



THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

A Good Friday Message from Bishop Provost

My dear People,

In every Catholic church in the world on Good Friday, the account of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the Gospel of St. John will resound. Along with the other accounts of the Passion, it is a moving testimony to the final hours of Jesus before His crucifixion.

As all Catholics know who attend Holy Week services, the Gospel is unusual because it is a choral reading, with different readers taking the parts of Jesus, the Narrator, and the other figures in the Passion, while the congregation speaks the part of the crowd. In this way we are invited into the drama of the event. We are made to relive it. It is as though we were there ourselves.

Catholic liturgy accomplishes this. We are present to Our Lord Jesus as He prays in the Garden of Olives, walks the streets of Jerusalem, appears before Pilate, is scourged and beaten, carries His heavy cross, and finally speaks those momentous words, "It is finished." What has Jesus accomplished?

I am particularly struck by the irony of Pilate and what he says. With Jesus standing before him, Pilate asks the question, "What is truth?" Pilate asks this in the spirit of the Roman times. He asks it as a cynic would. In this aspect, our world is not much different from Pilate's.

The world today is filled with a great deal of cynicism. Many have lost faith in institutions. They have lost their equanimity. There is anger, but people do not know what to be angry about. There is dissatisfaction, but there are few answers. There is great distrust of human nature and motives. Pilate is indeed a very modern man. What does Jesus have to offer him? In asking the question, "What is truth?", Pilate has in fact missed the point. Truth stands before his eyes.

Truth needs no justification. As a matter of fact, truth simply is. Jesus taught this as well. When Jesus says that He is "the way, the truth, and the life", He is drawing attention to the fact that truth does not reside apart from Him. The Father has sent Him. As the Father is true, Jesus reveals the truth. "I did not come on my own," Jesus explains, "but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true" (John 7:28).

Jesus is willing to die, and in so doing gives testimony to the truth. He obediently embraces the Father's will for Him. His death on the cross demonstrates the truth of everything He taught.

It is one thing for a messenger to preach a message. It is quite another thing for the messenger to be willing to die for it. This is exactly what Jesus does. The cross testifies to the message and its truth. For this reason, St. Paul will write, "We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:23-24). The cross is the constant reminder of the truth of what Jesus did and said. As Jesus stood before Pilate, the cross must stand before the world to witness to the truth.

This truth of the cross must be preached and witnessed to in the lives of every Christian. Again as St. Paul expresses it, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14). To identify with Christ to this extent is, I think, the goal of every Christian.

The world simply needs to see witnesses to the Truth. It needs no more mediocrity. When the Pilates of the world ask, "What is truth?", they should find an heroic answer in the lives of faithful Christians who take their faith seriously and seek to follow God's commandments. To do so is to embrace the cross, but that embrace implies a victory.

I extend to you my best wishes and blessings for a joyful Easter. As we renew our baptismal promises at every Easter Mass, may we renew our commitment to the Truth. May the sufferings of Jesus be ours, so that His victory might also be ours.

Devotedly yours in our Risen Lord,

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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National, state and local representatives of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) continue their work on a Habitat for Humanity house in Cameron. Working on painting the living room of the home are, from left, Lillian Broussard, member Court 1377, St. Raphael, Iowa; Vickie Broussard, National Director, member Court 1377; Sylvia Waits, Past State Regent; Joyce Stein, State Second Vice Regent; Barbara Michael, Regent, Court Regina Coeli 2063, Baton Rouge; Alice Tassin, State Regent; and Ellen Corbello, State Secretary.

SW Louisiana non-public Students-of-the-Year named

LAKE CHARLES - Three students of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles have captured Student of the Year honors in Southwest Louisiana district competition for non-public schools, it has been announced by Mrs. Mary Ann Moses, Interim Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Miss Elizabeth Joseph, who attends Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School in Lake Charles was named the Fifth Grade Student-of-the-Year. Miss Megan Moore, who attends Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur, was awarded the Eighth Grade Student-of-the-Year award and Miss Patty French, who attends Saint Louis Catholic High School in Lake Charles was named Twelfth Grade Student-of-the-Year.

The following young people represented their schools at the district competition held in early February.

Fifth Grade Students-of-the-Year in their respective schools were Aaliyah Ardoin, Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School; Emily Deters, Saint Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School; Chloe Guinn, Bethel Christian School; Bayleigh Lancelos, Our Lady's Catholic School; MacKenzi Thibodeaux, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School; Zachary Boullt, Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School.

