



Bishop's Reflections on Pope's encyclical

(PLEASE NOTE: Bishop Glen John Provost shared the following reflection with the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles following the June 29 release of Pope Benedict XVI's of his newest encyclical *Caritas in veritate* or Charity in Truth.)

The latest encyclical relies heavily on and expands upon *Populorum progressio*, the 1967 encyclical of Pope Paul VI and a document that some priests educated during the period remember well in the years following the Second Vatican Council and the teaching of *Gaudium et Spes*. The word and, consequently, the theme that appears most frequently in these documents is development, what does it mean, what are its implications, what is its proper motive.

Development generally means "progress", but "progress" must be defined. To tackle this topic Pope Benedict XVI turns to the virtue of Charity; as he will write in the encyclical, "Development needs Christians with their arms raised towards God in prayer" (*Caritas in veritate*, #79). In effect, our Holy Father reminds us that we can talk about development in all its aspects — economy, politics, environment, health, energy,

education — but if we are not rooted in the reality of God with all that that implies, then indeed we risk dire consequences.

What are those dire consequences? In one simple word, inhumanity. In this, I am reminded of Henri de Lubac, whose *The Drama of Atheist Humanism* is well-known to Pope Benedict XVI, when he writes that Man can produce a society without God but ultimately a society without God will be a society turned against Man. Pope Benedict makes reference to this idea when he observes: "The question of development is closely bound up with our understanding of the human soul.... Development must include not just material growth but also spiritual growth.... Without God man neither knows which way to go, nor even understands who he is" (C. in v., #76 and #78).

Almost all of the commentaries on this encyclical I have read have concentrated on what I would call practical specifics, the "what-to-do-about-the-problem" approach. While the Holy Father does offer some concrete observations, I think the encyclical is more of a "wake-up call" to modern society, a sort of modern day "voice crying in the

wilderness", to embrace God and the principles of truth, beauty, and love that flow from that embrace.

He does address the principle of subsidiarity, especially when it comes to international development aid or taxes—a passage which, in my opinion, is one of the most revolutionary of all his propositions, namely that citizens "decide how to allocate a portion of the taxes they pay to the State" (C. in v., #60). He also speaks of globalization, what he calls "the explosion of worldwide interdependence" (C. in v., #33) and how Pope Paul VI foresaw its coming; without the guidance of "charity and truth" globalization could bring about much damage to the human family.

Underlying Pope Benedict XVI's observations about labor unions, the role of the State, population growth, non-renewable energy, and numerous other concerns, is the idea of respect and reverence for the human person; he writes, "...the centrality of the human person... must be preserved" (C. in v., #47). "Respect for life" is thus a non-negotiable aspect of any development. It is this idea of the human person that becomes the

point of departure for his calling of Man back to God. This movement requires "charity in truth", which is "illuminated by the light of reason and faith" (C. in v., #9). This movement also requires an acknowledgement of the reality of "original sin," whose consequence is selfishness (C. in v., #34), a very determined opponent to any human development.

In conclusion, if one approaches this encyclical in an attempt to find, for example, a "fix" for the economy, then this will be an exercise in futility; the Holy Father says so himself, when he writes, "The Church does not have technical solutions to offer" (C. in v., #9). Instead, Pope Benedict XVI offers the most fundamental advice and teaching possible, a conversion of heart to "charity in truth." There is no development without conversion, a change of heart. There is no development without a realization of man's dependence upon God and his gifts. In this respect, a development that refuses to acknowledge a transcendent and eternal Good is doomed. The Church's witness and gift to human development is a call back to giver of every good gift — God.



Bishop Glen John Provost has once again started his monthly teachings at the Men's First Friday Prayer breakfasts held in the Cathedral's Ave Maria Hall following First Friday Mass in the Cathedral and the Women's Luncheons in the Lake Charles Civic Center. The Book of Revelation will be the topic for Bishop's teaching during the year.

Bishop Provost's presentations will be on Book of Revelation

LAKE CHARLES — The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has begun his monthly presentations at the Men's First Friday Prayer Breakfasts and Women's Luncheons and will be teaching on the Book of Revelation during the year.

The Women's Luncheon is schedule for Tuesday, August 11 in the Lake Charles Civic Center.

