Diocesan Pastoral Council meets, discusses Ad Limina Visit, Pastoral Center Plans with Bishop Coerver

Meeting included updates on Catholic Pastoral Center flood, Finances and Kaleidoscope of Faith event

By Lucas Flores
South Plains Catholic

LUBBOCK—The Diocese of Lubbock Diocesan Pastoral Council met with Most Rev. Robert Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock, on Saturday, February 1, 2020 to discuss the Ad Limina Visit for the Region X Bishops, to hear an update on the Catholic Pastoral Center Flood, an update on the Kaleidoscope of Faith event and an update on the Diocesan Catholic Appeal and changes in financing strategy for the diocese.

Bishop Coerver reported on the Ad Limina visit that began two weeks prior to the meeting. He said that at the conclusion of the visit, bishops who previously attended the visits said the feeling of the 2020 visit was much different.

He was told previous visits included a 10-minute meeting with the pope for a few questions, and they were in and out. Previous visits to the congregations would include a cardinal wagging his finger, telling what was wrong with the region’s church.

“This visit was 180 degrees from what I had been told,” Bishop Coerver said. “The bishops who had been before raved about how positive this experience was.”

Bishop Coerver reported that the visit began with Mass at Saint Peter’s Basilica on the first morning. Then, right to the meeting with the Holy Father. Many of the other bishops had others traveling with them. Bishop Emeritus Plácido Rodríguez joined Bishop Coerver.

Bishop Coerver said each bishop met the pope when entering the

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Archbishop Coakley: Bishops’ Visit To Rome Renews Sense Of Unity, Mission

Catholic News Service

ROME—A pilgrimage to the apostles’ tombs in Rome helps bishops renew their sense of unity as well as rededicate themselves to being missionaries bringing the Gospel to the world, said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City.

“That’s what we are here to celebrate and acknowledge today—our communion with Peter and our mission ad gentes to the nations, to the

See BISHOPS, page 7

Kaleidoscope of Faith: The Church Family Gathers

Living family life in the light of the Gospel

LUBBOCK—There is not one type of perfect family. It seems that every family has its “black sheep,” “skeletons in the closet,” or has the talent for putting “fun” in dysfunctional. Each of us—if we are willing to admit it—have our alphabetical criteria for family from amazing to zany.

Words like flawed or fabulous, loud or loving, independent or inseparable are used. Above all, they are family.

In Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope Saint Paul VI wrote, “Evangelizing is in

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Set the Diocese of Lubbock as your homepage + CatholicLubbock.org
Pope Francis: ‘The beatitudes always bring joy’

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY—The beatitudes should be a defining feature of a Christian’s identity because they reveal the way that Jesus lived his life, Pope Francis said.

“The beatitudes always bring joy; they are the way to joy,” Pope Francis said. “It will do us good to take the Gospel of Matthew today, chapter five verses one to eleven, and read them. ‘It will do us good to take the way that Jesus lived his life, his identity card’ because they reveal ‘the face of Jesus himself.’”

“There are eight beatitudes,” he said. “It would be nice to learn them by heart to repeat them, to have precisely in mind and heart, this law that Jesus gave us.”

Pope Francis began a new series of catechesis on the eight beatitudes from Matthew’s Gospel. In this series, the pope will reflect on one beatitude per week over the next two months in his Wednesday general audiences.

The pope said that the beatitudes are a message for all of humanity.

“It’s hard not to be touched by these words of Jesus, and it is a just desire to want to understand them and to welcome them more fully,” he said.

Pope Francis clarified that the beatitudes bring one the true joy of being “blessed,” which is different from worldly happiness.

“It is the Easter joy,” the pope said. In giving himself to us, God often chooses “unthinkable paths” that test our limits, bringing tears or defeat, the pope said. It is the joy of one who “has the stigmata, but is alive, one who has died to himself and experienced the power of God.”

“But what does the word ‘blessed’ mean?” the pope asked.

The beatitudes always bring joy; they are the way to joy,” Pope Francis said.
meeting. Then the group sat and met with the Holy Father and a translator.

“He was a great translator,’” Bishop Coerver said. “I understood the Holy Father speaking in Italian, and when I would listen to the translation it was spot on! Nothing was lost.”

The bishops met with Pope Francis for two and a half hours.

“He began (the meeting) by saying, ‘I know we are all humans,’” Bishop Coerver said, “there is water over there, and the bathroom is over there.”

