



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost conducted his first Confirmation as the Third Bishop of Lake Charles on Wednesday, April 25, at Immaculate Conception Church in Maplewood. With Bishop Provost at the beginning of the Liturgy was, at left, Rev. Msgr. Vincent A. Sedita, pastor of Immaculate Conception, and at right Deacon H. E. "Bud" Wagner and the Rev. Msgr. Jace Eskin, Master of Ceremonies.

Deacon Derek Covert to be ordained May 26

The Rev. Mr. Derek Covert, a seminarian for the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese on Saturday, May 26, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will be the ordaining prelate.

Covert will celebrate his first Mass on Sunday, May 27, Pentecost Sunday, at 9 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church.

CLI, ACLI set for June 10-15

LAKE CHARLES - The Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles has announced the dates for the annual Christian Leadership Institute and the Advanced Christian Leadership Institute. The two longtime summer programs are scheduled from Sunday, June 10 through Friday, June 15, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, Director of the Office.

The Emory Wallace Retreat Center at Bundick Lake near DeRidder will be the site again this year. Cost for the event is \$250, which includes meals, housing and materials.

The Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) is for high school students including entering freshmen as well as recent graduates. The Advanced Christian Leadership Institute (ACLI) is designed for entering junior or senior high school students who have already participated in the CLI process.

"The week-long training experiences focus on developing and sharpening leadership skills that can be used in every aspect of young adult lives," Thibodeaux said.

The focus of the training includes effective communication skills, facilitation skills, decision making skills, consensus seeking skills, temperament and leadership skills, male/female leadership styles, and

call to ministry.

The training involves experiential training and is reinforced by hands-on activities. The young people themselves play a part in shaping the routine activities of each day from waking up in the morning to setting the environment and planning prayer for meals, morning and evening prayer, the evening liturgy, to the evening socials, according to Thibodeaux.

"ACLI takes the skills learned at CLI and continues to sharpen them and the planning process," Thibodeaux said. "It is an exciting and transforming experience."

"The 'Christian' in Christian leadership isn't just a portion of what we are about," Thibodeaux continued. "Our Catholic Christian values are woven into every fiber of the week. Since CLI is Catholic Christian based, it is rooted in our faith tradition with Christ as our model for the kind of 'servant' leadership we strive to emulate."

The institutes offer a balanced existence of hard work in the learning, planning and implementation, prayer, play, relaxation as well as fellowship and social activity.

For more information, contact the Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles at 439-7426, Ext. 301.

Communication Collection set this weekend

WASHINGTON - The annual collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will take place in the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles on May 19-20 as well as across the country.

Funding provided by donations of generous Catholics is used to support an array of multimedia projects developed by the CCC, an activity of the U.S. Bishops that promotes Gospel values through network television specials, radio programs, movie reviews and new media content. Half of the money collected here in the Diocese of Lake Charles remains here to help provide the publication of the Catholic Calendar in the American Press, Jennings Daily News, Beauregard Daily News and the Cameron Pilot every two weeks. The airing of the 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Mass from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, generally known as "The Bishop's Mass," on KLCL-AM (1470) here in Lake Charles and KJEF-AM (1290) in Jennings is also made possible, in part, by your generous gift to the Catholic Communication Campaign.

Building on the popularity of the daily Mass readings featured on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops web site, the CCC now offers audio readings that can be downloaded through iTunes, Podcast Alley and other sources. Daily reflections can be viewed via streaming at www.ccc-tv.org.

For the second year in a row a popular series of six Lenten radio retreats were offered by the CCC in association with Franciscan Radio. Available in English and Spanish, the Lenten radio retreats featured a bishop as retreat guide and homilist. The programs were distributed to radio stations across the country and available in downloadable formats at www.radioretreat.org.

Radio programming offered by the CCC also includes Catholic Radio Weekly, Lino at large, American Catholic Radio, and Tú Compa ero Católica, a Spanish language program that offers spiritual topics and news of special interest for Hispanic families. The CCC also supports the work of the U.S. bishop's Office of Film and Broadcasting, which provides movie and television reviews published in diocesan newspapers across the country.

