



Year for Priests explained: A quest for pastoral zeal

The fundamental reason for a special Year for Priests is "to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal," Pope Benedict XVI explained in a letter to the world's priests released on June 18, on the eve of the ceremony that inaugurated the worldwide observance.

The Holy Father opened the Year for Priests at Vespers on the feast of the Sacred Heart, a feast day that has been traditionally dedicated to prayer for the spiritual welfare of priests, and thus an appropriate time to launch the year-long quest for spiritual revival. This year is also the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests.

Pope Benedict cited the words of the Curé of Ars as a simple summary of the central theme for the coming year: "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus." That theme is woven through the entirety of the Pontiff's letter. (EDITOR'S NOTE: To read the complete letter go to <http://live.lcdiocese.org/news/322-popes-letter-to-priests-of-world.html>). The Pope also returns again and again to the words of St. John Vianney and the witness he offered with his life, as an example to be emulated by all priests today.

As he writes about the needs of the universal priesthood, the Holy Father first acknowledges "all those priests who quietly present Christ's words and actions each day to the faithful and to the whole world, striving to be one with the Lord in their thoughts and their will, their sentiments and their style of life." He expresses his admiration and gratitude for the priests who strive to fulfill their vocation.

Next the Pontiff recalls "the countless situations of suffering endured by many priests" - those who are neglected or misunderstood, those who cope with illness or other adversity, those who perform their ministry in adverse situations, and especially those who risk their lives for the good of the faith.

Against that background - having paid tribute to the many priests who serve their calling admirably - the Pope acknowledges that there are also priests who fall short, and some who bring disgrace upon the priestly ministry. In his letter the Holy Father contrasts the failings of some priests with the lofty calling of their ministry, and emphasizes that the remedy for failure is a better sense of the dignity of the priesthood. In a crucial passage, the Pope writes:

There are also, sad to say, situations which can never be sufficiently deplored where the Church herself suffers as a consequence of infidelity on the part of some of her ministers. Then it is the world which finds grounds for scandal and rejection. What is most helpful to the Church in such cases is not only a frank and complete acknowledgement of the weaknesses of her ministers, but also a joyful and renewed realization of the greatness of God's gift,

embodied in the splendid example of generous pastors, religious afire with love for God and for souls, and insightful, patient spiritual guides

Spiritual renewal is bound to come, the Pope argues, if priests recognize the ineffable dignity of their calling. He quotes St. John Vianney: "O, how great is the priest! ... If he realized what he is, he would die."

Dwelling at some length on the reverence that the Curé of Ars had for the priesthood, and the awe that he felt at his own role in confecting the Eucharist, the Pope encourages all priests to mediate on their dignity and to appreciate their vocation. In particular he invites priests to center their lives on the Eucharist.

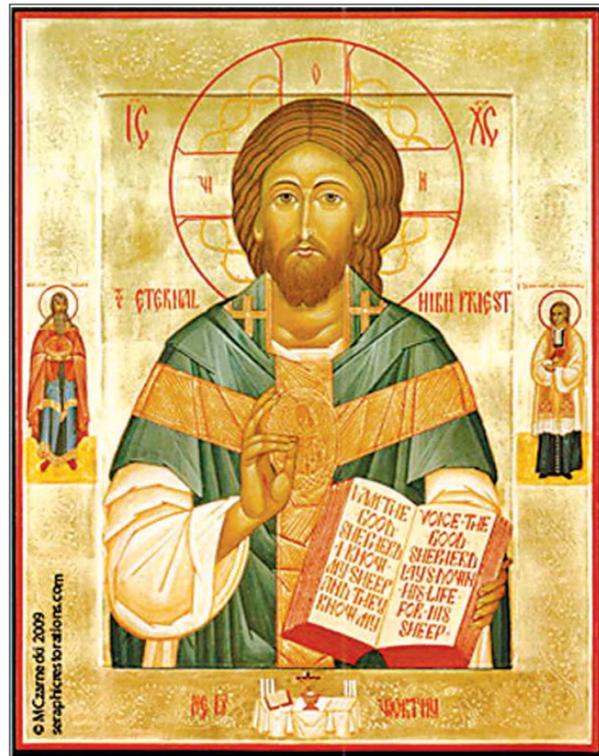
Returning again to the patron of parish priests, the Pope recalls the prayer that St. John Vianney said when he was assigned to his parish in Ars: "[Lord,] grant me the conversion of my parish; I am willing to suffer whatever you wish, for my entire life." This is the cry of a pastoral soul: the dedication and readiness to sacrifice for the people to whom he ministers.

