SHINER — When the decision was made to begin the 2nd phase of restoration for the 1916 Shiner convent, the words “Bringing Forth the New and the Old” were chosen for the campaign theme. These words were inspired by Matthew 13:5, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

St. Ludmila Convent is a witness to the past and an icon of the future having served as a convent and school for 100 years. It was the first school in Shiner, built in 1896 by the IWBS Sisters and Father Francis Machan, a priest from France, who gave a large personal donation for the convent to be completed. It was named Saint Ludmila’s Academy in honor of a Slavic saint. In February 1897 the school opened for co-educational boarding and day school with 57 enrolled students. The school was operated by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Courses taught at that time included the German and Czech languages and music. In 1916 a new structure, which is the existing convent building, was built to meet increased enrollment. In 1963 St. Paul High School was built. Over the years many other buildings have been constructed including: a parish hall in 2001, a $1.5 million dollar first phase restoration project on the exterior of the 1916 convent was completed in 2010, the Janak Music Center was built in 2012, and over 8 acres of land behind the school were gifted to the parish in 2014 by the Mraz Family.

The increasing demand for space at Shiner Catholic School and church religious programs was the motivation to begin a campaign to begin the 2nd phase and completely restore the St. Ludmila Convent. This renovation will reclaim and restore approximately 14,166 square feet of currently unused space. The plan is to add up to seven additional classrooms, a modern art studio, an extensive library, to dedicate space for the parish activities, and more. The restoration of the convent will repurpose the historic facility for use in today’s academic and religious education environment.

Father Bryan Heyer, the pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius of Shiner was recently assigned to serve the parish and school. Father Bryan shared, “I was very excited to be a pastor of a parish school. As a product of Catholic schools, I believe in the mission of Catholic education.” Father Bryan attended Nazareth Academy and St. Joseph High School in Victoria. He has a special place in his heart for Shiner however, as he spent his pastoral year as a seminarian serving the parish and school from 2001-2002. (This was also the last year that the IWBS Sisters lived at the convent.) “The Pastoral Year is similar to an internship allowing the seminarians to further develop their pastoral skills by being intricately involved in a parish community while under the supervision of the parish priest,” said Father Joseph Lopez, JCL, Chancellor and Vocations Director for the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

Delynn Pesek, a Student Ambassador and sophomore at St. Paul High School is also looking forward to the renovations. She is excited for all the new space, the new library and loves that the school will be able to enroll more kids because of the additional space. She looks forward to the expanded space for the library, it will mean better access to books and resources. She also looks forward to the new space for the church as she said, “We need more space for the kids who want to participate in church activities.”

See Bringing Forth, pg. 20
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The preachers in the early Church often made a connection between the new life of the Resurrection and the new life of the spring each year. In one of his Easter homilies St. Cyril of Alexandria wrote: “But what is more wonderful than all this is that, together with the green things and the flowers, that nature is also renewed who rules over everything on earth. I mean humanity. Indeed, the season of spring brings us the resurrection of the Lord, by which all are re-fashioned in newness of life, having escaped from the strange corruption of death.”

Driving around the countryside of our diocese this past month I’ve been struck by the beauty of nature in this annual time of renewal. The spring-time shows forth so much bright color and sunshine. As I reflect on the beauty of this season I come to realize that it’s sometimes difficult for me to fully comprehend what these early preachers were saying. In modern terms it might be something like: “More beautiful than all the wildflowers in the state of Texas is one human soul cleansed and purified by God.”

As I’m writing this I’m thinking of the men and women who will be baptized, confirmed and/or receiving Holy Communion for the first time at this year’s Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil is the highest Feast of the year for the Church – it is the night on which we celebrate the power of our faith in Jesus and the new life that He personally brings to us. Some of the most joyful people I’ve ever seen are grown men and women who are baptized at the Easter Vigil. Many times it’s almost like they are jumping out of the water with joy (and almost like they could walk on water!). They know what it means to give up all to follow Jesus, and how much more He gives in return. The joy that the newly baptized experience on that holiest of nights is a joy that God desires for us to have in every season. Death and all the trickery of the devil have been conquered, and Jesus promises to be with us until the end of time!

I’ll be celebrating the Easter Vigil in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, and I pray especially for all who will fully be professing our Catholic faith for the first time this year. With gratitude for our pastors, catechists, sponsors and so many who work to make the Easter celebrations holy and joyful, I pray also that each of you who has committed to pray the rosary for the gift of peace in the world and for the family. As St. John Paul II invited us to pray this faithfully, I believe we can maintain our confidence in the power of this prayer – more than we ever know! May God bless you and your families, let’s keep each other in prayer.

+Brendan

Nueva Vida en la Primavera

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Los pastores en la Iglesia primitiva muchas veces hacían una conexión entre la vida nueva de la resurrección y la vida nueva de la primavera cada año. En una de sus homilías de Semana Santa San Cyrild de Alejandría escribió: “Pero lo que es más maravilloso que todo esto es que, junto con las cosas verdes y las flores, que la naturaleza también se renueva que gobierna sobre todo en la tierra. Refiero a la humanidad. De hecho, la estación de la primavera nos trae la resurrección del Señor, por la que todos están formados de nuevo en novedad de vida, habiendo escapado de la corrupción extraña de la muerte.”

Conduciendo por el campo de nuestra diócesis este mes pasado he sido impresionado por la belleza de la naturaleza en esta época anual de renovación. El tiempo de primavera refleja tanto color brillante y el sol. Al reflexionar sobre la belleza de esta temporada me ha dado cuenta de que a veces es difícil para mí comprender completamente lo que estos primeros pastores decían. En términos modernos, podría ser algo como: “Más bello que todas las flores silvestres en el estado de Texas es un alma humana limpiado y purificado por Dios.”

Mientras escribo esto, estoy pensando en los hombres y las mujeres que serán bautizados, confirmados y/o recibiendo la comunión por primera vez en la Vigilia de Pascua de este año. La Vigilia de Pascua es la mayor fiesta del año para la Iglesia - es la noche en que se celebra el poder de nuestra fe en Jesús y la vida nueva que Él trae personalmente para nosotros. Algunas de las personas más alegres que he visto son hombres y mujeres adultos quienes son bautizados en la Vigilia de Pascua. Muchas veces es así como que están saltando fuera del agua con alegría (y casi como si pudieran caminar sobre el agua!). Ellos saben lo que significa renunciar a todo para seguir a Jesús, y cuánto más Él da a cambio. La alegría que experimentamos recién bautizados en esa noche más sagrada es una alegría que Dios desea que tengamos nosotros en cada temporada. La muerte y todo el engaño del diablo se han conquistado, y Jesús promete estar con nosotros hasta el fin de los tiempos!

Voy a estar celebrando la Vigilia de Pascua en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria, y rezo especialmente para todos los que estarán profesando completamente nuestra fe católica por primera vez este año. Con gratitud por nuestros pastores, catequistas, patrocinadores y todos los que trabajan para que las celebraciones de Semana Santa sean santas y alegres, rezo también que cada uno de ustedes pueda tener un bendita, pacífica Pascua. Una vez más, quiero agradecer especialmente a cada uno de ustedes que se han comprometido a rezar el rosario por el don de la paz en el mundo y para la familia. Como San Juan Paulo II nos invitaba a orar el rosario con fidelidad, creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en el poder de esta oración - más de lo que sabemos! Que Dios los bendiga y a sus familias, vamos a mantener uno al otro en la oración.

