



## Bishop's Reflection on the Year for Priests

**(PLEASE NOTE: Bishop Glen John Provost shared the following reflection with the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles at the beginning of the Year for Priests. It is copied here in hopes that these humble thoughts might be of some assistance to all who seek to grow in the spiritual life.)**

In proclaiming this *Year for Priests*, Pope Benedict XVI stated that the intent of the Year was "to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world" (Letter "Proclaiming a Year for Priests", June 16, 2009). It is worth our while to reflect on this intention.

As St. John Vianney so well pointed out, "The... great misfortune for us parish priests... is that our souls grow tepid." There are many reasons for this indifference, but let us not talk of them. I think we know what they are already. Rather, let us concentrate on what St. John Vianney did to counteract indifference in his own priestly life. St. John Vianney knew, as Pope Paul VI so correctly observed, that "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, 41, quoted in "Proclaiming a

Year for Priests" of Pope Benedict XVI).

The town to which his bishop sent him was in a sad state. In the words of his bishop, "There is little love of God in that parish; you will be the one to put it there." In confronting non-practicing parishioners, St. John Vianney lived a radical life. Today his penitential practices appear extreme, but he was living in extreme times - as we do today - that required extreme "witnesses." His prayer was intense, his mortifications courageous, his priestly zeal total, and his love for the Gospel consuming. In this way he showed his lack of indifference and his great love for God.

I remember traveling to Ars many years ago on pilgrimage. I had celebrated Mass in the parish church, using the chalice of the holy Curé. As I turned to leave, an old French gentleman stopped me to hear his confession. So we stepped into the confessional where St. John Vianney had spent hours of his day absolving, as Christ had intended his priests to do. This moment made a deep impression on me. Having just celebrated Mass, I now celebrated the Sacrament of forgiveness that is the particular duty of the priest. How many souls had returned to Christ in that hallowed place?

How many broken lives had been healed by the ministry of the good Curé, a zealous priest who thought more of others than he did of himself? Indeed, it was a humbling experience and continues to be so.

At the recent United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) meeting, a bishop friend of mine and I were reflecting on some matters being discussed. Being an historian, he placed the Church in the modern age in perspective. He said that these days in the history of the Church reminded him of early 19th century France, the era in which St. John Vianney found himself. How so? That country had just experienced the social and religious upheaval of the French Revolution.

Consequently the society was becoming more and more secular. In response the Church became more and more countercultural. What he said helped me understand St. John Vianney a little better.

St. John Vianney, to offer an "incisive witness to the Gospel" in his own day, undertook with God's help an intense "interior renewal," to quote Pope Benedict's own words announcing the Year for Priests. In a period of history, characterized by "a culture of death", self-indulgent, materialistic, and

profoundly selfish while proclaiming to be sensitive, priests need to be holy along with the parishioners whom they instruct in holiness. For this to happen, there must be "interior renewal."

For renewal, there must be in the daily life of the priest prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, devout celebration of the Sacraments of the Church, the rosary, spiritual reading, meditation, faithful praying of the Liturgy of Hours, as well as regular confession, consultation with a spiritual director, a yearly retreat, and monthly recollection. If these are not in place in priests' lives, then everything else we do is trivialized. How can we prepare a homily, if we have not prayed? How can we counsel a married couple to fidelity, if we have not been faithful ourselves to what is required? How can we live a chaste or obedient life, if we have not examined our consciences?

There is much that could be said about the legacy of St. John Vianney, but of his life one thing is sure. He embraced his duties with complete zeal and did so because he loved. In his own remarkable words: "Were we to fully realize what a priest is on earth, we would die: not of fright, but of love."

## Local members of Order of the Holy Sepulchre earn promotions

CHARLESTON, SC - Sir Bernard Beanco, KHS, was recently appointed as the Section Representative of the Diocese of Lake Charles for the Southern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at its recent meeting. In addition, the promotions of eight members of the Order domiciled in the Diocese were announced.

As Section Representative for the Lake Charles Diocese, Sir Bernard will be the liaison between the more than 60 members of the Order residing in the Diocese and the Lieutenancy's headquarters' office in New Orleans. He replaces Dr. Erwin "Buddy" Engert, who retired from the position after many

years of service.

Twenty-two members of the Order were in attendance at the annual meeting, including clergy and laity.

