

The Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Schools: An Education you can have Faith In

EDITOR'S NOTE: Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Lake Charles as well as across the country is celebrated the week of January 28 to February 1. This year's national theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools Light the Way." There are eight Catholic schools in the Diocese, St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven School, Sacred Heart of Jesus/St. Katharine Drexel School, St. Margaret of Scotland School, all in Lake Charles; St. Theodore Holy Family School in Moss Bluff; Our Lady Immaculate School in Jennings; and Our Lady's School in Sulphur.)

Choosing a school for a child is one of the most important decisions parents make. From academics and curriculum to school environment and parental in-

volvement, there are many compelling factors to consider when looking at a school. The Diocese of Lake Charles schools provide an education you can have faith in. Diocesan schools meet the academic needs of students by integrating faith, life and culture in a disciplined and safe environment.

Academics

The Diocese of Lake Charles students perform better academically than their counterparts in public schools. In comparing scores from standardized tests, students from the Diocesan schools scored at least 14 percentage points higher than the national average at every grade level. Statistics also show that Catholic school students are less likely to drop out and are more likely to go on to college. Catholic schools provide smaller classrooms and

more personal attention to every student. With a smaller teacher-to-student ratio,

ized plans for classroom teaching. Parents are assured that students receive a

"Community is at the heart of all

Catholic education, not simply as a concept to be taught, but as a reality to be lived...Your students will learn to understand and appreciate the value of community as they experience love, trust and loyalty in your schools and educational programs, and as they learn to treat all persons as brothers and sister created by God and redeemed by Christ."

-- His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in a speech to elementary, secondary and religious education leaders in New Orleans, Louisiana, September 12, 1987

teachers are able to gain insights that enhance the whole learning process for students. Realizing that each child is unique with different learning styles, teachers are able to utilize individual-

strong academic education in an environment structured to have lasting value.

Environment

The Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Schools

provide a disciplined, safe environment in which students can excel both academically and personally. Self-discipline, responsibility, and self-motivation are among the benefits of an environment that is both nurturing and structured. Catholic schools are able to provide a disciplined environment that fosters responsibility and emphasizes Christian values. Catholic schools also welcome and expect parents to become involved in school programs and daily activities of students. Parents are acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Catholic school faculties share this responsibility by providing students with equal opportunities for spiritual, intellectual and social development.

Christian Development

A Catholic school educa-

tion prepares a child for life. At a Catholic school, students learn much more than reading, writing and arithmetic. Religious education is an everyday part of the Catholic school curriculum. Classes encourage the discussion of faith and Christian values, focused on the total moral development of each child. Students take what they learn and apply it to everyday life through projects, activities and school clubs that emphasize service and social justice.

There are many compelling reasons beyond the benefits of an excellent education to choose The Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Schools. Diocesan schools strengthen the overall faith of students while they learn the Christian values and morals necessary for a full and productive life. Truly, an education you can have faith in.

Local youth attend National Catholic Conference

By Laura Adams
Special to the
Catholic Calendar

A group of Catholic youth from the Diocese of Lake Charles boarded a plane for Ohio, unaware of what was awaiting them.

The 85 local teens joined more than 20,000 Catholics, 13,350 of which were youth, from 145 dioceses across the country in Columbus, Ohio last November to participate in the 29th biannual National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). The conference consisted of about 200 well-known Catholic musical artists and speakers.

Steve Angrisano, a well-known Catholic musician was the master of ceremonies of NCYC and shared with the youth his love of Christ and his Catholic Faith. Other artists included Matt Maher, Sarah Hart, Righteous B, Josh Blakeskey, Ceilli Rain, and many more. Keynote speakers included Tony Melendez, Father Tony of New Orleans, and many other gifted speakers.

The number of youth in attendance was overwhelming; the youth covered the streets of Columbus Ohio. Masses of Catholic youth came together singing and laughing to praise God and deepen their Catholic faith.

The youth from the Diocese of Lake Charles who attended this conference

where very impressed to see they weren't alone in their Catholic faith.

"I've never felt the Holy Spirit as powerful as I have in these people gathering for one purpose, and I've really felt the presence of Christ in these people," said Jesse Taylor, a student of St. Louis Catholic High School.

"It strikes me to see 20,000 of our nation's Catholic youth gathering in communion to represent not only our future church but, to show we are the church of today," said Peyton Faucett of Kinder.

