

Social Justice Prayer Service held with 4th & 5th graders

LAKE CHARLES – The Annual Social Justice Prayer Service, sponsored through the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of Lake Charles, was held recently at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church. The Rev. Derek Covert led the Liturgy of the Word for fourth and fifth grade students from the seven elementary schools of the Diocese along with students in the same grades from Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School.

Representatives of each school spoke about topics that require us to realize our need to be socially just, including special needs, the abused, the elderly, the poor, the orphaned, the unborn, the addicted and the homeless. Each school also vowed to help each of these special segments of our society with specific projects.

A representative of each school spoke following Father Covert's homily.

The school's presentations dealt with the special needs of the mentally and physically challenged (Our Lady's Catholic School of Sulphur); the abused (Holy Family Catholic School of Moss Bluff); the elderly (Sacred Heart/ St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School, Lake Charles); the poor (Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings); the orphaned (St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Lake Charles); the unborn (Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Lake Charles); those addicted (Immaculate Conception Cathedral School); and the homeless (Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School).

Each of the classes resolved to assist those about whom they spoke.

Our Lady's School will promote "Pennies from Heaven" Drive for the rest of the year and money collected will be donated to some local organizations that work for the welfare of special children in need.

Holy Family School will pray for abused children and for their families that they may grow closer and show love toward one another.

Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel will visit area nursing homes, bring residents socks and Valentine's cards and spend time reading and visiting with residents.

Our Lady Immaculate will aid the poor by collecting food and clothing for donation to Caring Hands in Jennings while students at St. Margaret of Scotland will help orphans by praying for loving families and raising money to purchase teddy bears to give to children, who are placed in foster homes.

At Our Lady Queen of Heaven School the unborn will be supported by the students continuing the postcard campaign against the passage of the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), writing letters to representatives and senators and holding a "baby shower" to collect items for New Life Counseling.

Those who suffer from addictions will be helped by Immaculate Conception Cathedral School by prayers of the students each day along with educating younger students about addictions and speaking to a trusted adult if they encounter someone with an addiction.

Students at Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School will participate in fundraising and canned food drives for the local food pantry;



The Rev. Derek Covert, Parochial Vicar of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, preaches to the fourth and fifth graders at the annual Social Justice Prayer Service in St. Margaret Church.

will hold a sock drive for the men's shelter, and will serve lunch at Abraham's Tent.

In 1999, Bishop Jude Speyrer responded to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' statement entitled "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions" when he formed the Diocesan Task Force for Social Justice Education. He asked the group to study the document and to recommend concrete goals and objectives to respond to the

challenges. The task force developed a cyclic program for social justice education with three goals, Respect for the Human Person; Respect for the Human Person in Community and Respect for the Human Community in the Global Order, to be implemented in consecutive years.

This program continues today through the auspices of the Office of Religious Education, headed by Mrs. Denise Donahoe.



Bishop Glen John Provost continues to host a Women's Prayer Luncheon as well as a First Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast. The Bishop, at left, speaks at last week's luncheon while at right talks about St. Paul at the recent breakfast. The next Men's Breakfast will be held April 3 in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office building. The Bishop will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral beginning



ning at 6:30 a.m. with breakfast at 7 a.m. Men should register by calling 439-7400. There will be no Women's Luncheon in April. The next one is set Tuesday, May 5. Women are asked to send a \$10 check to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, 70601. They should also include a stamped self-addressed envelope allowing the return of their luncheon ticket to them.

John Halloran elected to National Scouting office



John J. Halloran

LAKE CHARLES -- John J. Halloran has been elected to the chairmanship of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS). He will be sworn in as National Chair-elect at the April 2009 meeting in Galveston.

Following the 2010 national meeting, he will serve three years as the National Chair and then three years as the Immediate Past National Chair. The purpose of the NCCS is to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the program of the Boy Scouts of America as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic Youth of our na-

tion. NCCS has oversight of over 291,000 Catholic Scouts and Scouters and over 9,200 Catholic sponsored units.

Halloran became affiliated with Catholic Scouting in 1971 when he became an Emblems Coach Counselor with the Diocese of Albany, N.Y. He served as Diocesan Chairman for the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, from 1979-1981 and the Diocese of Lake Charles from 1984-1985. Due to military commitments, he has also served on the Diocesan Catholic Committees of Charleston, S.C.; Nashville, Tenn.; and Baltimore, Md.