Those receiving promotions from Southwest Louisiana include Sir Keith and Lady Dale DeSonier to Knight and Lady Commander with Star, Sir Clarence Prudhomme to Knight Commander with Star, Lady Ina Delahoussaye to Lady Commander with Star, and Lady Marie Davidson to Lady Commander. Sir Anacleto and Lady Evangeline Ordinario were promoted to Knight and Lady Commander with Star and Lady Janis Pauley was promoted to Lady Commander. The pro-

motions recognize the number of successive years of commitment of these members of the Order to the support of the Holy Land.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is an ancient Order of the Roman Catholic Church that was established in the Middle Ages to recapture and maintain support for the Christian Holy sites in the Holy Land, especially the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Members today continue this support with both spiritual and monetary contributions to maintain these sites as well as provide support for Christian schools in the area.



Eight members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem who reside in the Diocese of Lake Charles were recently promoted at the meeting of the Southeastern Lieutenancy of the Order. Those who attended were, from left, Sir Clarence Prudhomme; Lady Ina Delahoussaye; Lady Marie Davidson; Lady Dale DeSonier, and Sir Keith DeSonier. Also promoted but unable to attend the meeting were Sir Anacleto and Lady Evangeline Ordinario as well as Lady Janis Pauley.

## Change of Chaplains at DOLC Seafarers Center

LAKE CHARLES - Rev. Richard Uche Adiukwu, former Chaplain for the Seafarers Center of the Diocese located at the Port of Lake Charles, recently received a special award for his service from the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA).

The honor was accorded to Father Uche by Rev. Sinclair Oubre, the president of AOSUSA, located in Port Arthur, Texas. Father Oubre presented Father Uche with the Maritime Samaritan Award for his six years of work at the Seafarers Center. Father Uche was recently appointed Pastor of St. Eugene Church in Grand Chenier as well as Adminis-

trator of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole and Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron.

The new Chaplain for the Center, Rev. Rommel Tolentino, who also serves as pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Church in Hackberry, was in attendance along with Deacon Patrick LaPoint, Director of the Center, and Doreen M. Badeaux, Secretary General for AOSUSA.

Father Tolentino indicated his excitement regarding his appointment, especially since many of the seafarers coming through the port are Filipino. "God put me here for a reason," Father Tolentino said. "It is wonderful that I will be able to talk to

my countrymen in their own language." Father Tolentino, who was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles May 12, 2005, gained his U.S. citizenship three years ago.

The Seafarers Center has historically seen between 5,000 to 6,000 sailors a year. Now with the advent of the Liquefied Natural Gas terminals, both up and running and still under construction, those numbers could increase.

The Center services 17 facilities including 37 docks around Southwest Louisiana. According to Deacon LaPoint some 100 to 110 ships a month move up and down the ship channel.



The Very Rev. Daniel Torres, Vicar General and Pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church is pictured with the group of people who ministered to those in need in Nicaragua during the annual Abrazando Cristo Mission trip to South America from July 4 through July 12. Accompanying Father Torres were Jennifer Ann Bellow, Glen Dale Bertrand, Mary Jo Canik, Laurie Marie Cormier, Barbara Ann Menard Gontez, Joyce Ann Dippery, Caroline Dupre, Douglas Cooper, Paul David Darsoulin, James Mark McCarty, Tiffany Sey, Montgomerly, Nancy Datrice Pitre, Justin William Rigmaiden, Barbara Ann Rozas, Alexandra Leigh Stutes, Deborah Herrmann Stutes, Michael Louis Stutes, Russell Joseph Stutes Jr., Russell Joseph Stutes III, Kate Theresa Thibodeaux, Amilcar Torres, Rose Torres, Susan Viator Thibodeaux, David Hugh Trahan, Patricia Trunick, Celeste Kay Woodard, and Charmayne Dingler Yelverton.



The Rev. Richard Uche Adiukwu, second from right, explains to Rev. Rommel Tolentino, second from left, some of the workings of the Seafarers Center of the Diocese of Lake Charles located at the Port of Lake Charles. Father Tolentino is the new chaplain at the Center, replacing Father Uche who is the pastor of St. Eugene Church in Grand Chenier. Looking on at left is Deacon Patrick LaPoint, Director of the Seafarers Center, while at right is Rev. Sinclair Oubre of Port Arthur, Texas, president of the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America.