+Brendan
**Bishop Brendan’s Schedule**

| April 25 | 10:27 a.m. School Mass and Visit with St. Joseph High School, Victoria |
| April 26 | Priest’s continuing education presentation |
| April 27 | 7:00 p.m. 8th grade Bishop’s awards at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory |
| April 28 | 2:00 p.m. Bishop Kihnemann’s Ordination Mass in Biloxi, Mississippi |
| April 28-30 | TSC KC 113th Annual State Convention, Dallas |

**May**

| May 2-3 | TCCAC Meeting in Austin |
| May 3 | 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton |
| May 5 | 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Anthony, Palacios |
| May 6 | 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Immaculate Conception, Goliad |
| May 7 | 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Family, Wharton |
| May 8 | • 3:00 p.m. Interfaith meeting • 5:30 p.m. Liturgical Commission Meeting |
| May 9 | 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Andrew, Hillje |

**Bishop Fellhauer’s Confirmation Schedule**

| April 23 | 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross, Bay City |
| April 26 | 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Michael, Weimar |
| April 28 | 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City |
| April 29 | 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph, Yoakum |
| April 30 | • 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville • 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria |

| May 6 | 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph, Inez |
| May 7 | 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca |

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**Diocese of Victoria Welcomes New Director of Human Resources**

Melissa Salinas is a native of Victoria and graduated from Lamar University, Beaumont, TX. She has a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science with a Human Resource concentration. She has over 13 years of direct HR experience evaluating employee relationships and implementing policies and procedures. Melissa and her husband, Ricardo are blessed with four children; Gabriel, Sydney, Dylan, and Jayden and are active members of Our Lady of Sorrows Church. She is thankful for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon her and with her strong faith and experience is looking forward to working closely with Bishop Cahill and the Diocese of Victoria.

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**HELPING OTHERS—**

Father Gary Janak, Executive Director of The Emmaus Center, the Catholic counseling and spiritual direction center for the Diocese of Victoria, accepted a $15,000 donation from Beverly Hahn-Lincke. Donations such as these allow the Emmaus Center to serve all economic backgrounds. They are able to offset operational costs of the center and accept reduced professional fees for services. Thank you Mrs. Hahn-Lincke for your generosity and support of the center.

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**Apostleship of the Sea appoints Victoria’s Cahill as bishop promoter**

Continued from pg. 2

The work of the Apostleship of the Sea in the U.S. began in 1976 and it’s part of the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers in the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church at the USCCB in Washington.

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**DSA update**

2017 Diocesan Services Appeal

- Diocesan Goal: $ 1,994,298.00
- Parish Pledge Totals: $ 311,162.00
- Parish Contribution Totals: $ 231,725.50
- Number of Parish Families Participating: 976

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**Pathways with Patti**

Palo Duro Canyon June 2-5

Cruise from Galveston to Jamaica ~ Aug. 13-20

Iceland ~ July 23-31

Wisconsin ~ September 10-16

5 Seats Available ~ Call Today!

Next Travel Meeting April 20 Call for information.

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**334 Jurek Road**

Port Lavaca, TX 77979

(361) 552.2695 or (361) 920.3216

email: zkmmnt@tisd.net

www.pathwayswithpatti.com
Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is 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 person, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

Donation Categories: Lector - $0.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499; Priest – $2,500 >.

March 29, 2017

- CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2

**Lector**

In memory of Bill Pratka by
CDA Court St. Ann #369

**Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse**

**Lector**

In memory of Leslie Haas by
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.
In memory of Sr. Sylvia Grahmann by
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.
In memory of Helen Shimek Malick by:
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.
David and Wilma Wagner
In memory of Charlie Deem by:
Leo and Joyce Janda
Willie E. Barbork
In memory of Norbert Janak by
David and Wilma Wagner
In memory of Frank V. Orsak by
David and Wilma Wagner, Edward and
Eve Wagner & Jonathon and Elizabeth Kubicek
Donation by Soila G. Sanchez
In memory of and in honor of all family
members of Adolph B. and Adela
Kutac & Julius and Frances Hrcek by
Donald and Karen Kutac
In memory of Mary Ann LeBlanc by:
Billy, Beth, Emily and Evan Herchek
Mary Hanley Hicks

-Acolyte-

**Transitional Deacon**

In memory of Justin and Cora Wostarek by
M/M DeWayne Dvorak
In memory of Leonard J. Wostarek by
M/M DeWayne Dvorak

**Rev. Theophil Okruhlik and Rev. Vincent Verderame Seminary Burse**

**Acolyte**

Donation by Catholic Life Ins. Branch #55

**St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2**

**Lector**

In memory of Eugene Pauerby:
Barbara Appelt
Willie Barbork

William Wearden Seminary Burse

**Lector**

In honor of Gloria Wearden by
David and Annie Coffey

**Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7**

**Lector**

In memory of Sr. Sylvia Grahmann by
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.
In memory of Helen Shimek Malick by:
Larry and Doris Grubert, Jr.
David and Wilma Wagner
In memory of Charlie Deem by:
Leo and Joyce Janda
Willie E. Barbork
In memory of Norbert Janak by
David and Wilma Wagner
In memory of Frank V. Orsak by
David and Wilma Wagner, Edward and
Eve Wagner & Jonathon and Elizabeth Kubicek
Donation by Soila G. Sanchez
In memory of and in honor of all family
members of Adolph B. and Adela
Kutac & Julius and Frances Hrcek by
Donald and Karen Kutac
In memory of Mary Ann LeBlanc by:
Billy, Beth, Emily and Evan Herchek
Mary Hanley Hicks

-Acolyte-

**Transitional Deacon**

In memory of Justin and Cora Wostarek by
M/M DeWayne Dvorak
In memory of Leonard J. Wostarek by
M/M DeWayne Dvorak

**Rev. Theophil Okruhlik and Rev. Vincent Verderame Seminary Burse**

**Acolyte**

Donation by Catholic Life Ins. Branch #55

**St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2**

**Lector**

In memory of Eugene Pauerby:
Barbara Appelt
Willie Barbork

Two Seminarians to be Ordained

Deacon Jacob Mendoza
Deacon Stephen Vacek

The Newly-Ordained Priests Wish to Invite You
To their First Mass of Thanksgiving:

REV. JACOB AARON MENDOZA
Sunday, May 21, 10:30 a.m.
ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
402 S. MAIN ST.
VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901
With a reception to follow in the parish hall.

REV. STEPHEN PAUL VACEK
Sunday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.
ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
39 CHURCH ST.
EAST BERNARD, TEXAS 77435
With a reception to follow at Riverside Hall

Education of Seminarian Fund

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

Donation categories: Lector – $.01 - $99.99; Acolyte – $100 - $499.99; Candidate – $500 - $1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – $1,500 - $2,499; Priest – $2,500 >.

Candidate

Alma & Jack Anzaldua
in memory of Father Dan Morales

Acolyte

Robert & Kathryn Kennedy
in memory of Father Dan Morales
Freddie Kloesel
Garvin & Judy Babbitt
in memory of Mary Louise Hassdorff
Mary Hanley Hicks
in memory of Msgr. Eustace Hermes
St. Mary Altar Society
in memory of Father Ralph Baidoo
Robert & Kathryn Kennedy
David & Donna Clary
in memory of Mary Louise Hassdorff

Transitional Deacon

KJT - Catholic Union of Texas

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

Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

Pray for Vocations

To contribute to an existing Seminary Endowment Fund send contributions with the appropriate fund designation to:

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

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God,
The Diocese of Victoria in Texas
joyfully announces and requests the pleasure of your presence for
the Presbyteral Ordination of
REV. MR. JACOB AARON MENDOZA
REV. MR. STEPHEN PAUL VACEK

Deacon Stephen Vacek
Deacon Jacob Mendoza
K.J.Z.T. Names New State Chaplain

AUSTIN — Very Rev. Gary Janak, J.C.L., Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, has been appointed as the new State Chaplain for the K.J.Z.T. Society. He will be assuming the role from Msgr. Joseph M. Hybner.

What is K.J.Z.T.?

Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (CFFT), previously known as K.J.Z.T., is a Fraternal Benefit Society founded in 1894 by Czech Catholic women.

CFFT is a non-profit corporation that returns its earnings from the sale of life insurance and annuities to its members and their communities in the form of numerous direct member benefits. They also support the Catholic Church and community service projects.

It was the spirit of Christian love, and the desire to be of service to each other that brought about the founding of the first mutual aid society of Yoakum, Texas in 1894, and soon became the Katolicka Jednota Zen Texaskych, affectionately referred to at the time as the K.J.Z.T. The organization is now legally known as Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas.

