

CATHOLIC CALENDAR.

A page devoted to local Catholic interests

February 21, 2003

Vol. 29, No. 4

Lake Charles, La.

Internet Address: <http://lcdioocese.org>

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth"—he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Mark 2:1-12

The Campaign for St. Louis Catholic High School

In Super Bowl XXXVII the Tampa Bay Buccaneers triumphed over the Oakland Raiders 48-21. But perhaps the real victory was won by the television broadcast network that charged \$2,500,000 for every thirty seconds of advertising time during the game. Why would a car company, a soft drink company or a hamburger company spend so much money to air commercials that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to make? The answer is obvious. They want to get our attention. And they know very well that there are few television events that get the attention of the money-spending American public than the gladiatorial combat known as football.

As I write this reflection Catholic schools in Southwest Louisiana and around the country are celebrating Catholic Schools Week. The Catholic Church is committed to Catholic elementary and secondary schools because we know that Jesus Christ wants to get our attention! And in a very special way he wants to get the attention of young people. In the gospels he says, "Allow the children to come unto me for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." "Father, you have revealed to children what you have concealed from the clever and the wise." One of the most important ways that the Diocese of Lake Charles helps the children and teenagers to realize that Jesus wants to get their attention is through our seven elementary schools and our only Catholic secondary school, St. Louis Catholic High School. During these past two years I have taken a personal interest in all of our schools and our students and staff. I look forward to visiting the classrooms of each of our schools during Lent.

Since I have no doubt that St. Louis Catholic High School is one of our most powerful ways of urging our young people to pay attention to Jesus Christ, I have supported the idea of a renovation and expansion of the campus ever since the idea was first shared with me by Ms. Julie Miller, who was then the school's Development Director and is now the overall coordinator of "Opening Windows: The St. Louis Catholic High School Capital Campaign," which has the goal of raising \$3,375,000.

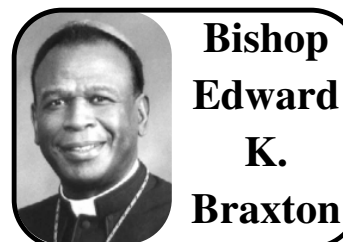
I fully support this Capital Campaign. I invite the entire community of Southwest Louisiana to become

involved in the work of raising the funds needed to renovate and expand St. Louis so as to almost create a new school on an old campus. I am confident that not only the thirteen parishes that own the high school but also all of our parishes will support this mission of transforming St. Louis into a Catholic high school prepared to welcome generations of students in the 21st century and offer them the best possible intellectual,

arranged over a three-year period.

Long-time residents of Southwest Louisiana are aware that St. Louis Catholic High School traces its roots back to the hundred year-old tradition of excellence in education and Christian formation begun by St. Charles Academy, Landry Memorial and Sacred Heart High School. Now we are at the dawn of another century in a country and a world that is changing and developing at a speed that is almost impossible to comprehend.

There is no doubt that the future will need leaders who have the knowledge, courage, creativity and moral responsibility to make momentous decisions concerning science and technology, war and peace, poverty and wealth, education and employment, housing and health care, family life and the welfare of children among many others. The future will certainly need leaders in business and commerce whose values and principles call them to be concerned not only about their personal well being but also about the well being of others, particularly those whose opportunities for self-improvement have been limited. The future will also need, perhaps with a special urgency, gifted teachers, philosophers, theologians, artists, poets, musicians and spiritually committed guides who will help illuminate the uncertain road ahead.



**Bishop
Edward
K.
Braxton**

spiritual, moral, physical, social, and religious education. I am also hopeful that Christians of other Traditions, who know firsthand that our high school is focused on assisting our students to integrate the ethical teachings of Jesus Christ into their daily lives, will be generous in their support. I have already heard individuals who are not Christians and have no particular religious affiliation remark that they are eager to support this community-wide effort. This is because they have seen the caliber of the young men and women who have graduated from St. Louis over the years and they have seen their extraordinary contributions locally and nationally. A strong secondary school that strives for excellence is a great resource for all who live in our area.

