

## Bishop's Services Appeal begins in Diocese of LC

LAKE CHARLES – The 2007-2008 Bishop's Services Appeal, the annual appeal that raises funds for programs and ministries of the Diocese of Lake Charles has begun in the 38 parishes of the Diocese. This year's Appeal goal has been set at \$600,000.

The Diocese has much for which to be thankful as it begins its 28th year - the arrival of its new shepherd, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, the continuing recovery from the devastation of its faith communities by Hurricane Rita in 2005, and so much more. The graces of the Lord are shining on us.

In the more than quarter century since the establishment of the Diocese, its people have been most generous. The support they have provided shows the truth and vision of the love they as Catholics have for all people across our region. Their gifts are a marvelous expression

of their willingness to follow the example of Jesus - serving others and sacrificing in order to help the less fortunate.

The graphic below provides the breakdown of how monies from a successful Appeal will be distributed to the various programs and ministries it supports.

Contributions to Bishop's Services Appeal continue to support the operation of the Offices of Catholic Schools, Religious Education, Youth Ministry and Adult Education as well as Evangelization. They will make possible the ministry to the hungry, the homeless and others less fortunate, through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles, now at home at 612 Louisiana Avenue.

Gifts to the Appeal help the Office of Family Life aid newly engaged couples as they begin a lifelong Christian commitment to one another. The Office also help

single Catholics, whether never married, divorced, or widowed, to understand and live their single life. The Office of Pro Life continues its work to preserve life at all stages with the aid of gifts to Bishop's Services Appeal.

Retreats and spiritual programs at Tabor Retreat House and the Saint Katharine Drexel Conference Center at Saint Charles Center are able to take place because of gifts to the Appeal. The extremely important Offices of Vocations and Seminarians will be able to increase their efforts to seek men considering the call of the Holy Spirit to serve the Church as diocesan priests, so urgently needed in our diocese and provide the finances for those we have now at various levels of study.

Because people have been willing to show their love of Christ by giving The Seafarers' Center at the Port of Lake Charles is able to aid thousands of sailors visiting our region. Gifts from the Appeal support the Office of Communications, including publishing the *Catholic Calendar*, producing and airing *Glad Tidings*, the hour-long TV program on Sunday mornings, and airing the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on the radio from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The generosity the faithful have shown to the Bishop's Services Appeal over the years have been greatly appreciated. Your contributions this year will show the love you have for the people in Southwest Louisiana. Please consider your contribution as a measure of your own sacrifice for this Local Church.

### Forty Hour Devotions scheduled

LAKE CHARLES – The schedule of Forty-Hour Devotions for the month of October involves the Central Deanery, according to the Very Rev. William Miller, Dean.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church will host the Devotion October 8-11, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday. The Devotion at St. Henry Church will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, October 15-19. Daily devotion will be in the Christus St. Patrick Hospital Chapel October 22-26. Our Lady of Good Counsel Church will hold the Devotion from 7 p.m. October 28 to 11 a.m. on October 30.



### THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

Dearly Beloved,

Saturday, August 25, was a joyful day in the history of our diocese, one of many. I had the distinct privilege of ordaining to the diaconate two men who, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood next year. They have spent the last three years studying theology and preparing for this moment at the seminary in New Orleans. We also have four new seminarians who entered the seminary for our diocese this September. This brings our seminary population to ten students. Education is not free, however. The approximate cost for educating one seminary student in the last four years of his studies is \$100,000. Bishop's Services Appeal assists.

Before Hurricane Rita our Catholic Social Services office was located on Broad Street. The building is no more, having been wrecked by the wind and rain. Following the use of temporary offices on Bilbo Street, Social Services were moved to Sacred Heart Rectory in Lake Charles. There the office will remain, helping with hurricane recovery, the Ministry of Cultural Diversity, immigration, the prison apostolate, to name only a few. Funds collected from Bishop's Services Appeal once again help.

With restrictions to our budget following Hurricane Rita, our diocesan newspaper ceased publication. We would hope that this is temporary. Will funding exist in the future? We cannot answer that question now. In the meantime, the "Catholic Calendar", a full-page of Catholic news, appears every other Friday in the Lake Charles American Press and other regional newspapers. This Catholic information page, paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles, is an important means of getting the message out concerning articles and news items of Catholic interest. It is vital, necessary and costly. Bishop's Services Appeal is needed.

I have mentioned only three areas where the Bishop's Services Appeal has made a valuable contribution. There are so many other areas. In the field of education, youth ministry, Saint Charles Center, adult formation, counseling services, the Apostleship of the Sea—the list is considerable—the Catholic Church in our area makes a difference. Bishop's Services Appeal helps make it possible.

This year our overall goal for the Appeal will be \$600,000.00. I realize that this will seem to be a large sum of money, and it is. However, what is the continuation of our diocesan services worth? Is there really an amount that represents its true value?

Since becoming Bishop of Lake Charles, I am deeply impressed with the love of our people for their Church. There are so many good things happening in our diocese. Concern for the poor, the sick, the young, and the displaced all attests to your sensitivity and Christian charity. We want the work of the Church to continue. I consider it a true blessing to be in Lake Charles and to be part of this enthusiastic community of faith.

I sincerely thank those who have generously contributed to the Appeal in the past. I ask you to continue opening your hearts to the needs of the Church in the Diocese. If you have not yet participated in the Appeal, then I ask you to consider seriously doing so.

I remember once on a mission trip to Mexico, in a dusty little town, I celebrated Mass in a chapel with a dirt floor and no roof. Following Mass, an older lady, showing every sign of having lived a very hard life, approached me and placed a small coin on the altar. I had asked for nothing, nor would I have asked for anything. She gave because she wanted to show her appreciation. It was one of the most humbling experiences of my life. I thought immediately of the Gospel, when Jesus observed a poor widow placing two small copper coins in the collection box. He said, "I want you to observe that this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury. They gave from their surplus wealth, but she gave from her want, all that she had to live on" (Mark 12:43-44).

The lesson of generosity is the Gospel, and we learn it in unexpected ways. May God bless you, your families, and your gift to the Bishop's Services Appeal.

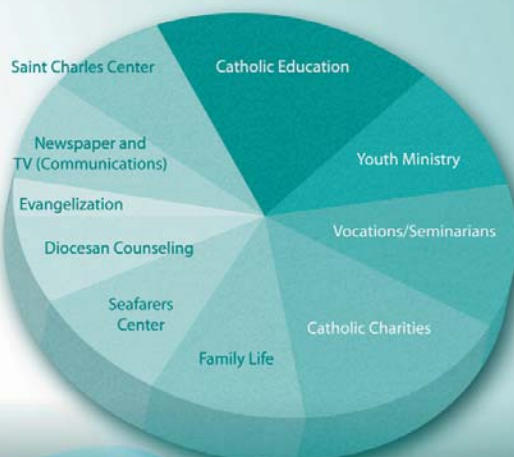
Devotedly in Christ,

+Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

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### HOW YOUR GIFT SERVES OTHERS



CATHOLIC EDUCATION	\$110,000
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$58,000
VOCATIONS/SEMINARIANS	\$71,000
CATHOLIC CHARITIES	\$89,000
FAMILY LIFE	\$60,000
SEAFARERS CENTER	\$55,000
DIOCESAN COUNSELING	\$41,000
EVANGELIZATION	\$18,000
NEWSPAPER AND TV (COMMUNICATIONS)	\$50,000
SAINT CHARLES CENTER	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$600,000

Above figures represent identifiable support from the Bishop's Services Appeal.

These ministries are additionally supported through various grants and the parochial tithe.