**Ordinations for the Diocese of Victoria**

**Statement from Bishop Cahill on Tragedy in Orlando**

“Due to the recent tragedy in Orlando, Pope Francis expressed his love and concern for the victims, their families and America at this time. As he has so beautifully taught, we are all sons and daughters of a gracious God. May we console one another in love and re-commit ourselves to a culture of life and respect for the dignity of every person. God bless you. Let's keep each other in prayer.”

Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill +
Bishop of Victoria in Texas

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**In This Issue . . .**

- Msgr. John Bily Retires, pg. 13
- Permanent Deacons pg. 14
- Camp David pg. 6
- Español pg. 17
- Social Media pg. 2

**Texas Bishops Highly Concerned with Ruling That Puts Women Seeking Abortion at Grave Risk**

AUSTIN — The U.S. Supreme Court has decided, in a 5-3 decision, to strike down Texas HB2, a law that protects women’s safety while seeking an abortion. The Texas bishops are highly concerned that the ruling puts women at grave risk.

The Texas State Legislature overwhelmingly approved HB2. Its main purpose is to secure surgical center, health and safety standards for women seeking an abortion. Their lives are just as precious as those of their children.

Surgical abortion is an invasive procedure that poses numerous and serious medical complications. The state has a legitimate interest in ensuring the maximum level of safety for the woman subjected to the procedure and that viable emergency care is available if complications such as hemorrhage, infection, uterine perforation, blood clots, cervical tears, or allergic reactions occur. It is irresponsible for physicians to perform this procedure without being able to provide follow-up treatment for the associated complications.

The Catholic Church in Texas, in communion with millions See Texas Bishops, pg. 16
Faithful Citizenship

Brothers and Sisters,

When I voted in the primaries in March I remember my reaction when the election volunteer asked me: “Which primary?” I whispered my answer and proceeded to go and cast my ballot. Thinking after, I wondered if someone was watching would he or she wonder why I was so secretive about my party affiliation. I thought about it myself and several things have become clearer for me.

The first thing is the important duty we have as American citizens to vote - in every election. It surprises me how many people don’t vote, or seem not to be involved in the political process. As we take time this month to honor the Declaration of Independence on July 4, I believe we need to take time also to consider and discuss the major political issues of our time.

On our diocesan website (victoriadiocese.org) we have a link to a document approved by the bishops of the United States, “Faithful Citizenship”. We bishops approved this at a recent meeting, and it includes thoughts about many important issues. I hope that this can provide a guide for Catholics and all people of good will to discuss many important issues facing our society. I encourage you and your family to take time to read this document as a preparation for the upcoming national elections. It is kind of long and detailed, so it can be intimidating to start reading - but it is definitely worth working through a little bit at a time.

As you read “Faithful Citizenship” you will come across some statements that as bishops we do not believe we should endorse or actively support any particular candidate or party. I realize that some people seem to think that the bishops and I seem to be “on the side” or “against” certain candidates, especially in a presidential election. To me it really depends on the individual issue, and I hope that we as Catholics could work with any successful candidate in working for a just and peaceful society.

This leads me to consider my “secreteness” about my party affiliation back in March. I have pretty strong personal political opinions about what I think is best for the country. I also realize that there are great people, and many good friends, who have opposing views. The beauty of the nation founded from the Declaration of Independence is that we as American citizens are able to express these different opinions.

See Faithful Citizenship, pg. 8
**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 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...

June 27, 2016

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- Rev. Paul P. Kaspar and Parents, John & Frances Kaspar Seminary Burse
  - Previously reported | $500.00 |
  - Donation in memory of Lawron J. Popp by Frances Vesely | 10.00 |
  - **Total** | **$510.00** |

- Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse
  - In honor of Rev. Dan Morales by: Daryl and Joan Hill | 52.00 |
  - Paul and Helen Flessner | 50.00 |
  - John Timoc | 100.00 |
  - In memory of Helen Borowicz by Otto and JoAnn Bleier | 25.00 |
  - **Total** | **$767.50** |

- Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7
  - In memory of Lorraine Butchek by Hubert and Elizabeth Janak | 25.00 |
  - In memory of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say by Frances Holley Family | 25.00 |
  - In memory of Rev. Charles Sonnier | 25.00 |
  - In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters on Pastor Appreciation Day by Sacred Heart School teachers, staff and students | 300.00 |
  - In memory of Larry Berger by: Kenneth and Rene Staff | 40.00 |
  - Catherine Miksch | 20.00 |
  - Diane Kuta | 20.00 |
  - Dorothy and Melvin Zapalac | 10.00 |
  - Alphonse Besetzty | 10.00 |
  - David and Karen Koranek | 20.00 |
  - David and Michele Kubos | 25.00 |
  - **Total** | **$11,015.00** |

- Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse #8
  - In honor of Rev. Dan Morales by: Daryl and Joan Hill | 52.00 |
  - Paul and Helen Flessner | 50.00 |
  - John Timoc | 100.00 |
  - In memory of Helen Borowicz by Otto and JoAnn Bleier | 25.00 |
  - **Total** | **$767.50** |

- Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7
  - In memory of Lorraine Butchek by Hubert and Elizabeth Janak | 25.00 |
  - In memory of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say by Frances Holley Family | 25.00 |
  - In memory of Rev. Charles Sonnier | 25.00 |
  - In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters on Pastor Appreciation Day by Sacred Heart School teachers, staff and students | 300.00 |
  - In memory of Larry Berger by: Kenneth and Rene Staff | 40.00 |
  - Catherine Miksch | 20.00 |
  - Diane Kuta | 20.00 |
  - Dorothy and Melvin Zapalac | 10.00 |
  - Alphonse Besetzty | 10.00 |
  - David and Karen Koranek | 20.00 |
  - David and Michele Kubos | 25.00 |
  - **Total** | **$11,015.00** |

- Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse
  - In memory of James A. Rother by John Rother, Jr., Bernard and Madeline Rother, James and Mary Anne Gibson, John and Michaelene Krchnak | 100.00 |
  - **Total** | **$6,935.00** |

- St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2
  - Previously reported | $5,961.00 |
  - In memory of Albert Berckenhoff by Forrest and Ann Dittrich | 20.00 |

In thanksgiving by Elsie Farek | 100.00 |
**Total** | **$6,081.00**

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

**DSA update**

2016 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: $1,936,221.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $665,319.18
Parish Contribution Totals: $565,670.18
Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,451

**Save the Date**
**October 1!**

Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry Prayer: The Faith Prayed Holy Family Church, Wharton

Bishop Brendan Cahill will offer his keynote address, “Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities” using the title of the book on Father Charles Kram. The bishop will offer the same keynote in Spanish. A second keynote address, “To Be Known As God’s and As God Knows Us!” will be presented by Charleen Katra, and Rita Martinez will offer it in Spanish. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. and closes with Mass at 4:30 p.m. For complete descriptions of workshops and presenter biographical information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828.

