

With The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, left, watching, seminarians Nathan Long, second from left, and Ruben Buller, right sign professions of faith and oaths of fidelity on assuming an office and service to the Diocese of Lake Charles during Mass on the Feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15. The two will be ordained to the Diaconate tomorrow, August 25, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church by Bishop Provost. In the background at right are other seminarians, from left, Ruben Dickey, Brandon Jones, Kent Authement, and Matthew Cormier.

Proud 2B Catholic Music Festival will be held Sept. 8

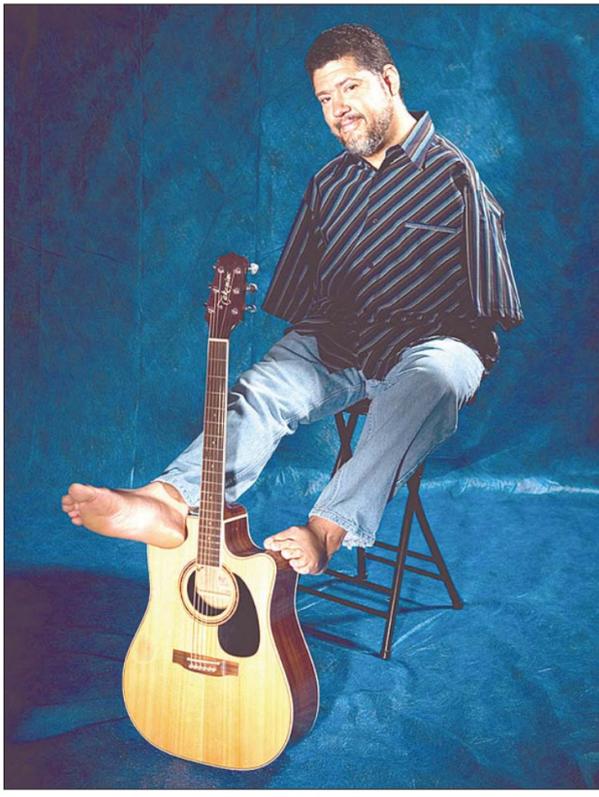
SULPHUR - The Second Annual Proud 2B Catholic Musical Festival of Louisiana, sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, from 12:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the Sulphur High School Freshman campus. Doors open at noon and Eucharistic Adoration will be held on the main stage from 8:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Featured musical entertainers will include Tony Melendez, who gained fame for his Sept. 15, 1987 performance for Pope John Paul II. The Nicaraguan-born Melendez was a "thalidomide baby," born without arms because his mother was prescribed the drug to combat morning sickness during her pregnancy. Following the playing of the song "Never Be The Same," the Holy Father approached the stage to kiss him in appreciation.

Other Catholic Christian music will be performed by Father Stan Fortuna, Josh Blakesley, Kelly Pease, Nichole Ackoury, Gabriel's Cry, Endless Days, Clay Vessel, Brad Broussard and more.

According to Milissa Thibodeaux, director of the Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese, the all-day festival is more than a concert.

"It is a faith-filled event for the entire family, featuring Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, an opportunity for Confession, motivational speakers, breakout sessions on key topics, and some of the best international recording artists, food concessions, Catholic product vendors and various organizations and ministries," she said. "It is an event with the youth in-mind, but is



Tony Melendez

open to all ages and denominations."

Breakout session presenters will include Father Stan Fortuna, Jesse Romero, "The Donut Man" Rob Evans, Cooper Ray, Karlo Broussard, Christina Theriot, Dumb Ox Productions, Kenny Lantier, Augie and others.

Last year nearly 2000 people attended the inaugural event and Thibodeaux is hoping for an increase this year.

For those interested in

registering for the event, tickets may be purchased online at www.proud2bcatholic.com or by contacting the Diocese of Lake Charles at 337-439-7426 Ext. 301. Groups purchasing bulk numbers of tickets will receive a lower price.

For more information about the Proud 2B Catholic Music Festival, contact Thibodeaux at 337-439-7426 Ext. 301 or on line at youth.ministry@lcdioocese.org

Two being ordained to Diaconate Saturday

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will ordain Ruben Buller and Nathan Long to the Order of Deacon for the Diocese of Lake Charles tomorrow, August 25, at 10 a.m. in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church.

The two, Buller from St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fenton and Long from St. Raphael Parish in Iowa, are serving fall internships in the Diocese. Buller is working at Immaculate Conception Cathedral under the supervision of the Rev. Aubrey Guilbeau while Long is stationed at Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church in Welsh under the supervision of the Rev. Archimandrite Hebert May. They will return to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans next spring for their final course work before their anticipated ordinations to the priesthood.

On the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, they each pledged and signed a profession of faith and took oaths of fidelity to the Office of Deacon and of service to the Diocese of Lake Charles under Bishop Provost and his successors.

Both men are looking forward to their ordination to the Diaconate.

"It is very exciting," Long said. "The life I have lived before will be changed. I am embarking on a new journey."

As for Buller, he finds it hard to believe how fast the day has come upon him.

