



His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, center, is pictured with students from each of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles in front of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 25-31. Those students include Abby Stillwell from Holy Family Catholic School, Caroline Wilson from Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Darryl Elias from Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Amanda Willis and Jonathon Cox from St. Louis Catholic High School, Lauren Reye from Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Colin Schram from St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Alyssa Navarre from Our Lady's Catholic School, and Dwayne Tousand from Sacred Heart Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School.



## Message from Bishop Glen John Provost for Catholic Schools Week – January 25-31

The Catholic Church values its commitment to education. While parents are the first and primary educators of their children, the Church has historically assisted them in this cherished task.

It was the Catholic Church that sustained schools during the most difficult and historic times of war, conflict, and transition. The Catholic Church began the university system of education almost a thousand years ago. The Church fostered the scientific method, opened the first medical schools in the West, maintained the first libraries, and helped spread the use of printing. In our own state of Louisiana, the first schools were founded by the Church in the 18th and early 19th centuries, and the oldest schools in our area are Catholic institutions. While acknowledging this valuable contribution to our society and our civilization, we must also look to the future.

As Catholic Schools Week comes to an end, we are aware of the challenges that face our world. The present economic crisis is a cause for great concern, not to mention the strains brought upon us in Southwest Louisiana by the recent hurricanes. As serious as these crises are, a much more fundamental problem is the disintegration of the family and moral life in our society.

I firmly believe that Catholic Schools can assist in re-affirming the values and principles of life and love. These values and principles are based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church. They are found in our Sacred Scriptures and our Sacred Tradition, and the Church is their uncompromising teacher. In gently guiding our young, providing them with needed discipline and the knowledge they will need to live a healthy and well-balanced life, Catholic Schools continue to fulfill their mission.

May Catholic Schools be a dynamic force in strengthening our parents, families, children, and society.

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

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

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: Catholic Schools Week is celebrated across the country this year during the week of January 25-31. The eight Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles are St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Sacred Heart of Jesus/St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff; Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings; and Our Lady's Catholic 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 involvement, 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 19 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, 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 individualized plans for classroom teaching. Parents are assured that students receive a 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 education 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 overall faith of students while they learn Christian values and morals necessary for a full and productive life. Each school will be holding an Open House and preparing for Spring registration.

## Diocesan Briefs

### Forty Hours Devotion

LAKE CHARLES – Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament to promote vocations to the priesthood and the religious life here in the Diocese of Lake Charles will be held in the Western Deanery during the month of February.

Our Lady of LaSalette Church in Sulphur hosts the Devotion during the week of Sunday, Feb. 1 through Thursday, Feb. 5 in its Adoration Chapel, which is open 24 hours a day.

St. Joseph Church in DeRidder will take part in the Devotion during its regular schedule of Adoration from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday, Feb. 9 through Friday, Feb. 13.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur will be the host for the Devotion from Sunday, Feb. 16 to Friday, Feb. 20. The hours of Adoration at the church are from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Devotion will begin at 8 a.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 and continue continuously for 40 hours until 12 midnight Feb. 26 at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church in Carlyss.

### February breakfast, luncheon with Bishop set

LAKE CHARLES – The Third Women's Prayer Luncheon with Bishop Glen John Provost will be at noon Tuesday, Feb. 10, in the Lake Charles Civic Center while the Men's First Friday Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Provost will be Feb. 6 in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral Office Building, located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets, at 7 a.m. following the 6:30 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral.

Women who wish to attend the luncheon are asked to send a check for \$10 to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 to register. Please make the check payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles. They are also asked include a self-addressed, stamped envelope so their admission ticket may be mailed back to them. Deadline for registration for the luncheon is Feb. 4.

Men should call 439-7400 to register for the breakfast.

### Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness

LAKE CHARLES – Plans are being finalized for Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness, a day for adults and young adults Saturday, May 23, at St. Louis Catholic High School.

The day, which is being hosted by the Secretariat for Christian Formation of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will feature Steve Angrisano and Christopher West.

Flyers and promotional materials along with ticket information will be available soon.

### Men's Vocation retreat Feb. 6-8

MOSS BLUFF – The 2009 Spring Vocations Retreat, "Come Follow Me," will be held Feb. 6-8 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

There is no charge for those men attending.

