



More than 1,000 Confirmation candidates, their sponsors, parish religious education coordinators and staff were on hand Sunday afternoon, March 15, for the annual Afternoon of Reflection for Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors held in the Rosa Hart Theatre of the Lake Charles Civic Center. Sponsored jointly by the offices of Youth Ministry and Religious Education of the Diocese, the event featured music, witness talks, liturgical dance, and a homily by Bishop Glen John Provost.

St. Margaret School honored for its "green" achievements

LAKE CHARLES -- St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School has been named one of 12 Catholic schools honored nationally with the "Catholic Schools of Tomorrow Award - Innovations in Education" by *Today's Catholic Teacher* magazine.

The school's effort, **Think Green Project**, was a winner in the category Innovations in Curriculum and Instruction, using the project motto of "A Cleaner Today for a Green Tomorrow."

"Needless to say, we are very excited at being recognized for our ongoing commitment to environmental awareness," said Mrs. Brenda Dufrene, principal of the 285-student school, which has classes in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

According to the article published in the supplement of the March issue of *Today's Catholic Teacher*, the entire school dedicated itself to helping the environment.

The school's Science Club worked with the National Energy Education Development Project, researching energy sources and placing first in the state for many years. Students also launched a comprehensive recycling program, collecting recyclables in every classroom with student-made

boxes. This project garnered the school first place in the 2008 Keep Louisiana Beautiful Campaign. Students also participated in a Beach Sweep to clean the beaches of Lake Charles.

The Science Club was one of 14 school groups nationwide to win a \$50,000 award in the Lexus Environmental Challenge. The Lexus Environmental Challenge has three components: Land, Water and Air. St. Margaret's recycling program met the Land requirement. The students began a storm drain project for the Water element, and adopted the Save-the-World Pledge for the Air element. They brought information to the community through a mall booth, a science fair, and a blog.

Through the joint efforts of the junior high science teacher, Ms. Judy Reeves, and Thomas Breaux, a former student working on his Eagle Scout project, a solar powered classroom was established. Solar panels and a solar power system were installed and the appliances in the room were changed to Energy Star products for energy efficiency. Even the music department joined in the environmental focus with The Earth Share Project, connecting global cultural music with worldwide environmental concerns.

Over 150 take part in Rite of Election

LAKE CHARLES - More than 150 catechumens and candidates along with their godparents and sponsors were introduced to the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, at the Rite of Election held recently in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Rite of Election is the recognition of God's choice to call catechumens for immediate initiation into the Church. In the Diocese of Lake Charles it coincides with the First Sunday of Lent, closes the period of the catechumenate, and begins the preparation for baptism at Easter. Catechumens who undergo this rite are called the "Elect" during the period of purification and enlightenment.

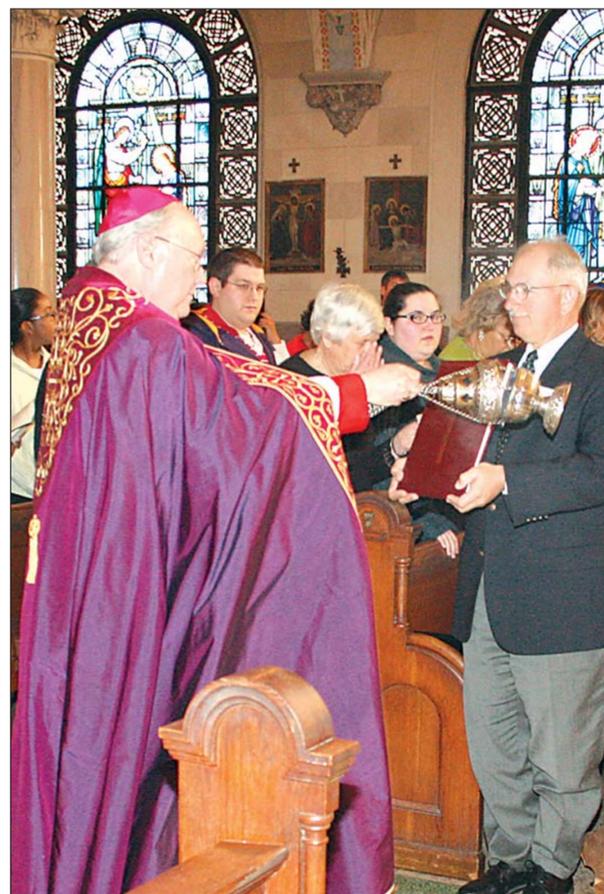
Keys to the Rite of Election are two elements: the inscription of the names of the Elect, and the testimony of godparents and catechists. Testimony occurs in the form of affirmation by the godparents and the assembly. After the catechumens are presented, the Bishop asks the godparents if they

consider the candidates worthy for initiation. This question and answer presumes that some deliberation has taken place prior to this moment. The Rite of Election brings to a ritual moment the decision that these catechumens are ready for baptism.

The inscription is made in the Book of the Elect and the names recorded there are the names by which the Elect will be baptized. After the enrollment, the Bishop announces that the catechumens are members of the Elect.

Baptized candidates, who are preparing for full communion with the Church, are asked to participate in the rite of calling the candidates to continuing conversion. The candidates along with their sponsors are presented to the Bishop for recognition.

Prior to the Intercessions for the Elect and the Candidates and the prayer over them, Bishop Provost incensed the Books of the Elect of the parishes of the Diocese.