Mrs. Anna Jakubik and Mrs. Marie Yurek met with Reverend Father Francis to inform him of their interest in forming a mutual aid society for the Czech Catholic Women of the Parish in April of 1894. He gave them encouragement and when they asked him for assistance, he immediately wrote to the Union of Catholic Women of America in Chicago, Illinois to request a copy of bylaws, which was received in May, 1894. The ladies began studying these bylaws and seeking applicants for enrollment to the first society.

Father Gary has a Bachelor of Arts in History from the College of Santa Fe, Master of Divinity from the Oblate School of Theology, Licentiate in Canonical Jurisprudence from the Catholic University of America, Master of Education in Counseling from the University of Houston-Victoria, and is a Licensed Professional Counselor.

He is currently the Rector at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. He is a Judge and Advocate for the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of Victoria, member of the Diocesan Review Board, member of the College of Consultants, member of the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, member of the Priests’ Personnel Board, Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, member of the Diocesan Finance Board and Vicar General of the Diocese of Victoria.

A Statement from the Very Reverend Gary Janak

Father Gary said, “I am honored to serve as the newly appointed State Chaplain for the Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas, the K.J.Z.T. I thank Monsignor Joseph Hybner, for his many years of service as our State Chaplain. We pray God’s blessings upon him, as he enjoys his retirement.

This Fraternal has been an important part of my life, in that my grandparents were members and my mother, sisters and many aunts and cousins have all been active in their local Societies over the years. In fact, I cannot remember a time in which I did not know about the K.J.Z.T. I recall, as a young boy, attending District meetings, and various Society functions, with my mom and other family members. Since my ordination to the priesthood in 1988, for the Diocese of Victoria, there has also been an active K.J.Z.T. Society in every parish I have served.

My parents raised their four children to be active in the Catholic Church, to understand the importance of service and to be proud of our country and our Czech heritage. I am grateful to them for their example of Christian discipleship.

(Excerpts taken from Catholic Family Fraternal Journal, March/April 2017.)

30th Annual Catechetical Conference

Putting Faith Into Action: The Catholic Social Teachings

This year the Diocese of Victoria’s 30th Annual Catholic Conference will focus on the Catholic Social Teachings. The keynote presenters will be Mr. Jack Jezreel (English) and Sister Miriam Perez, MCSH (Spanish).

Following Jezreel’s keynote, the Most Reverend Brendan Cahill will offer remarks on how it pertains to the people in the diocese. The keynote address is entitled: The Invitation and the Embrace: Responding in Joy to the Church’s Social Teachings.

The keynote presenters will look at the social teachings of the Church as “a blueprint for how to respond to the invitation to be a vessel of God’s love in the world. It will note some of the highlights of Catholic Social Teaching and provide some time-tested ways to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as a 21st century messenger of God’s mercy and healing.”

Everyone is invited to attend the conference and be more informed of the Catholic faith and particularly in regard to the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, which are: Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community, and Participation; Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; Solidarity; Care for God’s Creation. Becoming familiar with these teachings are of the greatest importance today.

Jack Jezreel is a popular and well-traveled speaker and teacher, sometimes described as the “Johnny Appleseed” of the U.S. Church’s social mission. He holds a BA in Religion and Philosophy from Furman University and a Master of Divinity degree from University of Notre Dame. He lives in Louisville, Kentucky, is married to Maggie, and they have three adult daughters.

Sister Miriam Perez, MCSH, lives in Victoria and has served in the Diocese of Victoria as well as in New Jersey as a missionary. She has been in leadership within her religious community and has directed retreats for women and married couples both in English and in Spanish. Sister Miriam holds a BA in Religious Studies and a Masters in Psychology.

The conference will be again held at Holy Family Parish, 2011 Briar Lane, Wharton, Saturday, September 23, 2017. There will be three rounds of workshops this year on these 7 principles. Catholic vendors and publishers will have their religious articles and various resources available for purchase. The conference will conclude with the Most Reverend Brendan Cahill celebrating the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy at 4:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call the Office of Catechetical Ministry at (361) 573-0828.

Save The Date
Saturday, September 23, 2017

St. Patrick’s Church, Bloomington
Spring Festival
Sunday, April 30

1/2 lb. BBQ Brisket, Potato Salad, Beans, Bread & Dessert
All plates $10.00
Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. • Plates to go at 9:30 a.m.
Auction at 11:30 a.m.

Country Store • Cakewalk • Kid Games

For Orders on Festival Day: (361) 897-1398
We are approaching the most sorrowful time of the liturgical year in which we accompany Jesus in his last days on earth and his shameful excruciating death. Therefore, let us enter into the mood of Holy Week as we are aware that He is undergoing His suffering to save us. Meanwhile, we all know that the Paschal Mystery is the way Jesus attained our salvation -through His passion, death and Resurrection. We also realize that if we have united ourselves with the sufferings and dying of Jesus, we can find God on the other side of dying to self. Saint Paul tells us “If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.”

I think that all of us may have experienced the Paschal Mystery more than we may realize and that each of us can reflect back on occasions in which something had to have died before we could open up to that new life-giving “blessing” that gave us hope and passion for continuing the quest to follow Jesus into the unknown ahead. That “blessing” can be looked upon as experiencing the “resurrection” or “fullness” of the Paschal Mystery.

So, do we know what it is to be persons of hope? Do we believe that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire us to adore, proclaim, and serve in the Church and society of today and tomorrow?

Do we realize that every time we participate in the Mass, we are participating in this awesome mystery? What a delightful adventure we can all participate in, having the privilege and grace of coming to know the revelation of God! Just think about those moments of harmony in prayer and song that we experience in fervent response in Liturgy when the sacred place and the assembly resonate with the sound of the unifying Spirit! Think of the strength that is found when the members of a family or the members of a parish strive to accomplish a common goal. Reflect on the blessings that have followed the sorrows, or “dyings”, in your life, and ask yourself, “How am I opening myself to God in the “fullness” or the “resurrection”? May we all experience the Joy of the Resurrection!

... We Shall Live With Christ!

Franciscan Fathers Express Gratitude for Local Support

EL CAMPO—On February 10, Augie and Terri Beltran were blessed to have as their guests Father Philip Brune of San Roberto Bellarmine, El Campo; Father Jacob Koether of St. Joseph Parish, Yoakum; Father Jesus Gomez, and Father Jose Contran of Antigua, Guatemala who are the current and former directors of Las Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro (Las Obras) in Antigua, Guatemala, and members of the Hermano Pedro Social Works Foundation, U.S. They enjoyed a “true Texas meal” of BBQ beef, sausage, chicken fried steak and all the trimmings, along with homemade fudge, banana pudding and oatmeal cookies.

The group enjoyed telling stories about the mission, and how they knew that God had called them to a life of service as early as elementary school.

Father Jose is a familiar face to everyone associated with Las Obras as he served the orphanage and hospital for 21 years. Father Jesus was recently appointed as the director of Las Obras this past October. Father Jose had been working in the missions in El Salvador these past two years, but has recently been reassigned as a confessor to San Francisco church in Antigua, which is a short walk to Las Obras. His continued assistance and guidance is, of course, a great help for the new director, Father Jesus, as he manages not only the original site of Las Obras, but also the new location called La Virgen del Socorro, which means “The Virgin of Assistance” where up to 600 orphans and people with disabilities are given care.

Those who have been touched by Father Dan’s missionary work met on Saturday at San Roberto Bellarmine where the Franciscans expressed gratitude for all the support they have received. Also discussed at this meeting were ways to help, donate and go on a mission. The Franciscans were able to meet with the Hermano Pedro Social Works Foundation, U.S. and also meet board members of Coram Deo Texas Missions.

