

Msgr. Greig to celebrate Holy Week liturgies

LAKE CHARLES – The Rev. Msgr. Harry D. Greig, Diocesan Administrator, will be the celebrant at Holy Week services in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, located at the corner of Bilbo and Kirby Streets.

Today, Good Friday, April 6, at 3 p.m. he will preside at the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and the Veneration of the Cross. Good Friday is the only day of the Church's year where Mass is not celebrated.

On Saturday, Msgr. Greig will celebrate the Easter Vigil in the Cathedral beginning at 8 p.m. with the blessing of the fire, celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist with the Elect and candidates.

Masses in the Cathedral on Easter Sunday are scheduled for 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Earlier in the week, Bishop-elect Glen J. Provost was the homilist at the Chrism Mass at which the Most Reverend Jude Speyrer, Bishop-emeritus, was the celebrant.

The blessing of the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Catechumen along with the consecration of the Oil of Chrism took place at the Chrism Mass, one of the most solemn and significant liturgies of the Church. During the Mass, the priests of the Diocese renewed their commitment of service and received prayers of support from the people.

Msgr. Greig was the celebrant of the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper where he emulated Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.



Bishop-elect Glen J. Provost

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles are closed today, Good Friday, April 6, and Easter Monday, April 9. They will reopen on Tuesday, April 10, at 8:30 a.m.

"A Seed Planted" – Good Friday Message to the Diocese of Lake Charles 2007

This is my first message to you, the beloved people of the Diocese of Lake Charles. We are all aware that it is Good Friday, a day that has always been to me a moment of serene reflection on the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a day like no other, when a pall of silence descends on routine activity to remind us that the Savior died for us. It is a day that reminds us of the existence of suffering.

We live in a world, particularly in the developed West, that has great difficulty dealing with suffering. We try to re-define, re-name, or even deny it. However, like some inevitable sunrise whose light creeps in through the drapes we have closed to hide it, suffering enters our lives and wakes us up to another reality. As one great writer once described it, suffering is God screaming to us.

Suffering exists. I think of those who are still displaced by Hurricane Rita in our diocese. My heart goes out to them. Their homes lost, souvenirs of a lifetime gone. I think of the older gentleman in my former parish, displaced by Katrina, who, having seen his destroyed home after months of waiting, sat on the steps and died. These are our brothers and sisters, and we cannot forget them. I think of the young service men and women returning from war, some permanently disabled. They will face the future heroically as they faced the challenge of giving themselves in service to their country. Others mourn the loss of a beloved, the widows, the widowers, the children. All of these and so many more suffer pains deep in their hearts known only

to them. To them we must say, Christ also suffered, and in His suffering gave meaning to suffering.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said in the Gospel of St. John, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (John 12:24). He was speaking of Himself. He was to die and His death would not be an ending. He would rise on the third day. There is no Resurrection without death. Then, we must recall, He extended the benefits of that redemption to us. "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life" (John 12:25).

There are numerous ways to view suffering, and the redemptive way is to see it as an invitation. The cross is an invitation to union. We bring it our own sufferings. We join our sufferings to Christ, and when we do, a great marriage takes place, a nuptial union between Christ and His Body. With Christ's sufferings we are swept up into the reality of His redemption. If suffering is indeed God screaming to us, then the cross is truly a loud cry above a noisy world to remind us of a God who loves and redeems us.

I join in Christ's love for you. I am so blessed to be in Lake Charles and look forward to my years as your bishop. I extend to you my best wishes and blessings for a joyful celebration of Easter.

Devotedly yours in our Lord,
Bishop-elect Glen J. Provost

SW Louisiana disaster response model unique

LAKE CHARLES – Grants totaling more than \$3.5 million were awarded to the Diocese of Lake Charles by Catholic Charities USA to help with recovery efforts following Hurricane Rita. About \$2 million has been spent helping those people in need here in Southwest Louisiana since the storm, according to Sandy Gay, the Director of the Office of Disaster Response of the Diocese.

"Through the grants we have helped more than 3,000 people, in the areas of furniture, appliances, utilities, building supplies, and transportation," Gay said.

Recently Judith Garza, the Disaster Response Garza, who had been with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the previous six years, who oversees and provides technical assistance throughout the United States on disasters met with Gay over several days. Garza said she came to Southwest Louisiana to, "see your relationships with other agencies throughout the community."

"I think that Catholics need to know the role Catholic Charities has played so far in this relief effort," Gay said. "Judith coming here and the promise they have made to continue to come, providing financial assistance but also helping us so that can respond to any disaster, is a tremendous plus for the Church in this area. We really couldn't have done it without Catholic Charities. We didn't have the resources or the knowledge to do it."

