

The Rev. Msgr. Harry D. Greig, right, places the Sacred Oil of Chrism on the forehead of Hannah Marie Piper, center, as her Confirmation sponsor, Aimee Monk, left, watches the ceremony. Thirty-four young people, from the church parishes of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Mary of the Lake, St. Joseph in DeRidder and Our Lady Queen of Heaven, were confirmed during the Sunday, June 4, Pentecost Mass in the Cathedral. Confirmation is the last of the three Sacraments of Initiation, after Baptism and First Eucharist. Msgr. Greig, during the period between Easter Sunday and Pentecost celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for candidates in the 38 parishes of the Diocese.

St. Lazarus Award for ecumenism to be given

LAKE CHARLES - The Imperial Calcasieu Cadre of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem will honor a citizen of Imperial Calcasieu for contributions to religious brotherhood and understanding.

The inaugural Saint Lazarus Award for Ecumenism will be presented during the Saint Lazarus Day celebrations in December.

"Part of our Order's mission is the promotion of Christian unity," said the Rev. Archimandrite Herbert J. May, Cadre President and Pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolours Parish in Welsh. "One way of doing so is to recognize those individuals who have been in the forefront of the drive for religious brotherhood in our area for many years."

Membership in the Order is open to Christian men and women of those Denominations which adhere to the Nicene Creed.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Reverend Msgr. Harry D. Greig, Diocesan Administrator, makes the following appointments, all effective July 1, 2006.

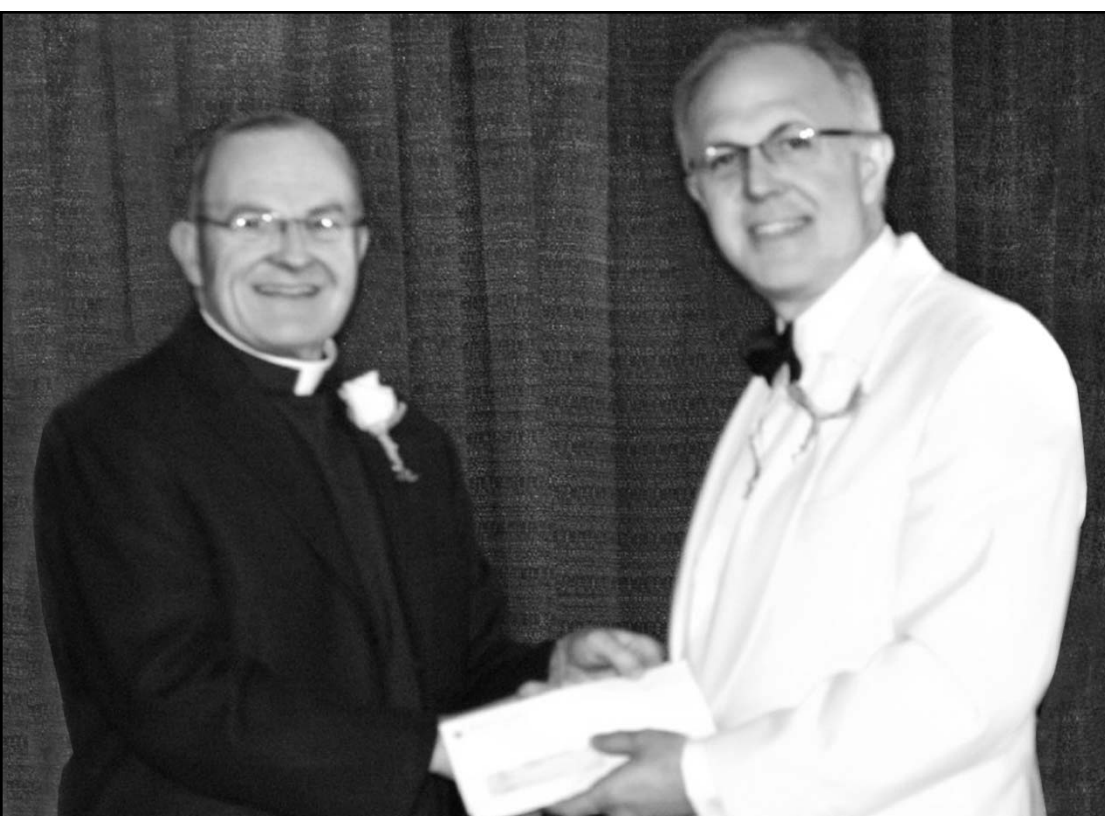
The Reverend Marcus Johnson is appointed Administrator at St. Raphael Parish, Iowa, La.