The Bishop's presentation this year will center on the Book of Revelation and the first two dates will serve as an introduction to the topic. At subsequent breakfasts and luncheons, the Bishop will treat certain passages of Revelation, such as, the letters to the churches, the heavenly worship, the woman of the Apocalypse, the battle, the wedding of the Lamb, and the heavenly Jerusalem.

Bishop Provost has also provided a short bibliography of four books to be used in the presentations and has made the list available to Crossroads Bookstore.

The books are: "*Revelation, Hebrews and Catholic Letters*", The Navarre Bible Reader's Edition, Scepter Publishers,

New York, ISBN 1-889334-21-9; "*Revelation*", The Navarre Bible, Soft Cover, Scepter Publishers, New York, ISBN 978-1851829118; Michael Barber, "*Coming Soon: Unlocking the Book of Revelation*", Emmaus Road Publishers, Steubenville, Ohio, 2005. ISBN 1-931018-26-X; "*Revelation*", Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament, XII, ed. William C. Weinrich, InverVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois, 2005, ISBN-10 0-8308-1497-3. Contact Crossroads Bookstore, 601 West Prien Lake Road, 474-7100 for more information on the titles.

Men should register for the breakfasts by calling 337-439-7400. Breakfasts will begin at 7 a.m. following the 6:30 a.m. First Friday Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets.

Women are asked to mail their 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.

Diocesan Briefs

Breakfast, Luncheon schedule told

LAKE CHARLES — Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will host a Women's Luncheon on Tuesday, August 11, beginning at noon in the Lake Charles Civic Center.

Women's Luncheons with the Bishop, which are currently slated to be held in the Lake Charles Civic Center, will be September 1, October 6 and November 3, with none in December or January. Dates in 2010 are February 9, March 2, May 4, and June 1, with no luncheon in April.

First Friday Prayer Breakfasts will be September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4, with Prayer Breakfast in January. Dates in 2010 are February 5, March 5, May 14, and June 4, with no Prayer Breakfast in April and the May breakfast will actually take place on the second Friday.

Called2BCatholic Music Festival

LAKE CHARLES — CALLED 2B CATHOLIC, a Catholic music festival for the whole family formerly known as PROUD 2B CATHOLIC, will be 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. Featured speakers scheduled to appear are Cooper Ray, Greg Walton, Josh Boutte, Katie Prejean, Chip Gauthé, 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@lcdiocee.org for more information and about tickets.

Father Goodly teaching on Genesis

LAKE CHARLES — The Rev. Timothy Goodly begins "Praying With Scripture," a six-week series based on the Book of Genesis, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception's Ave Maria Hall, located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets.

Call the Cathedral offices at 436-7251 for more information.

Fundraiser for seminarian slated

LAKE CHARLES — A barbecue fundraiser to help defray the educational expenses of Brandon Jones, a seminarian from St. Henry Catholic Church, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, at the church.

Chicken dinners are \$6, pork steak dinners are \$7, and a combo dinner will be \$10. All dinners will include rice dressing, potato salad, green beans, and bread.

Ordering in advance is strongly suggested and orders may be made by calling Lula at 433-5162 or Eula at 433-7670. On the day of the fundraiser please call 439-1159.

Spiritual Book Club set August 25

MOSS BLUFF — Rev. Don Piraro, the Director of Saint Charles Center, will host the Spiritual Book Club at Tabor Retreat House from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25.

"*Acedia and Me, A Marriage, Monks and A Writer's Life*" by Kathleen Norris is the August selection. The suggested donation is \$12 and includes supper. Call the Center at 855-1232 to register.

Did you know...

The dates of April 14 and July 25, along with April 25, are very significant to The Most Reverend Jude Speyrer, Bishop Emeritus. All three mark special anniversaries for Bishop Speyrer. On the first day, the Bishop celebrated his 80th birthday while the second was the 56th anniversary of Bishop Speyrer's ordination to the priesthood. On April 25 of this year, the Bishop had the 29th anniversary of his ordination as a Bishop. It was, of course, also the 29th birthday of the Diocese.