**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**
SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Year of Change

(Continued from last month)

In 1874 a development that helped the Sisters in Victoria was the fact that they were able to become certified as educators and thus become eligible to draw public school salaries for four months each year as part of the “Community System”. This allowed them to save their earnings for future buildings.

Then, in 1882, three Sisters left Victoria to make the fifth foundation in Texas in Hallettsville; this foundation was transferred to San Antonio in 1926. Today, the Sisters continue to serve at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville and at the San Antonio foundation. The order by this time was well established in the New World.

Although the Victoria community of IWBS Sisters had sent Sisters out to begin new foundations, the little community continued to prosper in the bustling little town on the Guadalupe River. Things were happening! The Italian Count Joseph Telfener with a host of immigrants from his homeland completed the railroad from Rosenberg to Victoria (the Macaroni Line) in 1882. Steamboats navigated the Guadalupe River to Victoria until the middle 1880’s. During this time telegraph service had reached Victoria; soon afterward telephone service was available. Victoria was being connected with the rest of the world! In the city itself, businesses were springing up in what is now the downtown area. People were able to get around the growing city on a mule-powered streetcar system with four cars.

Change was also happening in the Church and in the Convent School. Graduates of the school were requesting entrance into the order. The increasing numbers helped staff the school and some of the other newly-established foundations.

At the diocesan level, the bishop of San Antonio, Rev. Anthony Pellicer, who was a great advocate of Catholic education, suffered from diabetes. At this time insulin treatment was not yet available and although he sought treatments that were practiced at the time, he succumbed to the disease in 1880. At his death the Rev. John Neraz was consecrated bishop of the Diocese of San Antonio. Bishop Neraz was no stranger to the Sisters. He had come from France in 1866 on the warship on which Mother St. Claire Valentine returned from her recruiting trip to Europe to get volunteers, so that the Brownsville community would be able to send Sisters to Victoria. This was the ill-fated voyage on which four of the twelve young Sisters died from yellow fever before they ever got to Texas. Bishop Neraz, filled with missionary zeal, would continue to administer the diocese called the “Villa”, to take care of the rabbits and ducks and to clean the duck pond. I remember someone slipping and falling into the duck pond.”

During the summer the candidates spent the nights at the Villa in order to provide space for the Sisters who lived and taught elsewhere during the school year but were home for the summer. When Nazareth Convent became overcrowded, it was decided to build Incarnate Word Convent on Water St. (to be continued)

For more about the early days of the Sisters in Victoria – please come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad’s book: TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time.

Early Sisters at the Monastery of the Incarnate Word in Victoria. Notice that some of the Sisters are wearing black habits instead of the white garments with a maroon scapular. These “lay” sisters were not bound to stay within the cloister and could leave the monastery for business needs.
PERFECTION—Jose Andres Ramos, a seventh grader from Our Lady of Victory School, was chosen as the Grand National Grade-Level Champion in Zaner-Bloser’s 2016 National Handwriting Contest. More than 270,000 students participated from public and private schools, requiring students from kindergarten through second grade to submit print entries while students in third through eighth grade submit cursive entries. Andres was not coached during the process; his skill is self-discipline, which he demonstrated while he persevered through penmanship’s challenges. At the school’s award ceremony, Andres was recognized for his achievement by Principal Sr. Laura Toman and Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. John Quary. Pictured above is Andres with Dr. Quary.

Catholic Educators Honored by KC’s

On May 18, 2016, about 200 Victoria Catholic school teachers and their spouses were honored by the Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council #9088 with a fried chicken dinner held at the Holy Family Activity Center.

Faculty and staff from Nazareth Academy, Our Lady of Victoria School and St. Joseph High School along with KC members and their wives listened to inspiring words from St. Joseph Class of 1977 graduate Eddie Huse. He thanked the teachers for their dedicated efforts toward strengthening Catholic education. Huse is anticipating his ordination into the Permanent Deaconate this summer after seven rigorous years of preparation. He expressed the importance of Christian principles taught by these three Catholic schools which provide a strong foundation of lifelong Catholic faith saying, “God always wins out at the end of the day”.

Mr. Huse pointed out that these three schools have been in existence for a combined 356 years and they deserve our prayers. He also recognized St. Joseph High School teacher David Pozzi for 48 years of teaching, the longest tenure of these three schools. This is just one example of the tremendous dedication these teachers have for instilling Catholic education into our leaders of tomorrow.

Tip to Help Your Prayer Life

Establish Good Habits – You should be able to rely on your habits to help you, and not hurt you, in your prayer. A good habit takes 66 days (at least) to establish. So, if you can commit to a routine of prayer for 2 months, you should start to lay the groundwork for healthy prayer habits.
This was my first year to experience Camp David and I really had no idea what to expect. I was a little hesitant at first but that quickly went away after I arrived and met the Youth Leadership Team (YLT). The YLT was very welcoming of my presence and they were very interested in getting to know me not only as a person, but also me, the seminarian. We spent a lot of time together and became well acquainted.

It wasn’t long after my arrival that the campers started to arrive at Camp David. I quickly realized that this was going to be a fun week. The youth spent time getting to know each other and most importantly, developing a deeper relationship with God. The youth were able to take full advantage of this year’s theme, “Care of Gods Creation.” They participated in many sessions that talked about what harms the environment and what we can do to fix these issues. You could tell the youth participate in their science classes; it showed when they had to give examples of the things that destroy God’s creation and what we can do to help fix it.