Bishop Coerver said the Holy Father said, “ask me anything, and we will talk about anything you would like.”

The Holy Father also discussed Blessed Father Stanley Rother. Pope Francis knew information about how Blessed Stanley Rother had returned home to Oklahoma with his bishop wishing for him to stay, but Rother went back (to Guatemala) knowing he would be murdered.

“I begged him (Pope Francis) to continue to put forth his vision for the Church,” Bishop Coerver said, “and I told him that he is allowing for questions not previously discussed, to be discussed because this is teaching us discernment and allows us to ask questions about things that aren’t easy to talk about.”

Bishop Coerver said the bishops met with the congregations or departments. The department visits included meetings with the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life led by Cardinal Kevin Farrell and the Secretary of State, who runs the Vatican, covers foreign relations and the nuncios.

With the Secretary of State, the bishops discussed the Church in China and also the Church in the British Isles.

“This meeting gave me an appreciation of how the Vatican is in touch with the world,” Bishop Coerver said. “This reminded me that we are part of something bigger than the Church of Lubbock.”

An invitation to the February 22, 2020, Kaleidoscope of Faith was extended to all members of the council. Members were also invited to take posters and help spread the word, encourage registrations.

“We encourage everyone to attend,” Sister Peggy Szeljack said. “We want everyone to be there.”

Pope Francis greets Bishop Robert Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock, during the January 20 Ad Limina Visit of the Bishops of Region X. Accompanied by priests and seminarians from their dioceses, the bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas traveled to the Vatican. Part of the visit included the bishops kneeling before the tomb of St. Peter after chanting the Creed in Latin. The profession is an obligatory part of their visit ad limina apostolorum—to the threshold of the apostles. More photos of Bishop Coerver’s visit are available on the Diocese of Lubbock website at www.catholiclubbock.org. are to become ADA compliant.

The Cursillo Movement of Lubbock has been hosting weekend retreats at Mercy Center in Slaton with the hope to return to the Hall of Martyrs when the Catholic Pastoral Center staff is able to move.

The pastoral council meeting included an update on the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the strategy for financing the ministries of the Diocese of Lubbock in the future.

The Diocesan Catholic Appeal will no longer exist with the conclusion of the fiscal year in July 2020. A Cathe

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FAMILY, from page 1

fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize”.

The Kaleidoscope of Faith: The Church Family Gatherers will be a time of evangelization, nourishment, and encouragement. We evangelize to one another, simply by our presence. We evangelize by gathering as a faith family. Our nourishment is community, listening, and sharing.

Sister Peggy Szeljack, Director of the Diocese of Lubbock Division of Family Faith Formation Evangelism said that faith, like family, is as varied as the colors seen in a kaleidoscope. She said that our faith, even when ignored, is never stagnant nor dormant.

“This God gift is at the heart of what we share with those we love. We share because God has loved us first,” Sister Peggy said. “As we gather, may our treasure be nourished, that God’s light can shine through us. My prayer is that the time we spend together will sustain our family, our faith, our Church.”

Our presence feeds the desire to know we are not alone. To listen and share the Light of the Gospel magnifies the Light of Christ within us. Knowing that where two or more are gathered in His Name (Matthew 18:20), we are encouraged to continue His Presence in our family, our Church, our diocese.

Most Rev. Robert Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock, recently returned from a visit to the Vatican— with the Bishops of Region X—with Pope Francis. During the visit, he shared goals for the Diocese of Lubbock.

“In my ad limina visit to Pope Francis and the Vatican Congregations last month, I presented five goals for the Diocese of Lubbock,” Bishop Coerver said. “One of those goals was promotion of family life within the diocese and its parishes and ministries. A second goal was to foster family centered faith formation opportunities within the diocese.”

He said that the Kaleidoscope of Faith event is an excellent example of strategy which is being imple

See FAITH, page 19
KALEIDOSCOPE
OF FAITH

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FAMILY GATHERS

SCHEDULE
AT A GLANCE
8:30 A.M. - Check-In
10 A.M. - Welcome by Bishop Coerver
10:10 A.M. - Keynote Speaker
12 P.M. - Lunch (Danny’s Fins and Hens)
1:10 P.M. - Keynote Speaker
3:15 P.M. - Bishop Coerver
3:30 P.M. - Mass
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

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at Our Lady of Guadalupe*
in Snyder*

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at Saint Anthony*
in Brownfield*
* en español*
Lubbock’s Saint John Neumann Parish Youth for Life join North Texas March for Life

By Veronica Contreras

In 2017, an inspired woman from my parish answered a call to start a pro-life group, Youth for Life, in our very own Lubbock, Texas. I joined the group, thinking I was pro-life, not knowing of the journey ahead of me.