In 2016 Las Obras:
• Performed 5,943 surgeries
• Assisted 320,000 patient
• Currently houses 234 chronically ill patients
• Cared for 3,448 convalescents
• Treated 279 people for drug/alcohol addiction

See Franciscan Fathers, pg. 12

Pictured above, left to right, Terri Beltran, Father Jacob Koether, St. Joseph-Yoakum; Padre Jose Contran, La Antigua Guatemala; Father Philip Brune, St. Robert Bellarmine-El Campo; Padre Jesus Gomez, La Antigua Guatemala and Augie Beltran at ranchito El Campo.
YOUTH ATTEND ABBEY YOUTH FEST—The Diocese of Victoria Office of Youth and Young Adults took a group of about 30 students to The Abbey Youth Fest in Covington, Louisiana in March. It was held at the Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College. The Fest was attended by over 2,000 students and included prayer, faith formation, vocational discernment, music and more. The Diocese of Victoria currently has 6 seminarians studying at Saint Joseph’s Abbey. A big thank you to the seminarians who entertained and spent time with the youth from Victoria while storms and rain passed through forcing them to take shelter.

STATE CHAMPIONS—The Shiner St. Paul Lady Cardinals won their third overall TAPPS state championship in March. St. Paul defeated Bryan St. Joseph in the semifinals, 52-39 and Muenster Sacred Heart 38-31 in the championship game. (Photo by Lynette Pesek)

TOP SPELLER—Stella M., a sixth grader at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in Port Lavaca competed in 68 rounds in the 28th annual Regional Spelling Bee in March to become the 2017 Winner of the Regional Spelling Bee. She will be headed to Washington DC for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Youth Without Faith is a Day Without Sun
LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM—Our Lady of Victory 7th grade students, from Victoria, educated over 500 students, teachers, and parents during the Living Museum program. These students put a lot of time and effort into researching, which was evident by their knowledge of their characters.

OLV STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR PSIA STATE COMPETITION—Our Lady of Victory Catholic School held the 2017 Private Schools Interscholastic Academic (PSIA) District 7AA Meet on February 18. Eight schools participated in the competition. Our Lady of Victory placed first overall and qualified 29 students to compete in 42 events at the PSIA State Meet to be held April 27 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. These students qualified by placing first or second individually in one or more contests at the District Meet. State qualifiers are: bottom row (1 tor)- Heidi Taylor, Kenna Klekar, Emma Willemin, Jordan Ybarra, Oliver Janssen, Mandeep Jain (alternate); 2nd row- Mia Mabray, Reice Tibiletti, Kylie McNally, Evan Carrasco, Jonah Cantu, Kevin Corpuz; 3rd row- Benjie Corpuz, Aryan Gaalla, Paula Swanson, Aidan DeLeon, Jack Ward, Luis Ramos; 4th row- Eric Tibiletti, Reed Rivera, Sarah Ybarra, Dawson Lehnert, Jacob Pyatt, Caden Adcock; top row- Alex Angerstein, Andres Ramos, Matthew Janak, Cole Jacobs, Elaina Lee, and Neha Chandna.

PSIA STATE QUALIFIERS—Students at St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar, competed in the PSIA District 7AA Academic Meet held at Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. The students advancing to the State Competition at the end of April are: front row: Kelly McAfee - Prose Interpretation; Lily Berger - Ready Writing; Logan Kainer - Spelling; back row: Michael Koeth - Maps, Graphs, and Charts and Number Sense; Caitlyn Klam - Science; and Allison Gallaher - Impromptu Speaking.
HALLETTSVILLE — One hundred twenty four students filled the gym floor at Sacred Heart Catholic School on February 3, 2017, for the climax of Catholic School Week. All were ready for the fifth annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl to start. Students in grades five through twelve had been forming teams of four and signing up to participate in the competition, to show how much of their faith they learned and remembered. There were 31 teams waiting for the fun and competition to begin. Fifty six students, not competing on a team, gathered in the bleachers and participated by recording their choices on a card so they could compare their answers at the end of each round.

All was still as Monsignor John Peters and Ida Bludau alternated reading the questions as they were projected on the wall. Three rounds, of 20 questions each, followed in quick succession as only 10-15 seconds were given to select the correct answer. Between rounds, scoring took place while correct answers were projected for all to check their choices. Cheers rang out when their answers were correct, while the really difficult ones brought a few moans. Team scores were given after each round and those in the audience could see how they did in comparison with the participants. Maybe they will form a team next year.

There was stiff competition with many teams tied after the first and second rounds, jockeying to earn a spot in the winner’s column. As the final round was completed and checked, there was only one tie left, at second place, and they remained tied after 10 tie breaker questions! The top four teams differed by only three points! The “Daughters of the Light” captured first place with 48 points earned by McKenzie Bludau, Emilie Mudd, Abigail Ross and Arik Shimek. Second place, with 47 points each, was shared by “The ‘A’ Team”, William Pettus, Amee Rivers, Angela Ivey and Samuel Machicek, and “The Last Second”, Corrina Lackey, Grace Renner, Kelsey Bohuslav and Simon Machicek. Third place went to the “Catholic Knowledge Bowlers” with 46 points earned by Braden Popp, Joseph McConnell, Cole Mullen and Jacob Rivers.

Winners in junior high took up right where the high school teams left off, with the first place winners amassing 45 points. The proud members of the “Followers of the Faith” were Trenton Kraatz, Trey Ridgeway, Hayden Grahnmann and Jordan Bludau. Coming in second was Myles Machicek, Austin Kutac, Will Harper and Quade Henke, “Quade’s Quads”, with 42 points. Just one point behind in third place were Arianna Henke, Bailey Haas, Jules Janak and Katherine Pavliska, “The Faithful Four”.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the students in grades 5-12 for participating and testing their knowledge. This was also a valuable practice for the 17 high school students who participated in the Diocesan Catholic Knowledge Bowl in Victoria on February 12. They formed four high school teams and also participated on a family team. The results were as follows: Guardians of the Faith, teen division got 2nd place; Mary’s Team, family division got 2nd place in Victoria.

Congratulations to the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients for their outstanding service and commitment to Catholic Education. The Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Victoria sponsored the Distinguished Alumni event to highlight the contributions of esteemed alumni. These alumni have walked the halls of their schools over the past years and have enjoyed many accomplishments.

2017 Honorees

Rev. Bryan Heyer † Nazareth Academy, Victoria - Class of 1987
Pat Henke † Sacred Heart Catholic School, Hallettsville - Class of 1972
Andrew Thomas Kocian † Shiner Catholic School, Shiner - Class of 1969
Chris Bludau † Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, Victoria - Class of 1987
Timothy Leihardt † St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar - Class of 1970
Carey Orsak † Holy Cross Catholic School, Bay City - Class of 1972
Don Pozzi † St. Joseph High School, Victoria - Class of 1961
Dr. Brooke Jemelka † St. Joseph Catholic School, Yoakum - Class of 1995
Phyllis Venghaus † St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Schulenburg - Class of 1972
Bonnie Parma Collins † St. Philip Catholic School, El Campo - Class of 1972
Nathan Post † St. Michael Catholic School, Cuero - Class of 1951
Bob Berger † St. Anthony Catholic School, Columbus - Class of 1960

EDUCATION CONTEST WINNERS—Congratulations to the students of St. Michael School, Cuero, who won in the Catholic Daughters Court St. Michael #347, Education Contest categories of Division 1 Poetry, Division 1 Art, Division 2 Poetry, Division 2 Essay, and Division 4 Poetry. Pictured with Father Oscar Amo and Ms. Jennifer Saenz, principal, (left to right) in the back row: Philip Yeretsky (Division 2 Poetry), Ethan Weischwill (Division 2 Essay), Cody Bishop (Division 1 Poetry), Sam Forbes (Division 1 Art), Ethan Franklin (Division 1 Poetry). Front Row: Bishop Whitt (Division 2 Poetry), Cicella Orch (Division 2 Poetry), Adam Rath (Division 1 Poetry), Braden Hahn (Division 1 Art) and (not pictured) Tabitha Hiles (Division 1 Art), and Lucille Gips (Division 4 Poetry).
Daniel and Lillie Jamelka wedding picture 75 years ago.

