

Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

Weekly Update

"VERBUM MITTITUR SPIRANS AMOREM"

March 6, 2018

Registration Open for Sixth Annual Stewardship Conference

The Sixth Annual Diocesan Stewardship Conference is scheduled for March 22-24 at the St. Eugene de Mazenod Renewal Center on the grounds of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine.

The format for this year's conference is somewhat different from years past. Up to 90 retreatants can be accommodated overnight at the Renewal Center, while those who prefer to come for the sessions and leave at the end of the day will have that option as before.

The added time in the early mornings and evenings will allow for daily Mass, prayer and reflection, small group discussions and network building among the retreatants, presenters and staff.

There is no cost to attend the conference. A free will offering of \$25 will be accepted from those who are staying at the Renewal Center to partially defray lodging costs.

To register or for more information, please contact Jesse Salinas at (956) 784-5095 or via email at jsalinas@cdob.org

Mr. Salinas is scheduled to appear on *The Valley Catholic Live* show on Facebook today at noon to offer more details about the conference. Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicRGV/>

Diocese's 403b Representative to Host Information Session

Narciso Cortez, the diocese's 403b representative, will be holding four information sessions for employees and priests regarding the 403b plan and the changes in the tax laws that recently took effect. All four sessions will cover the same material.

- 1) Thursday, March 8 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Brownsville, 10:30 a.m. – noon
- 2) Thursday, March 8 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Brownsville, 1:30 – 3 p.m.
- 3) Friday, March 9 at Bishop Marx Conference Center, San Juan, 10:30 a.m. – noon
- 4) Friday, March 9 at Bishop Marx Conference Center, San Juan, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Prayer Warriors Needed for 40 Days for Life Vigil

The 40 Days for Life campaign is an international effort to end abortion through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach. The spring campaign runs through March 25.

Vigils will be held daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. outside of the McAllen abortion facility. More prayer warriors are needed to ensure that the sidewalk is covered throughout the campaign.

For information about 40 Days for Life in McAllen, visit: www.40daysforlife.com/mcallen

For assistance or for more information, please contact Deacon Rudy Sepulveda, Jr. at (956) 624-6300 or via email at deacon_rudy@yahoo.com

Catholic Schools Office to Host Vocation Day

On Thursday, March 8, the Catholic Schools Office will host a Vocation Day for the fifth grade students in our Catholic schools from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Eugene de Mazenod Renewal Center in San Juan. The event will conclude with Mass at 1 p.m. at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine.

The students will have an opportunity to learn about the religious communities, deacons and priests who minister in the Rio Grande Valley. For more information, call (956) 784-5051.

Healing Service Set for March 10

The monthly healing service at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine with Msgr. Juan Nicolau is scheduled for March 10 after the 5:30 p.m. Mass due to the last Saturday of the month falling on Holy Saturday. For more information, contact the Basilica at (956) 787-0033.

Natural Family Planning Seminars Offered

Learn about the scientifically proven Billings Ovulation Method®, which allows couples to plan their families and manage fertility naturally. The seminar provides instruction on:

- Postponing pregnancy
- Achieving pregnancy -for couples with infertility problems
- Monitoring women's reproductive health

The seminars will be held on from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish, 216 W. First St. in San Juan. Donation is \$25.

Choose one date (All dates fall on a Saturday)

English: April 14, June 9, Aug. 11, Oct. 13, Dec. 8

Spanish: March 10, May 12, July 14, Sept. 8, Nov. 10

To register, call Lydia Mendez at (956) 534-4895. Online registration is also available at www.simplenatural.org/events/

Starr County Churches to Host Spring Festivals

Santa Rosa de Lima Church in La Rosita is hosting its spring festival from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, April 7. Sagrado Corazón de Jesus Parish in Escobares is hosting its Jamaica de Primavera from 6-10 p.m. on April 28. For more information, call (956) 849-1741.

Juan Diego Academy Spring Festival

Juan Diego Academy Catholic Regional High School's Spring Festival is set for Saturday, April 7 on campus at 5208 S. FM 494 in Mission. The festival begins with the Heart of a Lion 5K Run/Walk. Other highlights include BBQ chicken plates all day, Grand Chalupa and prizes from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.; raffle drawing at 2:15 p.m.; Burns Motors "Big Store Drive Event" from 9 a.m.- 12 noon, in which you can test-drive a new vehicle and Burns Motors will make a donation to the academy for each vehicle driven.