Saying you are pro-life and actively advocating for life are very different things. There is a battle being fought, that I was not actively taking part in—this group changed that.

Our first advancement to defend life began by participating in the 2018 March for Life in Washington, D.C. My experience there sparked a passion to continue to fight for life. Since then, Youth for Life has continued our pro-life education through monthly meetings, promoting more activism in Lubbock through pro-life events, and annually attending a pro-life march.

In 2019, we attended the Austin March for Life, and this January, our group traveled to Dallas, Texas to participate in the 2020 North Texas March for Life. Our group consisted of adults, young adults, and teens, some veterans and some new to marching.

There were an estimated 10,000 people who participated and out of those, we were 15. Our day began at a rally at St. Jude’s Chapel in downtown Dallas, with powerful testimonies from Dr. Irene Alexander and Jim Hickey, followed by Mass.

We were all eager to walk the streets of Dallas peacefully protesting after hearing the illuminating talks and the celebration of Mass. Every march I have participated in has struck me in different ways, there is a solace found in marching that is unexplainable.

Being in a sea of thousands of people that day, I felt so deeply united in the recognition that every person there had insurmountable value. No matter their race, religion, or background, the amount of beauty and importance to every life there felt so surreal. Every single person there had motive and courage to say ‘yes, I am going to use my body to speak out against the killing of the unborn.’

Marching alongside so many people, I was left with the sentiment that our efforts do not go unnoticed.

Women and babies everywhere need us to continually stand up and speak out. We march to be voices for the voiceless, to reiterate the beauty and sanctity to each life, in hopes to ignite conviction for past, present, and future persons everywhere. We are all witnesses to the genocide of abortion, and as a young person, I sometimes feel my voice gets spoken over by those with seniority.

However, I believe the right to freedom of speech has not been exercised more than now. Being a member of Youth for Life has truly helped me manifest my voice in complex issues, in today’s society.

I have learned many things since beginning my advocacy for life, most importantly to always hold your ground while being equally merciful to those on the opposing side.

Abortion is a massive tear in our fabric of humanity that will take a very long time to mend. The pro-life movement works to support life from conception to natural death.

We fight for the lives of the unborn while supporting all men, women, and children going through difficult times.

Furthermore, the way to start the changing the minds and hearts of those who support abortion is to bring more light to the other options women possess—supporting our local pregnancy resource centers, praying for our legislators, and respecting all life through all stages.
BISHOPS, from page 1

ends of the earth,” Archbishop Coakley said in his homily during Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls Jan. 21.

The archbishop was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass with bishops from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The bishops were in Rome as part of their visits ad limina apostolorum—to the threshold of the apostles—to pray and also to report on the status of their dioceses in meetings with the pope and Vatican officials.

After praying at the tomb of St. Peter Jan. 20 and then gathered the next day at the tomb of St. Paul, Archbishop Coakley said the complementary nature of the two saints reminded him of the complementarity of centripetal and centrifugal forces.

Similar to the way a centripetal force pulls an orbiting body toward the center, “St. Peter represents that center of unity for the church. Communion with Peter draws us to that center of life that ensures our unity and communion with one another and with the Lord,” he said.

And similar to the way a centrifugal force pushes an orbiting body away from the center, one can see “the mission of St. Paul, who went out beyond the Jewish world, sent to the nations, to the ends of the earth, to proclaim the Gospel, to bear witness to Jesus Christ,” he said.

“The Church needs both,” he said. “We need Peter. We need Paul. We need all that they represent.”

Reflecting on the day’s first reading from the First Book of Samuel (16:1-13), the archbishop looked at the “mysterious” way God chose, from among Jesse’s sons, the leader to succeed Saul.

The sons that impressed Samuel were rejected by God, who told Samuel that humanity only sees and judges from appearances, but the Lord “looks into the heart,” according to the reading.

In fact, God chose the youngest son, David, a shepherd and “not the obvious choice,” the archbishop said.

St. Paul, too, was not an obvious choice; he persecuted Christians, and yet, God blinded him before enlightening him, “choosing him, giving him a new name and a new mission,” he said.

