



The Diocese of Lake Charles Schools celebrate Catholic Schools Week, January 28-February 3

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Lake Charles as well as across the country begins on Sunday, Jan. 28. On Wednesday, January 31, the Rev. William Miller, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, will celebrate the Catholic Schools Week Mass at 9:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. There are eight Catholic schools in the Diocese, St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Sacred Heart of Jesus/St. Katharine Drexel, St. Margaret of Scotland, all in Lake Charles; St. Theodore Holy Family, in Moss Bluff; Our Lady Immaculate in Jennings; and Our Lady's in Sulphur.)

The Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Schools strive to educate students, instill spiritual and moral values and guide children toward bright and successful futures. With falling test scores, discipline problems, low graduation rates, and more, it seems like every time one reads a newspaper or goes online, there is something wrong with the education system. That is where Catholic schools step in. There is where the good news in education is happening. While a Catholic school education prepares a child for life, children learn much more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. They learn the importance of character and integrity. They become more understanding, compassionate, and loving. By providing smaller classrooms and personal attention to

every student, Diocesan schools are able to meet the academic needs of students by integrating faith, life, and culture into a disciplined and safe environment.

Catholic Schools Week, held annually, highlights the contributions and gifts of a Catholic Education. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: the Good News in Education," echoes the message that our Diocesan Schools truly offer. Elementary education in the Diocese of Lake Charles is comprised of seven schools operated by parishes. Most include pre-kindergarten through grade eight. Four elementary schools are located within Lake Charles with others lo-

cated in Sulphur, Moss Bluff, and Jennings. St. Louis Catholic High School provides a quality education for Diocesan students in ninth through twelfth grades.

Throughout Catholic Schools Week, our local schools will celebrate this "good news" with various activities including assemblies, service projects, and special liturgies. All are welcome to join in these festivities. This week also serves to introduce the Diocese School System to new families. Open Houses are scheduled throughout February and March, so plan now to visit a Catholic School where you live to hear more about the Good News in Education!

St. Margaret of Scotland School
2510 Enterprise Boulevard
436-7959
Open House - Tuesday,
March 6, 8 AM and 6 PM

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School
3908 Creole Street 477-7349
Open House - Thursday,
March 8, 6:30 PM

St. Theodore's Holy Family School
785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway
Moss Bluff 855-9465
Open House - Tuesday,
March 13

Our Lady Immaculate
600 Roberts Avenue
Jennings 824-1743
New family registration begins Monday, March 12

Immaculate Conception Cathedral School
1536 Ryan Street 433-3497
Open House - Wednesday,
March 7, 9 AM - 4 PM

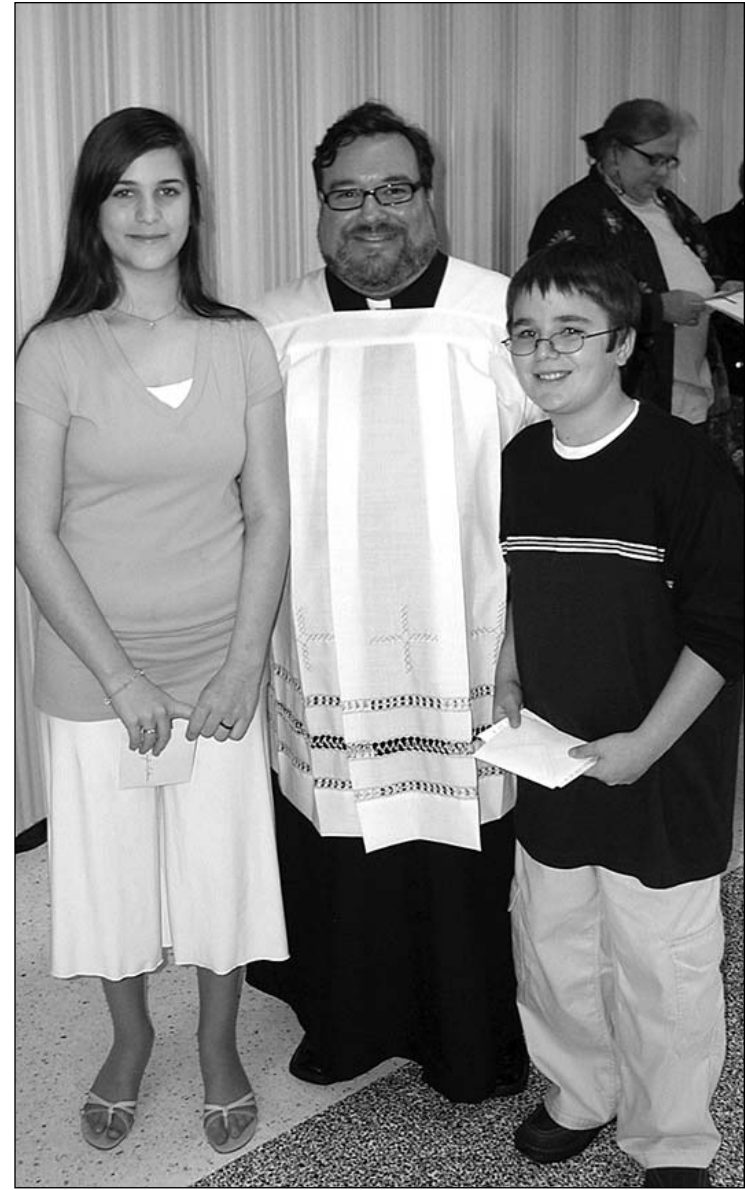
Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel School
1100 Mill Street 436-3588
Open House - Tuesday,
March 13