Camp David was divided into two overnight sessions and a day session for the younger group. Each session closed with the planting of an olive tree. This activity really impacted the youth, encouraging them to start making changes to protect their environments.

I look forward to the years to come to spend time with the youth and help them grow closer to God. I cannot wait for Camp David 2017!
GRADUATES RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS—Knights of Columbus Council #9088, Holy Family Victoria, presented scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Those honored were, left-right, Brenna Sestak, Christopher Ontai, Samuel Bonorden, and Lucas Kabela. Knights of Columbus representatives back row, left-right, Harvey Kocian, Grand Knight; Charles Bluntzer, Scholarship Chairman; and Steve Dolezal, Deputy Grand Knight.

BLESSING—Knights of Columbus Council #4307 presented their annual scholarships and Knights of Columbus Bibles to the three recipients for the academic year of 2015-2016. The presentations were made on May 21 after the 6:30 p.m. Mass with council chaplain Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo at St. Peter’s Church. The recipients are Ryan Lezak, Margaret Nance, and Dionicio (Isiah) Morales. Also in attendance were members of Council #4307.

HOLY SPIRIT—Bishop Brendan Cahill at the confirmation ceremony June 5, at St. Patrick’s Church in Bloomington, along with Father Samuel Appiasi. Also assisting but not pictured was Deacon Fred Soto.

Blessing KC’s Present Scholarships

Summer Fun Days at Chancery Library

Library Fun Days at the Chancery have been a big hit this Summer! The children have planted seeds, learned about the Eucharist, crafted crosses, made milk carton chapels and more. Library Fun Days will be on July 13 and July 27 from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
FRELSBURG, TEXAS
COUNTRY FESTIVAL
Sunday
August 7
Polka Mass - 10:00 a.m.

Save the Dates July 13 & 27 ~ Last Summer Fun Days

FRELSBURG’S ORIGINAL FRIED FISH
with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea
Meal Tickets: Large $10.00 Small $6.00 - Drive Thru Line: Plate-to-Go $10.00
(Hamburgers, Nachos & Snacks available after 3 PM)

AUCTION
1:00 PM
Inside A/C Hall
- Religious Articles - Prizes
- Ring Toss - Country Store
- Grocery Walk - Cake Walk
- Ice Cream - Fish Pond
* SILENT AUCTION *

FREE BINGO
12 to 4
Inside the Hall after the AUCTION

FREE DANCE
The Lost Cause Band

“Come join us for a good old-fashioned time!”

For more information call: 979-732-3439 or 979-732-0257
In Memory of...

Sister Manuela Hernandez

Sister Manuela Hernandez, MCSH a member of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, passed away at the age of 90, Thursday, May 19, 2016. She was born October 29, 1925 in Mexico to the late Andres Hernandez and Maria De Jesus Cruz.

She is preceded in death by her parents. Funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, May 23, 2016 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church presided by Father Albert Yankey. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery #3.

Sister Constanza Rosa Dominguez

Sister Constanza Rosa Dominguez, MCSH a member of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, passed away at the age of 90, Friday, May 6, 2016.

She was born February 17, 1926 in Mexico to the late Pilar Dominguez Rivas and Leonor Colin Monroy.

She is preceded in death by her parents. Funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church presided by Father Albert Yankey. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery #3.

Sister Faustina Orsak

Sister Faustina Orsak, 76, of Victoria, died May 23, 2016. She was born March 21, 1940, in Sealy, Texas to the late John and Albina Gajewski Orsak. She was a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. She attended elementary school at Frydek Catholic School and at Immaculate Conception School in Sealy. She entered Nazareth Convent in 1955, after graduating from Nazareth Academy. She became a novice on August 5, 1959 and made her first vows on August 6, 1965. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in English from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She was awarded a Texas Teacher Certificate, specializing in the elementary level. During the 56 years of her religious profession, Sister Faustina taught in San Antonio, Victoria, Floresville, Selma, and Hallettsville.

Sister Faustina retired from full-time active classroom duties in 2012 to reside at Incarnate Word Convent Healthcare.

Survivors include her brothers, Dennis Orsak, Edwin Orsak and wife Theresa, Daniel Orsak and wife Bonnie; sisters, Bernadette Coroneos and husband Joe, Linda DuFour, Darlene Brewer and husband Curt; and Aunt Mary Gajewski; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Joe, Patrick, and Clement Orsak.

A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at Incarnate Word Convent. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Faithful Citizenship

Continued from pg. 2

views and debate them fiercely. After the election we are called once again to trust in “We the People,” and work together for the good of our culture.

One more thought about politics in this national election year. Growing up in Texas I have come to a conclusion that while we spend a lot of time debating national politics, most of the day-to-day work of building a better culture is carried on by the local politicians. As we focus on the national election, we need also to participate in elections for school boards, city councils, county commissioners, judges, etc., etc. Having worked quite a bit with these local politicians in the past I can assure you they particularly appreciate greater citizen involvement.

We are blessed to live in the United States of America, we are blessed to live in Texas. Writing about politics, I want to especially thank all of the men and women who have placed their names on ballots for a variety of offices. Thank you also to all those election volunteers who make it possible for us to vote in a safe way. May God bless America and each of you and your families with deeper gratitude and commitment to continually participate in building a just and peaceful society - let’s keep each other in prayer,

Brendan +
The priest reveals the heart of God - “My compassion grows warm and tender.”