75 Years of Wedded Bliss

YOAKUM—A 75th anniversary is called the diamond anniversary or diamond jubilee. It is considered the pinnacle of anniversary celebrations. A Diocese of Victoria couple is blessed to be celebrating 75 years of marriage.

Daniel E. Jemelka and Lillie Mary Brom were married on April 6, 1942, at St. Joseph Church in Moulton, Texas. Lillie grew up in Moulton and Daniel lived most of his adolescent years outside of Shiner. They met at a dance in Henkhaus, located in the country between Shiner and Moulton. When interviewing one of their daughters, Kathleen Fees, she shared, “Mother noticed him standing by himself without a date and asked him to dance. The rest is history!” The Jemelkas have seven children: Erwin Daniel (Shirley) Jemelka of Centralia, Washington; Joyce (Donald) Madden of La Vernia, Texas; Doris (David) Sykora of Austin, Texas; Kathleen (Kenneth) Fees of Yoakum, Texas; Gail (Dick) Finnegan of Spicewood, Texas; Dennis (Dawn) Jemelka of Cuero, Texas; and Mark (Cindy) Jemelka of Yoakum, Texas. Daniel and Lillie Jemelka have 25 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

They moved to Yoakum after Daniel finished service in WWII, to resume his career at Tex Tan Western Leather Company; he worked for Tex Tan and managed the credit union until he retired. In his early years in Yoakum he was a volunteer fireman and he continued his education thru Blinn College. When the two youngest children played Little League baseball, he helped coach their team. He was a Knight of Columbus, and remained an active member of the American Legion and VFW, serving in various capacities. After retirement, he was able to work full time on their farm raising cattle.

Lillie stayed busy raising their seven children, cooking, sewing, quilting, gardening, and was active at St. Joseph PTC in Yoakum where the children went to school. She even served in the school cafeteria while grandchildren attended school at St. Joseph Catholic School. She was also an active member of the Catholic Daughters, American Legion Auxiliary, Altar Society, and KJZT for many years.

After retirement was the time that Daniel and Lillie were able to travel, touring across the US and abroad to Europe and the Philippines. Kathleen, their daughter, also shared,
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Knights Serve as Honor Guard

FLATONIA—The Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree served as Honor Guard for the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, during the Confirmation services at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flatonia.

Attending Sir Knights were from Saint Michael Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg, Weimar, and Bishop Odin Assembly #1095 of Cistern, Fayetteville, and LaGrange.


NEW CDA MEMBERS WELCOMED—Doris Koliba, Regent, of The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, St. Michael Court #347, Cuero, welcomed nine new members to their court at their February and March meetings. Doris Koliba, Regent, administered the membership oath to the new members, pictured (left to right), Rosalinda Gardner, Mary Linda Arguellez, Linda Nemec, Petra Owen, Margaret Solis, Denise Goebel, Mary McCurdy and Doris Koliba, Regent. Not pictured - Sharon Villarreal and Marian Baumann.

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDED—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, members were presented with membership pins at the February 27, 2017, meeting. Pictured are (l-r) Marjorie Michalec received a 60 year membership pin; Vice Regent Pat Pesek made the presentations; and Laura Sciba received a 25 year membership pin. Others recognized but not in attendance were Gladys Strauss - 60 year pin and Judy Jalufta - 50 year pin.

RELIGIOUS HONORED—The Office of Catholic Schools honored the Sisters who serve the Diocese of Victoria with a special luncheon. The following congregations were represented: Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS), Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary (MCSH), and Vietnamese Dominican Sisters (OP). Thank you for saying yes to consecrated life!

The bishops of the United States are committed to their Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal to parishes and schools. Through the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, dioceses have put in place effective policies for safeguarding the most vulnerable. In the Diocese of Victoria the Office of Safe Environment works with the parishes and schools to provide background check screenings and training to those who work with children and or vulnerable people as they participate in religious activities and ministries within the church and Catholic school system of the Diocese of Victoria.

Franciscan Fathers Express Gratitude for Local Support

Continued from pg. 6

• Assisted 286 malnourished children
• Housed 5,862 people

There are 16 million people in Guatemala. Roughly 335,000 were assisted by Las Obras in 2016.

Father Philip says, “We continue to work closely with Las Obras and the Franciscans in Guatemala and Central America”. A mission trip is planned for July 23-30. For additional information please contact Father Philip Brune at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church at (979) 543-4298.

If you would like to know more about Las Obras and La Virgen del Socorro, you can visit the following websites:
• http://www.obrashermanopedro.org/
• https://www.facebook.com/ObrasHermanoPedro
• http://amigosproobras.org/sites/default/files/virgen_del_socorro_en_ingles.pdf
• http://amigosproobras.org/virgen-del-socorro

DONATION PRESENTED—The El Campo 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly #1131 made a donation to Bishop Brendan Cahill. Faithful Navigator Kenneth Trochta presented the check to Bishop Cahill on February 26, 2017.

75 Years of Wedded Bliss

Continued from pg. 10

“They were members of Polka Lovers’ Klub of America and had a wonderful time dancing. They were beautiful dancers!” Through these golden years they made a lot of good friends.

There were, of course, many challenges that came along during their marriage, but through their faith in God, self-sacrifice and hard work, they survived those times. In fact, they have said that they are much closer now.

They are currently members of St. Joseph parish in Yoakum. Their 75th wedding anniversary was recognized, along with anniversaries of other couples, at the St. Joseph Feast Day celebration Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Yoakum on March 17, 2017. They will celebrate this special occasion with their family on April 15.

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Catholic Daughters of the Americas 24th Annual Fried Chicken Dinner

SCHULENBURG—Catholic Daughters of the Americas, St. Rose Court #1597, held their annual fried chicken fundraiser on Sunday, February 19, 2017. This event provides funding for many charities, local community and national projects sponsored throughout the year. Some of these projects support St. Rose Church and School, the Schulenburg Food Pantry, activities for the Senior Citizens, high school scholarship competitions, Smile-Train, Habitat for Humanity, and the aging Religious.

Plates were served at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Schulenburg. Inside the KC Hall, there was a country walk, silent auction and a sweepstakes drawing. The country walk provided many homemade desserts, craft items and plants; while the silent auction had a variety of décor and household items, and several sporting goods. The sweepstake drawings provided many gift cards for area merchants along with a crocheted baby blanket and a king-size handmade quilt (pictured below) made by the CDA members. Regent Rosa Galipp addressed the attendees and Rev. Ty Bazar blessed the food as the event got underway.

The event took weeks of preparation and coordination by the officers and different committee chairpersons who all came together on Saturday for the setup and food prep-day. Sunday morning started before breakfast, peeling potatoes, preparing green beans and rolling chicken. Once the food was ready, all hands were busy preparing plates as the never ending line formed for the drive-thru. Shortly after the drive-thru was fully engaged the dine-ins began to show up and all available workers became active. The success of this year’s event was attributed to the large number of the hard-working members, their volunteered family members and the Knights of Columbus who are always a big asset to the event – thank you all!