St. Paul found that “God chooses the weak to make them strong,” said Archbishop Coakley.

Reflecting on this, he said, “we cannot help but recall the way in which the Lord chose us and indicated His choice of each of us. It can probably be said that we were not all the obvious choice.”

“God chooses us not because we are worthy of having been chosen, but God has chosen us so that His power might be made perfect, might be made manifest in our weakness,” he said.

“These days we are certainly very much aware of the weakness of the Church’s ministers, bishops, Her priests, all of God’s people. We are weak, but God makes us strong through Faith, through the power of His spirit.” The bishops’ pilgrimage to Rome and the Vatican is a way “to renew our commitment to the call that each one of us has received.”

“This is the source of our strength, in our weakness we are strong when we trust in the Lord and recommit ourselves to the apostolic mission we have received together as successors of the apostles,” he said.

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February 8th and 9th

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Not many people know that Mother Teresa of Kolkata’s first visit to the United States was to Las Vegas in 1960. She didn’t go to cleanse the casinos of their corruptions—she went to speak at the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Convention. She was one of many NCCW national convention guest speakers since their founding by the U.S. bishops on March 16, 1920. Since then, the organization set out, through members, to support, empower and educate Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service.

Nationally, and through the Diocesan Council of Lubbock, programs respond with gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world.

National Council of Catholic Women will celebrate its centennial at the 2020 convention in August in Arlington, VA.

As president of the Lubbock Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) it is my goal and mission to continue providing the same for all Catholic women in the diocese with the help of the deanery presidents, diocesan priests, and our Most Reverend Robert Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock.

In the Third Letter of John, verses 13-14, John says, “I have much to write to you, but I do not wish to write with pen and ink; instead I hope to see you soon, when we can talk face to face.”

As president, I humbly relay this message, and look forward in the coming months, at the deanery meetings and Fall Convention to see you face to face and to unite as One, Holy, Apostolic, Catholic Women of God.

God’s blessing, Angie Cervantes.

Angie Cervantes is the president of the Lubbock Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Contact Angie at 806-445-5774 or via email at motherweloveyou@aol.com.

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Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
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CLARENDON – Bruno Charles Schwertner, 85, died October 27, 2019 in Amarillo. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 1 in Saint Mary Catholic Church, Clarendon.

Bruno was born October 15, 1934, in Shallowater to Rudolf and Mary Kuba Schwertner. He married Norma Jean Verkamp August 30, 1958, in Lubbock. He served in the US Air Force from 1954 to 1957.

He had farmed at Nazareth and Stratford before moving to Clarendon where he had farmed for a total of 50 years. He was a Knight of Columbus and a member of American Ag Movement, and a Saint of Columbus and a member of a total of 50 years. He was a Knight Clarendon where he had farmed for and Stratford before moving to

He is survived by his wife Norma; his brothers, Hubert, Rudy, and Christina Kaderka (Kelly), a brother, Monsignor Tim Schwertner; eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

EARTH - Julia Palacio Samaniego, 80, died November 30, 2019 in Olton, Texas. Funeral services were held at Saint Mary Magdalen Church in Earth.

She was born May 22, 1939 in Pearsall, Texas to Eusebio and Trinidad (Fuentes) Palacio. She married Manuel Samaniego in Pearsall on July 28, 1958. Julia was a homemaker and a seamstress in Earth for many years. She is preceded in death by a son, Jesse, and her parents.

Julia is survived by her husband; sons, Johnny (Irmma), Miguel (Mina), and Israel Samaniego (Rosie); daughters Maria Padilla (Salvador) and Anna Devenport; six sisters; one brother; 17 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

HONOLULU - Antonia “Toni” Rivera, 66, died December 30, 2019, at her residence in Hawaii. Funeral Mass was held at Saint Joseph Catholic Church January 8th.

Born and raised in Lubbock, Toni was one of nine siblings. She graduated in 1975 from Estacado High School. During her professional career, she worked in the telecommunications industry as a senior manager. After her professional retirement, she worked at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock.

She was a former parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church, Lubbock, and of Saint Augustine by the Sea Church, Honolulu, HI. She is preceded in death by her parents, Santos and Ellia “Lillie” Chavez; a sister, Gloria Bustillos, and her husband, David Holloman.