(Hosea 11:8)
Name: Father Peter Oscar Kofi Amo  
Age: 41  
Hometown: Born in town of Winnebe in the central part of Ghana, West Africa; raised in town of Komenda in the central part of Ghana and Terkwa, in the western part of Ghana  
Parents: Oscar Peter Amo and Mrs. Theresa Awo Amo  
Siblings: (2 brothers and one sister) Martin Amo married to Esther with 3 children lives in Ghana, Benedicte Amo married to Mark with a son and they live in Italy, Stephen Amo studying in Kenya in the seminary with the Fransiscan Friars. He will be ordained a deacon next year and God willing by the end of 2017 he will be a priest.  
First Parish Assignment: St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero  
Where did you attend College/ Seminary? St. Paul Major Seminary from 9-12th grade and St. Peters Regional Seminary in Ghana  
How did your Vocation come about? "As a young boy we lived in an area where there was a mission church. There was hardly a priest around. I fell in love with the priesthood at age 14. We were all waiting for the priest to show up and he wasn’t showing up. I thought to myself I wish I was a priest I would get up and celebrate Mass.”  
What or who inspired you to enter Seminary? It was always in my heart to become a priest. In Ghana I waited 9 years working as a teacher in the high school never losing hope on becoming a priest. People around me thought I would give up and move on to the next vocation. Archbishop Mathias Nketsiah in Ghana had a friend in the United States, Bishop David Fellhauer, who accepted me into the diocese to discern. I flew from Ghana, to London, to Houston and to Victoria and here I am serving the people of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas!  
Do you have any hobbies? Listening to cool music like Whitney Houston & Michael Jackson and playing soccer  
A few words to those who were a part of his vocation: After all of these years I thank Archbishop Mathias Nketsiah and Father Charles Elvis Otsiwah for recommending me to Bishop David Fellhauer who accepted me in the Diocese of Victoria. After staying with Father Dan Morales for over a year I thank him so much for teaching me American culture, how to drive, and many other things. I thank Bishop Brendan Cahill for his fatherly care and love for me. Finally, I have been ordained as a priest to serve in this diocese!

See Father Peter Oscar Kofi Amo, pg. 12
Name: Father Max Alexander Landman
Age: 29
Hometown: Uvalde, Texas
Home Parish: Sacred Heart, Uvalde, Texas
Parents: Jack Landman, Jr. (deceased); Liza Toombs
Sibling: 1 older sister, Camille Simon, she lives in New Orleans
First Parish Assignment: Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; and the surrounding parishes, Ascension in Moravia; St. Mary’s; St. John the Baptist
Where did you attend College/Seminary? TCU for undergrad; Holy Trinity Seminary for philosophy; Pontifical College Josephinum for theology
How did your Vocation come about? The first inklings of a vocation to the priesthood came about when I was nine or ten years old, serving at Mass. I did not really understand the theology, but I had a profound sense of peace in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and sometimes imitated being a priest. There were also strong suggestions from a few different people that I needed to be a priest, including shortly before Confirmation from a very holy and dedicated catechism teacher. Her influence in particular made it impossible for me to simply dismiss the idea. Before graduating from college, the death of my great Aunt Biddy had a profound impact on me, both as a spark for taking my faith more seriously and, for reasons I cannot explain, planting the idea of priesthood firmly in my heart. When that idea still remained after working for a year after graduation, I realized that I would not be at peace unless I gave seminary a shot. Fortunately, I was able to persevere through many difficulties and foster a relationship with our Lord that guided me on to ordination.
What or who inspired you to enter Seminary? In addition to the people and events I mentioned above, there was the devotion of my grandmother, my mother’s faith, my father’s

See Father Max Landman, pg. 12
Deacon Jacob Mendoza
“I was excited and humbled to be ordained, I am eager for priesthood, but also excited to be in a period of 1 year transition to fully prepare for priesthood.”

Deacon Jacob will be spending every other weekend during the school year at St. Philip Parish, El Campo.

Deacon Stephen Vacek
“My ordination to the diaconate was the most joyful moment of my life. I am humbled to be called by God’s people, the people of our diocese, to the vocation of the transitional diaconate and next year the priesthood. I thank the Lord for the gift of serving at his altar, proclaiming his gospel, and serving the people of God of the Diocese of Victoria. May God bless you! Spanem Bohem!”

Deacon Stephen will be spending every other weekend during the school year at Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville.

The ordination celebration held at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory included the ordination of two deacons. Jacob Aaron Mendoza and Stephen Paul Vacek were ordained transitional deacons. Deacons preparing for the priesthood are transitional deacons for one year before being ordained a priest. Both men are attending St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. The two new deacons were asked: How did you feel being ordained a deacon knowing that in 1 year you will become a priest?

Father Max Landman
Continued from pg. 11
influence, and the witness of St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.
What was your favorite part of Seminary? The most enjoyable part was developing strong friendships that will help sustain me throughout my life.
Favorite Saint or one that inspires you? I am in awe over soon-to-be St. Teresa of Calcutta’s perseverance through darkness.
What is your favorite scripture? The response of the people in Luke 7:16. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, “A great prophet has arisen in our midst,” and “God has visited his people.”
What is your favorite book? The Brothers Karamazov by Dostoyevsky
Hobbies? Golf; I’m also pretty interested in culture, politics, and the media
What would you like to share with the people of the Diocese of Victoria? I want to tell the people of this diocese how welcoming and supportive they have been, and what a privilege it is to serve them in the name of Christ.
A few words to those who were a part of his vocation: I would like to express my gratitude to Bishop Fellhauer for welcoming me into the diocese and ordaining me a deacon and Bishop Cahill for so eagerly embracing his new flock and ordaining me a priest.

Father Peter Oscar Kofi Amo
Continued from pg. 10
What would you like to share with the people of the Diocese of Victoria? I have received love, care and a lot of support, from the good people in this diocese. The prayers of support have helped me reach the altar of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless them and their families.
Seminarian Recalls, Msgr. Bily Always Around

By Dalton Ervin
Seminarian

WEIMAR—The Reverend Monsignor John C. Bily has spent the last twenty-eight years, in addition to four years as an associate pastor from 1962-1966, of his fifty-eight years of priestly ordination at St. Michael Catholic Church in Weimar. It is in the midst of his twenty-eight-year tenure that my time with Msgr. Bily begins. When my parents celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Michael Church, it was the then Fr. Bily who accepted their vows and it was he who baptized me almost 25 years ago. Growing up on the same block as the church made Fr. Bily a fixture in my life. Whether we were cutting through his yard on the way to school, riding bikes, or playing the unending games of hide-and-seek, Fr. Bily was always around.