In Memory of...
Sister Sylvia Grahmann, IWBS

Sister Sylvia Grahmann, IWBS, 86, of Victoria, died March 5, 2017. She was born March 27, 1930, in Hallettsville, Texas to the late Nicholas Grahmann and Annie Grafe Grahmann. She was a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Sister Sylvia attended Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. Sister Sylvia became a postulant in 1947, entered the novitiate in 1948, and pronounced her first vows on June 7, 1949. Sister Sylvia attended Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and received her BA degree with a major in English and a minor in philosophy and Latin as well as receiving her MA degree with a major in English and a minor in education. Sister also attended St. Mary’s University and received a MA degree in theology. During Sister Sylvia’s active ministry, she taught in the following schools: St. Leo School, San Antonio; Holy Trinity School, Corn Hill; Holy Cross School, Bay City; Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Selma; St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner; Immaculate Conception School, Sealy; Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville; St. Paul High School, Shiner and Blessed Sacrament Academy, San Antonio. Sister Sylvia retired from the active ministry of teaching in 2004, and came to reside at Incarnate Word Convent where she assisted in various household duties. She loved visiting with the other Sisters and playing dominos and card games. In her later years she entered into her Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Sister Anastasia Grahmann and Rita Zaruba; and brother-in-law, Gene Michalke. She is survived by her brothers, Bishop Charles Grahmann, Brother Nicholas Grahmann, Marcus (Margie) Grahmann, Deacon Jerome (Evelyn) Grahmann, Fred (Sharon) Grahmann, Nicholas, Jr. (Barbara) Grahmann; and sisters, Anita (Fred) Spangler, Mary Ann Michalke and brother-in-law, Frank Zaruba; nieces nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

On Wednesday, March 8, 2017, the Mass of Christian Burial was held at Incarnate Word Convent. Bishop Brendan Cahill, presided and was assisted by Bishop David Fellhauer, Msgr. John Peters and Father Phi Nguyen. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were Marcus Grahmann, Deacon Jerome Grahmann, Fred Grahmann, Nicholas Grahmann Jr., Michael Grahmann and Jack Zaruba.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or Catholic Lighthouse of Victoria.

In Memory of...
Sister Anita Rodriguez, MCHS

Sister Anita Rodriguez, MCHS a member of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary since 1971, passed away at the age of 78, Wednesday, March 15, 2017. She was born July 27, 1938, in Brownsville, Texas to the late Manuel Rodriguez and Benigna Reyes Rodriguez.

She is survived by her siblings Manuela Rodriguez, Rupert Rodriguez and Modesta Rodriguez.

The Catholic Lighthouse
I reached a point during that weekend, that God’s love for me began to come to light. When the expanse and breadth and depth of hope, took place during my ACTS retreat to early 2017. It is a moment that test us, that push us past where we are comfortable, that solid background and upbringing. My consolation is filled with a complete comfort and solace in my new life circumstance. I ask for your prayers and support, your patience and understanding as I continue to find my way, as I continue to discern a new life balance.

A complete comfort and solace in my new life circumstance. I ask for your prayers and support, your patience and understanding as I continue to find my way, as I continue to discern a new life balance.

Deacon Eddie Huse on the day of his Diaconate Ordination, July 23, 2016, is pictured with his family. (Back row, left to right) Chase De La Garza, Taylor Huse, John Sager, Tonya Sager, Joel Novosad. (Front row, left to right) Bishop Brendan, Cadence Huse (holding the crozier), Janet Huse, Deacon Eddie, his parents Lucille and Marvin Huse, Allison De La Garza, Ashley Huse.

Meet a Deacon (a TCL series)

Deacon Eddie Huse

What does it mean to surrender? That definition covers ideas that point perhaps toward weakness and defeat. To cease resistance, to submit to the authority of another, to yield to the prompting and will of another, to give in, to give oneself up — all these speak about a lost cause if we are talking about armed conflicts for instance. They indicate that one has failed in their mission or endeavors. They now find themselves at the mercy of the victorious and likely must swear some allegiance to the victor. In this surrender, all hope now rests with the wishes of the victor, all future plans revolve around them. Can this describe something other than the result of an armed conflict? In my life and faith journey, it absolutely does. It describes exactly how I gave up my own ideas about how my life should be lived and surrendered completely to the will of God, of my Abba.

I’m Deacon Eddie Huse from Victoria. I was ordained to the permanent diaconate on July 23, 2016, by Bishop Brendan Cahill and am currently assigned to Holy Family Church in Victoria. My wife Janet and I are parents to five children. We have six grandchildren and a seventh due in July. My parents are Lucille and Marvin Huse and I have lived practically my entire life of 58 years right here in Victoria. I am the oldest of three with two sisters, Lori and DeAnna. Together we three are all cradle Catholics and benefactors of Catholic education; we are proudly alumni of Our Lady of Victory and St. Joseph High School. It is easy to say now that I am product of that solid background and upbringing. My faith journey was lukewarm however, with a mostly minimalist approach, until September of 2003.

In this life, we often face challenges that test us, that push us past where we think we can survive. Depending on the strength of our faith, those times are seen as either opportunities to grow closer to God or times to maybe give up on him. My personal epiphany, my turning from despair to hope, took place during my ACTS retreat to early 2017 and the expanse and breadth and depth of God’s love for me began to come to light. I reached a point during that weekend, that blessed and spirit-filled experience, when I knew that things had to change, that I simply could not go on trying to find my way apart from God. I had no details, no plan, no anything other than a desire to respond to Him and reflect Him in my life. Ideas of promise and covenant in God with no limits or conditions entered my mind, an entry made without my normal anxiety or a need for knowledge of what it would look like. What began as simply helping in the ACTS ministry and other parish activities eventually led me to a prompting by the spirit to explore the permanent diaconate.

At this point I need to thank the pastors, and a particular deacon, who supported me in my discernment and formation toward the permanent diaconate. They were there at the beginning, throughout, and now walk with me in my new ministry. Thank you Father Greg Korenek, Father Bob Knippenberg, Father Dan Morales, Father Gabriel Bentil, and Deacon Steve Borowicz. I thank Father Gabriel Maison and Dr. Michael Fonseca who were my formation directors. I especially thank my wife Janet who endured, enjoyed, worried, and wondered where this would all end up.

I have been tremendously blessed in my new life with support from my parish family who have welcomed me in my new role, warmly doing so. I want to explain the blessings in greater detail but know that I really cannot. There are simply too many and any description I’d offer would be woefully inadequate. The graces from God, in Trinity, bring me much consolation. The Sacraments are at the center of my being, clearly for me what I am able to do. The Sacraments are at the center of my being, clearly for me what I should be about at this time. Involvement with RCIA, our parish youth ministry, Knights of Columbus, our CDA Court and Altar Society, our association with Las Obras in Guatemala, and Nazareth Academy are important as well, but they flow from living the message of the sacraments. My journey from that afternoon of my ACTS retreat to early 2017 is nothing I could have ever guessed possible; but that comes with surrender. My consolation is filled with a sense of God’s compassion and love for me, a new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you – compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It’s your basic all-purpose garment. Never be without it.”

Thanks Mom and Dad. Thank you God.
Sunday Readings from April 9 - May 7

**April 9 –**
Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion
Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66

**April 11 –**
Christ Mass
Isaiah 61:1-3A, 6A, 8B-9
Psalms 89:21-22, 25, 27
Revelations 1:5-8
Luke 4:16-21

**April 13 –**
Holy Thursday –
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

**April 14 –**
Good Friday
of the Lord’s Passion
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

**April 15 –**
Holy Saturday
At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
Reading 1: Genesis 1:1—2:2
Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35
Reading 2: Genesis 22:1-18
Psalms 16:5, 8-9, 10, 11
Reading 3: Exodus 14:15—15:1
Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18
Reading 4: Isaiah 54:5-14

**April 16 –**
The Resurrection of the Lord
The Mass of Easter Day
Acts 10:34A, 37-43
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

**April 23 –**
Sunday of Divine Mercy
Acts 2:4-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

**April 30 –**
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
1 Peter 1:17-21

**May 7 –**
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14A, 36-41
Psalms 23: 1-3A, 3B4, 5, 6
1 Peter 2:20B-25
John 10:1-10

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For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings.
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A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians: Brothers and sisters: / You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. / Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. / Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. / Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention / the things done by them in secret; / but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, / for everything that becomes visible is light. / Therefore, it says: “Awake, O sleeper, / and arise from the dead, / and Christ will give you light.”

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MARCH 26, 2017
4th SUNDAY OF LENT
READING II – EPHESIANS 5:8-14

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There will be a drawing from those who send the above entry form with crossword puzzle to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win an Elie’s Spiritual Treasures Bible Word Search book.

We will be publishing a puzzle quarterly in English and Spanish, the next Spanish puzzle will be in June and the English puzzle in August.
Church has presence at convergence of interactive, film, music industries

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS)--The juxtaposition was striking. During the early evening of March 11, 59-year-old Bishop Paul Tighe worked his way through the hallways of the Austin Convention Center, weaving his way through thousands of young people who were in town attending the South by Southwest Festival, more commonly known as SXSW.

