

Msgr. DeBlanc Seminary Burse established

LAKE CHARLES – The recent gift of \$100,000 to the Diocese of Lake Charles to establish a seminary burse in the memory of Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc has increased the total amount invested for seminarian education to more than three-quarters of a million dollars.

The contribution, the largest single donation ever made to open such a trust, was made through Villa Maria Retirement Center and establishes the Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc Seminary Burse. The presentation of the check from Villa Maria was made to The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, during a recent ceremony at the retirement center.

A seminary burse is a permanent fund set aside to provide income for the education of seminarians. The principal of the fund is never spent but invested, with the interest used each year for seminarian education expenses. Since the principal is never touched, this fund is truly a "gift that keeps on giving." Donations made to the fund will continue to support the education of seminarians every year, as long as the Diocese exists.

With this contribution, the Diocese has 46 seminary

burse, named for a variety of people and organizations. The total amount invested for seminarian education is now \$758,036.09.

"The gift of a seminary burse for the benefit of the education of seminarians is a fitting and loving tribute to our beloved Msgr. Irving DeBlanc," Bishop Provost said. "I knew him personally, and he would have cherished the idea of such a memorial that offers very real assistance to those preparing for the priesthood in the Diocese of Lake Charles. As the number of our seminarians increases, we should all offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of Msgr. DeBlanc that makes their education possible."

Eight seminarians are expected to be in various stages of study for the priesthood this year.

The fact that the money for the gift came from Msgr. DeBlanc to the Diocese through the retirement center, a facility that exists due to a concept and the hard work of Msgr. DeBlanc, is a continuing example of Msgr. DeBlanc's stewardship to the Church and community. "He was an integral part of Villa Maria," said John Cardone, Sr., a member of the board of directors.

The Board of Directors of

Villa Maria decided that memorializing its generous benefactor and founder through a seminary burse would be appropriate.

"Msgr. DeBlanc was a big supporter of the seminarians," said John Marcon, president of the Villa Maria Board. "The Board thought it would be a good way of providing a memorial to him. He always wanted to see the Church grow and without seminarians it won't grow. We felt it was a real honorable way of meeting his wishes."

"It will be something that people will remember forever and ever because it will be ongoing," Marcon continued. "We hope that it will trigger something among others who would add to the burse in Msgr. DeBlanc's name."

Msgr. James Gaddy, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven and a member of the board of directors of Villa Maria, pointed out "Msgr. DeBlanc often said, 'The greatest fraternity in the world is the brotherhood of priests!' He took many opportunities to socialize and enjoy the company of his brother priests. He devoted an entire chapter on vocations in his book: 'Who, Me... A Sidewalk Saint?' He was particularly

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The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, third from right, accepts a check for \$100,000 to establish the Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc Seminary Burse for the Diocese of Lake Charles. The money came through Villa Maria Retirement Center as a memorial to the late Msgr. DeBlanc, longtime pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Flanking Bishop Provost during the presentation, from left, are Joann Niles, Villa Maria administrator along with board members Peggy Rosteet, Mary Ann Holmes, Elaine Trahan, John Marcon, president, Msgr. James Gaddy, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, and John Cardone.