Looking back at this seemingly omnipresent priest, the image of St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus and husband of Mary comes to mind. In the Gospels, we read very little of the life and work of Joseph. We know he was a carpenter and that it was he who took the Holy Family to Egypt in order to protect the infant Christ from Herod’s terror until it was safe to return. Joseph is known for his silent yet tireless work in supporting and protecting the family entrusted to him by God. Likewise, Fr. Bily quietly worked by repairing, caring for, and protecting the parish entrusted to him by the Most Reverend Charles Grahmann in 1988, through the entirety of the service of the Most Reverend David Fellhauer, until today in 2016 under the Most Reverend Brendan Cahill. This pastor of St. Michael Parish in Weimar served as repairman, gardener, bus driver, plumber, electrician, security, and countless other roles making very little noise and attracting no attention except for the gentle hum of his lawn mower.

It would be through Fr. Bily’s priestly ministry that I would first hear the words of absolution in the confessional. At his anointed hands I would receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. Through his guidance of the parish, I would be prepared for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and with his recommendation I would apply and enter into seminary formation for the Diocese of Victoria. At the same time, Fr. Bily would be the presence of Christ for my family in times of tragedy and death. Saying that this priest simply played a role in discerning and cultivating my own vocation would be an understatement. Countless people in Weimar share this same story, and many now have children and grandchildren who are being baptized by the same faithful pastor.

The more time I spend around Msgr. Bily, the more I learn about the true meaning of being a priest and loving the people of God entrusted to his fatherly care. His legacy of fidelity, support, and perseverance will remain in Weimar as long as St. Michael Catholic Church does. Although we can count the number of Sacraments he has administered, the number of lives he has affected both in and out of the confines of the walls of the church, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, Msgr. Bily’s years of service and devotion to others are beyond enumeration. The Lord has been faithful to His promise and “[given us] a shepherd after [His] own heart” (Jeremiah 3:15).
I was born in San Bernardino, California on September 27, 1962 to Leo and Melba (Scheffler) Sharron. We moved back to my mother’s hometown of Cuero, Texas when I was about 2 years old and now at the age of 53 I am still a Cuero boy. I attended St. Michael’s School in Cuero for 8 years where the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament ran the school. This was at a time when tuition was only about $20 a month! Over the course of my years at St. Michael’s I gave the poor sisters a lot of grief with my mischievous behavior. I think I have been spanked in every corner of every room of the school and I deserved every one of them! Many of the sisters who taught me did their time in purgatory on Earth. That being said, I managed to win the religion award over the course of many of those years.

My wife Anne and I have been married for twenty-five years. She has a kindness of those years.

In addition to my parish duties, I also serve as a full time chaplain for Hospice of South Texas. Working with terminally ill patients and their families is one of the most profound and fulfilling experiences in my life. Being able to walk with patients as they face the end of their life is an honor and a blessing. Helping families cope with end of life issues and grief help me to grow in my own faith.

As I work on my Masters in Counseling, I hope to continue to work with Hospice of South Texas and to provide grief support groups and counseling to those struggling with the loss of loved ones.

I feel truly blessed to have been called to serve the people of God as a deacon. I credit my Catholic education, the good sisters (God bless them for putting up with me), all my teachers, and all the priests who have been an example of faith and service for forming me in faith.

Most of all, I give thanks to God for my grandmother, Minnie Scheffler, who never stopped praying for me, even in the shaky times of my life. Her dedication to prayer and her unwavering faith lead me to a deep conversion of heart.

My advice to all parents and grandparents is to never stop praying for your children.

May God’s blessing continue to be with you all.

Permanent Deacon Formation Class Forming

Christ, whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, has through His apostles, made their successors, the bishops, partakers of His consecration and His mission. They have legitimately handed on to different individuals in the Church various degrees of participation in this ministry. Thus the divinely established ecclesiastical ministry is exercised on different levels by those who from antiquity have been called bishops, priests and deacons. This teaching formed the foundation for the “restoration” of the diaconate as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy.

If 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 for you and your family will be held from 2-4:00 p.m. on Saturday September 10 at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, and again from 2-4:00 p.m. on Sunday September 11 at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. You only need to attend one of the sessions.

Three to be Ordained Permanent Deacons

Edward Huse
Holy Family Victoria

Michael Tankersly
Sacred Heart Hallettsville

Anthony Hensley
Assumption of BVM Ganado

They will be ordained to the Permanent Deaconate on July 23 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory by Bishop Brendan Cahill. See the photos and story in the August 2016 Catholic Lighthouse.
DIOCESE

Sunday Readings from July 10 - August 14

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

July 17 - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalms 15:2-3, 3-4, 5
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 24 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8
Colossians 2:12-14

July 31 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 7 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 18:6-9
Psalms 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

August 14 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Psalms 40:2, 3, 4, 18
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings.
Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign

Dedication of the Church and Altar of St. Mary’s Church in Praha

PRAHA—The 1st phase of the restoration project began in 2011 with the replacement of the leaking shingled roof. The church closed in January 2015 to worshippers in order that the interior restoration work could begin. A year and a half later the work was completed and on June 12, 2016 St. Mary’s Church was rededicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill celebrated the rededication with concelebrating bishops, The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer and The Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann as well as 6 concelebrating priests.

Bishop Cahill began the dedication Mass by blessing and sprinkling holy water throughout the church. During Mass, Bishop Cahill anointed the new altar with chrism oil and Bishop Fellhauer anointed the walls of the church. The new altar replaced the makeshift one of the 1960s. Arches were added in the new altar making it possible to see the Last Supper scene. After the dedication a meal was shared by parishioners and friends.

HISTORY
A group of Czech immigrants in Praha built a stone chapel in 1865 and a larger church was built in 1876 as the immigrant population increased in the area. The present stone church was completed November 20, 1895. St. Mary’s Praha was the first Catholic Church between Houston and San Antonio. Many changes took place in 1965 with the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council. Changes over the years include:

- A new altar was put in front of the reredos (the present main back altar) so that the presider would face the worshipping assembly.
- The original long leaf pine wooden floor in the sanctuary has been restored. It was covered with green shag carpet and the church floor was covered with green and white vinyl tile.
- The ambo (pulpit) was removed and replaced with a simple wooden structure.
- Ceiling fans with light kits replaced the old light fixtures installed in the 1930s with the advent of electricity.
- The 3 church bells were rope pulled and had not rung in years. These are now digitally controlled. They ring automatically at 6:00 a.m., noon, 6:00 p.m. and after Sunday Mass.
- The stained glass windows are now re-leaded and repainted. The process has restored the glass windows to their original configuration.

