



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost incenses the altar at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron during the blessing of the church on Nov. 18. Deacon George Stearns, who had served as administrator of the parish during the rebuilding process, holds the Bishop's vestment.

Our Lady Star of the Sea blessed by Bishop Provost

CAMERON – Bishop Glen John Provost honored the tenacity, faithfulness, and perseverance of the people of Cameron Parish on Sunday, Nov. 18, during his homily at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Bishop Provost came to Cameron to bless the newly rebuilt Church, damaged so severely two years ago by Hurricane Rita.

“I remember as a child hearing about Hurricane Audrey and the many good things about the people of Cameron who had been devastated by that storm,” Bishop Provost said. “It’s been two years since Hurricane Rita and this is a moment to be grateful to God and those who showed that tenacity here. May the people of Cameron inspire us.”

Our Lady Star of the Sea was the second completed church blessed by Bishop Provost. He had previously blessed St. Eugene in Grand Chenier.

Work on the reconstruction of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole continues.

The Bishop is scheduled to bless Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in Johnson Bayou on Dec. 16 at the 11 a.m. Assumption Chapel, which was the closest church to the hurricane’s landfall, is a mission of St. Peter the Apostle Church in Hackberry, also heavily damaged by Rita. Work continues at St. Peter although Mass is being celebrated in the Church, according to Rev. Roland Vaughn, pastor.

Deacon George Stearns, Chancellor of the Diocese of Lake Charles, served as administrator of Our Lady Star of the Sea during the reconstruction and prior to the close of Mass extended thanks to many people involved in the rebuilding of the Church.

“This has been an incredible experience,” Deacon Stearns said. “I want to thank our bishop, who expressed so much concern for us and Father (Joseph) McGrath, who worked with us during this special time. We put the church back the way it was but tweaked it a little bit.” Father McGrath will serve as administrator of the parish now that the construction is complete. He received his letter of appointment from Bishop Provost following the Mass.

In his litany of thanks, Deacon Stearns also pointed out the generous contribution of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Pennsylvania. The community of religious sisters donated the pews now installed at Our Lady Star of the Sea. The Order was celebrating its 150th anniversary at the time of Hurricane Rita and had begun a project to renovate their chapel. The Sisters wanted to provide someone in need with their pews rather than throwing them out. They learned about the Cameron church, whose layout closely resembled the Order’s chapel in Erie. The pews and a number of other items, valued at between \$65,000 and \$75,000 came to Lake Charles in August 2006.

Annual Maple Leaf Awards given to six

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Maple Leaf Awards were presented to six Catholic men and women from around the Diocese of Lake Charles for their devotion and volunteerism recently at Villa Maria Retirement Center. The award was begun by the late Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc 10 years ago.

Honorees were Mrs. Daisy Harmon and Mrs. Ida Mae Pirtre, both of St. Joseph Church in Welsh, Mrs. Clarice Richard Jones of Our Lady of LaSalette Church in DeQuincy, Mr. John Richard of St. Joseph Church in Vin-

ton, Mrs. Betty Richard of St. Joseph Church in Vinton and Mr. Jean Hebert of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church in Lake Charles.

Msgr. DeBlanc often spoke about senior citizens and likened them to the maple leaf. “The maple leaf is a sign of purity,” he is recalled as saying. “The maple tree is most attractive and beautiful in the late season of the year – before its leaves fall to the ground.”

Five of the six honorees attended the event.

Mrs. Harmon, the only award winner unable to attend, has been a sacristan, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, and cantor at St. Joseph in Welsh. She leads the community in the Rosary before funeral Masses and helps with the parish barbecue sales.

Mrs. Pitre served St. Joseph as a sacristan, an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, and a lector. She is a member of the Ladies Altar Society as well as washes and irons altar cloths and vestments.

Mrs. Jones is a lifelong member of Our Lady of LaSalette. She was the secretary and treasurer of Regina Caeli Special Education School in Lake Charles. She has been a trustee and organist at her parish as well as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion and lector. She is a member of the Ladies Altar Society and has kept a regular adoration hour since its inception. She served as chairman of the

food pantry, helped maintain the church, and was an assistant for the annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive for 20 years.

Mr. Richard has served St. Joseph in Vinton as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion and a Sunday collection counter. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus as well as the VFW and American Legion. He has been the altar server for daily Mass and a greeter at weekend liturgies. Each year on Veterans Day he makes sure the graves of deceased veterans have flags.

Mrs. Richard is an Extraordinary Minister of Communion and serves as a Sunday collection counter. An auxiliary member of the VFW, an American Legion member, and a Catholic Daughter, she cleans and mends church linens.