This year’s festival began March 10 and concluded March 19. “On one level, it’s kind of strange because you’re wandering around the place,” said Bishop Tighe, who is currently adjunct secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture. “You’re certainly the only one in a collar and you’re possibly the only one with white hair.”

When Bishop Tighe walked the convention floor, many of the attendees had recently emerged from panels hosted by tech giants, comedians, actors, politicians and more. As they passed by Bishop Tighe, no one seemed to realize they had just encountered one of the Vatican’s most influential communicators during the last decade. Bishop Tighe was at the festival to be part of a panel called “Compassionate Disruption,” which was hosted March 12 at the Hyatt Regency. Bishop Tighe was joined on the panel by Helen Osman, former chief communications officer for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Michael Hertl and Christoph Krachten, who are digital media innovators for the Catholic Church in Germany.

Irish Bishop Paul Tighe, adjunct secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture, spoke March 10, during the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Thousands Visited Texas Capitol for Catholic Advocacy Day

VICTORIA and AUSTIN — Nearly 4,000 Catholics registered to participate in Catholic Advocacy Day, held Tuesday, April 4 at the Texas State Capitol. The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops, which organized the day, live streamed the rally on its Facebook page. The bishops gathered the evening before to celebrate Mass with some of the delegates who arrived early. Bishop Michael Mulvey of Corpus Christi and Bishop Brendan Cahill of Victoria offered the opening prayers for the House and Senate.

The day included a rally with the state’s bishops, who lead the 15 Catholic dioceses in Texas, on the steps of the Capitol. During the day groups of Catholics visited each of the Texas Senators and Representatives, carrying the Church’s position on a variety of bills before the Legislature. Priority bills of the 85th Legislature for the TCCB include those that address pro-life concerns, immigration reform, the state’s foster care system, environmental issues, parental choice in education, death penalty sentencing instructions, mental health services and human trafficking issues. A full list of the priority bills is available at www.txcatholic.org/priority-bills-for-the-85th-legislature/.

More than 1,500 Catholic school students were part of the delegation. They had the opportunity to participate in mock hearings on payday lending regulations, an issue that has been a priority for the Church in recent years.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops is the association of the Roman Catholic bishops of Texas. Through the TCCB, 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.

A group of freshmen from St. Paul High School, Shiner, agreed that attending Advocacy Day was educational for them. They learned about payday loans on this trip and why the Catholic church believes they are unjust.

Roger De La Garza, Father Jasper Liggio, Sandy Muñoz, Valerie Jurica, Sister Marian Sturm, and Dr. John Quary attended the rally to support and be witnesses to the Catholic faith. They were among a group of 25 adults from the Diocese of Victoria who traveled to Austin for Catholic Advocacy Day.

Conscience Protection

AUSTIN—Catholic institutions, families and individuals have provided holistic assistance to children in the state’s foster care system since its inception. HB 3859 will secure their freedom to continue to serve those in need, as the state attempts sorely-needed reform of the system. This bill, a high priority for the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops (TCCB) and carrying preferred language, provides conscience protections to ensure that child welfare providers who act based on sincerely held religious beliefs are not discriminated against in grants or ability to provide child welfare services. The TCCB supports this bill to ensure the that religious providers have the freedom to serve children in line with our mission based values.
La fe no puede crecer sin tentación, dice el papa a sacerdotes de Roma

Por Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — La fe es un camino continuo de crecimiento y madurez que no puede progresar sin la presencia de tentaciones, le dijo el papa Francisco a los sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Roma.

Cómo la fe se desarrolla en “un hombre, en un sacerdote” a pesar de sus defectos puede verse en san Pedro, dijo el papa el 2 de marzo mientras dirigía una meditación con clérigos diocesanos y religiosos.

“Una cosa es clara: La tentación siempre está presente en la vida de Simón Pedro y la tentación siempre está presente en nuestras vidas. Además, sin la tentación uno no puede progresar en la fe. En el Padrenuestro pedimos la gracia no de caer, sino de no ser tentados”, él dijo.

La reunión, realizada en la Basílica de San Juan de Letrán, se retrasó unos 45 minutos porque el papa Francisco estaba escuchando las confesiones de docenas de clérigos diocesanos y religiosos.

Se le recibió por los sacerdotes con un cálido aplauso, pero el papa dijo que no podía leer toda su meditación y en vez se enfocó “espíritu maligno de la derrota”.

En ese momento, él dijo, “recordé un escrito que mi abuela tenía en su mesa de noche: ‘Cuidado, Dios te está observando. Piensa que morirás y no sabes cuándo’. Y en ese momento pude orar y seguir adelante. Fueron (mis) raíces las que abrieron el camino. El cristiano siempre progresa desde la raíz. No olviden sus raíces”.

El papa Francisco dijo que la fe también se fortalece a través de la esperanza, la cual ayuda al sacerdote a “encontrar cosas nuevas” de su pasado para encontrarse con Dios en aquellos a quienes ha sido llamado a ayudar.

“La fe es saber cómo ver, en el rostro del pobre que conoces hoy, el mismo Señor que vendrá a juzgarnos según el protocolo de Mateo 25… cada vez que lo hicieron con el más pequeño de mis hermanos, lo hicieron conmigo”.

Para entender el pasado y sostener la esperanza en el futuro, él añadió, el discernimiento en el presente es importante y en muchos casos implica dar un paso atrás para ver la imagen completa.

Los sacerdotes, sin embargo, a menudo tienen la “insidiosa tentación” del “pesimismo estéril” que busca resolver los asuntos rápidamente y a menudo ceden ante el “espíritu maligno de la derrota”.

Un ejemplo de la progresión de la fe a través de la memoria, la esperanza y el discernimiento, él dijo, es el apóstol Pedro, un hombre que es una “paradoja” porque Jesús la fe de Pedro es plena. Y a ese padre siempre es fiel y nos confirma en nuestro pastoreo, dirigiendo el rebaño”.

El papa dijo que aunque “el peso de nuestros pecados nos aleja del Señor”, el Señor siempre es fiel y nos confirma en nuestro pastoreo, dirigiendo el rebaño.

El “El Señor nos mantiene moviéndonos adelante y la fe de Pedro es plena. Y a ese pescador que lo negó, el Señor lo hizo papa”, dijo el papa Francisco. “Esa es la lógica del Señor”.

Un mural en El Paisnal, El Salvador, en esta foto del 29 de enero, muestra al beato Oscar Romero y al padre jesuita Rutilio Grande, rodeado de hombres, mujeres y niños de la comunidad rural donde el jesuita sirvió desde 1972 hasta su muerte en 1977. El padre Grande habló de su sueño de una mesa comunitaria donde todos, incluso los pobres, fueran parte, y el derecho de tener voz en los asuntos que les afectan. (Foto de CNS/Guidos de Rhina)
Sin is Scary, but God is Always Ready to Forgive, Pope Says

ROME (CNS) — Witches don’t really exist, so they can do no harm, Pope Francis told a young girl, but gossip, sin and evil exist and they hurt people every day.

“What frightens me?” the pope asked, repeating the question posed by Sara, one of the children at the Rome parish of St. Magdalene of Canossa. “I’m frightened when a person is bad; the wickedness of people” is scary.

Spending close to four hours at the parish March 12, Pope Francis answered questions from the children, met with the older and sick members of the parish, spent time with parents whose babies have been baptized in the past year and with the Canossian Sisters, whose founder is honored as the parish’s patron saint.

Before celebrating an evening Mass, the pope also heard confessions.

He had told the children that the “seeds of wickedness” lie within each human being, but that God is always willing to forgive those who are sincerely sorry for their sins.

Sara had told him she’s afraid of witches, but Pope Francis told her that witches don’t really exist and those who claim to be able to cast spells are lying.

