

# RGV ACTS UPDATE

[www.rgvacts.org](http://www.rgvacts.org)  
[cdobchapter@rgvacts.org](mailto:cdobchapter@rgvacts.org)

## Teen ACTS Leadership Workshop April 16

All parishes hosting teen retreats this summer are strongly encouraged to send core representatives, directors, and team members to the Teen ACTS Leadership Workshop on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

The workshop will be presented by Tony Deosdade from San Antonio. Tony conducts the Teen Retreat workshops for ACTS Missions.

The workshop will be held at the Basilica Auditorium and will begin promptly at 8:00 AM. Please pre-register on our website: <http://www.rgvacts.org/workshopstalleres.html>. The form is at the bottom of the page.

The \$35 registration fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch, workshop materials, and director's manual. If spouses attend together, the fee will be \$55 for both; and they will receive only one manual.

## Fall Gathering 2011

Plans will be underway soon for a Fall Gathering tentatively scheduled for October of this year.

Led by Chapter Member, David Calvillo, representatives from parishes throughout the diocese will work to plan the event.

Are you willing to help? Drop us an email, and we will be glad to contact you.

Our email address is: [cdobchapter@rgvacts.org](mailto:cdobchapter@rgvacts.org)

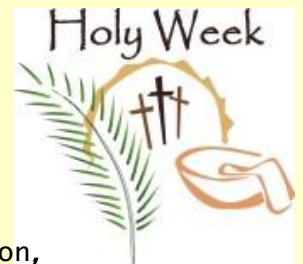
### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Teen ACTS Leadership Workshop April 16	1
Fall Gathering	1
Clergy's Corner—The Triduum	1
SA Missions Chapter Gathering	2
Rule of 80	3
News from ACTS Missions	3
ACTS in Action!	3
Core Reminders	4
Saturday Evening Locations	4
Retreat Center Directory	4
Leadership Workshop Calendar	5
Parish Roster	5
Chapter Roster	6

## Clergy's Corner—The Triduum

by Fr. Rafael Vega

The week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, Holy Week, is the most sacred time of the year for Catholic Christians. During this special time, we take part in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.



While Lent is a very important time in the Church, it is to help us through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to prepare for the three days of the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil / Easter Sunday, as the Center of our Faith.

The Church teaches that the Triduum is really one celebration that lasts for three days. We are called to gather together as brothers and sisters to celebrate and remember the saving action of Christ our Lord.

Please see *Clergy's Corner* on page 2

## Clergy's Corner *cont'd from page 1*

### Holy Thursday

On this night, we remember the Last Supper and celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Jesus' sharing of His body and washing the feet of His apostles is a powerful example of how we are called to serve and care for one another.

### Good Friday

It is a day of fasting and penance and a time to examine all the times in our lives we fail to follow Christ and fall into sin. Good Friday is not a Mass. The Veneration of the Cross is a time for the faithful to individually revere the Cross and ponder the enormity of Christ's salvific act. Holy Communion that is given out has been consecrated on Holy Thursday; and once it is distributed, the priest, along with the entire congregation, departs in silence.

### Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil reminds us of the early Church's tradition as the great celebration of adult baptism and confirmation. The Vigil begins in darkness (usually outside), and the procession of candlelight that enlivens the Church reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who conquered all darkness and death. Those who are coming into full communion with the Church receive the sacraments of initiation, and we, as the community of believers, participate by renewing our own baptismal promises.

We recommit ourselves to Christ, rejecting sin and accepting the freedom that comes from living as children of God.

And so, the single celebration of these three days commemorates the fullness of the Paschal Mystery—the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who dying for our sins and being resurrected, proclaimed that death is no longer the end of life for us. It is the beginning of new life.

There is Light in the darkness.  
Alleluia, Christ has risen!

## CDOB Well Represented at SA Missions Chapter Gathering

Members of the CDOB ACTS Chapter attended the first Chapter Gathering in San Antonio March 25–26, 2011. The gathering offered chapters from throughout the state and country to meet and discuss our activities, successes and challenges.