She is survived by a daughter, Victoria Rivera (Jerome Flores); two granddaughters; two sisters, Juanita Lara (Jim) and Isabel Castillo; five brothers, Deacon Santos Chavez, Jr., Andres “Andy” Chavez (Madeleine), Alfredo (Elizabeth), Daniel Jose (Marina) and Jose Luis Chavez (Gloria); and many nieces and nephews.

LEVELLAND – Thomas (Tommy) Esparza, 93, died December 22, 2019. Funeral service was held December 26, at Saint Michael Church, Levelland.

Tommy was born September 18, 1926. Tommy served two years in the U.S. Army during WWII. After his service in the army he was a farm laborer, water well driller, and a machinist. He owned and worked at Tommy’s Machine Works & Welding Shop in Levelland. Tommy built a shop behind his house where he spent time working and listening to music. He loved spending time with family, grandchildren, and friends.

YOLANDA MARTINEZ, 78, died December 14, 2019. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 18 at Saint Michael Catholic Church of Levelland.

Yolanda was born June 6, 1941 in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to Pablo and Flora V. Arevalo. She married Ignacio Martinez May 4, 1958 in Mexico. They moved to Levelland in 1971. She was a parishioner of Saint Michael’s.

Mrs. Martinez was preceded in death by her parents and brother Poncho Arevalo.

See MEMORIALS, page 12

NECROLOGY

Please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of priests, deacons, and commissioned pastoral ministers from the Diocese of Lubbock (and priests from the Diocese of Amarillo) who died in FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEBRUARY

Hammond, Father William M.
February 13, 1971

Gillis, Father Raymond, S.A.
February 20, 1988

McGorry, Father Bernard Cletus, S.A.
February 20, 1992

Diebel, Father Thomas R.
February 16, 2018

MARCH

Gerken, Most. Rev. Rudolph A.
March 2, 1943

Herbert, Father F. J.
March 9, 1947

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Call Mike Payne today at (806) 790-5420 to schedule an interview.
Editor’s note: Some may think Catholic Charities, Diocese of Lubbock, is limited to giving out food, helping pay utilities or for medication. We hope to better inform you, dear reader, to help spread the word to change that.

You, or people you know, may have never visited the Catholic Charities Resale Center at 1505 34th Street nor the Lubbock headquarters.

From early July through October, the South Plains Catholic staff had a unique opportunity to take advantage of the Catholic Center flood on July 2. Office space was found, and we were generously given the opportunity to work in the Catholic Charities offices. We saw and heard first-hand the range of Catholic Charities’ impact in Lubbock and the surrounding areas.

In the next few issues, we’ll introduce readers, maybe for the first time, to the many and varied programs at this jewel of service to the vulnerable and needy situated catty-corner to the beautiful Atzlan City Park at 102 Avenue J in Lubbock.

By Pat Behnke
South Plains Catholic

Navigating immigration regulations and laws can be a daunting task. Requirements can change, and people may be nervous about the whole process. Families are stressed. The Catholic Charities Immigration Office staff, Margarita Amado, program manager, and case worker Maria Infante are ready to help.

“Most plentiful are those needing to renew their green cards, naturalization cases, and people wanting to get a family member into the system,” Maria Infante said.

Green cards are typically renewed every 10 years; conditional green cards for two years.

A U.S. citizen or permanent resident can apply for a spouse to receive a green card. The spouse applies for a waiver if needed.

When approved, the applicant must go to the American Consulate in Juarez for an interview. Once checked out, a passport is issued and the spouse gets a stamp on the passport at the border to come to the U.S. They must then access the U.S. Immigration website and pay a fee to get a green card, which can take up to a month.

Another way to access a green card is through an ‘adjustment’ wherein the petitioner awaits an interview with Immigration—only if the spouse came legally to the U.S. This is a shorter process, without having to travel to the Consulate in Juarez.

All roads eventually lead to the Immigration website for payment of fees. Some reasons for green card denial may be as simple as mistakes on forms, missing documents, insufficient financial resources, or, more difficult—failure to demonstrate eligibility.

The women of the Catholic Charities Immigration office also help with residency cases. There are a number of steps along the path to residency, but a case worker guides the petitioner.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) permits a woman who is married to a resident or citizen, but who has been abused in some way, to apply for an ‘adjustment’ for a green card without the abusive spouse being part of the process.

When a resident applies for a wife and children under 21, it takes three years for the green card process. Rules change when the applicant is already a U.S. citizen, or when the child has reached 21 years old.