CDA Hosted Pilgrimage to Holy Doors

Catholic Daughters of the America’s Court St. Ann #369 held a Holy Doors Pilgrimage on April 30, 2016 in celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Members and their guests met at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. The Rev. Kristopher Fuchs gave a reading of the parable of the prodigal son and pointed out the stained glass window depicting the parable and the mercy of God.

The group traveled to Holy Cross Church in Yorktown, where Father Kristopher explained indulgences offered during the Year of Mercy. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was prayed by the pilgrims.

Upon arrival at Rafael’s Refuge, a Picnic lunch for the 46 pilgrims before returning to Victoria.


Memorial to the Innocents in Flatonia, Midge Elam, founder of the memorial, welcomed the group. She told how she was inspired to build the memorial which is a place of comfort, forgiveness, and healing for those who have lost babies to stillbirth, miscarriage or abortion. Glass bricks etched with the names of lost children line the walls of the memorial building. Mass was celebrated in the chapel, followed by a picnic lunch for the 46 pilgrims before returning to Victoria.

The journey through these Holy Doors was a beautiful procession as each person reflected on God’s mercy. They will cherish the joyful and spiritual experience that was shared by all.

To help maintain and preserve this spiritual heritage for the future consider making a donation to the St. Mary’s Church Restoration Endowment Fund. For more information go to www.stmaryspraha.org.

Look in the September 2016 Catholic Lighthouse for 2017 Trips

Pathways and Patti
334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
(361) 552.2698 or (361) 920.3216
email: zkmmnt@tisd.net
www.pathwayswithpatti.com
GHANA ENVIRONMENT—Men in Ghana collect recyclable material washed ashore after heavy flooding in Accra June 13. (CNS photo/Christian Thompson, EPA)

Blueprint of Catholic Response to Orlando: Pray, Act, Show Solidarity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Orlando, Florida, and the nation moves on from the shock of the June 12 nightclub attack, many are finding that there is no set path to find solace. But in the midst of collective mourning over the worst mass shooting in U.S. history, the Catholic Church has something to say not only about the senseless attack on human life but also about finding peace in troubled times and showing solidarity with the suffering. Many U.S. Catholic bishops condemned the shooting at the gay nightclub, which left 50 dead, including the shooter, and more than 50 others injured. Chicago Archbishop Blase J. Cupich took the lead in expressing sorrow that the gay community was singled out by the gunman. He said he and the Chicago Archdiocese stood with members of the gay community in the wake of “the heinous crimes” in Orlando “motivated by hate, driven perhaps by mental instability and certainly empowered by a culture of violence.” Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg and several others similarly expressed sadness for gay community’s loss and the pain they experienced because of prejudice and hatred. That’s a start, some say, hoping those messages will begin to diffuse hateful rhetoric that can lead some people to violence. “Church teaching does not say you should be evil toward people,” said Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity Washington University, who said the heart of the church’s message is the need to love our brothers and sisters and welcome all.

Fear Closes, Prayer Opens Believers to God’s Surprises, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Prayer is a key that opens the door to God, unlocks selfish, fearful hearts and leads people from sadness to joy and from division to unity, Pope Francis said on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. Prayer — entrusting oneself humbly to God and his will — “is always the way out of our personal and community’s closures,” he said. Twenty-five archbishops appointed over the course of the past year were invited to come to Rome to concelebrate the feast day Mass with Pope Francis. They came from 15 countries. Of the new archbishops, 11 were from the Americas, 10 from Europe and one each from Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Middle East.

Texas Bishops Highly Concerned with Ruling

Continued from pg. 1 of Catholics and pro-life people across America and the world, will continue their efforts to protect life and human dignity from conception to natural death.

The Texas Catholic Conference is the association of the Roman Catholic bishops of Texas. Through the TCC, the bishops provide a moral and social public policy voice that includes monitoring all legislation pertaining to Catholic moral and social teaching; accredit the state’s Catholic schools; and maintain records that reflect the work and the history of the Catholic Church in Texas.

Supreme Court Tie Vote Blocks Temporary Plan to Stop Deportations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With a tie vote June 23, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the Obama administration’s plan to temporarily protect more than 4 million unauthorized immigrants from deportation. The court’s 4-4 vote leaves in place a lower court injunction blocking the administration’s immigration policy with the one-page opinion stating: “The judgment is affirmed by an equally divided court.” Legal experts have called it an ambiguous and confusing political and legal decision that leaves many in a state of limbo. It also puts a lot of attention on the vacant Supreme Court seat that may determine how the case is decided in an appeal. Religious leaders were quick to denounce the court’s action as a setback for immigrant families and stressed the urgency of comprehensive immigration reform. Seattle Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio L. Elizondo, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, said the court’s decision was a “huge disappointment” and a setback, but he said the focus now needs to be on how to fix the current immigration system. “We must not lose hope that reform is possible,” he said.

Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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.
Hermanos y Hermanas,

Cuando voté en las primarias en marzo, recordé mi reacción cuando el voluntario de la elección me preguntó: “¿Cuál primario? Susurré mi respuesta y procedí a emitir mi voto. Pensando después, si alguien estaba viendo, habría preguntado por qué era tan reservado sobre mi afiliación partidaria. Lo pensé y varias cosas se han hecho claras para mí.

La primera cosa es el deber importante que tenemos como ciudadanos Americanos para votar - en cada elección. A mí me sorprende cuanta gente no votan o parecen ajenos al proceso político. Como tomamos tiempo este mes honrar la declaración de independencia el 4 de julio, creo que necesitamos tomar tiempo para considerar y discutir las principales cuestiones políticas de nuestro tiempo.

