



Actors portraying Roman soldiers give Jesus a sponge filled with soured wine after he is "nailed" to the cross as part of Friday's re-enactment of the passion play. Bishop Brendan Cahill, in cowboy hat, watches the proceedings.

SACRIFICE

PHOTOS AND STORY BY CHARLIE BLALOCK
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Santisima Trinidad Catholic Church hosts annual passion play

In the midday heat and wind, hundreds of people walked slowly down Pleasant Green Drive following closely behind a group of men portraying Roman soldiers whipping a man dragging a large wooden cross.

This procession is the annual Santisima Trinidad Catholic Church's passion play held each Good Friday to re-enact the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

The procession began at the church and moved slowly down the nearby streets stopping every few blocks in the neighborhood near the church to re-enact another scene depicted in the Stations of the Cross of Christ's journey to his death.

"Each character from Pontius Pilate to Jesus and Mary to the women, they really pray to be in that person and understand scripturally what it was like" said Bishop Brendan Cahill about the preparation taken for the play.

Jose Garcia, who portrayed Jesus for the first time this year, said he has learned the "passion for my religion."

"It's a beautiful expression of our faith and confidence in the sacrifice Jesus made," Cahill said at the end of the two-hour procession.



Jesus, portrayed by Jose Garcia, carries the cross, while Roman soldiers walk behind him, whipping him en route to his death on the cross on Calvary Hill. Members of the Santisima Trinidad Catholic Church enact the passion play every Good Friday.

VA ONLINE

View a gallery of the passion play at VictoriaAdvocate.com.

INSIDE

■ Read faith columns, stories about Easter, **A2, A4**

■ Get a list of Easter events and holiday closings, **A2**

We want to look at your Easter photos

The newest Advocate reader-contributed photo contest is all about Easter – egg hunts, visits with the Easter bunny, dressing in your Easter finest, going to church, smashing cascarones, or just having a fun time with family and friends. Submit your Easter photos to Reader Photos at VictoriaAdvocate.com/adphoto by 5 p.m. May 1. The person who submits the best photo will win a \$25 gift certificate from Charlene's Gifts, 401 S. William St. in downtown Victoria. Be sure to tell us a little about the photo and identify everyone in it!

BUSINESS

Pier 1, Bed Bath & Beyond announce national closures

Company official says it's too early to say how Victoria might be affected

ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT

Pier 1 and Bed Bath & Beyond's futures in Victoria are uncertain.

Pier 1 announced to investors this week it was considering closing 45 stores next year as leases expire, but a company spokeswoman said Friday it would be premature to say whether Victoria's

store would be among them.

"We are committed to having a substantial store presence as a cornerstone of our go-forward strategy and will continue to optimize our footprint to align with the needs of the business," Jennifer Engstrand

SEE BIG BOX, A8



ADVOCATE FILE PHOTO

Pier 1 Imports opened at 7903 N. Navarro St. in 2012.

INDUSTRY

Austin buys \$469M power plant, sidesteps 20-year contract

AUSTIN (AP) – The city of Austin bought a wood-chip-fueled biomass power plant in East Texas for \$460 million to break away from a punitive contract, a move energy officials called one of the largest single purchases in the city's history.

Southern Company, owner of the Nacogdoches Generating Facility, accepted the offer made by Austin Energy on Wednesday.

Austin Energy General Manager Jackie Sargent said the city is now off the hook for escalating annual payments under a 20-year, \$2.3 billion agreement with Southern Company slated to run through 2032, the Austin American-Statesmen reported. Austin Energy is also acquiring Nacogdoches Power LLC, the plant's holding company for the biomass facility.

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