Eighth Grade Students-of-the-Year in their respective schools were Madison Blackwell, Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School; Caitlyn Lewis, Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School; Aimee McNally, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School; Lexis Johnson, Saint Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School; and Jonathan Vogel, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; and Katherine Wall, Bethel Christian School.



Miss Elizabeth Joseph



Miss Megan Moore



Miss Patty French

Sister Monica Stelly to be honored for 70 years of religious life

NEW ORLEANS - Sister Monica Stelly, M.S.C., a native of Lake Charles, will be honored for 70 years of religious life as a Marianite of the Holy Cross on Saturday, March 29 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Holy Cross College Basil Moreau Center. Seven other sisters will also be honored for 50 or more years as Marianites.

Sister Monica grew up in Sulphur. She attended St. Charles Academy in Lake Charles, as did her three sisters and brother. She graduated in 1938 as class valedictorian. Her family has the unique distinction of having a student, either a child or a grandchild, in the Catholic schools of Southwest Louisiana from 1919 to the present time, save for eight



Sister Monica Stelly, M.S.C.

years. In fact, there will be a family member attending Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles until

2012, according to Sister Monica

After decades of service in other parts of Louisiana, Sister Monica came back to Lake Charles to teach at St. Louis Catholic High School. She remained there for nine years as both teacher and department head of mathematics.

After her retirement from St. Louis, she continued to volunteer at St. Louis and Immaculate Conception Cathedral School.

In 2006, Sr. Monica was inducted into the St. Louis Catholic High School Hall of Fame. At present, she resides at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Convent in Opelousas. She ministers at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility.

Did you know...

In August 1980, Bishop Jude Speyrer ordained eight men to the Permanent Diaconate. Today, there are 28 Permanent Deacons ordained for the Diocese of Lake Charles. The men who made up that first group of deacons for the new diocese were Gordon Broussard, Dan Landry, Milton P. White, George Stearns, and John Eaves. Three others, now deceased, Paul Perrin, Paul Thompson, and John Segura were also ordained at that time.

The Diocese has seen two married ministers of other faiths ordained to the priesthood, under the Church's "Pastoral Provision." Do you know who they were? Find out in the April 4 Catholic Calendar.

Healing Service slated April 3 at St. Henry

LAKE CHARLES - Alan Ames, an internationally known evangelist, will provide his own conversion story and lead a healing service at St. Henry Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue, on Thursday, April 3.

The Very Reverend Daniel Torres, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lake Charles and pastor of St. Henry, will celebrate Mass beginning at 7 p.m. Following the Liturgy, Ames will speak for about 45 minutes on his life and conversion from a violent, alcoholic man to one of complete devotion to God. The Blessed Sacrament will then be exposed and a healing service, including recitation of the Rosary and singing of hymns, will follow. Confession will be available during the healing service. The evening will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Ames was born in Bedford, England in 1953 and, though raised Catholic, strayed from the Church. His ways led him to living a wasted life of drinking and fighting.

His meeting with Kathryn, a girl from Australia, seemed to change his outlook on life. They married, moved to Australia, and were blessed with two children.

Later, however, the life he had previously led returned to his thoughts and he began to hear voices that urged him to drink and fight. Confused, and mindful of being labeled 'mad' if he openly complained, he kept this to himself. Eventually he fell into his old habits.



Alan Ames

He began having nightmares and, his wife, concerned with his behavior, suggested he see a priest. He did not take her suggestion but, in seeking a solution, went to various individuals who purported to be healers.

The turning point of his life happened in 1993 when Ames saw his past life displayed before him and experienced how his sins and wrong ways had hurt God. He saw how Jesus offered him forgiveness from the cross. After some struggles, Ames accepted the forgiveness offered by Jesus and he became one of the Lord's witnesses, sent to carry God's love into the world.

Since 1994, he has been travelling the world to witness how God lifted him from misery and hopelessness into a life full of joy and freedom.

For information about Ames, go to www.alanames.org. For more information about the service, call Kathleen Berry at 337-478-2484.

The Offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles are closed today, Good Friday, March 21 and Easter Monday, March 24. They will reopen on Tuesday, March 25, at 8:30 a.m.

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