The gathering was attended by chapters from as far away as Connecticut and Louisiana. Cindy Garza and David Calvillo presented an overview of our presentation to the priest assembly in February.

David and his family are also among those featured in the new ACTS Missions video developed to introduce priests to the retreat. The video is viewable online at [www.actsmissions.org](http://www.actsmissions.org).

Several committees were formed to address challenges and to improve communication and collaboration among the chapters.

The group concluded the gathering by attending the outdoor Mass at the Oblate School of Theology Grotto.

We look forward to sharing information with you in the months ahead, particularly through this newsletter and at the leadership workshops.

Stay tuned!



Oblate School of Theology Grotto

## Rule of 80

Please be advised that the diocese insurance plan only covers 80 persons for retreats. Please assure that retreat team and participants do not exceed 80 persons total.

## News from ACTS Missions

### • ACTS Missions Foundation

ACTS Missions has asked us to remind parishes that monies are available from the ACTS Missions Foundation to assist with scholarships for retreatants and perhaps other necessities. Please contact ACTS Missions at 210-342-1077 for information.



### • ACTS Store

We encourage parishes to purchase retreat items such as rosaries, crosses, and swivels from the ACTS Store. The store is able to provide items at better prices than regular retail and helps fund the ACTS Missions Foundation with the proceeds.

The online store is available at <http://actsstore.org/>. Call them at 210-525-9360, or visit them at The Oblate School of Theology, 285 Oblate Drive, the next time you visit San Antonio.

## ACTS in Action!

- Parishioners from the parishes in San Benito are organizing a Divine Mercy Cenacle. Contact St. Theresa's Church at 956-399-3247 for more information.
- Earlier this year, men from Our Lady of Refuge in Roma and Holy Family in Escobares got together to put in a new roof for the parish hall in Escobares. It was a great bonding experience for the communities, and everyone is very happy with the new roof!
- Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in McAllen sponsored a food and beverage booth at the Benedictine Monastery's Paisano Festival last month. All proceeds from the booth were donated to the Monastery.
- Real Men Pray the Rosary, a non-profit apostolate dedicated to evangelizing the praying of the Holy Rosary, sponsored Total Consecration to Mary classes in February and March of this year at Saint Joseph the Worker Church in McAllen. The Consecration Mass and Ceremony was held March 25<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Church's celebration of The Annunciation of the Lord. What a blessing to affirm Mother Mary's, "Fiat" on the anniversary of the occasion!
- Sacred Heart Church in Edinburg has over 100 parishioners attending Basic Formation classes this spring!

How is ACTS in Action in your parish? Let us know! Send an email to [cdobchapter@rgvacts.org](mailto:cdobchapter@rgvacts.org).

## Core Reminders

- Please send your retreat calendars to the Chapter at [cdobchapter@rgvacts.org](mailto:cdobchapter@rgvacts.org) or directly to Maricela Garcia at [marig64@yahoo.com](mailto:marig64@yahoo.com) for inclusion on the website calendar.
- Cores should also be including retreat dates on the ACTS Missions online calendar. Go to [www.actsmissions.org](http://www.actsmissions.org) for more information.
- Please share the Leadership Workshop Calendar with your directors when you conduct their orientation sessions to facilitate their planning.
- Please encourage directors to invite their teams to attend the Leadership Workshops as well.

## Saturday Evening Locations

- St. John the Baptist           \$250
- Basilica Cafeteria           \$175  
956-787-0033
- Basilica                         \$575  
956-787-0033
- Bishop Marx Auditorium  
956-784-5011, Ofilia
- St. John Lutheran Church  
956-787-4706

## Retreat Meals

The Basilica Cafeteria is available to cater retreat meals for retreats held at the St. Eugene de Mazenod Renewal Center. We encourage you to give them a call for a quote. Fr. Amador guarantees you'll love the food!