What is really frightening, the pope said, is the harm caused when people choose to sin, a choice that often begins small. “And it frightens me when in a family, neighborhood, workplace, parish – or even the Vatican – there is gossip. That’s scary.”

“You have heard or seen on TV what terrorists do? They throw a bomb and run,” he said. “Gossip is like that. It’s throwing a bomb and running away. Gossip destroys,” people and reputations.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis described sin as being ugly, an offense against God and “a slap” to God’s face.

“We are used to talking about other people’s sins. It’s an ugly thing to do,” the pope said. Instead, people need to look at their own sins and at Jesus, who took upon himself the sins of all humanity.

“This is the path toward Easter, toward the resurrection” where Jesus’ face will shine like it did at the transfiguration.

But Christians also need to gaze at the crucifix and at the face of Jesus “disfigured, tortured, despised, bloodied by the crown of thorns” because he loved humanity so much that he took on the sins of the world and “paid so much for all of us.”

The face of Jesus, he said, “encourages us to ask forgiveness for our sins and not to sin so much. It encourages us most of all to trust because if he has made himself sin and has taken on our sins, he is always ready to forgive us. We just need to ask him.”

Faith Can’t Grow Without Temptation, Pope Tells Rome Priests

ROME (CNS) -- Faith is a continuing path of growth and maturity that cannot progress without the presence of temptations, Pope Francis told priests of the Diocese of Rome. How faith develops in “a man, in a priest” despite his flaws can be seen in St. Peter, the pope said March 2 as he led a meditation with diocesan and religious clergy. “One thing is clear: Temptation is always present in the life of Simon Peter and temptation is always present in our lives. Moreover, without temptation, you cannot progress in faith. In the ‘Our Father,’ we ask for the grace to not fall but not to not be tempted,” he said. The meeting, held at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, was delayed for roughly 45 minutes as Pope Francis heard the confessions of a dozen priests, according to the Vatican press office. Greeted with a warm applause by the priests, the pope said that he would not read his entire meditation and instead focus on key aspects of his talk, titled, “The progress of faith in priestly life.” Without a continual growth in faith, the pope said, priests run the risk of remaining immature and living priestly life “halfway.”
**Events**

### April

**Victoria**–KC Golf Tournament April 21.

**Beasley**–St. Wenceslaus Annual Bazaar April 23, at the CCD building (407 S 3rd St.). A BBQ beef, chicken, and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available at $10 p/p. Live auction starts at 12:00 p.m. Games, Raffle, music and entertainment for all.

**Port Lavaca**–Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Daughters Court #2267 will host an evening of “Paint the Town” on Thursday, April 27, 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude’s Hall (415 W. Austin). Participants will paint an outlined drawing on canvas, with a choice of one of 4 drawings. The fee is $35, all supplies (canvas, paint, brushes) will be provided. Pre-registration is required in order to receive the canvases of your choice. Snacks will also be provided. For detailed information please contact Nancy Thompson, (361) 212-5838.

**Victoria**–The Stifibrianka (Czech band) will perform and a dance will be held from 7:00-10:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27 at the Community Center. Tickets are $10 advance or $12.50 at the door. Call Joe Janak at (361) 649-2243 or email joejanak@nodial.net for tickets or information.

**Bloomington**–St. Patrick’s Annual Spring Festival April 30, on the church grounds. A 1/2 lb. BBQ brisket dinner with dessert for $10 p/p. Plates-to-go available at 9:30 a.m. with curb side service available. Serving inside begins at 10:30 a.m. Live auction starts at 11:30 a.m. There will be kid games, country store, and cakewalk. For orders on festival day (361) 897-1398.

**Yorktown**–San Luis Annual Jamaica April 30, on church grounds.

### May

**Victoria**–Holy Family Parish Festival, May 7 at the Community Center.

**Hallettsville**–Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 28 at the KC Hall.

**Shiner**–Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 28 at the KC Hall.

### Pilgrimages

**Spiritual Director** - Fr. Kristopher Fuchs

12 day pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain and France visiting Lisbon, Aljucrnel, Valinhas, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Burgos, Leon, Lourdes, Zaragoza and Madrid on June 14-27, 2017. For a copy of the itinerary or questions, contact Dora Silva at dsliva4415@gmail.com or call (361) 550-0103 or Dr. Gloria Gonzales at (361) 549-9147. Deposit and payments must be submitted to Little Flower Tours & Travel, Susan at (888)-843-7373.

### 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.couragecerc.org.

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

**Engaged Encounter–2017 dates:** April 21-23, May 26-28, Sept. 22-24, Nov. 17-19 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.eteridadiocese.org.

**Gabriel Project**–Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or barbaramccain85@yahoo.com. Holy Family, Wharton, meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.; Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville, meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Grief Ministry**–An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Every adult, who has experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months has passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

**I.d.9:16 Ministry**–For adults in their 20s-30s, single or married. Is held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with the 6:30 p.m. daily Mass, dinner, a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan followed by fellowship. Child Care is available to those who RSVP. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For more information or to RSVP for events email id916victoria@gmail.com.

**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.

**Mothers of Grace**–A new mothers’ group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. They meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Early Childhood Center. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at jennifer@jruiz@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 victorianfp@teachers.com. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0930 or susannakoch64@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.raphaelsfreuge.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 jvbjv@gmail.com or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.

### Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

**Victoria**–Celebrate God’s greatest attribute on Divine Mercy Sunday April 23, St. Mary’s Church, 2:00-3:45 p.m. - confessions available; 2:00-4:00 p.m. - Reflections on Mercy Divine, Mercy Prayers, devotions, veneration of image and benediction; ends with a 4:00 p.m. Mass.


**El Campo**–St. Philip Parish presents Sondra Abrahams May 21, at 1:00 p.m. She is from Lake Charles, Louisiana. During a near death experience on the operating table years ago, after being given a drug that stopped her heart, she was given visions of the future. Following her recovery, she shares her experiences with people all over the world. She has been called a mystic and a visionary by priests, and bishops, but the only title she claims is “Warrior for Christ”. For more information, contact St. Philip Church at (979) 543-3770.

**Texas City**–Catholic Men’s Conference Saturday, May 13, at the Doyle Center. Bishop Brendan Cahill and Father Larry Richards will be guest speakers. Cost is $40. Information at www.gc-cmc.org.

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

**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 iwbsvcs2@yahoo.com.

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**Amor Meus**

On-going opportunities for guidance and discussion on one’s spiritual journey are available 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.

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**Submit Calendar Events to**

lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org
Delynn has a lot of family history at the school. She shared with us that both of her parents and grandparents attended St. Ludmila. Some of her family who have attended school at St. Ludmila/St. Paul include the Pesek, Novosad, Fikac, and Henkhaus families. She was also very proud that her grandmother, Patricia “Patsy” Pesek was the principal when she began elementary school. When visiting with her she shared a memory of her Grandma Patsy and a school bell she would ring. She said, “My earliest memory of school was when my grandma would always go outside during recess. She had this big bell that we couldn’t touch and we didn’t want to hear the bell because we knew recess would be ending.” Mrs. Neely Yackel, school principal, heard her mention the bell, walked to her cabinet and pulled out the bell! Delynn was delighted and said, “We all remember the bell...can’t believe it’s still here! I had no idea, that’s amazing!”

Father Bryan was very passionate when speaking of how this renovation would provide for future generations. He knows that the funds needed to reach 4 million will be raised through the continued efforts of the community working together and trusting that God will provide. The plans are to begin construction as soon as 3 million dollars have been raised, but Father Bryan would like to see the entire goal of 4 million raised before it starts. Currently they have raised over $2,453,000 towards their project. He shared, “The heart of the school is the convent. It will remain the heart of the school once it is renovated. The people of this parish built this (convent) building, the Janak Music Center, St. Paul High School and our entire community. Although we have grants we have to embrace the responsibility of giving back and preserving this for future generations; the only way we can do this is to reclaim this space.”

Pledges can be fulfilled over a three year period. Contact Father Bryan Heyer at (361) 594-3836.