To be an effective pastor means imitating Christ, the Pope continues. A priest must devote himself fully to his ministry: not as a career but as an offering of his entire self: "The first thing we need to learn is the complete identification of the man with his ministry."

One sign of the priest's dedication - again a strength of the Curé of Ars - is the willingness to spend hours in the confessional, and to encourage the faithful to make proper use of that sacrament, the Pope says: "Priests ought never to be resigned to empty confessionals or the apparent indifference of the faithful to this Sacrament," the Pontiff adds.

A priest also sets the example for spiritual devotion in his parish, the Pope continues in his letter. People are more often taught by personal witness than by words, and a priest who is himself prayerful will inspire lay people to imitate his devotion.

Again and again in his letter, Pope Benedict stresses the primary importance of spiritual renewal among priests: both as a remedy for scandal and as a route to pastoral success. He urges all priests to renew their dedication, revive their interior lives, and reinvigorate their zeal for souls. This is the purpose of the Year for Priests, the Pope repeats throughout his letter: to stimulate priestly piety and resist the gravitational pull of the routine. (EDITOR'S NOTE: For more on this story, go to lcdiocese.org)



This icon, entitled *Christ the High Priest*, was written by Marek Czarnecki, of Seraphic Restorations in Meriden, Connecticut, for seminarians and priests to enable them to see Christ in themselves, and themselves in Christ.

Diocesan Briefs

Glad Tidings pre-empted Sunday

LAKE CHARLES - Glad Tidings, the Diocese of Lake Charles' Sunday morning television program will be pre-empted Sunday, July 5, due to NBC network coverage of the Men's Singles Tennis Finals of Wimbledon.

The program will return on Sunday, July 12, at its regular time of 6 a.m.

Television ministry now on Internet

LAKE CHARLES - Glad Tidings, the Diocese of Lake Charles television ministry, can now be seen on the internet. Streaming of the program can be found at lcdiocese.org, the diocesan website.

So, if you missed the show entirely or want to see a particular segment again it is there for you.

At the diocesan website, click on Resources. At the bottom of the list is Glad Tidings. When you click on Glad Tidings, programs are then available to you with the most recently added first.

Take this opportunity to watch the diocesan programming and provide your comments about Glad Tidings to communications@lcdiocese.org.

Bishop's breakfasts, luncheons set

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has announced his schedule of Men's First Friday Prayer Breakfasts and Women's Luncheons for the remainder of 2009.

There will be no Prayer Breakfast or Women's Luncheon in the month of July.

Dates for the remainder of the year for the Breakfasts are August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4. The breakfasts, followed by Bishop Provost's teaching, will begin at 7 a.m. in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception's office building, following the 6:30 a.m. celebration of Mass in the Cathedral. Men should register by calling 337-439-7400.

Women's Luncheon dates in 2009 are August 11, September 1, October 6 and November 3. There will be no Women's Luncheons in December or January.

The Women's Luncheons will be held 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, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope to facilitate the return of the lunch ticket.

Nicole Reeves new principal Our Lady Immaculate

JENNINGS - Ms. Nicole Domingue Reeves has been named principal for Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School for the 2009-10 school year.

"I am very excited to meet the students and their families," Ms. Reeves said.

Ms. Reeves, who earned a Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in 2007, has been the assistant principal at Sts. Leo-Seton Catholic Elementary School in the Diocese of Lafayette since 2007.

She is certified by the State of Louisiana in Educational Leadership and completed over 600 internship hours at Justice Middle School, Sts. Leo-Seton Catholic Elementary School, and in the Lafayette Parish System's Central Office. Ms. Reeves has completed the Louisiana Education Leaders Induction program as well as the Louisiana Teacher Assistance and Assessment Program.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1992 and is certified by the State of Louisiana in Special Education in grades K-12, in regular education in grades 1-8 and is INTECH certified.



