

## 2008 CLI attendance highest in recent history



LAKE CHARLES – This year's Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) had the largest number of participants in recent history, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, Director of the Office of Youth Ministry. The event and its cohort, the Advanced Christian Leadership Institute, drew 76 participants who were overseen by 41 staff members.

The week-long session, whose beginnings go back nearly to the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles, is an annual event that brings Catholic youth together to learn leadership skills.

"I think of CLI as 'where the rubber meets the road,'" Thibodeaux said. "It is a safe, Christian place where teenagers can express themselves, learn a little more about who they are, and little more about who their neighbor is,

"It's a great way to build leadership skills and develop communication techniques that will truly help them in their everyday life," she continued. "I strongly believe it is the

best thing that we do, because it gives them the tools to put in their tool box for life."

Thibodeaux pointed out that more than a third of the 41 staff members, who gave up a week of their summer, were themselves former CLI participants. "That is evidence of the magnitude the program can have on these young people," Thibodeaux said. "One staffer told me that it has 'really, really' changed me."

It was the young person's first year as staff but the third time attending the program.

Eligibility for CLI is being a high school student. Graduating seniors and incoming freshmen also may attend.

"The program consists of all aspects of ministry, prayer, Catechesis, service, mission, fellowship, and it is by definition an evangelization tool," Thibodeaux said. "When teens leave, they are on fire. They are ready to do more, learn more, and give more."



In the exercise known as "car wreck", CLI attendees, in the top and bottom photos, some blindfolded, others unable to speak or use their hands or feet, learn that in our faith journey, in our everyday world, we can not do anything alone. It gives them visual that we must rely on other people and especially God. Center, Russ Crawford, a staff member originally from DeQuincy who attended CLI as a teen, talks to the young people about the "marble game." A justice game that strives to give them a visual of the different economic groups in the world and that we are called to use our

gifts and advantages to help other people, that we are called as Disciples of Christ to make a difference for all peoples. At right, in the "T-Shuffle", an exercise for those attending ACLI (those who have been to CLI at least twice and are at least juniors) works on team building and non-verbal communication skills. The exercise works to enhance the ability to communicate with other people, learning to work as a team, to achieve a goal, without using verbal communication.

## Trejo named new director of Catholic Charities

LAKE CHARLES – Patricia "Trish" Trejo has been named as Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles, according to an announcement from Rev. Henry Mancuso, Secretary for Pastoral Services of the Diocese. She succeeds Mrs. Carolyn Fernandez who has accepted a position with Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston.

"This is a dream come true," Trejo said upon accepting the position. "In my early years of college study, social work was a genuine interest. Being able to help people help themselves is both a privilege and a challenge. Approaching this ministry from the standpoint of my Catholic faith, I feel the call to embody the helping hand of Jesus to those in need."



Patricia Trejo

cuso, Trejo's 10-year background in Catholic school teaching and administration at St. Louis Catholic High School and St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School is a definite plus.

of Catholic Social teaching and her desire to see people better themselves will shape the way she provides services while expanding the ministry of Catholic Charities," Father Mancuso said. "Her missionary spirit, shown through volunteer trips to Mexico, shows that she is not afraid of new adventures. Her knowledge of Spanish will be of help as we reach out to people moving into our community."

She and her husband Travis are members of Immaculate Conception Parish in Sulphur. Her interest in Inter-faith dialogue as seen in her participation in the "Bearing Witness" programs of the U.S. Holocaust Museum and the Anti-Defamation League will help her to work in a spirit of unity with all of our community.

"Mrs. Trejo's knowledge



The First Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost will be held Friday, August 1, beginning at 7 a.m. in Ave Maria Hall of the office building of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Lake Charles. The event draws men from many sections of the Diocese. At a recent meeting were, from left, Dr. Charles Woodard, Max Morris, Bennie Buller, Father Nathan Long, Lawrence Jones, Kenneth Long, and Dr. Enrique Mendez. Men interested in attending the next breakfast should call 337-439-7400 to register.

## "Come to the Well" Aug. 9

LAKE CHARLES – Each day men and women suffer greatly from the loss of a child. A special program entitled "Come to the Well: A Day of Hope and Restoration" aims to aid those who have lost a child due to any number of circumstances and will be held Saturday, August 9, at Saint Charles Center.

The program, sponsored

by the Office of Pro-Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., concluding with Reconciliation at 3 p.m. and celebration of Mass at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of the Assumption, according to Kathy Owen, director of the Office of Pro-Life

"It started in Lafayette through their pro-life office about three years ago as an outreach to those who had lost a child, as a post-abortion ministry outreach to women and men suffering over the death of the child," Owen said. "But, it is not just for post-abortive women. It is for women and men - grandmothers, grandfathers, and anyone grieving - who have lost a child for any reason.

"The way it is done is that attendees hear testimony in a large group format from a woman who has lost an adult child," Owen continued. "Then twice throughout the day they meet in smaller groups based on their type of loss - abortion, SIDS, suicide, and so forth. Each group will have people with losses from similar circumstances."

Past attendees have indicated the event has been most helpful in their grieving process.

"They feel like they are not alone, that they are not the only one grieving," Owen said. "They share that grief with others, affirming, in a

way, that they suffer with each other. They say that each time they share their stories their own healing is furthered."

Also during the day there will be music as well as art therapy. "Father Whitney Miller, who holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Psychology and has a Masters Degree in Expressive Therapies, will lead a therapeutic art process with them," Owen said.

Lyn Holly Doucet is the retreat director for the program, which alternates yearly with Lafayette as to the site.

"She is a wonderful author who has written three books, including Water from Stones: An Inner Journey: Healing Troubled Hearts: Daily Spiritual Exercises, and A Healing Walk with Ignatius: Finding God in Difficult Times," Owen said.

The day actually starts with a prayer service featuring "living scripture". The scene of the woman at the well with Jesus is played out. "It brings the scripture alive and is very moving," Owen said.

Brochures are available from individual church parishes as well as the Office of Pro-Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles located at 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. The cost is \$25 per person or \$40 for a couple and lunch will be provided. For additional information call 337-439-7426.



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, accepts the gifts of bread and wine from members of the Habetz family during the Liturgy celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of St. Henry Catholic Church. The Church was established June 21, 1958 by Bishop Maurice Schexnayder of Lafayette. Rev. Msgr. Daniel Habetz was the founding pastor of St. Henry. At right are Rev. Ruben Buller and, partially hidden, Deacon Ray Granger.

### Did you know...

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron and St. Henry Church in Lake Charles celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their establishment in 2008. Our Lady Star of the Sea, which had been a chapel of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Creole, was badly damaged by Hurricane Audrey in 1957. On June 21, 1958, Bishop Maurice Schexnayder signed a decree that established the new church parish under the protection of Our Lady Star of the Sea with Rev. Eugene Sennerville as the founding pastor. On that same date, Bishop Schexnayder also established St. Henry with Rev. Daniel Habetz as the founding pastor. St. Henry had been a chapel of Immaculate Conception Cathedral Church.

Which church building of the Diocese of Lake Charles took nine years to build? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.