

St. Louis Catholic High School graduates 123

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the principal speaker at the 2009 Commencement Ceremonies for St. Louis Catholic High School held May 13 at Burton Coliseum.

Bishop Provost, Reverend Marcus Johnson, school rector; and Ms. Deborah Frank, school president along with Mrs. Dee Butts and Mr. Tony Johnson, Deans of Students, conferred diplomas to the 123-member class.

Father Johnson gave the invocation while Ms. Frank introduced priests in attendance. Mrs. Giselle Puckett, School Counselor, introduced honor graduates.

Jacob Joseph France and Kelsey Elizabeth Miller gave the valedictory and salutatory addresses for the Class of 2009.

Bishop Provost along with Father Johnson, and Sharon Monteaux, Campus Minister, presented the Senior St. Louis Awards,

given this year to Jacob Joseph France and Amanda Willis.

The St. Louis Award is given each year at graduation to the male and female senior student voted outstanding Christian student by their peers and approved by members of the faculty.

The awards are presented to students who have shown the following characteristics: Love of God and Neighbor, Strong Moral Character, Desire to Serve Community, Courage to Stand up for Christian Principles, a Daily Christian Lifestyle, and Proper Use of God-Given gifts.

Father Johnson closed the hour-long event with a Benediction.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For a complete listing of graduates as well as information on St. Louis Senior Class honors, go to lcediocese.org.)



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, center, is shown with the 2009 St. Louis Award recipients Jacob France, left, and Amanda Willis, right, at St. Louis Catholic High School's recent commencement ceremony held at Burton Coliseum. (Photo courtesy Puckett Photography)

Bishop Provost provides prayers, support at the beginning of storm season

LAKE CHARLES – With the opening of the 2009 hurricane season last Monday, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has provided his prayers and support to the people of the diocese.

In a memorandum addressed to the pastors and administrators of the parishes of the Diocese sent prior to the start of the season, Bishop Provost said, "As we approach hurricane season please be assured of my prayers and support for you and the faithful people of the diocese. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the utmost importance of remaining diligent in our disaster preparation. Although we pray that our area be spared of the devastation of another storm, we must recall that our Lord promised not to spare us from trials, but rather that he would grant us His presence and peace.

"As you well know, many of our people, in-

cluding some of your family members, are only now returning to their homes and many more have yet to return," Bishop Provost continued. "We must keep them in prayer, and in particular, please remember the faithful in Cameron Parish. With the heart of our one True Shepherd, may we continue to offer them the consolation we have received in Christ as the impending storm season approaches bringing not only severe weather, but concern and anxiety."

Bishop Provost included in his memo the following suggested intercession to be used throughout hurricane season – "That we might be delivered from all storms and destructive weather in this hurricane season, we pray to the Lord."

He also urged the pastors and administrators to review the diocesan Plan of Emergency Preparedness in preparation for this year's storm season.

Let Us Pray

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2009 the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey in 1957.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.

The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its quietude.

You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder
Second Bishop of Lafayette

Did you know...

Five priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles have served as pastors in their current parishes for more than 10 years. Those pastors are Msgr. Charles Dubois, St. Theodore; Rev. Joseph McGrath, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Creole; Rev. Herbert J. May, Our Lady of Seven Dolors; Rev. Vincent Vadakke-dath, St. Eugene; and Rev. Marshall Boulet, St. Paul. Father Boulet is currently the longest serving pastor in the Diocese having been first appointed to St. Paul by Bishop Jude Speyrer in 1992, a tenure of 17 years.

Over the years, three priests in parishes of what is now the Diocese of Lake Charles have served more than 30 years as pastors. Do you know who they are? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar!



Melanie LeJeune

St. Louis High librarian earns national honor

CHICAGO – Melanie LeJeune, school library media specialist at St. Louis Catholic High School, is one of two recipients of the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) 2009 Information Technology Pathfinder Award. Ms. LeJeune will be honored at the AASL Awards Luncheon during the ALA 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago.

Ms. LeJeune recently began a segment at the faculty meetings called "Technology Tidbits." At these meetings, faculty members receive a brief introduction to the technology available to them through the library. This segment has led to many teacher/librarian collaborations at the school, as well as many veteran teachers becoming excited about using new technologies in their classroom. "As teachers are shown new technology... a spark is ignited, and they come to me for more information" says LeJeune. "The more knowledge a person has, the more willing he/she will be to try something new."

In spring 2007, the faculty at St. Louis began to notice the increased use of online sources, such as Wikipedia, for research purposes. In collaboration with the English department, Ms. LeJeune ensured every student received training in using the research databases. At the end of the training, students completed a scavenger hunt designed by Ms. LeJeune to evaluate the training's success. This collaboration has led to increased usage of the research databases within a year.

The AASL Awards Luncheon will be held Monday, July 13, during Annual Conference in Chicago.

Diocesan Briefs

Glad Tidings program pre-empted

LAKE CHARLES – *Glad Tidings*, the Sunday morning television program produced by the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will not be seen Sunday, June 7, due to NBC network coverage of the Men's Singles Finals of the French Open Tennis Championships.

The program will return on June 14, at its normal time, 6 a.m., on KPLC-TV. Viewers should check their cable provider for the channel number in your area.

Heavenly Angels Baby Shower

LAKE CHARLES – The Pro-Life Committee of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and the Women of Purpose will hold the third annual Heavenly Angels In Need Baby Shower, from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 7, in Founders Hall, 2031 Opelousas Street.

The event will benefit Abraham's Tent and Families Helping Families. Baby shower items needed include clothes, food, and diapers. Monetary contributions will also be gladly accepted.

For more information, call Annie Lazard at 433-5788 or Carolyn Spikes at 401-4393.

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 and third prizes are \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

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.

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.

IC-Maplewood's Golden Jubilee

MAPLEWOOD – Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant of a Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at 11 a.m. on June 28 culminating the parish's celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Following the Liturgy, a catered luncheon will be held in the church hall with all current and past parish members as honored guests.

Deepening Your Faith through Pentecost

LAKE CHARLES – Rev. Nathan Long along with Nita Poland and Jimmy Louviere will conduct a "Get-Away-Weekend" with the Lord, June 26 through June 28 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

The retreat is designed to help discover new and deeper dimensions of the faith in God that people already have.

The presentations revolve around the four levels of our one Baptism: Baptism in Water, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Baptism by Fire, and Baptism by Blood.

The retreat concludes with lunch on Sunday. Registration deadline is Friday, June 12.

Suggested Donation is \$140 for private room, \$125 for shared, and \$65 for those who would like to come for one day. All suggested donations include meals.

To register, call Nita Poland at 337-515-0325.



In photo at right, Deacon Scott Conner is hooded by Rev. Msgr. Nevin Klinger, Vice Rector of the School of Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum's 2009 Commencement recently. Deacon Conner and David Hardey, Jr. (photo at left), both seminarians for the Diocese of Lake Charles, were among more than 40 men who were granted degrees at the college's 110th Commencement. Deacon Conner, one of nine to receive a Master of Divinity (MDiv), was also one of four who earned a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB) - a pontifical degree conferred by the Josephinum in affiliation with the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome. Hardey earned a Bachelor of Philosophy from the Pre-Theology Program. Both return to the Diocese for summer assignments.