The event, which is for men 16 years and older who are seriously discerning a vocation to the priesthood and possess gifts for priestly ministry, begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and ends following lunch on Sunday.

Those men 16 years and older interested should contact their pastor for registration forms or further information. They may also write to Rev. Marcus Johnson, P. O. Box 849, Iowa, LA 70647 for forms or information.

### DYC 2009 set Feb. 20-22

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Diocesan Youth Conference is scheduled for Feb. 20-22 at the Holiday Inn in Beaumont, Texas.

The theme of DYC 2009 will be *Jesus: Taste the Glory*. The weekend is filled with music, keynote addresses, breakout sessions, prayer, adoration, liturgy, and more. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant of the Closing Mass on Sunday morning.

For information call the Office of Youth Ministry, at 337-439-7426, extension 301.

**St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School**  
2510 Enterprise Boulevard  
Lake Charles – 436-7959  
Open House on March 3 at 6:00 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception Cathedral School**  
1536 Ryan Street  
Lake Charles – 433-3497  
Open House on March 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School**  
3908 Creole Street  
Lake Charles – 477-7349  
Open House on January 29 at 6:30 p.m.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School**  
1100 Mill Street  
Lake Charles – 436-3588  
Open House on March 10 at 8:30 a.m.

**Our Lady's Catholic School**  
1111 Cypress Street  
Sulphur – 527-7828  
Open House on March 10 at 6:00 p.m.

**St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School**  
785 Sam Houston Jones Pkwy.  
Moss Bluff – 855-9465  
Open House on March 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School**  
600 Roberts Avenue  
Jennings – 824-1743  
Open House on March 19 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**St. Louis Catholic High School**  
1620 Bank Street  
Lake Charles – 436-7275  
Began taking applications on January 12

## Diocese welcomes new seminarian

LAKE CHARLES – The Diocese of Lake Charles will have a new seminarian this spring as classes begin for the men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese. John B. Huckaby, a Eunice native, entered his second year of theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans on January 20.

Huckaby joins eight other men who are in various stages of study and training.

The 42-year old graduated from St. Edmund Catholic High School in Eunice in 1984 and received a Bachelor of Arts in communications, graduating summa cum laude, from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette in 1988.

He worked in the field of non-profit management and

fundraising in Houston following college where he became acquainted with the Franciscan Friars of New Mexico and began discerning his vocation. While studying with the Friars he began pursuing a Master of Divinity at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio.

"It is a real privilege to be serving as a seminarian and future priest in the Diocese of Lake Charles," Huckaby said. "The people and the priests of the Diocese have been so welcoming as has Bishop (Glen John) Provost. It truly is a great privilege."

Other seminarians of the Diocese include Deacon Scott Conner, Fourth Year Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus Ohio; Jeff Starkovich, Second

Year Theology at Pontifical North American College in Rome; Bryan Thompson, First Year Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; David "Doc" Hardey, Jr., Second Year Pre-Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; Matthew Cormier, Third Year Philosophy at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, La.; Ruben Villarreal, Third Year Philosophy at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; Brandon Jones, Second Year Philosophy at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, La., and Korey LaVerne, Second Year Philosophy at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, La.



John B. Huckaby



More than 700 people participated in events surrounding Pro-Life efforts which occurred on Jan. 22, the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision allowing abortion. Following a Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, a March for Life to the Courthouse, sponsored by the Diocesan offices of Pro-Life and Youth Ministry and New Life Counseling, preceded the presentation "Stand Up for Life." More than 49,551,703 children have been killed by abortions since the Court's judgment.

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

## Did you know...

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Maplewood was established on July 5, 1959 less than nine years after a small chapel was dedicated by The Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard in Nov. 1950. It was a mission of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in the beginning. From its original site it was forced to move due to the construction of Interstate 10 to its current location. The founding pastor was the Rev. Henry Lenz, M.S., then an assistant at Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Priests of the Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette led the parish until 1999 when the Rev. Msgr. Vincent A Sedita was named pastor, a role in which he continues.

Yesterday, Jan. 29, was a significant day in the history of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Do you know the importance of the date? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.