



## The Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Schools: Celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 28 – February 1

"Catholic Schools Light the Way." The theme combines the concepts of God as the light of the world and the light of knowledge that our teachers kindle in students. The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles celebrate Catholic Schools Week by participating in a number of activities to showcase the accomplishments of students, teachers and alumni.

As our local schools in The Diocese of Lake Charles celebrate Catholic Schools Week, they also prepare their schools for prospective families. The seven elementary schools will be hosting Open Houses, followed by new family registration. Parents interested in enrolling students are encouraged to visit the schools on these dates. Parents choose a catholic education for their children for many reasons. From academics

and curriculum to school environment and parental involvement, Diocesan schools meet the academic needs of students by integrating faith, life and culture in a disciplined and safe environment. The Diocese of Lake Charles schools provide an education you can have faith in. Celebrate your child's education!

The Diocese of Lake Charles has four elementary schools in the greater Lake Charles area. The Diocese also has an elementary school in Sulphur, Moss Bluff and Jennings. St. Louis Catholic High School provides a quality education for students in the ninth through 12th grades.

Each elementary school will be holding an Open House and preparing for Spring registration beginning on April 1st.

**(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. The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will be the celebrant of a special Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 28 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in honor of Catholic Schools Week)**

The Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Schools strive to educate students, instill spiritual and moral values and guide children toward bright and successful futures. Catholic Schools Week is held annually to highlight the contributions and gifts of a Catholic Education. This year's theme is

**St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School**  
2510 Enterprise Boulevard  
Lake Charles  
436-7959  
Open House on Tuesday,  
March 4, 6:00 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception Cathedral School**  
1536 Ryan Street  
Lake Charles  
433-3497  
Open House on Wednesday,  
March 5, 9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.

**Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School**  
3908 Creole Street  
Lake Charles  
477-7349  
Open House on Monday,  
January 28, 6:30 p.m.

**Scared Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School**  
1100 Mill Street  
Lake Charles  
436-3588  
Open House on Tuesday,  
March 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Our Lady's Catholic School**  
1111 Cypress Street  
Sulphur  
527-7828  
Open House on Thursday,  
January 31, 6:00 pm

**St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School**  
785 Sam Houston Jones  
Parkway  
Moss Bluff  
855-9465  
Open House on Thursday,  
March 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School**  
600 Roberts Avenue  
Jennings  
824-1743  
Open House on Thursday,  
March 13 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**St. Louis Catholic High School**  
1620 Bank Street  
Lake Charles  
436-7275  
Continuing student registration Feb. 11-22

## A Statement on Ethics Reform for the Government of Louisiana

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a statement from The Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes, Archbishop of New Orleans, on behalf of the Bishops of the Dioceses of the State of Louisiana.)**

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of our State of Louisiana, I wish to express our support for Governor Bobby Jindal's plans to improve ethics in the government of Louisiana.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "Authority is exercised legitimately only when it seeks the common good of the group concerned and if it employs morally licit means to attain it...as with any ethical obligation, the participation of all in realizing the common good calls for a continually renewed conversion of the social partners. Fraud and other subterfuges, by which some people evade the constraints of the law and the prescriptions of societal obligation, must be firmly condemned because they are incompatible with the requirements of justice...it is incumbent on those who exercised authority to strengthen the values that inspire the confidence of the members of the group and encourage them to put themselves at the service of others."

Currently state law (R.S. 42:1101) sets forth four policy goals in the code of governmental ethics:

1. Ensure public confidence in the integrity of government.
2. Ensure the independence and impartiality of elected officials and public employees.
3. Ensure that governmental decisions and policy are made in the proper

channel of the government structure.

4. Ensure that public office and employment are not used for private gain.

Unfortunately, Louisiana has a sad history of corruption at all levels of government. This is harming the common good in various ways. First, it discourages our citizens from participating in the political process itself. Secondly, it convinces out-of-state business interests that it would be a mistake for them to invest in our state. Thus, good paying jobs for our citizens and the attendant taxes they, and the businesses employing them, would pay never come to Louisiana. Thirdly, this in turn negatively impacts our government's ability to meet the legitimate educational, health, and other social needs of our people.

We urge the new state Legislature to work with Governor Jindal to pass legislation that provides improved clarity in the way state government operates. The public needs to see this occur in three areas: (1) personal finance disclosure by public officials, (2) campaign finance disclosure, and (3) spending by lobbyists. All of this needs to be done in order to convince all observers that there is no conflict of interest in the actions of our elected public officials.

