

Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness set for May 23

LAKE CHARLES -- Tickets are now available for *Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness*, a "revival" event day for adults and young adults, both married and single, featuring Christopher West and Steve Angrisano. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, in St. Louis Catholic High School.

Seating will be limited for this special event, so tickets should be purchased early. Doors open at 9 a.m. for the event, which is being sponsored by the Secretariat for the Ministry of Christian Formation of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Bishop Provost will celebrate a 4 p.m. Vigil Mass to conclude the day.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available at the Bishop Harold Perry Building, 411 Iris Street and Crossroads Bookstore, 601 West Prien

Lake Road, both in Lake Charles; Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church in Welsh, Immaculate Concep-



Steve Angrisano

tion Catholic Church in Maplewood, and St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder. Seating is limited for this very special event and the ticket price includes lunch and Christopher West's *Theology of the Body* material. They may also be purchased by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Reunion 2009, Diocese of Lake Charles, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, along with your check, made payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles. For more information call 439-7400, or Ms. Laurie Cormier at 436-5037.

Bishop Provost urges everyone to understand the importance of the event and to make every effort to attend.

"The topics to be considered are of vital importance to the lives of young couples

and those considering marriage, not to mention the average Catholic who wants to deepen his or her faith," Bishop Provost said.

Christopher West is a research fellow and faculty member of the Theology of the Body Institute. He is also one of the most sought after speakers in the Church today, having delivered more than 1000 public lectures on four continents, in nine countries, and in over 150 American cities. His books - *Good News About Sex & Marriage*, *Theology of the Body Explained*, and *Theology of the Body for Beginners* - have become Catholic best sellers.

Theology of the Body refers to the first major teaching project of Pope John Paul II's pontificate - 129 short talks given between September of 1979 and November of 1984 which

provided a profoundly beautiful vision of human embodiment and erotic love. The Holy Father gave the project



Christopher West

the working title "theology of the body."

Steve Angrisano is well recognized as one of the most dynamic and effective communicators with parish groups, youth, families and religious educators in the church today. As a musician, composer and storyteller, Steve has shared his music and message with thousands of people in more than 200 dioceses. He has been featured at major conferences and events around the world, including the National Catholic Youth Conference, Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, and World Youth Days in Denver, Paris, Rome and Toronto.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about this subject, please go to the Diocese of Lake Charles website - lcdiocese.org.)

Jazz Brunch fundraiser for Catholic Charities June 7

LAKE CHARLES -- For the first time since November 2004, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles will hold an area-wide fundraising event, hosting a Jazz Brunch in the Lake Charles Civic Center on Sunday, June 7. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. and brunch will be served at 1 p.m. The last Diocesan-wide event was the Bishop's Charity Dinner at which local people were honored for their gracious assistance to those in need.

Tickets are \$100 each. They are available at the Office of Catholic Charities, 612 Louisiana Avenue, the offices of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 1102 Mill Street, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street; and Our Lady Queen of Heaven, 617 West Claude Street. Tickets may also be purchased by mail from Catholic Charities-Jazz Brunch, 612 Louisiana Avenue, Lake Charles, LA 70601. For more information or to reserve tickets, call 439-7436.

Rev. Henry Mancuso, the Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services, pointed out that along with purchasing tickets, many people

might wish to make direct donations to assist in the effort or, if unable to attend, might make a contribution to Catholic Charities. Those interested in making a donation to the event should also call 439-7436.

Since Hurricane Rita and subsequently Gustav and Ike, the Office of Catholic Charities has operated through donations, grants, and funding from the Diocese, including contributions to the Bishop's Services Appeal. Now, however, the increased needs of the community require decisive fundraising action.

Catholic Charities is a face of compassion, a hand of support, a place of hope, and a way for us to bring the love of God to others, according to Father Mancuso.

"Each day, men and women of all ages come to Catholic Charities from across Southwest Louisiana," Father Mancuso said. "The needs are unique, but in another sense universal. They need food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. Some need a bus ticket and another needs help with funeral expenses for a loved one.

"A few come from afar

having heard that there was work in the area, only to find things just as tough here as back home," Father Mancuso continued. "We do our best to respond to the person in need without ever asking a question about their religious affiliation. We serve anyone who comes to our door."

Each month Catholic Charities provides grocery assistance to an average of 315 families and each week's utility and housing assistance exceeds \$1,800. The transient population is helped with "food to go" and at times offered a washer and dryer so that the homeless can freshen-up their clothing.

"As the old saying goes, 'we must first do well in order to do good,'" Father Mancuso said. "Since November 2004 was the last fundraiser, we thought the idea of a Jazz Brunch would be worthwhile. With your support, we will meet the needs of people in our community and at the same time, those who attend will have a delicious lunch, a delightful time, and sense of accomplishment."



Members of the Catholic Committee on Scouting, from left, Marty Berry, Maria O'Dowd, David Marcantel, Sue Ledet, Father Nathan Long, Susan Fontenot, John Halloran, Richard Roy, and Joe Castro are shown with the 2008 Quality Diocese Award it received from the National Committee on Scouting.