Registration for the Heart of a Lion 5K Run/Walk should be made online at www.endurancesplits.com. For more information on the Spring Festival, call (956) 583-2752 or visit www.juandiegoacademy.com.

Catholic Charities RGV Annual Gala Set for April 28

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley will host its annual gala, "Hope in Bloom" on Saturday, April 28 at Embassy Suites, 800 Convention Center Blvd. in McAllen. Sally Fraustro Guerra will be honored with the Cariño Award and Janet Vackar will receive the Hope Award.

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, call (956) 702-4088, extension 123.

Pregnancy Center Gala scheduled for May 4

The date for Ninth Annual Fiesta de la Vida to benefit the McAllen Pregnancy Center has been set for Friday, May 4. For more information, call (956) 631-4585.

Registration Open for April Pilgrimage to Marian Sites

A wonderful Marian Pilgrimage: April 5-17 (13 days), \$3,370. Visit or revisit the most inspiring apparition sites: Fatima, Lourdes, Santiago de Compostela and Garabandal with spiritual companions Sister Therese Ann Ridge, IWBS, and Sister Emma Marie Stillman, IWBS. Email us at Zonestar44@hotmail.com or call (956) 342-8881 or (956) 342-1399 to reserve your place now. First come, first served.

Summer Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Assisi and Rome Planned

Father Arturo Cardenas, parochial vicar of Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy in Brownsville, is organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Assisi and Rome from June 15-28. The cost is \$4,390 and includes round-trip flight from McAllen, four-star hotel accommodations, English/Spanish-speaking tour guides, deluxe coach ground transportation and more. For more information or to make a reservation, call (956) 800-2433 or email arthur_coliman@yahoo.com

Parish Organizes Southwest USA Pilgrimage

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Harlingen is hosting a summer pilgrimage and sight-seeing tour from June 23-July 1 via chartered bus. Stops will include: Texas – Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, San Fernando Cathedral; New Mexico - El Santuario de Chimayo, Loreto Chapel; Utah – Oljato Monument, Mexican Hat; Arizona – Mission San Xavier de Bac, Grand Canyon. Cost is \$1,110 per person.

For more information and full itinerary, call (956) 423-4670.

Job Openings

- **Secretary – Auxiliary Bishop’s Office** – The Diocese of Brownsville is accepting applications for a full time employee as Auxiliary Bishop Aviles’ secretary. Interested qualified candidates should contact Genie Treviño of Human Resources at (956) 550-1545 or gtrevino@cdob.org
- **Secretary - St. John the Baptist Parish** – St. John the Baptist is accepting applications for a full-time (40 hours) secretary. Interested qualified candidates should contact Juanita Lowe at (956) 783-1196 or sjtbchurch@sbcglobal.net
- **Chaplain - Brownsville area** – The Diocese of Brownsville is accepting employment applications for a full-time (40 hours) chaplain for the Brownsville area. Interested qualified candidates should contact Human Resources at gtrevino@cdob.org and/or Eloisa Ackerman at eackerman@cdob.org (956) 550-1545 and (956) 784-5018.
- **Multi-parish Pastoral Associate** – The Diocese of Brownsville is accepting employment applications for a multi-parish pastoral associate. The position is 40 hours and will be based out of the San Juan Pastoral Center offices. Interested qualified candidates should contact Genie Treviño of Human Resources at gtrevino@cdob.org; fax: (956) 550-1561; Raul Cabrera at (956) 784-5045; or Giovanni Ada at (956) 584-5042.
- **Catholic Campaign for Human Development intern** – Catholic Charities is accepting employment applications for a part-time (20 hours a week) intern to work for the domestic anti-poverty social justice program of the United States Catholic Bishops. Interested qualified candidates may apply at Catholic Charities with Maria Elena Castrejon, mcastrejon@cdob.org and (956) 702-4088.

Calendar of Events

- **Feb. 14-March 25** – 40 Days for Life spring campaign in McAllen
- **March 8** – Fifth Grade Vocations Day in San Juan
- **March 8-9** – 403b information sessions in Brownsville and San Juan
- **March 10** – Natural Family Planning seminar (Spanish) in San Juan

Submit information to be included in the Weekly Update to Brenda Nettles Riojas, Director of Diocesan Relations, by e-mail at bnrpr@cdob.org or by fax to (956) 784-5082.