

New and improved Diocesan website launched

LAKE CHARLES -- After nearly 12 years of its presence on the Internet and honoring the 29th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Saturday April 25th, the Diocesan website has been given a topnotch redesign and has been re-launched with many new and innovative features. The new site is much more user friendly and provides visitors with more information about the local church - the Diocese - along with its church parishes as well as the Catholic Church of the world.

The web address of the Diocese was first launched on the Feast of Pentecost, May 18, 1997, and was updated in 2001.

The third generation of LCDIOCESE.ORG was quietly debuted in December 2008 after a lengthy period of consultation through a committee made up of Rev. Whitney Miller, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation; Deacon George Carr, Deacon at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church and the original webmaster appointed by Bishop Jude Speyrer; Bernell Ezell, Director of the offices of Child and Youth Protection and Evangelization; and Morris LeBleu, Director of Communications.

With input from Bishop Glen John Provost and others, the group began discussing what it would like to see on the new site and how the site could be enhanced, providing more to the visitor than was available in 1997 and during the intervening years.

A more colorful site with much more information was one of the goals. That it had to be interactive and easy to use was of the utmost importance. The ability to place still photos on the site, particularly following Hurricane Ike, provided visitors from all over the world with views of the devastation wrought by the storm. Continuing additions of photo image galleries of rebuilding efforts highlights the more colorful nature of the new website.

Using many concepts from the original site though updated, information about the history of the Diocese, our Bishops, and our parishes can be found along with the ability to contact members of the staff of the parishes and the various Secretariats and Offices. In addition, other more advanced concepts are also in place.

Upon first opening the site, visitors are greeted with an image of St. Paul as well as treated to a Gregorian chant before automatically moving on to the front page.

Currently featured on this page, which changes on nearly a daily basis, is direct access to the Vatican's YouTube site, featuring

our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, and provides information about the Holy See. Also, in keeping with the diligent work of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on pro-life issues, visitors may make their own feelings known via e-mail to their U.S. Senators and Representatives on the Freedom of Choice Act and other potential legislation dealing with life issues. This was the logical next step following the Bishops' postcard campaign that sent millions of missives to the Congress regarding the people's concerns.

Local and national Catholic news provides the core of the opening page with stories of local interest found in the center of the page. Other news stories can be found on the left side of the front page, including news items from the USCCB.

Various ministries and programs, such as Holy Cross and Loyola University courses, have provided forms that visitors can print out, complete, and return for registration. Also forms for the Tribunal are available, though they must be utilized through the auspices of a priest or deacon annulment coordinator in a parish. Individuals may not submit forms to the Tribunal without such assistance.

The importance of Saint Charles Center and its Tabor Retreat House and Saint Katharine Drexel Conference Center continues to be a focus. Events scheduled for those facilities also are featured on the first page.

The site serves not as replacement for any of the other Diocesan communication efforts - the Catholic Calendar (published every two weeks in the American Press, the Cameron Pilot, Jennings Daily News, and the Beauregard Daily News) and **Glad Tidings**, the Sunday morning television program on KPLC-TV - but as a supplement to them.

In fact, visitors can download previously published Catholic Calendar pages, going back to 2002, more than 125 pages.

The homilies and writings of Bishop Provost can also be accessed as well as those of our former Bishops.

Galleries of photographic images can also be found on the site, currently featured are images from the Holy Week celebrations in the Cathedral as well as images from other varied events in the Diocese and stained glass windows from a number of churches in Southwest Louisiana.

Icons on the right side of the front page provide direct access to a number of areas, including the Bishop, Administration, Christian Formation, Pastoral Services, Clergy and



Rev. Whitney Miller, standing left, points out one of the new and improved aspects of the website of the Diocese of Lake Charles to Bishop Glen John Provost, seated, and other members of the website redesign committee prior to the official launch of the site, lcdiocese.org. Other members of the committee include Deacon George Carr, Bernell Ezell, and Morris LeBleu.

Religious, Tribunal, Development, and the Directory. Also on the opening page one can see just what other people are reading by visiting "Most Popular!"

Work continues on the site on a daily basis, both from Diocesan staff as well as the re-design firm and host. Many new items are in the development stage and will be available in the not too distant future.

On the near horizon is the ability to stream video of **Glad Tidings** on the site. The hour-long programs would be available following their airing on television and would be archived so that visitors could see a show from a previous Sunday.

One of the most exciting future possibilities deals with providing visitors with the opportunity to make secure contributions to the Bishop's Services Appeal, the annual Evangelization Appeal through the Companions of Honor as well as the payment of fees for events such as the Diocesan Youth Conference, Christian Leadership Institute as

well entertainment and faith-filled enrichment programs like Reunion 2009.