Garza said, "Having worked on that side of the Federal portion of it, I know very well that volunteer agencies can sometimes be overwhelmed with things that fall outside of their realm. I like to make sure that you are only tasked with that which is appropriate. Volunteer agencies find it hard, especially the faith-

based, to say no, which is a blessing but at the same time its own curse."

While in the Diocese, Garza accompanied Gay to meetings with various agencies the Office of Disaster Response works with, such as the Calcasieu Unmet Needs Committee, Red Cross, Sweetlake Faith Share, a group from Cameron, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, agencies in Beauregard Parish and others.

The manner in which relief organizations in Southwest Louisiana have worked together is somewhat unusual in Garza's experience.

"It is reassuring to see this community's structure and the role that Catholic Charities and other faith based groups play in recovery here," she said. "I have seen in other states and cities where it is all very sectioned and segregated. Everyone wants to head up their own recovery effort, which duplicates benefits and doesn't benefit anyone. It is nice to come here and see how well Catholic Charities is participating in everything. It's reassuring."

The collegiality of those working with disaster response also makes it easier for people who have a need.

"When you have various entities and agencies working on relief – different people will ask for the same thing from an applicant," Garza continued. "The disaster victim or survivor is being asked over and over to go through the same steps and that burdens them as well and confuses them and frustrates them. It's nice to see that eliminated here.

"What they've done here is pool their services and pool their resources and it has made a nice collective bank," Garza said. "So the applicant can get assistance without feeling victimized again. It's a great service and not something we see to this degree in other places, especially considering the

size of this disaster."

Gay noted that the highest level of client confidentiality is maintained even with this sharing of information regarding client needs.

More than 18 months after Hurricane Rita, many people around the country and even in Louisiana have moved on and don't think about the devastation visited on this part of the state.

"I have said this many times that what is important to me is that people not forget about Rita," Garza said. "It is still the fourth largest and fourth most catastrophic (event) that we have had. I have lived and still do live in Texas, in Houston. I remember when it was coming toward Houston, my family and everything I have ever known is there, and we breathed a sigh of relief when it didn't (hit us). But, our fortune was at someone else's expense."

"The corner of the two states that were hit are very conservative, quiet, hardworking people who don't often make a big ruckus or a big to-do about things," she said. "I think it is unfortunate that the very same thing that makes them such good, hardworking, ethical people is the thing that makes them easy to overlook. They are self-sufficient and self-reliant, so it's like having a child that you never have to worry about, because they will take care of themselves. Now little brother or little sister, the one that is always in trouble, that is different. It's just not fair. Just because the people here can do for themselves, doesn't mean they should have to do it alone."

"So, personally I would like to revisit Rita and see about getting people to think about it again, because it was grossly overlooked," she said. "It is pretty much my main issue with coming down here, to help people think about it again, put it out in their consciousness again."



Brooksie Bonvillian



Andrew Perry



Madeline Shelton

2006-2007 non-public schools students of the year announced

LAKE CHARLES – The students of the year for the 2006-2007 school term in non-public schools in the Southwest District of Louisiana have been named, according to Mrs. Mary Ann Moses, Interim Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Lake Charles. Brooksie Bonvillian, a senior at St. Louis Catholic High School in Lake Charles, was named the 12th grade student of the year while Andrew Perry, who attends Our Lady's School in Sulphur is the eighth grade student of the year and Madeline Shelton, also a student at Our Lady's Catholic School, was named the fifth grade student of the year.

The following young peo-

ple represented their schools at the district competition held in Lake Charles, Louisiana: Fifth grade students-of-the-year in their schools: Kaycie Kennison, Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, Lake Charles; Abbie Smith, Saint Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School, Moss Bluff; Andrew Ammons, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Lake Charles; Suzanne Monlezun, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings; and Alexis Wesley, Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Lake Charles.

Eighth grade students-of-the-year in their schools:

Jack Stansell, Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Lake Charles; Spencer Mathews, Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, Lake Charles; Erica David, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings; Felix Navejar, Saint Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School, Moss Bluff; Catherine Delahoussaye, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Lake Charles; and Laura Sonnier, Bethel Christian School, Jennings.

Twelfth grade student-of-the-year in her school: Kristen Mallet, Bethel Christian School, Jennings.



Fourth Grade students of Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School presented Deacon Derek Covert with about 4,000 pennies, which they collected from the beginning of the school year. Deacon Covert used the money to assist with missionary work on a trip to Nicaragua. The students received a thank you letter from children's home in Nicaragua to which Deacon Covert had given the money. The students have decided to send another donation to the children's home at the end of the year, again from the pennies they bring to school. The idea came from the students' study of the Corporal Works of Mercy along with sacrificial giving. They decided to give their money to Deacon Covert after he spoke to them about the missions.