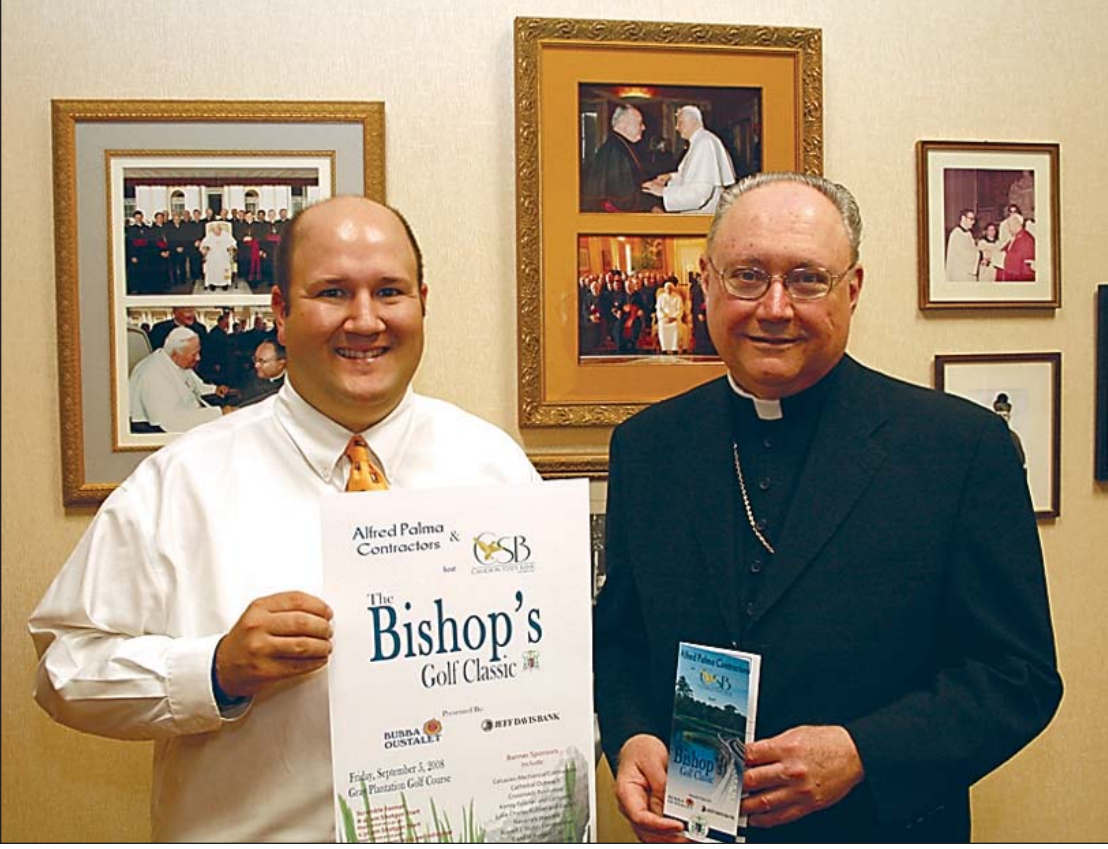
proud of the fact that he was influential in encouraging and enabling some young men to consider and to become priests," Msgr. Gaddy continued. "Priesthood and the education of seminarians was dearest to his heart and dedicating a seminary burse in his name is greater a trib-

ute than any other in light of his undying esteem for the priesthood."

During the ceremony Msgr. Gaddy announced that he would add to the Msgr. DeBlanc burse himself by pledging a month of his salary.

For more information

about making a contribution to the Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc Seminary Burse, another existing burse or creating a special burse of the donor's choosing, contact Chip Gauthé at the Office of Development of the Diocese, 337-439-7400, Ext. 307.



Bishop Glen John Provost, right, and Chip Gauthé, Director of Development, hold an entry form and poster for The Bishop's Golf Classic, benefiting seminarian education and the priest retirement fund, set for Friday, Sept. 5 at Gray Plantation Golf Course. The four-person scramble will have morning and afternoon starts. Food and beverages will be provided on the course. Entry fee is \$500 per team or \$125 per person. Contact your church parish, Gauthé at 337-439-7400, Extension 307, or at chip.gauthé@lcdioocese.org for more information or an entry form.



The Rev. Ruben Buller, Chaplain for Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School, blesses the Pre-K/Kindergarten classroom as well as students and teachers on the first day of classes for 2008-2009. Enrollment in the eight Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles on opening day stood at 2,722, an increase of 15 over the first-day figures from a year ago.

St. Paul lecture series to begin at St. Henry

LAKE CHARLES – St. Henry Catholic Church will host a Wednesday night Lecture Series on St. Paul, beginning on Sept. 3 and continuing until Nov. 19, according to the Very Rev. Daniel Torres, pastor. The series will profile different aspects of St. Paul, his life, and works during this Pauline Year.

Each session will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Mass in St. Henry Church, followed at

6:15 p.m. with a meal in the St. Henry Community Center. The lecture begins at 6:45 p.m. and continues until 7:45 p.m.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will open the series on Sept. 3 with "The Nature of the Pauline Year."