"The time has gone by very quickly," he said. "Looking back it is hard to believe that it has been seven years since I entered seminary. It has just flown by; you can look back and see where one has come from."

"Sometimes you are looking back at opportunities, with nostalgia and then you are also looking forward to the future," he continued. "I am happy to come into the diocese in this time of growth and with a new bishop."

Long sees his upcoming ordination to the Diaconate as a passageway.

"It is a transition from the seminary to being a clergyman who is looked up to," Long said. "I will still be in formation and under supervision, but it's a different phase, a point where there is no turning back."

"Being able to use the Diaconate in parish ministry will be very valuable," Long continued. "God has given me the faith and strength to

move forward."

The pair will have eight brother seminarians in various courses of study at four seminaries this fall, an increase of four over last year.

Both see this increase, at least in some respect, to be the fruits of the labor of the late Pope John Paul II.

"I think throughout the nation and world one of the factors is John Paul II," said Long. "The Pope's spirituality meant a great deal to young people growing up. Here in our diocese I think a lot of it is the new bishop. He has taken an aggressive stance, as have many pastors. When young men see other young men pursuing the priesthood then they are more likely to move. It gives them a reason to rejoice and pursue it with confidence. I think there is more to come."

"Also we have had a lot of people praying for a long time for an increase in vocations," Long said. "We have to give credit to them."

Buller sees it as a matter of timing but also points to the late Pontiff's efforts.

"The pontificate of Pope John Paul II greatly influenced all the young people of this time," Buller said. "His message of 'do not be afraid' resonates in a world surrounded by fear."

Diocese to celebrate Feast of St. Peter Claver Sept. 9

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, D.D., Bishop of Lake Charles, will lead a prayer service beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The event celebrates the Feast Day of St. Peter Claver, the patron of the Diocese. Prayers will be specifically offered for those in our Diocese who work among the poor and needy, such as St. Peter Claver did among the slaves who were brought into Cartagena, Colombia in the 17th Century.

Peter Claver, the son of a Catalan farmer, was born at Verdu, in 1581; he died September 8, 1654. He obtained his first degrees at the University of Barcelona. At the age of 20, he entered the Jesuit novitiate at Tarragona. While he was studying philosophy at Majorca in 1605, Alphonsus Rodriguez, the saintly door-keeper of the college, learned from God the future mission of his young associate, and thenceforth never ceased exhorting him to set out to evangelize the Spanish possessions in America. Peter obeyed, and in 1610 landed at Cartagena, where for forty-four years he was the Apostle of the Negro slaves. By its position in the Caribbean Sea, Cartagena became the chief slave-mart



St. Peter Claver

of the New World.

A thousand slaves landed there each month packed inhumanely in the holds of the ships. Though half the cargo might die, the trade remained profitable. Neither the repeated censures of the pope, nor those of Catholic moralists could prevail against this greed at the expense of fellow human beings. The missionaries could not suppress slavery, but only alleviate it, and no one worked more heroically than Peter Claver, who had declared himself "the slave of the Negroes forever".

His life was one that confounds egotism by its super-

human charity. Every month when the arrival of the Negroes was signaled, Claver went out to meet them on the pilot's boat, carrying food and delicacies. The Negroes, cooped up in the hold, arrived crazed and brutalized by suffering and fear. Claver went to each, cared for him, and showed him kindness, and made him understand that henceforth he was his defender and father.

While the slaves were penned up at Cartagena waiting to be purchased and dispersed, Claver instructed and baptized them in the Faith. On Sundays during Lent he assembled them, inquired concerning their needs, and defended them against their oppressors. This work caused Claver severe trials, and the slave merchants were not his only enemies.

During his life he baptized and instructed in the Faith more than 300,000 Negroes. He was beatified July 16, 1850, Pius IX, and canonized January 15, 1888, by Leo XIII. His feast is celebrated on the ninth of September. On July 7, 1896, he was proclaimed the special patron of all the Catholic missions among the Negroes. Alphonsus Rodriguez was canonized on the same day as Peter Claver.



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, second from right, recently received a check for \$1,694.88 from the Fourth Degree Assemblies, Knights of Columbus for the group's annual Excellence in Religious Education program. Pictured with Bishop Provost are, from left, Lawrence Rathel, Faithful Navigator of Father James J. Shahrigan Assembly #2182 in DeRidder and Nelson Bourgeois Faithful Navigator of Msgr. Cramers Assembly #320 of Lake Charles. At right is Wylace Vincent, Diocesan Coordinator for the Excellence in Religious Education program. The grant is used to facilitate the continuing education and training of diocesan religious education instructors through the Adult Education component of the Office of Religious Education.



The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles opened their doors for the new school term on August 16 with an unofficial enrollment of 2,707, an increase of 60 over last year's opening day total. Kathy Owen, left, the Director of the Offices of Pro-Life and Family Life of the Diocese, drops off two of her girls at St. Margaret Catholic School Thursday morning. Anxious to get to class on the first day are Meredith, left, and Grace, right. Assisting arriving students and their parents was Clare Blackwell, the school's computer teacher.

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