Mrs. Infante said the hardest part of her job is families waiting for

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MEMORIALS, from page 9

Survivors include her husband; sons Juan (Sylvia), Ignacio Jr. (Erika), Arturo (Cheryl), Freddy (Estella) and Alex (Connie) Martinez; a daughter Flora (Roy) Martinez; 23 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren; brothers Pablo, Rogelio and Raul Arevalo; and sisters Maria Isabel Bazan, Maria Luisa De Silva, Juanita Sabala and Juanita Sabala.

Rumaldo Tienda, 56, died December 19, 2019. Funeral service was held December 24 at Saint Michael Catholic Church, Levelland.

Rumaldo was born January 18, 1963, in Levelland to Edward and Nativida Tienda. He graduated from Levelland High School in 1982, and married Olivia Reyes October 2, 1992 in Levelland.

He was a bricklayer for 15 years in the family business, and for Friendship ISD for over 15 years. He coached little dribblers basketball, softball, and baseball for 10 years.

Preceding him in death were his parents, brother David Medin and sister Noemí Hinojosa.

Survivors include his wife; son John Isaac (Noemi) Reyes; daughters Stephanie N. DeLaRosa and Amy (Ray) Campos; six grandchildren; sisters Elena and Angel Castillo, Josie Gonzales and Kathy Medina; and brothers Jody and Salvador Tienda.

Jesusa Trevino, 91, died December 26, 2019. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 31 at Saint Michael Church, Levelland.

Jesusa was born April 27, 1928, in Seguin, Texas, to Tiburcio and Paulina Montoya. She married Celestino Trevino, Sr. October 2, 1943. She loved being with her family and grandkids, reading her bible, was a devoted Catholic, taught CCD, and was a Guadalupana from 1975 until her death.

Preceding her in death were her parents, spouse, son Celestino Jr., granddaughter Marcelina Trevino, brothers Santos, Abel, and Miguel Montoya; and sisters Eudelia and Felicity Montoya.

Survivors include sons Antonio, Pedro, and Joe Trevino; and a daughter, Rosa Lina Trevino; 15 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

**LUBBOCK - Manuel William Aguilar Jr., 77, a pipefitter, community leader and family man, died January 2, 2020, in Lubbock, Texas. Funeral Mass was celebrated January 6 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Lubbock.**

Manuel was born November 12, 1942, in Brehnam, Texas, to Manuel Guerra Aguilar and Irene Oliva Aguilar, and in 1945 he and his parents moved to Lubbock, graduating from Lubbock High in 1961.

As a teenager, he became a Golden Gloves National Champion. On June 18, 1963, he married Lillie Garcia in Ogden, Utah.

Mr. Aguilar began his career at Lubbock Manufacturing Co., and later Clark Manufacturing, helping organize a chapter of the United Auto Workers union, serving the Local as sergeant of arms and recording secretary in 1970.

After working as a union pipefitter throughout the 1970s, he became a member of Local 404 of the United Association of Pipefitters, Service Techs, Steamfitters, Sprinkler Fitters and Plumbers on December 1, 1981, and constructed power plants throughout the region.

He was active with the American G.I. Forum, a Mexican-American civil rights organization and helped start Lubbock’s tradition of hosting holiday visits from Santa’s cousin from the South Pole, “Pancho Clos” in 1970. He was active in politics and in 2018 was awarded the Adelante Award for community activism by Los Hermanos Familia in Lubbock.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Lazaro, Alfonso and Samuel Aguilar; and a grandson, Arya.

Survivors include his wife; sons Stevan (Noemi) and Jaime Aguilar (Jamie Torres); daughters Timi Aguilar (Robert Merkle) and Annikka Hernandez (Ramiro) of Lubbock; five grandchildren; and a sister, Dora Trevino (Tony) of Lubbock.

**Anita “Noni” Badillo, 82, died December 24, 2019. She was born June 1, 1937. Her funeral Mass was celebrated December 27 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.


Survivors include a son, Carlos Badillo (Lisa) and daughters, Emily Saiz (Ronald), and Teresa Badillo McCumber; 10 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.**
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Please call the Holy Spirit PDO office at (806) 698-1668 or visit holyspiritcathparish.org for more information.

VOCATIONS DONATION - Bishop Robert Coerver accepts a check for $5,000 from Rudy Rangel, president of the Serra of Lubbock Vocations Ministry. The Serra Vocations Ministry makes an annual presentation to the Bishop of Lubbock at their Christmas dinner. This year’s event took place on December 7. (Contributed photo.)