En nuestro sitio diocesano (victoriadiocese.org) tenemos un enlace a un documento aprobado por los obispos de los Estados Unidos, “Ciudadanos Fieles”. Nosotros obispos aprobamos esto en una reunión reciente, e incluye pensamientos sobre temas importantes. Espero que esto pueda proveer una guía a católicos y toda la gente de buena voluntad para que puedan discutir estas temas importantes que enfrenta nuestra sociedad. Le pido a usted y a su familia que toman tiempo leer este documento como una preparación para las elecciones nacionales próximas. Es un poco largo y detallado y puede ser intimidante para empezar a leer - pero definitivamente vale la pena leerlo un poco a la vez.

Al leer “Ciudadanos Fieles” encontrarás algunas declaraciones que como obispos, no creemos que debamos respaldar a apoyar activamente cualquier candidato o partido en particular. Realizo que algunas personas pueden creer que los obispos y yo podemos ser “en el lado” o “contra” ciertos candidatos, especialmente en una elección presidencial. A mí realmente depende en el asunto individual, y espero que nosotros, como católicos, podíamos trabajar con cualquier candidato en trabajar para una sociedad justa y pacífica.

Esto me lleva a pensar en como fui/reservado sobre mi afiliación del partido político en marzo. Tengo fuertes opiniones políticas personales sobre lo que creo que es mejor para el país.

Se que hay personas buenas y muchos buenos amigos, que tienen puntos de vista opuestos. La belleza de la nación fundada de la declaración de independencia es que como Ciudadanos Americanos somos capaces de expresar estas visiones diferentes y debatirlos ferventemente. Después de las elecciones somos llamados una vez más a confiar en “Nosotros el Pueblo” y trabajar juntos por el bien de nuestra cultura.

Un pensamiento más sobre la política en este año de elecciones nacionales. Creciendo en Texas he llegado a una conclusión que mientras pasamos mucho tiempo debatiendo sobre la política nacional, la mayor parte del trabajo de construir una mejor cultura día a día se lleva a cabo por los políticos locales. Mientras nos enfocamos en las elecciones nacionales, tenemos también que participar en las elecciones para los consejos escolares, ayuntamientos, Comisionados del Condado, jueces, etc., etc., habiendo trabajado mucho con estos políticos locales en el pasado, puedo asegurarnos que aprecian especialmente participación ciudadana. Somos benditos que vivimos en los Estados Unidos y en Texas. Escribiendo sobre la política, quiero agradecer especialmente a todos los hombres y mujeres que han puesto sus nombres en las papeletas para una variedad de oficinas.

Gracias también a todos los voluntarios de las elecciones que hacen posible que podamos votar de una manera segura. Que Dios bendiga a América y a cada uno de ustedes y sus familias con gratitud más profunda y compromiso de participar continuamente en la construcción de una sociedad justa y pacífica, vamos a mantener cada uno al otro en la oración.

Brendan +

La declaración de Obispo Brendan Cahill sobre la tragedia en Orlando:

Debido a la tragedia reciente en Orlando, Pope Francis expresó su amor y preocupación por las víctimas, sus familias y América en este tiempo. Como él ha enunciado tan bien, todos somos hijos e hijas de un Dios de gracia. Vamos a apoyar el uno al otro en amor y volver a comprometernos con una cultura de vida y el respeto a la dignidad de cada persona. Que Dios los bendiga. Mantenemos uno al otro en el oración.

Brendan +

Voto de Corte Suprema bloquea plan temporal para detener deportaciones

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Con un empate de votos el 23 de junio, la Corte Suprema de los EEUU bloqueó un plan de la administración del presidente Obama que hubiera permitido temporalmente a más de 4 millones de inmigrantes de deportación. El voto de 4-4 afirmó la decisión de una corte de apelaciones que impidió los planes de deportación. En una opinion legal de una página, la Corte Suprema dijo: “El dictamen se reafirma por una corte igualmente dividida”.

Expertos de ley han llamado una ambigua y confusa decisión política y jurídica, y una que deja a muchos en un estado de suspensión. La decisión también dirige la atención pública al puesto vacante en la Corte Suprema. La persona que llene ese lugar puede determinar el caso en el futuro si se vuelve a presentar en apelación.

Líderes religiosos no tardaron en denunciar las acciones de la corte como una regresión para familias inmigrantes y enfatizaron la urgencia de una reforma comprensiva de inmigración. El obispo Óscar Cantú, de Las Cruces, Nuevo México, se refirió al dictamen de la corte como una “una triste decisión” y dijo que el plan de inmigración del presidente había sido “el resultado de años de labores laboriosos y esfuerzos comprometidos de defensores de inmigrantes, de organizaciones comunitarias, de algunos legisladores y de la comunidad en fe”.

Stocks • Bonds • CDs • Mutual Funds • IRAs

Kenneth J. French, Sr.
1501 E Mockingbird, Ste 102
Victoria, TX 77901

Edward Jones
(361) 576-0178
kenny.french@edwardjones.com
Moravia—Ascension Parish Picnic July 17. A stew and fried chicken dinner beginning at 11:00 a.m. at $9 p/p. There will be entertainment throughout the day. Music by Mark Halata & Texavia and The Czechaholics.

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

Yoakum—Annual St. Joseph Alumni Reunion, Aug. 6 with Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception and dinner at St. Joseph Family Center. Tickets are $15 for adults & $5 for children under 12. Call the rectory at (361) 293-3518 for more information.

Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Country Festival, Aug. 7 beginning with a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. A fried fish meal at 11:00 a.m. at $10 p/p large and $6 p/p small. For more information call (979) 732-3430 or (979) 732-0257. See ad on pg. 7.

Victoria—Our Lady of Sorrows Jamaica Aug. 7 at the Victoria Community Center. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a carne guisada dinner at $9 p/p. Live auction at 1:00 p.m. Games and fun for all.

Yoakum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 7 at the Yoakum Community Center. A stew and sausage meal served starting at 10:30 a.m. at $9 p/p. See ad on pg. 8.

Victoria—KJZT Society 101 Mass for living and deceased members Aug. 14, 7:30 a.m. at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Breakfast to follow in the cafeteria. Please RSVP by calling (361) 573-2669.

Praha—160th Prazska Pont/Praha Picnic Aug. 15. A 10:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Cahill at St. Mary’s Church. From 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and fried chicken dinner at $9 p/p. Music from 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. by Ennis Czech Boys, Praha Brothers and The All Around Czech. There will be a cake walk, games, country store and more throughout the day. Auction at 1:00 p.m. For more information visit stmarypraha.org.