Jean Hebert has been an Our Lady Queen of Heaven parishioner for many years and is a charter member of the parish Knights of Columbus Council. He serves as a volunteer for the Our Lady Queen of Heaven School Carnival and was the groundskeeper at Regina Caeli School. He served as a Family Life Center Bingo caller and is a church money counter. He is a member of the parish’s 50th anniversary committee, the New Covenant Choir, and a volunteer to the St. Vincent dePaul Society. He was also a regular companion to Msgr. DeBlanc.

Did you know...
that the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was the first parish established in what is now the Diocese of Lake Charles, on Dec. 8, 1869. It was originally named for St. Francis de Sales. The named changed when dedicated to the Immaculate Conception in 1881.

The bodies of Popes are interred beneath St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Do you know who is buried in our Cathedral? Find out in our Dec. 21 issue.



Three local women were recently elected to two-year terms as officers of the Louisiana State Court, Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Pictured, from left, are Ellen Corbello, State Secretary, St. Raphael Court 1377, Iowa; Gloria Newman, 1st Vice State Regent, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Court 1785, Lake Charles; Alice Tassin, State Regent, Walker, La.; Joyce Stein, 2nd Vice State Regent, Vacherie, La.; and Pat Myers, Treasurer, Our Lady of Fatima Court 1506, Lake Charles.

International Eucharistic Congress set for 2008

QUEBEC, Canada – Marc Cardinal Ouellet, Archbishop of Quebec, has announced plans for the International Eucharistic Congress in the city from June 15 to June 22, 2008.

“The International Eucharistic Congress is a great opportunity for the new evangelization of North America,” Cardinal Ouellet said. “It is an occasion to rekindle the flame of the Catholic faith in our countries, where in the past there was a deep unity between the culture and the Faith.”

“This will be an event that is being watched with great anticipation,” the Cardinal continued. “The International Eucharistic Congress will be a time of renewal for worship of the Holy Eucharist and for the life of charity that flows from it.”

According to the Cardinal, each day, catechesis and testimonies will be offered to the thousands of participants – the present and future leaders of the Church – and a solemn Eucharistic liturgy will be celebrated. There will also be processions of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as special religious events for young adults and families, and activities to promote brotherhood.

“This event will proclaim in public places the pertinence of our faith that is first of all a gift received from God and is lived out in communities,” Cardinal Ouellet said. “We hope that the International Eucharistic Congress will bring about a greater emphasis on the sacred character of the Eucharistic celebration, a deepened understanding of its sacrificial dimension, and a renewal of Eucharistic

adoration, prayer, and good works.

The Congress theme will be the Eucharist as “Gift of God for the life of the world,” beginning with Sunday’s invocation of the Holy Spirit.

Monday will focus on Jesus’ institution of the New Covenant while the following day concentrates on the sacrificial dimension of the Eucharist. Wednesday invites attendees to explore the first result of this gift of God: in giving Himself and in being received in the faith of the Church, the Eucharistic Christ finds the church.

Thursday focuses on adoration, as the evening concludes with a public procession with the Blessed Sacrament in the heart of the city. The theme on Friday, is the Eucharist and mission, emphasizing charity and engagement for peace and justice. The week will

conclude with teaching on “ordinary” holiness at the heart of the world, inspired and nourished by the Eucharist.

“There will also be a myriad of costs associated with an event of this magnitude – yet our budget is modest, and we seek help from others to only cover what is necessary,” Cardinal Ouellet said.

For information about attending the International Eucharistic Congress personally or with a parish group or other Catholic organization, please see our website, www.ceei2008.ca.

Contributions may be made payable to Archdiocese of Philadelphia, c/o Bishop Joseph Cistone, 222 North Seventeenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299. The donation will be forwarded to the International Eucharistic Congress.

December Forty-Hour Devotion sites, times told

The December schedule for the Forty-Hour Devotion before the Blessed Sacrament has been announced for the East Deanery.

Adoration will be in Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Arthur from 7 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 6 to 6:30 p.m. Friday Dec. 7. At St. Lawrence Church in Raymond, exposition will be from 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9 to 7 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11.

At St. John Vianney

Church in Bell City, the Devotion will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17 and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 18.

On Wednesday, Dec. 19, the Devotion moves to St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fenton from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The next day, Thursday, Dec. 20, the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be in St. John the Evangelist Chapel in Lacassine from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Director Patrick Lapoint, stands next to his new 8-passenger van used to ferry sailors in port around Lake Charles. The new vehicle is the second passenger conveyance in the Center’s garage, along with a three-year old 15-passenger bus, which has already traveled 100,000 miles. The van will allow the Center to service more ships coming into facilities up and down the Ship Channel, from Lake Charles to Carlyss, and soon down to Hackberry’s new LNG Facility. It will reduce operating costs because it costs less to operate the van for smaller numbers of sailors, better utilizing the financial contributions of donors.