In 1983, Halloran became a member of the NCCS Religious Activities Committee. In 2001, he was elected as the Region 5 (La., Miss., Ala. Ky., and Tenn.) Chairman serving until 2003 when he was appointed as NCCS Finance vice-chair. Since 2007, Halloran has served as a member of the NCCS Advisory Board.

He was the recipient of the *Ad Altare Dei* (youth religious award) in Sidney, N.Y.; Bronze Pelican Award and St. George Award from the Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Committee on Scouting; and Golden *Ad Altare Dei* Award, and the *Spes Mundi-O'Connell* Award.

Halloran was a 2007 recipient of the Silver St. George Adult Recognition Award, which is the NCCS recognition for dedicated members of its national organization who have worked hard and diligently for many years at the national level, and whose accomplishments in carrying out the youth-serving mission of NCCS have been especially significant.

Other Scouting awards include the Distinguished Eagle from the National Eagle Scout Association and the Silver Antelope from the Southern Region Boy Scouts of America.



The Rev. T.L. Herlong, a senior priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles, recently blessed the new bus being used by Villa Maria Retirement Center. The 14-passenger bus can accommodate two wheelchairs. This provides all residents with transportation options. Residents, board members, and employees were in attendance at the event. Some even took a quick jaunt around the block in the shiny new vehicle.

Did you know...

When the Diocese of Lake Charles was founded in 1980, the two Catholic high schools located within its boundaries were St. Louis in Lake Charles and St. Maria Goretti, in Lake Arthur. St. Louis was the amalgamation of three Catholic high schools, Landry Memorial, St. Charles Academy, and Sacred Heart. That consolidation was made in 1970. St. Maria Goretti was closed in the late 1980s.

Bells have called people to Masses and alerted them in times of trouble or joy. Do you know the name of the bell in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception bell tower? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

Diocesan Briefs

Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness

LAKE CHARLES -- *Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness*, a day for adults and young adults, will be held Saturday, May 23, beginning at 10 a.m. and featuring Christopher West and Steve Angrisano. Doors will open at 9 a.m.

The day, sponsored by the Secretariat of the Ministry of Christian Formation of the Diocese, will be held at St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street. Tickets are \$20 each and seating is limited. The ticket price includes lunch and West's *Theology of the Body* workbook.

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 continues in the Jennings churches.

Our Lady Help of Christians will host the Devotion on March 16-20 while Immaculate Conception begins the Devotion at noon on March 22 continuing for 40 hours. The final stop of the month will be at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on March 24.

Pro-Life Oratory contest set March 26

LAKE CHARLES -- The Office of Pro-Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles is sponsoring a Pro-Life Oratory Contest for high school juniors and seniors. The event begins at 5 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Diocesan Chancery, 414 Iris Street, on Thursday, March 26.

Students will prepare a speech from one of the following pro-life topics: The Tragedy of Abortion, The Tragedy of Infanticide, The Tragedy of Euthanasia, or The Tragedy of Fetal Stem Cell Research.

Deadline to enter is Friday, March 20. For more information contact the Office of Pro-Life at 337-439-7426 or contact your parish Director of Religious Education or Youth Ministry Director.

Pro-Life Banquet on April 2

LAKE CHARLES -- The 18th Annual Pro Life Banquet will be held Thursday, April 2 in the Buccaneer Room of the Lake Charles Civic Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Keynote speakers for the banquet are Dr. Tony Levatino and his wife Cecelia.

The banquet benefits New Life Counseling, a local crisis pregnancy center. Since 1984 New Life Counseling has provided help and support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Tickets for the banquet are \$50 per person, or a table for eight is available for \$400, and can be purchased by contacting New Life Counseling at 474-7003.

"A Grief Observed" offered March 24

LAKE CHARLES - Reverend Whitney Miller will present "*A Grief Observed: A Lenten Evening of Reflection*" from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. There is no charge but a free will offering will be asked to benefit the Center's scholarship fund. To register, call 855-1232.

John Michael Talbot concert March 28

LAKE CHARLES -- John Michael Talbot, the international Catholic singer and composer will be in concert Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m., in St. Henry Catholic Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the general admission concert, which is one of the efforts of St. Henry Church to raise funds for its Building Bridges Capital Campaign, according to the Very Reverend Daniel Torres, pastor. Seating for the concert is limited. Tickets, which are \$20 each, are available at St. Henry Church; Crossroads Bookstore, 601 West Prien Lake Road; and the Diocesan Chancery, 414 Iris Street.