The Reverend Kingsley Nonis is appointed Administrator at Our Lady of LaSalette Parish, DeQuincy, La.

The Reverend Anthony Fontenot assumes his assignment as Director of Pastoral Field Education at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, La.

The Reverend Charles McMillin is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Margaret Parish, Lake Charles, La.

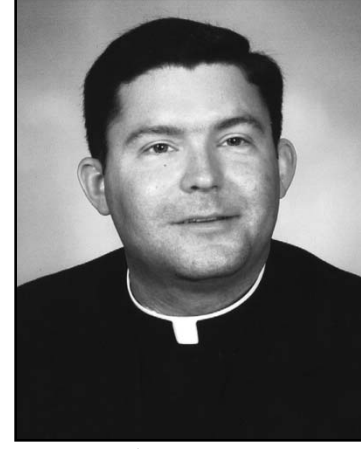
The Reverend Mr. Ray Menard is appointed Scout Chaplain for the Diocese of Lake Charles.



At the annual Louisiana State Knights of Columbus Convention recently held in Baton Rouge, The Rev. Msgr. Harry D. Greig, left, Administrator of the Diocese of Lake Charles, accepts a \$1 million gift from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, right, Supreme Council Knights of Columbus, to aid in restoring the churches damaged by Hurricane Rita in Cameron Parish. Those churches include Sacred Heart of Jesus in Creole, St. Eugene in Grand Chenier, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron, St. Peter the Apostle in Hackberry and St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake.

Rev. Anthony Fontenot Embarks on New Journey

Father Fontenot will take on role at Notre Dame Seminary



Rev. Anthony Fontenot

LAKE CHARLES -- The Rev. Anthony Fontenot, pastor of St. Raphael Parish in Iowa since July 2003 and Co-Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Lake Charles since July 2004, will be taking on a new role beginning July 1. Fr. Fontenot, a native of Lake Charles, will leave the Diocese to become the Director of Pastoral Field Education at his alma mater, Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

In a recent interview Fr. Fontenot talked about what his new position will entail.

"When someone is in the seminary, particularly the graduate school in New Orleans, I believe in their second or third year, they are expected to apply what they are learning in the theological classroom to the field," Fr. Fontenot said. "All seminarians in their second and third year are expected to teach in a CCD, religious education or catechetical program.

"First year seminarians go on a mission trip, called Accompano every December to Grenada, Nicaragua," he continued. "The trip gives them a week of immersion into a developing country and to see that side of the Church, to experience ministry in that context. Seminarians do internships in parishes, an extended one, a summer one, and Clinical Pastoral Education in a hospital. All of these things would fall under my supervision."

Fr. Fontenot will be taking the place of the Rev. Hampton Davis, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, who has worked

in the position for nearly 10 years.

"The Director of Pastoral Field Education is part of the seminary administration, along with the Rector and others," Father Fontenot said.

"It's an honor to be asked to do this," Father Fontenot said. "I didn't ask to go," he said. "I guess the rector remembered me and knew I was doing vocation work and Hampton (Fr. Davis) remembered me and knew I had been a teacher, even though it was in a Catholic elementary school."

He also looks at leaving parish ministry as "bittersweet," particularly leaving the people of his parish.

"When I moved from St. Margaret, where I was an associate for two years, to St. Raphael that was difficult," he said. "You grow close to the people.

