de mayo por avión desde Panamá, migrantes cubanos son vistos en el cruce de la frontera Estados Unidos-México en El Paso, Texas. El grupo es parte de un programa piloto al cual los países centroamericanos han acordado que permite que los cubanos entren a Estados Unidos. (Foto CNS-José Luis González, Reuters)

Sean ustedes campeones en el campo de juego, la vida

Continuación de la pg. 12

estrella que un gran número de aficionados, especialmente jóvenes, los admiraban.

“De esta manera, ustedes están llamados a actuar de tal modo para que ellos siempre vean en ustedes las cualidades humanas de un atleta que se dedica a demostrar los auténticos valores del deporte”.

El éxito de un equipo, de hecho, depende en una serie completa de “virtudes humanas: armonía, lealtad, habilidad para lograr amigos y para establecer diálogo con solidaridad. Esos son valores espirituales que se convierten en valores deportivos”, dijo.

Al poner en práctica estos valores morales, dijo, los atletas pueden subrayar el verdadero propósito de las actividades deportivas, que “están, a veces, marcadas por eventos negativos, también”.

Y esto se reduce a recordar que, además de ser jugadores de soccer, son siempre, primero, seres humanos; dijo el papa. Son personas con limitaciones y virtudes; “pero sobretodo con una conciencia que, espero, esté siempre iluminada por una relación con Dios, también”.

Y el papa le dijo que siempre se aseguren de que el aspecto humano estén siempre en armonía.

“Sean ustedes campeones en el deporte; pero sobretodo, sean campeones en la vida”, dijo.

En tiempo extra 21 de mayo, el Juvenil superó al AC Milán por un gol a cero, a cargo de Álvaro Morata, con pase del mexicano J. Cuadrado.
By Jeff Kurowski
Catholic News Service

PULASKI, Wis. (CNS) — When David Parker informed his eldest child, Legionary Brother David Parker Jr., that he was pursuing the diaconate again, the son had a question for his father: “How many years do you have in formation?”

“When he said five years, I literally started counting on my hands how many years of formation I had left,” said then-Brother Parker in an interview with The Compass, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay. “I said, ‘Dad, do you realize what this means? We are on the same path right now to be ordained.’”

Their paths came together May 7 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Pulaski. Father and son were ordained deacons by Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay.

In addition to serving Assumption parish in Pulaski, the elder Deacon Parker will serve two other area parishes. His son, who studies at Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum (Queen of Apostles) in Rome, is now a transitional deacon who will be ordained a priest Dec. 10 in Rome.

“This is a historic moment in our diocese,” said Bishop Ricken. “I don’t think that it’s ever happened where a father and son, both having been ordained deacons on the same day at the same Mass.”

The Parkers’ vocation journey dates back to 1981 when David Parker Sr. entered the Norbertine order. He would discover that he was not called to the priesthood or religious life.

“I met Denise the very first Sunday Mass that I was there,” he explained. “She was the telephone receptionist at the abbey. I started visiting her and, three months later, I knew that I was destined to be with her.”

“I introduced myself to all the seminarians as they came in. I explained to them what we do and how to get their messages. I told them, ‘If you ever want to come down and say hello, feel welcome.’ That’s how we met,” said Denise Parker.

“Of the (Norbertine) priests, at the time when I left, told Denise’s parents, ‘You took one of ours, now you have to give us one of yours,’ so we did 18 years later, but for a different order,” added Deacon Parker Sr.

Deacon Parker Jr. was called to the Legionaries of Christ in 2003. When he was 12, his aunt invited Legionary Father Juan Gabriel Guerra to give a retreat for 20 Parker cousins. There were other retreats and young David Jr. also made trips to the Legionaries’ minor seminary, Immaculate Heart Apostolic School in New Hampshire.

Religious life was still not a clear path. David Jr., who was an all-conference center in football and played rugby in high school, planned on going to college. He had decided to go to the University of Wisconsin in Madison, but “our Lord ended up giving me the strength to continue on the path to religious life,” he said.

Deacon Parker Sr. first pursued the diaconate more than 10 years ago. Deacon Parker Jr., was in Monterrey, Mexico, at the time. His parents made the trip for his ordination as a deacon in December. (CNS photo / Sam Lucero, The Compass)

“We went down to Our Lady of Guadalupe,” explained the son. “We went to visit the shrine. Mom lost feeling in her legs. We had to grab onto her and bring her to one of the pews. Her feet were swelling all week. She didn’t know why.”