Hillje—St. Andrew Summer Festival, Aug. 21 at the parish hall. A prime beef barbecue and sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. with drive-thru plates-to-go also available both at $9 p/p. Indoor auction at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, bake sale, cake walk and more along with some music.

Hungerford—St. Francis Seraphin KJT Society #79 centennial celebration, Aug. 28 beginning with Mass at 9:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist Church. A barbecue chicken/ sausage dinner starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center (KJT Hall). Silent auction, and hourly door prizes. Free dance, 1:00-5:00 p.m., music by the Red Ravens. All proceeds benefit upkeep and maintenance of the society’s hall.

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica, Sept. 4
Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 4
Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Sept. 4
Nada—St. Mary’s Parish Festival & Homecoming, Sept. 4
Vanderbilt—St. John Bosco Festival, Sept. 4

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.couragecancer.org.

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 barbaramcconn85@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 Wednesday 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.

Spiritual Director: Father Kristopher Fuchs (OLV) –12 Day Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain & France visiting Lisbon, Aljuzterl, Valinhos, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Burgos, Leon, Lourdes, Zaragoza & Madrid on June 14-27, 2017. For a copy of the itinerary, please e-mail Doris Silva at dsiulva4415@gmail.com. Deposit and payments must be submitted to Little Flower Tours & Travel, for further payment information please contact Susan at (888) 843-7373.

Spiritual Director: Bishop Brendan Cahill—Holy Land Prayer & Encounter Jan. 23-Feb. 3, 2017, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The Gospels and the Rosary come to Life as we visit Nazareth, Bethlehem, Cana, sail on the Sea of Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Jericho, and pray the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem on the way to an early Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. On this very special pilgrimage with Bishop Cahill, there will be special opportunities with Christian brothers and sisters, and learn how they are the “living stones” of the Holy Land. And, yes, you will take a dip in the Dead Sea too! Contact: CeciTriska by email at cetriska@sbcglobal.net or call (979) 543-8575.

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.hospic eofsouthtexas.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 victorianmpfteachers@yahoo.com. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or susannekch614@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.rapahelsrefuge.org.

Retrouvaille—Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call 903-313-2593 or visit www.helppourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.

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

Wharton—Prayer: The Faith Prayed - Conference for Catechesis and Ministry Oct. 1 at Holy Family Church. Keynotes by Bishop Brendan Cahill, Charleen Katra and Rita Martinez. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. and closes with Mass at 4:30 p.m. For complete descriptions of workshops and presenter biographical information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org, click Ministries, then XXIX Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, or call (361) 573-0828.

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

Tivoli—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrates the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the 1st Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. at 501B William St. with Father Paulson Panakal. 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. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.
KJZT Help Those In Need—The KJZT Society 101 of Victoria recently had a bake sale with proceeds benefiting the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent. Pictured above presenting a $1,500 check, is Irene Brosch, KJZT Secretary; Evelyn Dierlam, KJZT President; Robin Cadle, Food Bank Director; Wendy Hrncir, KJZT Member; and Carolyn Nevlud KJZT, Treasurer.

KJZT Society #53 Supports Gabriel Project—The Fraternal 100 Project provided $100 from the state office to each society achieving a Platinum Status for the year 2015 to be used by the society as they wish. The KJZT Society #53 St. Zdislava of Wied achieved this status and gave their money to the Gabriel Project - Lavaca Chapter which helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy/an alternative to abortion. Pictured above, left-right, Katherine Kahanek, KJZT President; Julie Kubena, Gabriel Project representative; Bea Butschek, and Janet Janak, KJZT Members.

KJZT #9 Donates to Turtle Wing Foundation—Holy Rosary Society #9 St. John’s 100 Project donation is being given to Turtle Wing Foundation. Turtle Wing Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to help children with learning challenges in rural areas achieve their full potential. This foundation was founded by DeeAnn Hooper, in honor of her son, Jack Hooper, who passed away April 5, 2011, of a viral-like syndrome of unknown origin. During their 2014-2015 fiscal year, Turtle Wing Foundation helped provide early intervention and supplemental services to 159 children with hundreds more being impacted by Community Education & Advocacy programming. The recipients have all been from Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca and surrounding counties with academic, social-emotional, behavioral and/or developmental needs. To learn more about Turtle Wing Foundation visit www.turtlewingfoundation.org or contact Managing Director, Susie Shank, at (979) 820-8964. Pictured above, left-right, Joyce Janda and Bessie Dornak with KJZT #9 and Susie Shank, Turtle Wing managing director.

WEIMAR KC’s Honors New Priest—As a deacon last summer, Father Max Landman served at St. Michael Church, Weimar, assisting Msgr. John Bily. The Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153 are proud to be one of the co-sponsors for the seminarians of the Diocese of Victoria. Newly ordained Father Max Landman is shown receiving a monetary donation from the members of Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153. Presenting the donation is Grand Knight Martin Luchak, left and Treasurer Francis Janacek, right.

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A Painted Church Rededicated
St. Mary’s Church in Praha

Interior of St. Mary’s Praha, in 2005 file photo.

Interior of St. Mary’s Praha, at the rededication Mass.

The original ambo was stripped and gilded in 24-k gold leaf. The canopy is a replica of the original.

Bishop Cahill blessed the new altar of sacrifice. It replaces the makeshift Formica altar of the 1960s.

The hand painted ceiling of the church was left intact. The ceiling was painted by Godfrey Flury (1864-1936) of Oensingen, Switzerland.

To the east of the church is the Zdrávas Maria fountain. It was constructed as a part of the rededication of the church.

Celebrating at this Mass were Bishop Brendan Cahill, Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, Bishop Charles Grahmann; priests, Msgr. Lambert Bily, Msgr. John Wagner, Msgr. Emil Wesselsky, Father Gabriel Maison and Father Kofi Amissah, pastor St. Joan of Arc, Diocese of Albany; Deacon John McCourt and Master of Ceremonies Dalton Ervin, Seminarian.

See story on pg. 15