

The Most Reverend Robert Muench, Bishop of Baton Rouge, is flanked by Diocese of Lake Charles seminarians Ruben Buller, left, and Nathan Long, right, after the Bishop instituted the two men into the Ministry of Acolyte.

## Buller, Long instituted as Acolytes

ST. BENEDICT, La. – Two seminarians studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles were recently instituted in the Ministry of Acolyte during ceremonies at St. Joseph Abbey Church.

Ruben Joshua Buller and Nathan Paul Long were among 35 men instituted into the Ministries of Reader and Acolyte by The Most Rev-

erend Robert Muench, Bishop of Baton Rouge. Both men are theology students at Notre Dame Seminary.

To those who were being instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte, Bishop Muench encouraged them to “recognize that when they distributed the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ, they are more than functionaries for

they are called to be whom they give – the living presence of the person of Jesus.”

In a 1972 apostolic letter, Pope Paul VI reformed what were known as minor orders, streamlining them into two ministries: Reader and Acolyte. It is required that seminarians be instituted into these ministries before ordination to the diaconate.

## Students, staff from school helping with recovery

LAKE CHARLES – A Boston television reporter called Anna Maria College of Paxton, Mass. “the small school with a big heart.” And the people of Southwest Louisiana, particularly folks in lower Cameron Parish, have found out that the description is quite apt.

For the second time since the September 24 landfall of Hurricane Rita, a group of 18, including undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty and staff, along with some of the latter’s family members trekked down from Massachusetts to aid in the recovery of our area. The age range tracks from the four-year-old daughter of one of the staff to a 47-year-old graduate student.

The group came down from Massachusetts over the weekend of March 3-4 and worked at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church on Monday and spent the remainder of the week working in Cameron Parish.

Harry Duchesne, the Director of Campus Ministry at Anna Maria, has been leading such service groups into areas in need for the past 22 years.

“It is part of our baptismal call,” Duchesne said, “the living out of the Gospel.

“The campus was moved when we saw the damages of Katrina and Rita wrought on the earth,” Duchesne continued. “It was right at the beginning of the school term. We have had students come with us this year who don’t normal go on these trips. We normally

have about 15 go but this year on all our trips we have between 70 and 75.” Duchesne noted that groups have not only been here in Southwest Louisiana but also went to Austin, Texas and Miami, Fla.

“Part of it, the trips, is Christ’s call to us to take care of our brothers and sisters,” Duchesne said. “We saw the pictures (on television and in the newspaper) and felt removed from it. We have never seen anything like this, but to see it first hand, to pickup debris with our own hands, it is a profound learning experience.”