When they returned to Wisconsin, Denise discovered that she was pregnant. The Parkers had six children at the time: David, Johnathan, Adam, Rachel, Nicole and Mariah. Their seventh child, Ava, was born in May 2006. The last two children are almost 15 years apart. Deacon Parker Sr. decided to postpone the diaconate.

Five years later, Deacon Parker Sr., a founding member of the Catholic men’s group Esté Vir and founder of ConQuest, a Catholic boys’ group, was encouraged to consider the diaconate by two priests and Bishop Ricken. His wife, too, agreed it was time.

Deacon Parker Jr., continues to study theology in Rome, where the Legionaries have a house for 300 seminarians. He speaks multiple languages, including Spanish at the house. Classes are taught in Italian. He does not know where he will serve as a deacon or priest.

“Part of the blessing of religious life is you don’t really know,” he said. “They find a place that they think will be good for you. You don’t know until you actually have that protocol letter in hand. I could be sent to another country or back to the United States.”

Sharing a vocation has strengthened the relationship between father and son, who share deep love for Mary, he added.

“Our relationship with each other has grown to another spiritual level,” the son added.

Father and son received a special blessing prior to the ordination Mass. A couple of months earlier in Rome, Deacon Parker Jr. saw Pope Francis, who had visited with students in a confession course.

“I asked the Holy Father for a blessing for me and my dad who will both be ordained together,” he explained. “He responded to me, ‘How beautiful,’ in Spanish.”

When he returned to Rome, Deacon Parker Jr. was scheduled to be a deacon at the evening Pentecost Mass to be celebrated by Pope Francis May 14.

“Hopefully, I will be able to live up to what God is calling me to do.”

Jeff Kurowski is associate editor of The Compass, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay.
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. 12 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 enjoy 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. See ad on pg. 14.

Schulenburg–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. at $9 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. Hamburgers, Mexican food and other food along with refreshments available during the afternoon and evening. Games, country store, cakewalk and more. Auction at 12:30 p.m. Music from noon-8:00 p.m. with Czechaholics and Mark Halata & Texavia.

Ammansville–St. John the Baptist (FM 1383) Picnic June 19 (Father’s Day). A fried-chicken and sausage dinner served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at $9 p/p. Auction at 1:00 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, bingo, fish pond, country store and more. Hamburgers begin at 4:00 p.m. Music all day by Ennis Czech Boys and Fritz Hodde and the Fabulous Six.

Plum–Sts. Peter and Paul Plum 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 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. with music by the Incredible Music Makers.

Port O’Connor–Kitts of Columbus Council 9088 and Nazareth Academy Fishing Tournament, Aug. 5 and 6. See ad on pg. 5 for more information.

Fredericksburg–Sts. Peter and Paul Country Festival, Aug. 7 beginning with Mass at 8:45 a.m. A fried fish meal at 11:00 a.m. at $10 p/p large and $6 p/p small. Games, auction and more throughout the day.

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.encouragec.net.

Engaged Encounter–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 bararamccain85@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 1(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 CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) 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 Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. For more information, contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021, (361) 258-1514, or visit www.raphaelsfuge.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 jbyjuv@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvail.org.

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

ACTS Retreats–For information, visit www.actsmissions.org.

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

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

Have an event for the on-line calendar or newspaper? e-mail us at: lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org
Congratulations to the Diocese of Victoria Catholic High Schools’ 2016 Top Graduates!

Jed Janecek
Valedictorian
Parents: David and Leah Janecek
University of Texas, Austin

Abigail Kovar
Valedictorian
Parents: Robert and Pamela Kovar
University of Notre Dame

Ellen Machicek
Valedictorian
Parents: Bobby and Amy Machicek
Texas A&M University

Ashlyn Patek
Salutatorian
Parents: Fred and Sharon Patek
University of Texas, Austin

Carter Keating
Salutatorian
Parents: Kathleen and Ben Keating
Texas A&M University
Business Honors Program

Amber Walker
Salutatorian
Grandparents: Angus and Elizabeth McMillan
Parents: Gerard and Wendi Raphael
Texas A&M University

Marc Raphael
Historian
Parents: Gerard and Wendi Raphael
Baylor University

Derek Kapavik
Historian
Parents: David and Trish Kapavik
University of Texas, Austin

Hanna Novosad
Historian
Parents: Connie and Bruno Novosad
Texas A&M University