



Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans lays hands on Derek Covert, a seminarian studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, ordaining Covert to the Diaconate in the Cathedral of St. Louis King of France in New Orleans on January 27. Covert was one of five seminarians ordained. Others were from Nashville, New Orleans, Tororo, Uganda, and the Domus Dei Clerical Society of Apostolic Life. Deacon Covert is expected to be ordained to the priesthood this Spring.

Vespers, Ordination, and Installation April 22, 23 public reception to follow

LAKE CHARLES – The Ordination Liturgy of Bishop-elect Glen John Provost and his installation as the Third Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be held beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, April 23, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, according to the Rev. Msgr. Harry D. Greig, Diocesan Administrator.

A Vespers Prayer Service on Sunday, April 22, also in Immaculate Conception Cathedral, where Bishop-elect Provost will take canonical possession of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will begin at 7 p.m. Both events are by invitation and tickets are required for admittance.



**Bishop-elect
Glen John Provost**

A public reception for the new Bishop will be held immediately following the Or-

dnation and Installation Liturgy in the Lake Charles Civic Center on the Mezzanine level, Msgr. Greig said.

The Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes, Metropolitan Archbishop of New Orleans, will be the consecrating prelate. Pope Benedict XVI's ambassador to the United States, the Apostolic Nuncio, The Most Reverend Pietro Sambì, will also witness the ordination and installation. Archbishops and Bishops from around the country are also expected to attend. Priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles as well as the Diocese of Lafayette and the Province will also be on hand.

Eighth grade retreat held at St. Louis

LAKE CHARLES – The annual eighth grade retreat attracted 275 students from Diocesan schools along with 44 St. Louis Catholic High School students who served as facilitators for small group interaction on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The event is sponsored by the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese, which is assisted by the Directors of Religious Education at each Diocesan school.

The retreat, which began in 1998 and was held in the Kimberly Krajciek Memorial Gym on the campus of St. Louis Catholic High School, brings the students together in a non-competitive atmosphere.

"We felt it was a way to get students to know each other," said Denise Donahoe, Director of Religious Education. "In other times they are going to meet each

other in competition in either sports or an academic contest. This allows them to be more in community. We want them to know that being Catholic is bigger than just their or parish."

Many of the students will attend St. Louis following their eighth grade graduation. The retreat is a time to get to know each other and begin to form relationships. The small group activities during the retreat is an excellent method of the young people getting to know each other better and to work together.

The theme of the retreat revolved around four words – Choices, Changes, Challenges, and Community. There were two main talks during the day by the keynote speaker, Josh Blakesley. Blakesley is the 2004 winner of the Unity Award as New Artist of the Year. He is a member of Our

lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, serves as young adult coordinator and assistant music director, and travels throughout the United States doing concerts, conducting workshops for musicians, speaking at youth rallies and conferences, and leading praise and worship.

His Christian music journey began in 1992 while he was involved with a high school peer ministry team. During that time he saw the power of God at work in the lives of teens as they were transformed into believers and lovers of Jesus Christ.

"He spoke throughout the event and led the students in recognizing sin in their life," Donahoe said. "He pointed out to them that they must Praise God, Ask God and Listen to God."

Vigilance is important tool for safeguarding children

LAKE CHARLES – According to Mrs. Bernell Ezell, Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the Diocese of Lake Charles, the most effective tool in keeping children safe from abuse is vigilance. "People being watchful and responsible about reporting, that's the most effective way of keeping children safe."

As Director, Ezell is responsible for seeing to the continued implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, approved by the Bishops of the United States on June 14, 2002. The charter addresses the commitment of the Church to deal appropriately and effectively with cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, and other church personnel (i.e., employees and volunteers). Included in this is the education of those who have regular contact with minors. Her next Safe Environment For Children Initial workshop is tomorrow, Saturday, at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Jennings beginning at 9:30 a.m. "Everyone who has regular contact with minors must be certified initially and then re-certified each year," she said. "The Charter calls for periodic updates but here in the Diocese of Lake Charles, by policy, that updating is on an annual basis."

"After a person completes the initial workshop, they sign a form committing themselves to following the policies" she said. "They then receive a password to gain entry to the Diocesan web site for the recertification process."

"The Diocese of Lake Charles is committed to a policy of transparency and openness in cases of sexual abuse involving minors," Ezell said. "In the training we discuss the importance of reporting. Some of those we train are volunteers and are not, by Louisiana law, mandatory reporters. Diocesan policy is that anyone who works with minors will report if they believe or suspect that a child has been neglected or abused. They are required to read our policy and then after they read it they sign document saying they will comply with the policy, so we consider them mandatory reporters."

Ezell points out that if you

even suspect a child is endangered you should report it. "We give them contact numbers to civil authorities, so that they can make the call if they see something they feel just isn't right," Ezell said. "In addition to that they always have our number here at the Diocese

agreed that we needed to remind our people to be constantly praying for the safety of our children."

Since April is Child Abuse Prevention month, the group, according to Ezell thought it would be a good idea to encourage everyone to pray.

Prayer makes a difference

Please join us on Good Friday, April 6th and every Friday in April at 2:00 p.m. as together we lift up our voices in petition to our merciful and gracious Lord Jesus and humbly pray... for our Church, for those who are honored to serve, for those who have broken sacred trust by abusing a child.

*Let us pray,
God of endless love,
Ever caring, ever strong,
Always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
To save us by the blood of His cross.
Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
Join to your own suffering
The pain of all who have been hurt
In body, mind, and spirit
By those who betrayed the trust placed in them.
Hear our cries as we agonize
Over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
Soothe restless hearts with hope
Steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
Enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.
Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds
And transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
So that we may act with justice
And find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be... We ask this through
Christ, our Lord. Amen
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...*

and the number of our victim's assistance coordinator, Rev. Whitney Miller."

The number for Ezell is 439-7400, Ext. 305 while Father Miller can be reached at 436-7275, Ext. 238.

In January, at the second annual national Diocesan Safe Environment Directors Meeting in Tampa, Ezell said, "We had Bishop Gregory Aymond, the chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, speak to us. We met with people from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington and others, including directors from throughout the country. We have discussed things, like Internet safety and other ways, to keep children safe, but we realized that we had forgotten that prayer is an effective measure as well. We all

"Mary Beth Hanus, a director in the Archdiocese of Omaha, said she would write a prayer and everyone can use it," Ezell said. "We are urging everyone in our communities to do all they can to prevent child abuse, from reporting to praying. Prayer is one component of keeping our children safe. And, we feel that it would be very powerful if we could get everyone to pray together."

Ezell encourages everyone to pray the prayer, beginning on Good Friday and continuing on every Friday in April.

"When you picture Jesus' Agony in the Garden, before Good Friday, I picture him in that posture all the time when it comes to what has been happening to children," Ezell said. "You have to think that would one of the biggest sources of agony for humanity."



Eighth grade students from the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles came to the St. Louis Catholic High School campus on Tuesday, Feb. 27, for the annual retreat. Christian musician Josh Blakesley from Alexandria was the keynote speaker for the event.



The Religious Sisters residing in the Diocese of Lake Charles were honored recently with a Valentine luncheon hosted by Father Wayne LeBleu and the Vocation Committee of Christ the King Parish. Seventeen Sisters were treated to a delicious meal and a few hours of fellowship. This was a well-deserved "thank you" to all the Sisters for the things they do for us in the Diocese, according to Father LeBleu.