Though none of this is currently available work continues on how it might be implemented. One of the keys is to make certain that such transactions, because they deal with a person's personal and financial information, are as secure as possible. Many important decisions must be made before embarking on this aspect of the site.

The website will continue to evolve so that those who visit it may find as much information about the programs and ministries of our Diocese as they need as well as be able to make contact - by e-mail, telephone, mail, fax or in person - with those people who can best assist them.

Please check out the new site and let the Office of Communications know your thoughts. Should you find errors please report them to the Office, 337-439-7400, Ext. 304 or to morris.lebleu@lcdiocese.org.



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, hosted members of the Southwest Louisiana legislative delegation recently at L'Eveche, along with members of the staff of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops (LCCB) to discuss issues important to the Church in the upcoming session, which begins Monday, April 27. Pictured, from left, are Daniel Loar, LCCB Executive Director; District 25 Senator Dan "Blade" Morrish, Jennings; District 33 Representative Mike Danahay, Sulphur; Bishop Provost, District 37 Representative Johnny Guinn, Jennings; and LCCB Associate Director Rob Tasman.



Jeffrey Starkovich, center, a seminarian of the Diocese of Lake Charles studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, was instituted as an acolyte on Sunday, March 15 by The Most Reverend Edmund Cardinal Szoka, left, Archbishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Detroit, during the celebration of the Liturgy at the school. Starkovich, who is in his second year of theological studies, was one of 44 seminarians that became acolytes.

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

OLI gains national accreditation

JENNINGS - Eighteen months of work have paid off for Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School (OLI), with the institution earning a recommendation for national accreditation.

The school recently received the news from a quality assurance review team of AdvancED, an organization formed by several accreditation groups. The standing for Our Lady Immaculate puts the school on the same footing as the public schools in Jefferson Davis Parish. The recommendation is for the next five years, at which time another evaluation will be undertaken.

The school was praised for its broad use of community resources and the involvement of its parents, staff, and students as well as business and community leaders who are directly affected by the school.

Within two years the school will have to submit a progress report to AdvancED, showing exactly how they are working to meet the recommendations and suggestions.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Go to lcdiocese.org for more on this story)

Did you know...

In January 1997, the Diocese of Lake Charles began a 36-month pilgrimage leading to the Millennium Year 2000, with Bishop Jude Speyrer visiting a parish each month during that period, beginning with the youngest and culminating with Night Watch in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at midnight on December 31, 1999. Bishop Speyrer gave the title "Proto-parish" to five churches because those five faith communities had once made up the geographic region of what is now the Diocese. Those Proto-parishes and years of establishment are: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (1867); Sacred Heart of Jesus, Creole (1890); Our Lady Help of Christians, Jennings (1891); Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Welsh (1904); and St. Paul, Elton (1913).

Saturday, April 25, is a special day for the Catholic Church in Southwest Louisiana. Do you know what it is? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar!

Diocesan Briefs

Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness tickets available

LAKE CHARLES -- Tickets 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 are going quickly. The event features Christopher West and Steve Angriano with 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.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven School names principal

LAKE CHARLES - Ms. JoAnn Wallwork, currently principal at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings, has been chosen as principal of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School.

Ms. Wallwork was born and raised in the state of New York, and attended Boston College, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in History, with a minor in Education. She received her Masters Degree in Education and Administration from Providence College.

Breakfast, luncheon with Bishop set

LAKE CHARLES - The Men's First Friday Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost will be May 1 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, and include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

OLI seeking principal applicants

JENNINGS - Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School is seeking applicants for the position of principal. Our Lady Immaculate serves students from Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth grade, including a program for 3-year-olds.

For information or an application please contact Mrs. Mary Ann Moses, Superintendent, Office of Catholic Schools, 1112 Bilbo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 or call (337) 433-9640, Ext. 200. Deadline to apply is May 1, 2009.

June 7 Jazz Brunch

LAKE CHARLES - "Jazz on the Lake" is the theme for a June 7 fundraising event to support Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles. The event begins at 12:30 p.m. in the Buccaneer Room of the Lake Charles Civic Center.

It is the first area-wide event sponsored by Catholic Charities in four years. Tickets are \$100 each.

Contact Father Henry Mancuso or Sheryl Nixon at 439-2646 or call Trish Trejo or Shirley Walker at 436-7436 for more information.

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

Special Pre-K program offered by State of Louisiana

LAKE CHARLES - Qualified four year olds entering pre-kindergarten have an opportunity to be selected for free private school classes in the 2009-2010 school year at Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, the only private school in the parish to participate in the program in the upcoming school year.

Open enrollment continues until June 30. A random lottery will be held and the parents of the selected students will be notified by July 10.

Interested parents in Calcasieu Parish should contact the school at 436-3588 to enroll their child by the June 30 deadline. For more information about qualifications, call 1-800-758-6934 or check www.PreKLa.org.

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.