"My favorite part was the music and seeing so many Catholics gathered together worshipping God," said Vanessa Landry from Hathaway.

"This is my second trip to NCYC and my favorite part is how it shows a physical representation of what the word Catholic is. The word catholic means universality and it really shows its not just the people in your parish, its the whole country not just the USA but the world. It's just a wonderful representation of what it means to be a Catholic in this day and age," said Kaitlynn Ackoury, Immaculate Conception, Sulphur youth director.

The young of the Church are stepping up and taking an active role in the Church



Eighty-five youth and various adult chaperones attended the 29th Biannual National Catholic Youth Conference held in November in Columbus, Ohio. The trip

was coordinated by the Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

today. Knowing sometimes we don't always have a map to show us the way, making us go into uncharted territory. This is where the theme of the conference "Discover the Way" came from and throughout the Conference we were encouraged to discover the way to our faith.

When the teens from Louisiana and around the U.S. were asked how they

discovered their way these were some of the answers.

"I discovered the way through music in which God has furthered me and allowed me to use my abilities which he has gifted me with," said Blake Bruchhaus of Kinder.

"I discovered the way when Steve Angrisano taught us how to pray with singing. So now I don't just sing the

song just to sing it, but to pray the lyrics. Now I'm able to stand up and be comfortable in my faith," Carolyn Kata, a resident of Chicago, Ill.

"I've never been so proud of my Catholic faith, because we discovered the way through the sacraments of the Catholic Church," said Stephanie Suarez.

Throughout the confer-

ence, the teens ultimately discovered the way, through Jesus and his church. The teens proudly proclaimed this down the streets and in airports of Ohio, singing the words to the conference theme song, "Jesus es el Camino, El es la verdad, El es la vida" - Jesus is the way, He is the truth, He is the life, Discover the way.

January Forty-Hours Devotion sites, times

Christ the King, Lake Charles

Noon to 5 p.m., today, Friday, January 11.

St. Theodore, Moss Bluff

6 a.m. Thursday, January 17 to 10 p.m. Friday, January 18

St. Martin de Porres, Lake Charles

8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 23;

7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, January 22 and Thursday, January 24.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lake Charles

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day - Tuesday, January 29 and Wednesday, January 30

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lake Charles

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day - Thursday, January 31 and Friday, February 1

Catholic Calendar page sporting new masthead

LAKE CHARLES - For longtime readers of the Catholic Calendar, you may have noticed some changes. First, the page is now being printed in full color. Today, we have more with our masthead now in full color, bringing us more fully into the digital age.

The Catholic Calendar was published for the first time in the American Press on Oct. 15, 1982. That printing of the full page, now is published every other week, was the reinstatement of a

venerable tradition, begun in March 1897. The Rev. Cornelius Van de Ven, then pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Lake Charles, launched the first Catholic newspaper in Southwest Louisiana. "The Catholic Calendar."

The Catholic Calendar is published in three other newspapers in Southwest Louisiana in addition to the American Press - The Beauregard Daily News, The Jennings Daily News, and the Cameron Pilot.



In appreciation for the blessings of life, 48 volunteers from the Church parishes of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the First Presbyterian Church gave the Monday of Thanksgiving week to help rehabilitate two homes damaged by Hurricane Rita. More than 1,000 homes in Calcasieu Parish are still in need of repair working following the storm of more than two years ago, according to the Rev. Henry Mancuso, Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Pictured here are some of the volunteers who worked on a North Shattuck Street home in Lake Charles.

The Offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed on Monday, Jan. 21 to honor Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. They will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 8:30 a.m.

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

Did you know...

Two former pastors of Immaculate Conception Cathedral Church were later raised to the Episcopacy. Rev. Arthur Drossaerts was pastor of Immaculate Conception Church from 1890 to 1892. He was followed by Rev. Cornelius van de Ven who served from 1892 to 1902. Father Drossaerts was elevated to the episcopacy in 1918 as Bishop of San Antonio and raised to Archbishop in 1926 when the See was made an Archdiocese. Archbishop Drossaerts died in 1940. Father van de Ven left Lake Charles in 1902 and was named Bishop of Natchitoches in 1904. It became the Diocese of Alexandria in 1910 when the See moved to Alexandria. Bishop Van de Ven died in 1932.

Several other parishes of the Diocese have been shepherded by priests who were later named Bishops. Do you know which parishes and pastors? Find out in our January 25 issue.