Bishop Glen John Provost incenses the Book of the Elect of St. Joseph Catholic Church in DeRidder, being held by the church's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults coordinator Glen Bertrand.



Some 213 eighth grade students and 28 St. Louis Catholic High School students, along with school religious education coordinators, participated in the 10th annual Catholic school retreat for eighth graders recently in Founders Hall of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. The event, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of Lake Charles, featured Cooper Ray, a dynamic and light-hearted speaker and musician from the Diocese of Baton Rouge and had as its theme - "Through the Cross." The St. Louis Liturgical Team assisted Ray by serving as small group leaders and giving witness talks. Sharing his faith with honesty and passion through story, humor, and audience participation, Cooper led the group to a greater awareness of who they are as Catholics and how to recognize God's presence in their lives.

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

Diocesan Briefs

Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness tickets available

LAKE CHARLES -- Tickets are now on sale for *Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness*, a day for adults and young adults, to be held Saturday, May 23, in St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street. The event will feature Christopher West and Steve Angrisano. Doors open at 9 a.m.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at the Bishop Harold Perry Building, 411 Iris Street and Crossroads Bookstore, 601 West Prien Lake Road, both in Lake Charles; Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Maplewood; Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church, Welsh; and St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder.

Seating is limited for this special program, which is sponsored by the Secretariat of the Ministry of Christian Formation of the Diocese. The ticket price includes lunch and West's *Theology of the Body* workbook.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will be the celebrant of a 4 p.m. Vigil Mass.

Breakfast, luncheon with Bishop set

LAKE CHARLES - The Men's First Friday Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost will be April 3 in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral Office Building at 7 a.m., following celebration of the 6:30 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral.

Men may register by calling 439-7400.

The next Women's Prayer Luncheon with the Bishop is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, in the Lake Charles Civic Center.

Women are asked to send a check for \$10 to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. Registrants should also include a stamped self-addressed envelope to allow for the return of their luncheon ticket.

Christmas Charities Collection increased

LAKE CHARLES -- The Christmas Charities second collection in the Diocese of Lake Charles totaled \$59,000 according to Mrs. Trish Trejo, Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese.

This amount represents a \$9,000 increase over the 2007 collection. "Though times have presented economic challenges to the faithful of the area, this support for people in need represents the true spirit of Christmas and Christian concern for those who are having difficulties greater than one's own," said Very Reverend Henry Mancuso, Secretary for the Secretariat of the Ministry of Pastoral Services.

June 7 Jazz Brunch

LAKE CHARLES - The Very Reverend Henry Mancuso, Secretary for Pastoral Services, has announced June 7 as the date for the Catholic Charities Fundraiser for 2009 - a Jazz Brunch.

Since Hurricane Rita, Catholic Charities has not had an annual, area-wide fund raising event, which in the past had been the annual Bishop's Dinner. Because of an increase in requests for services due to the well known economic challenges of our time, it has been decided to schedule an event before the end of this Fiscal Year, according to Father Mancuso.

Members of the community are being asked to "mark their calendars" for the Jazz Brunch set for 12:30 p.m. on Sunday June 7 at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Information regarding tickets will be forthcoming.

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.

Abrazando Cristo Mission Fundraiser

LAKE CHARLES - The annual Abrazando Cristo Mission Fundraiser is underway and the big cash giveaway, with a top prize of \$5,000, will take place on Sunday, June 14, according to the Very Reverend Daniel Torres.

Second prize is \$1,000 with third prize being \$500.

Monies raised from the event benefit the mission work done in Nicaragua - to purchase supplies, Catholic Bibles, medicines and help with evangelizing the Catholic Faith.

For more information, contact Father Torres at 439-7400, Ext. 215.

Benefit golf tournament scheduled

LAKE CHARLES - The Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, June 13, at Mallard Cove Golf Course.

A portion of the proceeds benefits the San Cristobal Orphanage in Managua, Nicaragua.

For information contact Johnnie and Susan Thibodeaux at 337-478-4095.

Bishop Provost will lead Easter Triduum

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil - on April 9-11, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. On Easter Sunday, Bishop Provost will be the celebrant of the 9 a.m. Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church.

On Palm Sunday, April 5, Bishop Provost will bless the palms prior to the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral.

The Bishop will be the celebrant of the Chrism Mass at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8 in the Cathedral. It will be at this Mass where the Holy Oils used during the year are prepared and blessed. The priests of the Diocese will concelebrate.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Holy Thursday, April 9, at 7 p.m. The Bishop will wash the feet of 12 members of the laity in commemoration of Christ washing the feet of His Apostles.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place on Good Friday at 3 p.m. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross, with the faithful recognizing the Cross of Christ as our only hope of salvation. The celebration concludes with Holy Communion.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11, will begin at 8 p.m.

Mass times for Easter Sunday, April 12, in the Cathedral are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Did you know...

Bells have called people to Masses and alerted them in times of trouble or joy. In the past the manner of ringing and the number of bells employed indicated the grade of the feast, the nature of the service, the fact that a sermon would be preached, and many other details. The custom of making such announcements by bell still survives in various places around the world. The 2,020-pound bell nestled in the church tower of the Cathedral is named Mary and was blessed by The Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard on April 19, 1936.

Three Gothic altars are found in the Cathedral. Do you know their unique story? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Monday, April 9, 10, and 13. They will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14.