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AUGUST 2
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JUNE 28
Saint Joseph
Lubbock
Guadalupe Park

AUGUST 8
San Lorenzo
Lorenzo

Pastor or parish leaders: Notify Jamaica Central as soon as your date is set. (Jamaica dates are set by parishes, NOT “Jamaica Central.”)
SLATON—A joyful sense of expectation filled the air as worshipers gathered in Slaton’s Saint Joseph Catholic Church for a special Mass on the last Sunday of 2019. Parents and grandparents, youth group leaders, and friends of 29 Teen ACTS retreatants were there, straining to see their loved ones as the group processed into church for the retreat’s closing liturgy. Many had prayed for these young people to “experience a deeply spiritual and meaningful weekend,” said Deacon Pete Paniagua of Saint Joseph Parish. “It sure looked to me like their prayers were answered.”

“It was really inspirational to see all of these young teens give their hearts out and just glorify God with people they didn’t know,” said Annie Kelly, a teen member of the retreat staff music team. “To see a teen boy, someone who thinks crying is beneath him, break down during adoration was heart wrenching, in the best way possible.”

Activities during the retreat at the Mercy Center in Slaton focus on “encountering the love of Christ through Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service,” from which the ACTS acronym is derived. The retreat goals of deepening relationships with Jesus including discussions on religious, spiritual, moral, and social issues, prayer and scripture sharing, and various games and exercises.

Teen ACTS retreats are held twice a year in the Diocese of Lubbock. Participation is open to youth 15-years-of-age or older and have completed at least one semester of high school.

Spiritual Director for the December 2019 weekend was Father George Roney, pastor of Lubbock Saint John Neumann Church. Lay Director Leo Olvera was assisted by two teen co-directors and Spiritual Companion Luis Garcia. Forty-two staff members met weekly for three months to prepare, and pray for the teens attending. It was a commitment that resulted in a cohesive and effective group, according to Garcia.

The joy, and camaraderie of the youth were evident at the closing Mass.

“I’m going to be sad on Sunday,” texted one teen staff member to her parents on the second day of the retreat. “The retreat will be over and I’ll have to say goodbye to 60 of my friends/family.”

“Twenty-nine lives were touched and the retreat experience directed the teens toward a new way of relating to Jesus Christ, to the Catholic Church, and to their families and friends back home,” said Garcia. “It was a blessing to be part of such a Spirit-filled weekend.”

For information on upcoming ACTS retreats for men, women, and teens, visit https://actscommunityoflubbock.org
TRIBUTES, from page 12

Ron is survived by his wife; children Stephanie A. Ortega, Ronald J. Jr. and Stephen A. Guajardo; his sister, Dianne Martinez; seven nieces and three nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Donato Guajardo Jr.

Robert Eugene (Bob) Raef, 79, died December 10, 2019. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 14, 2019 at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church. Bob was born October 31, 1940, to Edgar W. and Blanchie Raef in Amarillo, Texas. He was a lifelong Catholic and proud member of both 3rd degree and 4th degree Knights of Columbus. He served 6 years in the Army National Guard.

He graduated from Palo Duro High School in Amarillo, and from West Texas State University with a Bachelors and Masters Degree. He was a Certified Public Accountant. He raced cars and motorcycles on a dirt track, and was a pilot.

He is survived by his wife Patsy; children, Robert Raef, Jr. (Mena), Aneta Younger (Jim), Dana McBee (Daron), and Crystal Freeman (Chad); six grandchildren; one great grandson; a sister Jacque Willburn, and brother, Glenn Raef; and much loved extended family. He was preceded in death by a sister, Joyce Shank.

MULESHELIE - Joey James Luebanos, died December 14, 2019 in Muleshoe. Funeral services were held December 30 at Immaculate Conception Church. Joey was born May 14, 1998 in Amarillo, Texas to Estella Saucedo. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Maria Elvira Saucedo and an uncle, Robert Saucedo, Jr. Joey is survived by his mother and step-father, Estella and Alfredo Garcia; his maternal grandfather, Robert Saucedo; a sister, Kaylah Garcia; and his brother, Isaac Luebanos.

Rafael Marines, Sr., 83, died January 6, 2020. Funeral services were held January 10 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. He was born April 7, 1936. Rafael moved to Maple in 1953 from Lubbock. He met and married Maria Maldonado December 8, 1957 in Alamo. They had four children.