## Retreat Center Directory

- St. Eugene Renewal Center  
400 N. Virgin de San Juan Blvd.  
San Juan, Texas 78589  
956-787-0033  
Contact: Santos Esquivel
- Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd  
3167 Monastery Road  
Rio Grande City, Texas 78582  
956-486-2680  
Contact: Sister Nancy Boushey  
[www.Starrcountybenedictines.org](http://www.Starrcountybenedictines.org)
- Cone Oasis (Baptist Encampment)  
23921 N. Parker Rd.  
La Feria, Texas 78559  
956-648-4832  
Contact: Rick Hall
- Estero Llano Grande State Park  
(formerly known as Camp Thicket)  
154 A. Lakeview Dr.  
Weslaco, Texas 78586  
956-565-3919  
Contact: Hector Villanueva
- Girls Scouts of the Greater South Texas Camp  
202 E. Madison Ave.  
Harlingen, Texas 78550  
956-425-2388  
Contact: Ofi Olivarez  
[oalvarez@gsgst.org](mailto:oalvarez@gsgst.org)
- Good Samaritan, Bayview  
Raquel - 233-5198  
[www.Swg-sm.org](http://www.Swg-sm.org)
- Valley Baptist Missions Education, Harlingen  
Jamie Campbell - 367-2632  
[thevbmec@gmail.com](mailto:thevbmec@gmail.com)

## Leadership Workshop Calendar 2011



Save the date!

Due to increased demand, ACTS Leadership Workshops will be held bi-monthly beginning in February 2011. All workshops will be held at the Basilica Auditorium. Online registration is encouraged at [www.rgvacts.org](http://www.rgvacts.org). The \$20 fee for the full day event includes workshop materials, a light breakfast, and lunch. Registration may be paid online using Paypal or on site.

***Keep in mind that attendance and completion of the Workshop is required for retreat directors. Directors must have completed the workshop within six months of being selected or must agree to complete it within two months of accepting the nomination.***

### CALENDAR:

April 16—Teen Retreat Leadership Workshop (\$35 fee includes meals, workshop materials and manual)

June 4—English

June 11—Spanish

August 6—English

August 13—Spanish

October 1—English

October 8—Spanish

December 3—English

December 10—Spanish

## Parish Rosters

### Parishes with Cores

- Holy Spirit, McAllen
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Harlingen
- St. Theresa/Our Lady Queen of the Universe, San Benito
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, McAllen
- Our Lady of Sorrows, McAllen
- Our Lady Star of the Sea, Port Isabel
- Sacred Heart, Edinburg
- St. Anne, Mother of Mary, Pharr
- St. Francis Xavier, La Feria
- St. John the Baptist, San Juan
- St. Joseph, Brownsville,
- St. Joseph the Worker, McAllen
- St. Jude Thaddeus/Sacred Heart, Pharr/Hidalgo

- St. Matthew Deanery
- St. Paul, Mission
- St. Pius X, Weslaco
- San Martin de Porres, Weslaco

### Parishes in the Missioning Process

- Christ the King, Brownsville,
- Immaculate Conception, Rio Grande City
- Our Lady of Refuge, Roma
- Our Lady Queen of Angels, La Joya
- Prince of Peace, Lyford
- Sacred Heart, Mercedes
- Saint Cecilia, Los Fresnos
- San Cristobal Magallanes & Companions, Mission
- San Martin de Porres, Alton
- St. Luke, Brownsville

**CDOB ACTS Chapter of ACTS Missions**

**E-Mail:**

[cdobchapter@rgvacts.org](mailto:cdobchapter@rgvacts.org)

**Visit us on the web:**

[www.rgvacts.org](http://www.rgvacts.org)



Back Row: David Calvillo, Saint Joseph the Worker-McAllen, J. Humberto Rodriguez, Sacred Heart-Edinburg; Fr. Rafael Vega, Prince of Peace-Lyford; Lupe Barrientos, Queen of Peace-Harlingen; George Garcia, St. Theresa-San Benito; Paul Gonzalez, San Martin de Porres-Weslaco  
Front Row: Maricela Garcia, Holy Spirit-McAllen; Melissa Salazar, St. Paul-Mission; Cindy Garza, St. Pius X-Weslaco; Hilda Ledesma, St. Joseph-Brownsville; Consuelo Jones-Our Lady of Sorrows-McAllen