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# Calendar

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

July 17, 2009



## Churches in lower Cameron now open

**LOWER CAMERON PARISH** - The Fourth of July weekend in the communities of Grand Chenier, Cameron and Creole was marked with the celebration of Mass by the new pastor of St. Eugene Church and administrator of Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady Star of the Sea - Rev. Richard Uche Adiukwu.

These masses marked the effective full return of the Church to those communities following Hurricane Rita in 2005 and Hurricane Ike last year. In fact, the Sunday morning liturgy at Sacred Heart in Creole was the first such celebration in the fully completed church since before the September 2005 passage of Rita. Weekend masses will be celebrated at St. Eugene with a Vigil Mass on Saturday at 4 p.m. and on Sunday at 8 a.m. A Vigil Mass is celebrated at 6 p.m. on Saturday at Our Lady Star of the Sea and Mass is celebrated on Sunday at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart.

For Our Lady Star of the Sea, it was a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Glen John Provost prior to the arrival of Ike last year that had seen a liturgy celebrated there. Grand Chenier had also faced rebuilding twice following the ravages of Rita and Ike but was one of the first churches in lower Cameron Parish, east of the Ship Channel, to be fully operational.

Four liturgies were celebrated over the weekend, two on Saturday and two on Sunday and the attendance was good, especially at Sacred Heart where nearly 300 people filled the pews.

Following Rita and then Ike, the three parishes had been joined at liturgies in St. Patrick Chapel in Sweetlake, thanks to the generosity and kindnesses of Msgr. Harry Greig, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church.

Father Uche, who has been in the Diocese of Lake Charles since 2003, will live in Grand Chenier in the newly renovated rectory and have his office in Creole at Sacred Heart. Taking over these three churches, all of which have seen great devastation from the storms, Father Uche looks at it as he feels Jesus might have.

"I try to feel just like Jesus felt, when he saw great crowd following him," Father Uche said. "He felt like they were sheep without a shepherd, so he took it upon himself to teach them. I know it is going to be challenging, especially since the area has been devastated by hurricanes.

"My task will be to see if we can maintain the ministry for the population there and see to the return of the people who have been scattered everywhere," he continued. "I told the people in Grand Chenier that if I have faith and they have faith, as Jesus said, we can work miracles. It will be challenging but by the grace of God, it is what I am called to do.

"As the pastor I feel the obligation to bring Jesus to the people, to take care of them," Father Uche said. "It is my job is to bring Jesus to them, but it will be Jesus who does the work. I have to be his hands." (EDITOR'S NOTE: For more on this story go to [lcdiocese.org](http://lcdiocese.org))



Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole was nearly filled for the first celebration of Mass since prior to the passage of Hurricane Rita in September 2005 on Sunday, July 5. Pictured here, from left, is the Church following the ravages of Rita, the finished exterior of the Church today and the nearly overflow crowd that attended the Sunday July 5 Liturgy. Rita also rendered great damage. The rectory along with the parish hall and CCD classrooms were also damaged by Rita.



Rev. Richard Uche Adiukwu, the newly named pastor of St. Eugene Church in Grand Chenier, celebrated the Vigil Mass there on July 4. At left, St. Eugene is shown following the passage of Hurricane Ike last year, which brought mud and water into the Church causing additional damages, including the need to replace the pews and forcing another refurbishment. The center photo shows the Church's exterior as it is now and at right the crowd attending the Saturday Mass is shown. The rectory and parish hall had sustained heavy damage from Hurricane Rita and both are back in use.



Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron was damaged severely by both storms, with the eastern wall blown out each time. Individual chairs with kneelers have replaced the damaged pews, which had been a donation following Hurricane Rita from the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Penn. The stained glass windows that were added following the 2005 storm were damaged by Ike and have been refurbished. The Church is pictured at left following Rita, its current exterior, center and the recent Saturday Mass, right.

## Bishop Provost designates special day for Indulgence

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has designated the First Thursday of each month during the Year for Priests as the special day for the reception of the Plenary Indulgence, in accord with the decree from the Apostolic Penitentiary.

According to Bishop Provost, devout practices already in place in the Diocese of Lake Charles such as retreats, days of recollection, pilgrimages, and the feast day of any patronal saint, can be given added emphasis during this Year for Priests.