Nicole Reeves

Did you know...

Four priests who served within the geographic confines of what is now the Diocese of Lake Charles had celebrated more than 60 years of priesthood at their death. The leader was Msgr. Jules Daigle, who was the pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church in Welsh for 44 years, and had served slightly more than 72 years as a priest upon his death on January 2, 1998, at the age of 97. He was ordained on December 12, 1925. Msgr. Irving DeBlanc, who died in July 2006, had more than 68 years of priestly service. Msgr. R. J. Gobeil had celebrated 63 years as a priest only a few months before his death in 1988. Msgr. Charles Levasseur, the founding pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake, had been a priest for a bit over 61 years at his death in 1988. Msgr. A. J. Robichaud, who spent 42 years at St. Philip Neri in Kinder, was a priest for nearly 58 years when he died in 1994. Five current, though retired priests of the Diocese, have more than 50 years of priesthood. They are Rev. Gerard Smit (59), Bishop-emeritus Jude Speyrer, (nearly 56); Msgr. Joseph Bourque (54); Rev. Charles Soileau (52); and Rev. T. L. Herlong (51).

Do you know what priest will next reach his 50th anniversary of ordination and how many others have 40 or more years of service? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles are closed today, July 3. They will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, July 6, Happy Birthday America!



Members of the Immigration Services Advisory Committee for the Diocese of Lake Charles met recently in anticipation of offering a full array of immigration services beginning July 1. Pictured, clockwise from left, are Rev. Arturo Lozano, S.J., director of Hispanic Ministry; Rev. Henry Mancuso, Executive Director of Immigration Services; Sylvia Stelly, Erin Green, Ashley Foret, staff attorney; Andrew Casanave, Dalia Matheus, program manager, and William Krull. Members of the committee not present were Rev. Celsius Offor, Pamela Spees, and Maria Galan.



Members of the Chapel Choir of the First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla., performed for residents of Villa Maria Retirement Center recently. The church's singers, which includes a bell choir and totaling about 60 high school and college members, were on the opening concert of their 2009 Mystery Tour, "Walking by Faith." This year's tour, the church's 23rd, was a mystery tour. Every four years no one but the chaperones know where they will be performing, thus the members of the choir "walk by faith, not by sight." The tour lasted from June 9 through June 21.

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Catholic Charities honors Zeb Johnson, ACTS Community

LAKE CHARLES – Zeb Johnson and the ACTS Community were honored during the recent inaugural Jazz Brunch for Catholic Charities for their commitment and good works to aid those in need in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The event, the first major community-wide fundraiser for the organization since Hurricane Rita in 2005, drew a crowd of more than 250 people, according to Trish Trejo, Director.

“We are trying to raise funds to help provide for the charitable needs of those who come to us,” Trejo said. The event netted more than \$25,000, which will be spent on direct services to clients who come to Catholic Charities for help, including rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, funeral assistance, employment expense/identification expense assistance.

Trejo is very excited about the outcome of the Jazz Brunch and said, “We received nothing but compliments from people who attended. They really liked the day and I very much appreciate the hard work of the many people who decorated, sent out invitations, donated items for the live auction and just helped make the day very special. She also said that it “is possible that it could become a yearly event.”

She also noted that a number of people responded to her request that they consider becoming “monthly partners” with Catholic Charities

and invited others in the community to do so. For information on the opportunity, contact Trejo at trish.trejo@lcediocese.org or by phone at 337-439-7436, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Johnson was presented with the 2009 Caritas Award in recognition for his remarkable commitment to the community following Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike.

The word *caritas* is a Latin word meaning love or charity. Pope Benedict XVI has used the word in two of his letters to the Church, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love) and *Sacramentum Caritatis* (The Sacrament of Charity).

According to Father Henry Mancuso, the Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services, “*caritas* is a love beyond all self, beyond family, beyond friends, beyond country – it is compassion for humanity, a commitment to the well being of others.” In choosing a name for Catholic Charities’ recognition of someone from the community for their service to the community, it seemed Caritas Award would be the most appropriate, according to Father Mancuso.