Television specials and documentaries funded by the CCC continue to offer quality spiritual and cultural programs. Since its release last December, "Picturing Mary," a documentary that chronicles how the image of the Madonna has inspired artists throughout the centuries, has aired on 270 public television stations. Other documentaries funded by the CCC that appeared on public television include "Lives for Sale," a powerful expose of the painful and rarely seen human side of undocumented immigration and "Sisters of Selma: Witness to Change," a look at how a group of nuns from St. Louis, Missouri, traveled to Selma, Alabama and stood in solidarity with African Americans during the civil rights movement.

Catholic home schooling mother speaks out

LAKE CHARLES - Home schooling has become a big issue in many areas of the country. Here in the Diocese of Lake Charles there are a number of families who have home schooled their children. Eva Thompson and her husband Frank of Moss Bluff have tried to instill good Catholic family values in their own four children and she even established a state approved home school called "Ave Maria Academy."

Eva was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Serra Club of Lake Charles.

The Thompson's eldest son Joshua, who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Our Lady of Victory School, a correspondence home school, is studying for the priesthood with the Legionaries of Christ. Daughter Mary will graduate from Ave Maria Academy this year and plans to attend McNeese State University. Son Levi, who will graduate in 2010, also anticipates pursuing a priestly vocation while the youngest child, Esther, wants to be a home school mother when she grows up.

"I thank God for the gift of Catholic homeschooling that He put upon my heart to begin 17 years ago," Eva said. "Every year I prayed and asked God, 'Do you want me to homeschool again this year?' and then I asked myself if I was able to handle all the responsibilities that the decision entailed. I said yes to God's call for me and it has been the most rewarding decision of my life, besides saying I do to my husband."

Thompson had worked as

an accountant in Houston before she was married and following her marriage worked the Catholic Student Center at Our Lady of Good Counsel as the liturgist and music director.

"When I found out I was expecting our first child, we decided that I would not work anymore outside the home so I could be with the children," she said. "Little did I know God was already preparing me for me to homeschool."

She and Frank moved to a rural Catholic Community where his family lived. Several of the mothers there were homeschooling their children.

"I watched them over the next few years and started doing my own research on the subject," she said. "Before I moved there, I thought only certified teachers from college could educate children at a school setting. Now I saw mothers with and without education backgrounds teaching their children. The children were so well behaved and bright."

When her oldest child was a year old, Thompson decided to remove the television from the home altogether. "Our preschool consisted of make modeling clay dinosaurs, building original Lego creations, drawing and playing outside," she said. "Children find ways to entertain themselves without TV or expensive electronic toys."

"As school age approached I visited local schools," she continued. "I decided I would try to educate my own. I could gear the subjects to their learning styles and we could do many

projects as a family. We loved music and art."

She used the Von Trapp family (from the Sound of Music) as a good example of a homeschool family. "I actually have Maria Von Trapp's book on Living the Liturgical Year," she said. "I aspired to be like them - Catholic, musical, joyful and full of life."

As her children advanced so did she adding the next grade necessary to teach them.

After six years her health became an issue and in her question to God about continuing, she knew the answer was 'no.'

The family enrolled the children in Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff and soon found that any questions she had about how good a job she had done in educating the children would have an answer in the affirmative.

"Even with the all the fun we had, to my surprise all three children did exceptionally well," she said. "They each made Honor or Banner roll every nine weeks for the next three years. Joshua challenged the librarian for bigger books and they received honors as students of the month and the yearly Most Christian award. Joshua received the academic scholarship award and was student of the year as an eighth grader."

Thompson told the Serans about some of the national studies done that show that home schooled children have scored significantly higher on standardized tests than their counterparts. "We saw it in our children," she said. "All three of my children had

scored four years ahead of their eighth grade standardized tests." Those numbers were almost exactly what the various studies had shown, she noted.

The family decided that they would now bring the children back into the home and home school them in grades nine, seven, four and kindergarten, even though Eva's health was still in a tenuous state.

In managing to continue home schooling her children although still ill, she joined with Deanna Kolde, the music teacher at Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, to form a co-op, even though they stopped the practice a few years ago.

"We got together once a week to teach each other's children and they would do assignments at home during the week," Eva said. "We did math and spelling daily on our own. It was fun and I could handle this as I recovered."

Thompson said the motivating reason for homeschooling will always be to teach her faith - the Roman Catholic Church's teachings, virtues, and values.

"What is the most important thing a parent can do for their child?" she asked. "Teach them their faith, guard their purity, help them to seek the knowledge and truth of God so they can make their own choice to Know, Love, and Serve Him in this life and be happy with God in the next."