Our Lady's School
1111 Cypress Street
Sulphur 527-7828
Open House - Tuesday,
March 15

St. Louis Catholic High School
1620 Bank Street
Lake Charles 436-7275
New student registration ongoing



In the photograph at right, Rev. Daniel Torres, center, pastor of St. Joseph Church in DeRidder and Vocation Director for the Diocese of Lake Charles, stands with Peyton LaBauve, left, and Zachary Roussel, right, following the Benediction Prayer Service held Sunday, January 14, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The event commemorated National Day of Prayer for Vocations. The two seventh grade students were the winners of the prayer and poster contests sponsored by the Office of Vocations for the event. LaBauve, a member of Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Jennings, wrote the prayer that graced each of the event's prayer cards while Roussel, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in DeRidder, was the artist winner of the contest. His winning image was also printed on the 3,000 prayer cards made for the event. Above, a crowd of more than 200 clergy, religious, and laity, including members of various Knightly and Fraternal Orders, attended the hour-long prayer service. Members of the vocation committees from the parishes of the Diocese also took large votive candles back to their respective faith communities. The Vocation Committees urged members of their parishes to pray for an increase in the number of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



The Rev. Msgr. Harry D. Greig, Diocesan Administrator and pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church in Big Lake, blesses the newly repaired church and its parishioners attending Mass recently. The Church, along with other parish buildings, sustained severe damage due to the passage of Hurricane Rita. Msgr. Greig was able to rededicate the church with the blessing more than 15 months after the storm.

O'Reilly takes up post as KC Supreme Treasurer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. -- Lake Charles native John W. "Jack" O'Reilly Jr. recently assumed his duties as Supreme Treasurer of The Knights of Columbus. He was elected to the position Oct. 27.

O'Reilly, 66, is a retired U.S. Army colonel and has been a member of the international Catholic fraternal order for 46 years. He served as state deputy of the Louisiana jurisdiction from 2000-2002, and has been a member of the organization's board of directors since 2003.

O'Reilly is a graduate of McNeese State University in Lake Charles and earned a master's degree in education from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. His military career spanned 21 years of active duty, including tours in Italy, Viet Nam and Korea. He also served at the Army's Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kan., the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., as well as the Department of the Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, both in Washington, D.C. O'Reilly's military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

He was an owner and principal of O'Reilly Enterprises, an advertising, public relations and marketing agency, from 1983-1995.

In addition to the positions cited above, O'Reilly's Knights of Columbus career includes terms as Louisiana district master, state secretary, state treasurer, and state ceremonial chairman. He also served as grand knight of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Council #4563 and as charter Grand Knight of J.W. O'Reilly, Sr. Council #13931, both in Lake Charles. He has received many state and local awards and recognitions for his Knights of Columbus involvement.

Before moving to New Haven, Jack was a parishioner and pastoral council member of Christ the King Church in Lake Charles and has volunteered his time, knowledge, and



John W. "Jack" O'Reilly, Jr.

leadership experience to several other Catholic agencies. He is also a Knight Commander in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Jack has been married to Betty Wills O'Reilly for 43 years. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Founded by Fr. Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus has maintained its corporate headquarters in New Haven, Conn., throughout its 124-year history. It is the largest Catholic lay organization in the world with more than 1.7 million members in the Americas, Asia and Europe. Last year, the organization donated more than \$139 million and 64 million volunteer hours of service to charitable causes. The Knights provided \$10 million in relief aid to the Gulf States after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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