"We will once again observe 40 Hours Devotion beginning in the fall," Bishop Provost said. "Our customary intention is to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese. I have instructed the priests that the following intention be added - 'For the interior renewal of all priests' and asked that they share the information with their parishioners."

## Pope praying for reconciliation around the world during July

VATICAN CITY - For the month of July, Pope Benedict XVI has chosen two prayer intentions that focus on unity and reconciliation throughout the world.

The Pope's general intention centers on the Middle East, which has been convulsed by violence in recent months. His intention is: "That the Christians of the Middle East may live their

faith in full freedom and be an instrument of peace and reconciliation."

The Holy Father's mission intention has a broader scope. The Pontiff is praying, "That the Church may be the seed and nucleus of a humanity reconciled and reunited in God's one and only family, thanks to the testimony of all the faithful in every country of the world."

## Did you know...

Reverend John Poerio will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination on Dec. 12, 2009. Father Poerio has served as pastor of St. Lawrence, Raymond, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale; St. Raphael, Iowa; St. John Vianney, Bell City; and St. Mary of the Lake, Big Lake. He retired in 2003.

April 14 and July 25 are very special dates to one priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Do you know which priest and the significance of those dates? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

## Diocesan Briefs

### TV ministry now streaming 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](http://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. Programs from March 1, 2009 onward are currently available and each week's new show is added for viewing as early as Sunday morning following its broadcast on KPLC-TV.

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](mailto: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 and the first six months of 2010.

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

Dates for the remainder of the schedule for First Friday Prayer Breakfasts are August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4. There will be no Friday Prayer Breakfast held in January. Other dates in 2010 are February 5, March 5, May 14, and June 4. No Prayer Breakfast will be held in April and the May breakfast will actually take place on the second Friday. 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. The Bishop will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral beginning at 6:30 a.m. on each Friday prior to the breakfast. Men should register by calling 337-439-7400.

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

Dates in 2010 are February 9, March 2, May 4, and June 1. There will be no luncheon with the Bishop in April.

All of 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 and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope to facilitate the return of the lunch ticket.

### Family Music Festival announced

LAKE CHARLES - CALLED 2B CATHOLIC, a Catholic music festival for the whole family, formerly known as PROUD 2B CATHOLIC, will be

held on Saturday, October 24 on the Sulphur High School Freshman Campus. Doors open at noon with Adoration ending at 9 p.m.

Musical talent currently slated to appear include Ceili Rain, Josh Blakesley, Val Limar Jensen, Greg Walton, Nichole Ackoury Lanthier, Gabriel's Cry, and others. Feature speakers scheduled to appear are Cooper Ray, Greg Walton, Josh Boutte, Katie Prejean, Chip Gauthie, and Kenny Lantier.

Christina Theriot of the Diocese of Alexandria will serve as emcee for the event, which is sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Call 337-439-7400, Ext. 301 or e-mail [youth.ministry@lcdiocese.org](mailto:youth.ministry@lcdiocese.org) for more information and about tickets.

### Sister Diane programs at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF - Sr. Diane Depwe, a Licensed Professional Counselor, will present three programs during the month of July at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

"Co-Dependency According to Scripture" will be from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21. "Overcoming Our Resentments" will be held on Tuesday, July 28 from 6-9 p.m. The final program of the month, "Conquering Worries and Anxieties" will be on Thursday, July 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The suggested donation for each event is \$17 and includes a meal. To register for any of the programs, call 337-855-1232.

### Panel discussion on NFP July 31

LAKE CHARLES - In celebration of National Family Planning Awareness Week, July 19-25, a panel discussion will be held on Friday, July 31, at 6 p.m. in the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Center, according to Kathy Owen, Director of the Offices of Family Life and Pro-Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Alex and Carrie Chaumont will lead the discussion on how to build a healthy marriage on a solid foundation or "remodel" an existing foundation. If you have questions about Natural Family Planning this event will provide the right answers.

A light dinner with dessert will be served, so reservations would be helpful, though not required.

For further information, to register, or have questions about child care, call 478-4548.

### Understanding Personality Types

LAKE CHARLES - A program titled "Understanding Personality Types" will be presented by Carolyn Glynn on Wednesday, July 22 and July 29, in the Assembly Room of the Diocesan Chancery, located at 414 Iris Street from 6 to 8 p.m. each night.

There will be no charge to attend the event, which is sponsored by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles. To register call Caroline at 439-7426, Ext. 301.

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