"This move will also be difficult as well because I have grown close to the people here at St. Raphael and at (St. Joseph) LeBleu Settlement.

"A priest has officiated at a wedding and then he baptizes their first baby. You get to know them and their kids and call them by name. You get to that point in a parish and then you have to pull up and leave. It makes it hard."

The difficulty can be compounded given the different

situation Fr. Fontenot finds himself.

"This is not a normal kind of leave. And that makes it a little more difficult," he continued. "This is not only leaving the people I have grown so close to, I am leaving the diocese. It also means leaving my brother priests although I will see them at holidays, visiting. Some of my brother priests have already urged me to come back when I am able and stay with them to help out in their parish, and I will do that."

"I think some parishioners at St. Raphael just thought I will be at another parish doing funerals, weddings and baptisms and masses every week but this is not a parish at all. I am sure I will help out in parishes there on the weekend, but the seminary community becomes my parish."

Father Fontenot noted that "there is an excitement in new things."

There will be a period of transition. Father Davis will remain in the role during the next school term and Fr. Fontenot will shadow him, learning the job. "It is designed to serve as a transition year for both of us," Fr. Fontenot said. "It makes me feel a lot more comfortable."

It is also possible that Fr. Fontenot will be teaching some classes at Notre Dame.

"Father Davis had taught some classes and at first I thought that was part of the job but the Rector told me that Father Davis had chosen to do that. I expect that I will be in the classroom at some point during the five-year period."

Father Fontenot was ordained on June 2, 2001 by the Most Reverend Jude Speyrer. He graduated from LaGrange High School in 1987, attended St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La. from 1988 to 1992 and then Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans 1992-2001.



The priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles met in their annual convocation, this year entitled "Priestly Life and Vocations Summit: Fishers of Men," June 5-7 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. Rev. Edward Burns, Executive Director of the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops was the presenter.

LIFE ISSUES FORUM

Forget Politics; Discuss Issues

By Gail Quinn

I live a stone's throw from Washington, D.C. I guess I shouldn't be surprised that conversations everywhere, public and private, seem to focus on politics and elections. The election de jour may be the one just held (we dissect it), one that is imminent, or, increasingly, the presidential election two-plus years from now. Lately the focus has been on potential candidates, electability.

Clearly, this trend is out of control.

Instead of elections, we could discuss issues. There are a host of important issues to be informed about and discuss. Of course, many are complex and often controversial. So instead we smile a lot and remain quiet.

In fairness, the news media do address the issues of the day. They talk about border security, whether those in the U.S. illegally should be allowed to apply for citizenship, embryonic stem cell research, the war in Iraq,

lack of health insurance for so many. While such coverage undoubtedly includes some factual information, it almost inevitably adopts the bias of the storyteller. Take the issue of embryonic stem cell research. News stories tend to focus on hoped for, only hypothetical cures from embryonic research for some of the most difficult diseases and conditions. There is no evidence on which to base such hope at this time, but researchers hope there will be someday. The stories rarely explain that living human embryos here and now must be killed to get their cells. They don't acknowledge that all the treatments and cures from stem cell research have come from adult stem cell therapies, not from embryonic research. The bias creeps into adjectives: Embryonic research is promising. Abortion is a choice. Neither is about killing.

As citizens, we have a responsibility to reflect seriously on the critical chal-

lenges and threats of our day. As Catholics we need to do a bit more. We must take the time to study what the Church teaches on these issues, and why it teaches what it does. Whether the issue is one of immigration policy, same-sex marriage, abortion or assisted suicide, the Church's teachings will guide us to develop a well-formed conscience. It will help us distinguish self-centered interests from service to the common good.

Before the next presidential election, we have two years to learn more about the serious issues facing our nation. Sources that might help include the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, web site, www.usccb.org, from which one can explore a department or the Conference's publications. Become informed. Stop just smiling. Instead, smile and speak out.

Gail Quinn is Executive Director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.

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