The goal of "Opening Windows" is to develop the resources needed to build a new Learning Resource Center and Library with six urgently needed new classrooms, including a physical science laboratory. There will also be a new Health and Physical Education Center as well as the completion of the renovations of the Landry Memorial and Kimberly K. Krajccek Memorial gymnasiums. The schools current classrooms will be renovated and soundproofed and the Priest's Residence will become a Continuing Education Center. Knowing that many potential donors appreciate the opportunity to honor their loved ones when they make significant contributions, Memorial Named Giving Opportunities have been established ranging from \$10,000 to \$890,000. These memorial contributions can be

I am convinced that St. Louis Catholic High School, renewed and expanded by a successful Capital Campaign, will be in an even better position than it is today to help prepare those much needed leaders. Our student body of young women and young men of diverse religious, ethnic, racial, cultural, economic and social backgrounds, all striving to be the best they can be in an atmosphere of faith, hope, love and service, is a true "wisdom community," giving all of us reasons to be confident about the shape of the world to come!

Please help us make "Opening Windows: The St. Louis Catholic High School Capital Campaign" a great success. Help us help Jesus Christ get the attention of young people for generations to come. If you are not able to help us financially at this time, please help us with your prayers. It is my great hope that prayers for so worthy a cause will not go unanswered.

High Flight



Rick D. Husband
Commander

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung



William C. McCool
Pilot

My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high unsurpassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.



Ilan Ramon
Payload Specialist 1



Laurel Blair Salton Clark
Mission Specialist 4

Pilot Officer
Gillespie Magee
No 412 Squadron, RCAF
Killed 11 December 1941



Michael P. Anderson
Payload
Commander



David M. Brown
Mission Specialist 1



Kalpana Chawla
Mission Specialist 2

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine
upon them.
May they rest in peace!
Amen*

Peace on Earth

**Fr. Frank Pavone,
Priests for Life**

The other day there was an anti-war demonstration just a few blocks from our Priests for Life headquarters. I decided to stop by and to meet the organizers and participants. They were, as you might imagine, peace-loving people.

Except for one. As I was about to leave, a big man started yelling at me. "I know who you are! You support anti-abortion terrorists!"

I waited for him to ask something like, "Isn't that true?" but he didn't ask anything. He just told, in convinced, absolute, and dogmatic terms. After all, he had read "a study" about me and Priests for Life that had even been "posted on the Internet." (Well, of course, that settles it!)

I began telling this man in calm terms that for many years I have issued statements on non-violence, and that while I am absolutely opposed to abortion, I have never condoned the use of violence as a means to end

abortion. The same "internet" that carries the study he read carries my statements against violence.

"You're a liar," was his response.

Not only did he not ask for dialogue, but when I volunteered it, he claimed that I was lying.

So I finally pointed out the contradiction. "Sir," I said, "you are here with this group that opposes war. Do you know what the alternative to war is? It's dialogue. On the other hand, when people reject dialogue, and when they stop listening to their opponent and, without evidence, call the opponent a liar, then the groundwork for war is being laid. You do not have an attitude of peace."

Some others in the group apologized for the man's behavior, and he just stood there in an angry silence.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. When we hear the words of this familiar song, we may ask ourselves how peace can begin with us, personally and individually. It begins by

listening. It begins by giving the other person — especially the adversary — the benefit of the doubt. It begins when we stop coming to conclusions so quickly about each other. It begins when we refuse to talk about a person without first talking to that person and giving that person an opportunity to let us know and understand him or her.

As the leader of a prominent organization, I have learned the single greatest obstacle to collaboration and unity between organizations and within the Church: careless, rash judgment. I also call it "snapshot" judgment. We hear or read something about a group or person — and then think we know it all. That "snapshot" of that group or person is emblazoned on our mind forever.

We don't let it change, and we don't let ourselves learn more. We don't let the person or group introduce themselves, nor do we explain our concerns to them and ask them for clarification. All that is work, and we find it too inconvenient.

Yet that is the burden of peace.

(This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles.)