He worked for Horace Hutton as a farm laborer for over 40 years in Maple. He was a dedicated sports fan, a devout Catholic and a longtime parishioner of Saint. Ann’s in Morton and Immaculate Conception, Muleshoe.
mean? The original Greek term makarios does not indicate one who has a full belly or is doing well, but is a person who is in a condition of grace, who progresses in the grace of God,” he said.

The pope noted that Jesus taught the Beatitudes as a part of his “Sermon on the Mount,” adding that the mountain is an allusion to Sinai, where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

“Jesus begins to teach a new law: to be poor, to be meek, to be merciful. These ‘new commandments’ are much more than norms. In fact, Jesus does not impose anything, but reveals the way of happiness,” Pope Francis said.

“At Christmas, the question is this,” he continued. “Do I allow myself to be loved by God? Do I abandon myself to his love that comes to save me?”

He said today is the right day to draw near the manger, to draw near the tabernacle, and say thank you.

“Let us receive the gift that is Jesus, in order then to become gift like Jesus,” he said. “It is the best way to change the world: we change, the Church changes, history changes, once we stop trying to change others but try to change ourselves and to make of our life a gift.”

Pope Francis noted that Jesus changed the world not through pressure but by the gift of his life.

God finds us beautiful, he continued, not for what we do but for what we are.

The pope reflected on the shepherds in the field, visited by the angels, who received the news of “great joy.” This message is for everyone, he said.

“We too, with all our weaknesses and failures, are among those shepherds, who were certainly not saints.”

“And just as God called the shepherds, so too he calls us, for he loves us,” Pope Francis reminded. “In the dark night of life, he says to us as he did to them, ‘Be not afraid!’

“Take courage, do not lose confidence, do not lose hope, do not think that to love is a waste of time!” he encouraged. “Tonight love has conquered fear, new hope has arrived, God’s kindly light has overcome the darkness of human arrogance.”

“Mankind, God loves you; for your sake he became man. You are no longer alone!”

“If your hands seem empty, if you think your heart is poor in love, this night is for you. The grace of God has appeared, to shine forth in your life. Accept it and the light of Christmas will shine forth in you,” he concluded.
reunification, because she knows it may take years before that happens. People are so grateful when they are finally reunited with loved ones.

Both case workers are paralegals, and train every year in El Paso, where Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) instructors present changes in the laws and procedures. Immigration cases are just one more way in which Catholic Charities, Diocese of Lubbock, “provides help, creates hope, and serves all people.”

For more information on how Catholic Charities serves, call 806-741-0409 or visit CCLubbock.org.
**Catholics in Business Directory**

So then... let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith. + Galatians 6:10

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For listing information, contact: Pat Behnke at PBehnke@catholiclubbock.org; 806-792-3943; Fax: 806-792-8109 or Henry Castellano at HenryKofC8097@gmail.com; 806-543-6710; Fax: 806-792-8109
When we gather for Sunday Liturgy, we respond to the call to actively participate in worship as a family, Church family. We, though many, are one. It is in the very nature of our call to Liturgy—“Liturgy” comes from the Greek leitos, “of the people” plus ergon, “work,” leitourgia, which means the work of the people. “By gathering together, by praying and learning together for a few hours right before the privileged liturgical season of Lent,” Bishop Coerver said, “I hope that our families within the Diocese of Lubbock can draw more closely together as households of faith, and that our parish communities might be seen more readily as individual households of faith gathering together as Church in all of the activities and endeavors of our parishes.” Jesus who gave His Body and Blood that we might be His Body, the Church. To live as both a natural and supernatural family, we must live in the light of the Gospel. We may not be known as Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John; however, we are the evangelist without written words. Our Gospel is the light we share. Though in process, another way of saying imperfect, we, as a family of evangelists, are evangelizers.

The Cathedraticum and Annual Catholic Offering for Ministries will help ascertain information to discover parishes in need of sustenance. They will serve as part of a process of taking a realistic look at finances and the financing of the Diocese of Lubbock. “We hope this change helps parishes increase their Sunday collections,” Bishop Coerver said. “This use of the Cathedraticum will help us each year to gather information and to develop changes to the system.” The plan is to keep with the schedule of the offering on the first Sunday of Lent each year no matter the date. Diocesan Pastoral Council members agreed that stewardship education in the diocese is necessary and the new system will serve as another chance for Catholics in the diocese to learn stewardship.
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