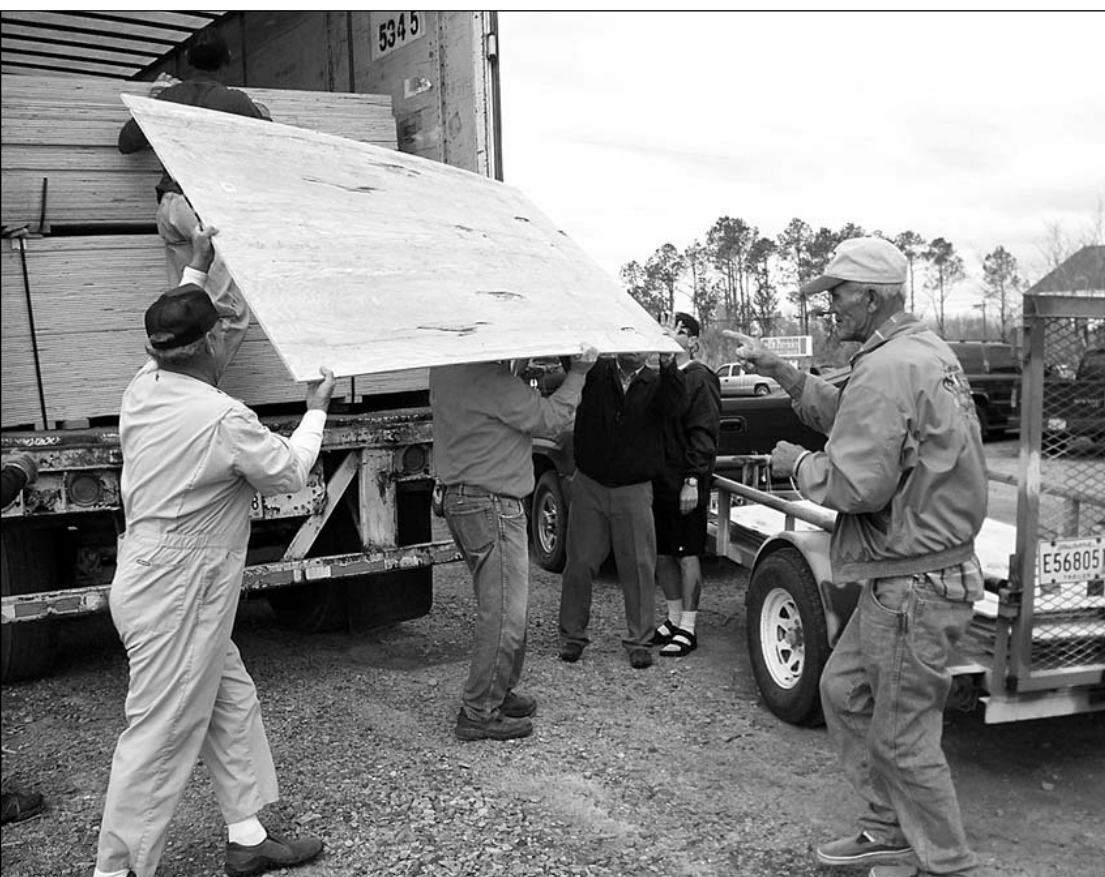
The connection to Southwest Louisiana, according to Duchesne, is a priest from the Diocese of Worcester in Massachusetts, Father Paul M. LaPalme, who knows Father Daniel Torres, the pastor of St. Joseph Church in DeRidder.

Another of the adults on the trip was Roger Bailey, a self-professed “geek,” who even set up a web site to chronicle the group’s trip down and back as well as the work they did while here. The site can be found at [www.anna-maria.edu/~cameron\\_la](http://www.anna-maria.edu/~cameron_la).

According to Duchesne, a parish in Worcester is having fund raisers and will be twinning with one of the devastated parishes in Cameron. “We want it to be an ongoing relationship,” he said.



Some of the students, staff, faculty and children of faculty and staff from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass., who visited Lake Charles in early March take a break from their labors in helping cleanup around Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church.



Plywood, provided through the assistance of the International Orthodox Christian Charities and a grant from the Arab American Oil Company (Aramco), to be used as roof decking is removed from an 18-wheeler at St. Patrick Chapel in Sweetlake.

## Roofing supplies, other needs provided through RECSS

LAKE CHARLES – Deliveries continue weekly to disaster relief distribution sites at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Hackberry and St. Patrick Chapel in Sweetlake. Food supplies as well as roofing materials, including plywood sheeting, roof felt and shingles are available for those who are in need due to damages from Hurricane Rita, through the Relief Effort of Catholic Social Services (RECSS) of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The roofing materials are made possible through the largesse of Aramco, the Arab

American Oil Company and the International Orthodox Christian Charities, according to Deacon Ed Lavine, Secretary for Pastoral Care of the Diocese of Lake Charles and director of Catholic Service Center. The IOCC was instrumental following Hurricane Katrina in delivering supplies to the area and continued as soon as possible after Hurricane Rita’s passage.

“We are very appreciative of the materials provided to help those in need in our area,” Deacon Lavine said. “Besides the roofing

materials, Aramco has also given us generators, backpack sprayers, and chain saws, including extra blades, gasoline cans and oil for their operation.

“We are also very appreciative of the support given to us by the Social Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New Orleans,” Lavine continued. “Second Harvest continues to provide us with hurricane relief food deliveries, now every other week, for those in need here in Southwest Louisiana.”



Rev. E. Joseph McGrath, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole, stands with parishioner Marilyn Landry outside her home in Creole. The Relief Effort of Catholic Social Services is providing roofing materials as well as food and water and cleaning supplies to aid those rebuilding their properties in Cameron Parish.



Food supplies are unloaded Thursday, March 16, at St. Patrick Chapel in Sweetlake. The supplies are available for those in need following the devastation of Hurricane Rita and the current rebuilding efforts throughout Southwest Louisiana.