Johnson gave great amounts of his time and energy in the recovery, identification, and re-interment of bodies that were displaced by these storms. For families already distraught by the destruction caused by the hurricanes, the emotional pain caused by the disturbance of their loved one’s “resting

place” can only be imagined by those who were not affected in that way. Johnson began assisting in the morgue in New Orleans after Katrina. He had no idea that would later help his own Lake Charles neighbors following Rita and barely three years later would once again put his skills to work when Ike came ashore, disturbing many of those whom he had tirelessly worked to return to their place of rest.

Johnson, a native of Lake Charles, is a graduate of Lake Charles High School and McNeese State University. Long active in community service, especially youth sports activities; Johnson was once a Lake Charles City Police officer. A member of Trinity Baptist Church, he says he is motivated in the community “by the belief that God gives us great riches and abilities and we need to return that to the community.”

A man who normally shuns the spotlight, Johnson was moved by the recognition and thanked Catholic Charities but also acknowledged the work of his staff, which allowed him the opportunity to aid others in their time of distress.

The St. Peter Claver Award, was presented to the ACTS Community. ACTS is an acronym for Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service. This four fold purpose explains why the ACTS Community members return again and again to Catholic Charities to meet Jesus’ command to feed the hungry. Ac-



More than 250 people attended the inaugural Jazz Brunch for Catholic Charities held in early June. The first diocesan-wide fund raising effort since Hurricane Rita destroyed the Catholic Service Center located on Broad Street, brought in more than \$25,000 to provide direct assistance to clients who come to Catholic Charities.

cepting the honor on behalf of the ACTS Community were Randy Daigle and Bob Weber, both parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church.

In the aftermath of last year’s hurricanes, the need for food distribution aid at the Catholic Charities office escalated dramatically. A call for volunteers was issued, according to Trejo, and many people answered. Members of the ACTS Com-

munity became especially involved in recruiting men and women to unload trucks, pack boxes with food, and distribute the boxes to clients.

Since that time, the group has adopted the food program at Catholic Charities. Though the faces are not always the same week to week, the Spirit of God that lights those faces with love remains.

“We at Catholic Charities

are thankful that the Holy Spirit has guided godly men and women to partner with us in our work,” Trejo said. “Without them, we could not meet the growing needs that surround us.”

Also unveiled at the Jazz Brunch were an elevation drawing and the floor plan for the new Catholic Charities building to be built on First Avenue near Third Street. (EDITOR’S NOTE: See other photos of the event at lcediocese.org.)



The annual Bookkeepers Workshop for parish staff, sponsored by the Office of Fiscal Administration, was recently held in Brulet Hall of Tabor Retreat House at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. Bishop Glen John Provost opened the gathering with prayer and then spoke to the group of more than 30 about the importance of good fiscal management in their parishes.

Eighteen parishes meet, exceed BSA goals

LAKE CHARLES – Eighteen of the 38 parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles had

met or exceeded their goals for the \$600,000.00 2008-2009 Bishop’s Services Appeal.

Those figures were through June 29, according to the Office of Development of the Diocese. A final report will be issued later in the month of July.

The parish which leads all others in achieving the highest percentage of its goal is St. Joseph Parish in Welsh with 151.4 percent.

The remaining parishes and their percentage of goal achieved are Our Lady Help of Christians, Jennings (114.7 percent); Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (113.3 percent); Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lake Charles (112.6 percent); Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Lake Charles (110.7 percent); and Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Arthur (110 percent).

Also, St. Henry, Lake Charles (108.3 percent); Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Welsh (106.9 percent); Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lake Charles (106.4 percent); and Christ the King, Lake Charles (105.9 percent).

Others oversubscribing their goals were St. Paul Elton (100.1 percent); St. Joan of Arc, Oberlin (100.1 percent); St. Lawrence, Raymond (100.6 percent); and Immaculate Conception, Maplewood (100.5 percent).

Parishes reaching their goals exactly were Immaculate Conception, Jennings; Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; St. Joseph, Vinton; and St. John Bosco, Westlake.

Former pastor of St. Joseph in Welsh dies

BALTIMORE, Md. -- Josephite priest, Father William Hogan, 88, died June 14 at Franklin Square Hospice while a resident of St. Joseph Manor in Baltimore, Maryland. St. Joseph Manor is the retirement and recuperation facility for St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart, the Josephite Fathers and Brothers, a Roman Catholic society of Catholic service for evangelization to African American communities throughout the United States.