Rev. Ruben Buller will speak on "St. Paul and the Liturgy" on Sept. 10; Msgr. Joseph Bourque will deal with "St. Paul: The Man" on Sept. 17 and "I Thessalonians: St. Paul's first letter" on Sept. 24.

Rev. T. L. Herlong will speak on "Kenosis: The Emptying of Christ in St. Paul" on Oct. 1; Rev. Whitney Miller will offer "Community Life in the Writings of St. Paul" on October 8;

Rev. Derek Covert will speak on "Ephesians 4: St. Paul's Understanding of Christ, Marriage, and the Church," and Msgr. Ronald Groth will speak on "St. Paul and the Law" on Oct. 29.

November lectures will have Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May speaking on "The Travels of St. Paul" on Nov. 5. Rev. Nathan Long will close out the series with "The Eschatology of St. Paul, The End Things, Part I" on Nov. 12 and "The Eschatology of St. Paul, The End Things, Part II" on Nov. 19.

A \$5.00 donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collected at the door.

To register for the first lecture, please call the St. Henry Church office at 436-7223.

Did you know...

The Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette have made their presence felt in the Diocese of Lake Charles, even before its establishment. The Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette, invited the order into the Diocese of Lafayette in 1921 to minister to the faithful of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Sulphur. Over the years LaSalette priests have shepherded 13 parishes in Southwest Louisiana. Most were west of the Calcasieu River, along the Cameron coast and DeRidder. Today, four parishes, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Our Lady of LaSalette in DeQuincy; Our Lady of LaSalette in Sulphur and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus in Carlyss, have LaSalette priest pastors.

Other religious orders of men and women also played important roles in the Diocese. Who were those faithful servants of God? Find out in the next Catholic Calendar.

Evening Vespers for Saint Peter Claver Sept. 7

LAKE CHARLES -- Evening Vespers will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, September 7 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street in observance of the Feast Day of the Patron Saint of the diocese of Lake Charles, St. Peter Claver.



Bishop Glen John Provost meets with Cecil and Leslie Clark, the new owners of the house built by Habitat for Humanity in Cameron with the physical and financial aid of the State and local Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, along with a grant from Swift Energy Charitable Foundation. Bishop Provost blessed the new residence recently. It is the first of two houses that the State Court of the Catholic Daughters committed to assist in building following the hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The second house will be in New Orleans.

Proud2BCatholic Family Music Festival Sept. 6

SULPHUR – The Third Annual Proud 2B Catholic Family Music Festival of Louisiana will be held Saturday, September 6, from 12:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Sulphur High School freshman campus. The family-oriented, indoor event, "Witness 2B Hope," is sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles and the Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette.

celebration of the Mass will be at 6 p.m. The event will close with Eucharistic Adoration on the main stage. The Adoration Chapel will be open from noon to 5:30 p.m.

A variety of Catholic-Christian music will be performed by Steve Angrisano, Matt Maher, Josh Blakesley, Cooper Ray, Kelly Pease, Clay Vessel, Augie Leal and others.

"We expect it to be a phe-

nominal day," said Milissa Thibodeaux, director of the Office of Youth Ministry. "It has turned into a family festival."

The program, originally promoted as just a music festival, has become somewhat of a hybrid, according to Thibodeaux.

"When I was first approached (about the festival) we learned it was designed to be just a music festival,"

Thibodeaux said. "I met with some youth directors, and they wanted to know where the substance could be found. So we modified it with breakout sessions and other things to fit our area."

In addition to the main stage there will be a "Talks and More Stage" sponsored by St. Michael Music which will also feature breakout sessions on key topics such as the festival theme, Theol-

ogy of the Body, prayer, discipleship and apologies. Speakers will include Cooper Ray, Stephanie Clouatre-Davis, Chip Gauthé, Joshua Boutte, and others.

There will also be a new feature, the "Vocations.com Coffee House," open from 1 to 5:30 p.m., with scheduled talks, testimonies, acoustic music sessions and more. A

special "Kids for Christ Play Area" will feature numerous activities such as arts and crafts, sand art, "Party for the Pope" and much more.

Tickets for the event may be purchased by contacting the Diocese of Lake Charles at 337-439-7426, Ext. 301. For information contact Thibodeaux at milissa.thibodeaux@lcdioocese.org.

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