There also needs to be a significant increase in the staffing and funding of the Louisiana Board of Ethics. Without these monies, there is no way of providing assurance that ethics reform measures will be monitored for the sake of the common good.

Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes  
Archbishop of New Orleans  
January 2008



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost stands between the new deacons he had ordained in ceremonies at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church last year. The pair, Deacon Nathan Long, left, and Deacon Ruben Buller, right, spent the past seven months in internships at two parishes in the Diocese preparing for their ordination to the priesthood in the spring.

## Deacons spent last seven months living parish life

LAKE CHARLES – Deacons Ruben Buller and Nathan Long are back at their studies at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans now but since June they experienced ordained life in a church parish. The pair completed their seven-month long deacon internships, the former at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the latter at Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church in Welsh, at the end of 2007.

They took part in the many aspects of the ordained ministry of deacon at the parish level – weddings, baptisms, funerals, hospital calls, etc. Both felt it gave them a good grounding in what they might expect following their anticipated ordination to the priesthood later in the spring.

"One thing I noticed right away was that there was not a single day that was typical," Deacon Long said. "Every day was something different. With my personality, I prefer to have a schedule and to know what's coming down the pike but I found it to be very hit or miss. Every day was a new ball game and new things would happen."

For Deacon Buller, he felt it was a good time to actually be in a parish and learn

about being a part of the parish and to put into practice the theology accumulated over the past eight years.

"I think for me the highlight is just to be involved in the life of the community," Deacon Buller said. "To learn about the part of being in a parish with things such as baptisms, wedding, funerals that are unseen in the day to day actions at seminary."

"It was exciting to be involved with families and people who see me from day to day, and week to week, to become part of their life and their family and at the same time for them to become part of my life and my family as well."

For Deacon Long, the internship also gave him a feeling of family with the people of the parish.

"It became really like my family," he said. "That was a surprising happening for me. The longer you are there the more you begin to grow roots into the community you are with, get into their rhythm of life."

"I was surprised how much in my own heart I desired to be present with them, like a Father with his children and to go about life with them," Deacon Long continued. "You walk with

newborns and baptisms, school children, and deal with death and dying and marriage and everything about it becomes one big family for better, for worse. Very surprising but a very beautiful experience for me."

Following a brief break, they will be involved in several academic classes and various practicums this spring at Notre Dame.

### Official Appointment



His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, D.D., makes the following appointment: The Rev. Thomas Vellappallil, M.S., is appointed Pastor to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Carlyss.

By order of The Most Reverend Ordinary,

*Glen John Provost*  
+Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles



Lake Charles Alumni members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity presented canned goods to the Office of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles recently. The contribution came from fraternity initiates who were required to bring 20 canned goods each as part of their initiation process. The canned goods will make up a portion of food baskets for those in need.

### January 40-Hours Devotion sites, times

- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lake Charles  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day - Tues., Jan. 29 and Wed., Jan. 30
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lake Charles  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day - Thurs., Jan. 31 and Friday, Feb. 1 (Times TBA)
- Our Lady of LaSalette, Sulphur  
Thurs-Sat. Feb. 7-9
- Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy  
Sun.-Sat. Feb. 10-16
- St. Theresa of the Child Jesus  
Sun.-Sat., Feb. 17-23
- Immaculate Conception, Maplewood  
Sun.-Fri., Feb. 24-29
- St. Philip Neri, Kinder  
Mon.-Wed., March 3-5
- St. Joan of Arc, Oberlin  
Thurs.-Sat., March 13-15
- No Exposition During Holy Week  
March 16-23
- Our Lady Help of Christians, Jennings  
Tues. March, 25
- Immaculate Conception, Jennings  
Wed. March 26
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jennings  
Thurs. March 27

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 4 and 5 for the Mardi Gras holidays. The offices will reopen on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 8:30 a.m.

### Did you know...

Bishop Jude Speyrer, the founding Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles had been pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Arthur from 1964 to 1969. In 1989, Bishop Sam Jacobs, currently Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux, was named to the Diocese of Alexandria. Bishop Jacobs had been pastor of both Our Lady of Good Counsel in Lake Charles and St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake.

Two young seminarians studying for the Diocese of Lake Charles are scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood this spring. Who was the first priest ordained for the then new Diocese of Lake Charles in June 1980?