Committee on Scouting earns 2008 Quality Diocese Award

LAKE CHARLES -- The newly reorganized Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Lake Charles has earned the 2008 Quality Diocese Award from the National Committee on Scouting.

The committee was recognized for its dedication and contribution to the "Duty to God" part of the Scouting Promise and the 12th point of the Scout Law - "A Scout is Reverent". The Catholic Committee on Scouting is the official arm of the Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, for Catholic activities and religious programs available for boys, girls, and adults register in Boy and Girl Scouting and Campfire for the five civil parishes of Southwest Louisiana - Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jefferson Davis.

Bishop Provost recently named Rev. Nathan Long, the Associate Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, as the Diocesan Scouting Chaplain.

As Scouting Chaplain Father Long, among other responsibilities, represents the bishop at all meetings of the Diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting and supervises the spiritual wel-

fare of Catholics in Scouting in the Diocese of Lake Charles. At the meeting Father Long was presented with a stole on which the emblem of Catholic Committee on Scouting was sewn.

Officers elected for a two-year term are Susan Fontenot, chair; John Halloran, vice chair; Sue Ledet, Secretary and Communications; Marty Berry, Religious Emblems; Joe Castro, religious activities; Roy Richard, finance; Suzanne Houk, training; Kara Guillory, Girl Scout representative; and Shawn Shamblee, Boys Scouts of America representative. Members at large are Summer Alee, Donn Dees, Tiffany Lessigne, Darin Lessigne, David Marcantel and Maria O'Dowd.

The Committee on Scouting provides those Scouts interested in taking part in religious programs with workbooks for their age levels. Scouts completing the programs are awarded a certificate and medal for their achievement, following approval by their local parish priest or the Scouting Chap-

lain. There are four religious program levels for boys and four for girls offered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

The Committee urges Scouts of all faith traditions to participate in programs available for each faith, according to Mrs. Fontenot. Workbooks and information on the various awards are available from the Calcasieu Area Council Boy Scout Office, 304 Dr. Michael DeBakey Drive (formerly South Ryan Street) in Lake Charles.

Anyone interested in Scouting's Catholic religious programs, obtaining Catholic religious emblem workbooks provided by local Knights of Columbus councils, joining the committee, or making a donation may contact Father Long at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, 477-1236 or any of the Catholic Committee Members.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information on the Catholic Committee on Scouting, go to the website of the Diocese of Lake Charles - lcdiocese.org)

Bishop Provost blesses portico

LAKE CHARLES -- On Easter Sunday morning Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church. While there he blessed the beautiful new portico located at the Lake Street entrance to the Church. According to Msgr. James M. Gaddy, pastor, the portico was built to provide a covered shelter for those entering the Church in inclement weather, especially at the time of funerals and weddings. Also included in the project was a wheelchair ramp for the handicapped.

The portico was only one part of an extensive renovation of the 40 plus year old Church. A cry room and handicapped accessible bathroom were also added at the Lake Street entrance. A new sound system, a new air conditioning and heating system, a refurbishing of the

pipe organ, and complete replacement of the cedar around the outside of the church was undertaken. The replacement of the cedar was due to the extensive deterioration of the wood due to years in the elements. Extensive weatherproofing was also accomplished to ensure that the new cedar would be much more durable and have a longer life.

Parishioners are delighted with the improvements and have expressed their happiness at the beauty and functionality of the new portico, in particular. Msgr. Gaddy told parishioners at the Easter Mass that although the additions and improvements cost the parish nearly one million dollars, they were all paid for thanks to the overwhelming generosity and stewardship of the parishioners through the weekly collections. "No capi-

tal drive or second collection was ever taken for the project," Msgr. Gaddy said.



Bishop Provost blesses new portico at OLQH.

Diocesan Briefs

National Maritime Day

LAKE CHARLES -- National Maritime Day will be celebrated with the blessing of boats on Sunday, May 24, at 3 p.m. at the Lake Charles Civic Center Seawall, according to Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Director of the Seafarers Center of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Deacon Lapoint invites all boat owners, whether military, business or private, to come for the blessing. In recent years all manner of watercraft have taken part in the blessing.

25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass

LAKE CHARLES -- Bishop Glen John Provost will honor couples celebrating twenty-five or fifty years of marriage during the year 2009 at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 7, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Those celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage this year, who wish to attend should register with their church parish office May 22.

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.

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

Special Pre-K program offered

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, according to Ms. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, principal.

Interested parents in Calcasieu Parish should contact the school at 436-3588 before June 30. 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.

Did you know...

The Diocese of Lake Charles began its 30th year of existence on Saturday, April 25. It was on that date in 1980 that Bishop Jude Speyrer was consecrated and installed as the first Bishop of the Diocese in a grand ceremony held in the Lake Charles Civic Center. The Mass was moved because of the great number of people who wished to attend the historical event. Lafayette Bishop Gerard Frey was the principal consecrator while Bishop Maurice Schexnayder, Lafayette Bishop Emeritus, and Bishop Harold Perry, SVD, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans. St. Louis Archbishop John May along with bishops and clergy from throughout Louisiana and Texas also were in attendance.

The names of the buildings at Saint Charles Center, the Diocesan retreat center, honor a number of special people. Do you know who they are? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar!