Father Hogan served as pastor of St. Joseph Church in Welsh from 1997-2004, when health issues forced his retirement from active ministry, moving to Baltimore.

He also served as a pastor or associate pastor at a churches in a number of cities in the South during his priesthood, including Houston, New Orleans, Donaldsonville, Tuskegee, Alabama, Natchez, Mississippi, and Jacksonville, Florida.

Father Hogan was born

May 4, 1921, in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, to Joseph Henry Hogan and Grace Sylvester Smith Hogan. The sixth of eight children, he is survived by a

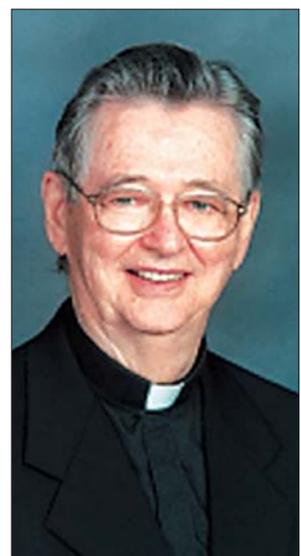
sister, Mrs. Mary Stanton and several nieces and nephews.

Educated in Boston at Seaver Grammar and Parker Grammar schools, Boston English High School, Roslindale Evening Commercial School, and Westworth Institute, he began his Josephite membership and his major seminary career in 1945 at St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, D.C. Father Hogan’s permanent Josephite profession was June 2, 1950, and he was ordained to the priesthood on June 5, 1951 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

He always had a garden, depending on soil, space and need, with both flowers for the church and altar, or vegetables for him and whomever else needed some.

A man of many talents, Father Hogan will be dearly remembered by the countless people with whom he crossed paths during his years of ministry.

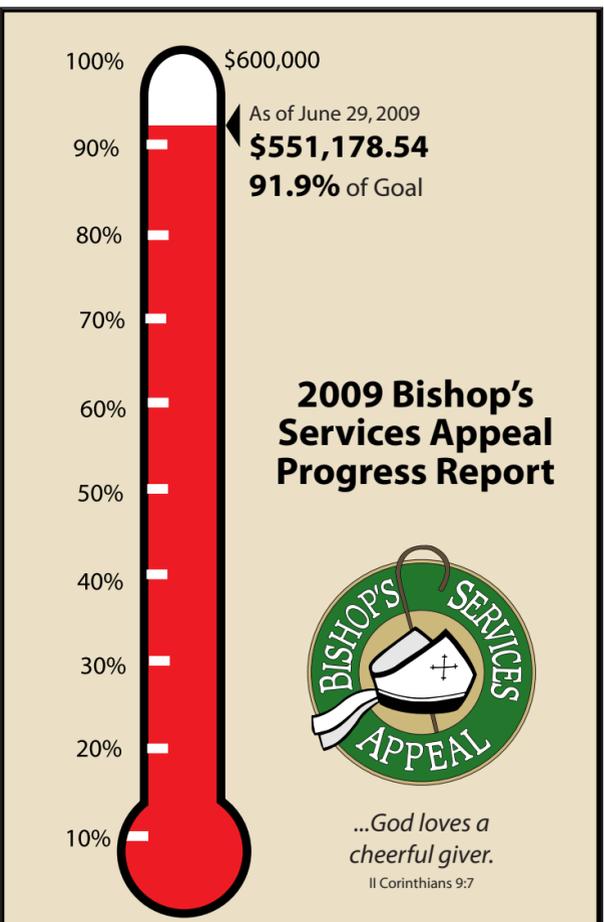
REQUIESCAT IN PACE



Rev. William Hogan, S.S.J



Pictured are the newly elected state officers of the Louisiana Catholic Daughters of the Americas. They are, from left, State Regent Gloria Newman of Lake Charles, 1st Vice Regent Joyce Stein of Vacherie, 2nd Vice Regent Ellen Corbello of Iowa, State Secretary Pat Myers of Lake Charles, and State Treasurer Barbara Delafosse of Ville Platte. The elections were held at the group’s recent 43rd Biennial Convention held in Alexandria.



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