



Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic schools open with 2647 students

LAKE CHARLES - The eight Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles welcomed 2647 students on Aug. 16, the first day of school for the 2006-2007 term. That figure is 11 more than the opening day enrollment of the schools from a year ago. At the beginning of the 2005-2006 term, 2,636 students entered Catholic schools on that first day.

First day enrollment at the schools included 376 students at Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, 126 at Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, 283 at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings (plus 18 three-year-old stu-

dents), 154 at St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff, 180 at Our Lady's School in Sulphur, 308 at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School in Lake Charles, 661 at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School in Lake Charles and 559 at St. Louis Catholic High School.

Last year's individual figures found Immaculate Conception Cathedral School

opening with 375; Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel with 125, Our Lady Immaculate with 282 and Holy Family with 146. On last year's opening day Our Lady's School had 190, St. Margaret of Scotland had 316, Our Lady Queen of Heaven opened with 695 and St. Louis began with 507.

Yet another positive note as Catholic schools opened was the announcement by St.

Louis of the composite ACT score for the 2006 graduating class. Last year's score was 23.4, the second highest composite score the school has achieved, according to records from ACT dating back to 1984. The Louisiana composite score is 20.1 and the national composite is 21.1. St. Louis has been consistently higher by far than both the state and national figures.

Students arrive for their first day of the 2006-2007 school year at Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur. Eighth grade homeroom teacher Gingi Lockhart greets them as they leave the bus. Striding in for their opening day were, from left, Kelby Hebert, Shawn Fenetz, Megan Moore, and Anthony Gobert.

Presentation scheduled on Directory for Catechesis

LAKE CHARLES - Rev. Peter Martinez, Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Corpus Christi in Texas, will present the vision of the *National Directory for Catechesis* during two sessions on Thursday, Sept. 7, at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. The National Directory of Catechesis was published in May 2005.

Catholic school principals, Directors and Coordinators of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Adult Education Leaders and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Diocesan Team members should attend. Father Martinez will make his presentation from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and then again from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. He will speak to the priests of the Diocese during the morning.

Fr. Martinez also serves as Parochial Vicar for Corpus Christi's St. Theresa Parish and is the chaplain for the soon to be opened



Rev. Peter Martinez

John Paul II High School in Corpus Christi.

The Bishops of the United States approved the *National Directory for Catechesis* in the United States in June 2003. Vatican recognition of the document was received on December 16, 2004.

Six local Knights, Ladies of Peter Claver elected to national offices

HOUSTON, Texas - Six Lake Charles members of the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver were elected to national offices during the organization's 2006 national convention held in Houston July 20-28.

The six were installed in their new offices during the last day of the convention and will serve terms of two years.

They are, with their national offices, Paul Jones, Jr., Deputy Supreme Knight, Knights Division; James A. Coleman, National Commander, Junior Knights Division, Michelle C. Jackson, Supreme Navigator (chief executive officer), Fourth Degree Ladies of Grace Division; Betty Simon, Supreme Sentinel, Fourth Degree Ladies of Grace Division;

Roy Sanders, Supreme Comptroller, Fourth Degree Knights Division; and Thomas Lemelle, Supreme Sentinel, Fourth Degree, Knights Division.

"This is a remarkable feat," said Judge Arthur C. McFarland of Charleston, S.C., the Supreme Knight. "I know of no other instance in which one city contributed six national officers to the Order at one time. It speaks volumes for the leadership of the Order in Lake Charles."

The Knights of Peter Claver, the largest predominantly Black Catholic organization in the nation, was organized in Mobile, Ala. in 1909. It now has units in 63 Catholic Dioceses in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

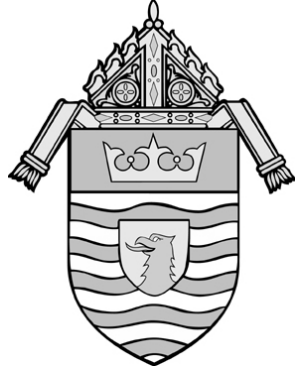
Holy Cross course schedule announced

This fall's course offered by Our Lady of Holy Cross College will be Christian Moral Teachings on Peace and Justice, also known as the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church.

The class will meet September 8, 12, 19, 26 and October 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the St. Raphael Church hall in Iow. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

The Rev. Marcus Johnson, Administrator of St. Raphael, will serve as the instructor. Christian Moral Teachings is designed to be an introduction to the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

The registration fee is \$45 for first time students and \$30 for returning students. All interested persons should call 439-7426, Extension 10 as soon as possible.



OFFICIAL

APPOINTMENT

The Reverend Msgr. Harry D. Greig, Diocesan Administrator, makes the following appointment, effective August 11, 2006, continuing through June 30, 2007. The Reverend Whitney Miller is appointed Administrator of St. Henry Church in Lake Charles, La.



The Catholic Service Center building (top) at 2333 East Broad Street lost its roof and brick façade during Hurricane Rita last September causing more than \$200,000 in damages. In the bottom picture all that is left of the structure is a pile of steel supports after it was razed recently. Currently the Catholic Service Center is located at 1112 Bilbo Street.



Diocese of Lake Charles Candidates for the Priesthood



Derek Covert
Our Lady Queen of Heaven
Lake Charles
Fourth Year Theology
Notre Dame Seminary
Birthday: April 15



Ruben Buller
St. Charles Borromeo
Fenton
Third Year Theology
Notre Dame Seminary
Birthday: Feb. 1



Nathan Long
St. Raphael
Iowa
Third Year Theology
Notre Dame Seminary
Birthday: Sept. 8



Scott Conner
Our Lady of Seven
Dolors
Welsh
Second Year Theology
Notre Dame Seminary
Birthday: Dec. 17

Prayer for Priestly and Religious Vocations

The son of Man came to serve and not to be served (Matthew 20:28)

O Jesus, God and Gentle Shepherd grant that the men and women from our community, may have the grace and the courage to hear and answer your call to priesthood and religious life.

Give them the wisdom to realize that life is a gift. Let them realize their life is part of YOUR plan. Call forth those you have chosen to spread the gospel message, and to help them to freely respond to a life of service in the Church.

May the Parents and families of our parishes support and encourage young men and women to search for, follow, and answer the call of God in their lives.



Jeffery Starkovich
Christ the King
Lake Charles
Senior
St. Joseph Seminary
College
Birthday: March 29



Justin Abshire
Our Lady of Prompt
Succor
Sulphur
Freshman
St. Joseph Seminary
College
Birthday: Jan. 22



Ruben Dickey
St. Lawrence
Raymond
Freshman
St. Joseph Seminary
College
Birthday: Aug. 3