Monday, September 11, 1882 was a red-letter day in Southwest Louisiana. Do you know what happened on that fall morning in Lake Charles, nearly 127 years ago? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, accepts a check in the amount of \$2,750 from Fred Fluitt, former Master of the Louisiana Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from the group's annual Excellence in Religious Education program in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Pictured, from left, are Charles Kratzer, Faithful Navigator of Msgr. Joseph Peeters Assembly # 332; Rodney Duplechin, outgoing Faithful Navigator of Msgr. Cramers Assembly #320 of Lake Charles; Mr. Fluitt, Bishop Provost, John Halloran, Diocesan Coordinator of the Fourth Degree; Harry Jones, outgoing Faithful Navigator of Father Veillard Assembly #2087 of Sulphur. The annual grant is given by members of each Fourth Degree Assembly domiciled in the Diocese to aid in the continuing education and training of diocesan religious education instructors through the Adult Education component of the Office of Religious Education.

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Catholic schools will open on August 19

LAKE CHARLES – The opening day for Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be Wednesday, August 19. Catholic schools will dismiss classes at noon on that first day, according to Kimberlee Gazzolo, superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Mrs. Gazzolo has been getting the lay of the land since taking over as the superintendent of the eight-school Catholic system in the Diocese. Those schools are St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff, Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur and Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings.

The new superintendent comes to her post from an all-girls school in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, which she led from 2003 to 2009.

Mrs. Gazzolo isn't the only new face in a leadership position in Catholic education for 2009-2010, as three schools will have new principals. Mrs. JoAnne Wallwork has moved from Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings to head Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School in Lake Charles. Mrs. Nicole Reeves was named the principal at Our Lady Immaculate and Mrs. Jennifer Belton, who had served as interim principal during the 2008-2009 term at St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff, has had the "interim" tag removed from the title.

Superintendent Gazzolo came to Southwest Louisiana from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles where there are 225 elementary schools and 50 high schools, though she is not a native Californian. "Neither my husband nor I grew up in California," she said. "We grew up in the Midwest, my husband is from Chicago and I'm from Ohio. We also lived in South Carolina and in Arizona, so we haven't been limited to the California experience."

She doesn't miss the traffic and the more hectic lifestyle of Southern California, saying that Southwest Louisiana was just the kind of place she and her family were seeking.

"I made a decision quite some time ago in my career that I wanted to be in a diocesan office but we were also looking for a place where the quality of life would improve for our family and our children," she said.

Finding out about the schools and their personnel has been a high priority in the opening month of her new job.

"Part of my primary goal this year is to get a feeling of where we are because I don't think we can figure out where we are going to go unless I have a clear understanding of where we are currently," she said. "My goal is to visit all the schools. I have met with the principals on an informal basis already. I wanted to meet with each of them prior to their first big meeting in August and get a tour of their school. Everyone has been very gracious and welcoming."

The superintendent sees the current economic climate in Southwest Louisiana as a time to move people to a different understanding of what a Catholic education is all about.

"I think this is a unique time with the economic hardships that many families are facing," she said. "I think it is a unique time for us to help families realize the kind of value we have in Catholic education."

While she believes that enrollment in the eight schools in the diocesan system will remain fairly steady, the current economic situation could have a slight impact. Last year's first day enrollment for Catholic schools was 2,722, an increase of 15 students over the opening day number from 2007-2008.

"It seems from all indications that the enrollment is pretty stable – in some schools it has gone up and in some schools it may have gone down – but overall it's pretty stable," she said. "I think it is tough for people right now in this economy because Catholic parents and non-Catholic parents who wish to



Superintendent of Diocesan Catholic schools Kimberlee Gazzolo, left, and Starla Jennies, right, administrative assistant, are working diligently to prepare for the opening day of the 2009-2010 school year - Wednesday, August 19.

send their kids to a Catholic school are faced with a variety of challenges economically that they haven't been faced with before.

"The marketing aspect is really going to be a key component," she said. "It is not good enough for us anymore as Catholic educators to make the presumption that people will just choose to send their children to Catholic schools. We have to really market not only the advantages that a Catholic education has spiritually, emotionally, and academically but publicize our good works as well. I would hope that that is where the diocesan office can help facilitate with the schools. I see the superintendent as a facilitator of both the vision that the bishop has and a facilitator to help unify the schools but still let them have their own autonomy."

The superintendent also looks to marketing and development for the schools as important aspects for growth.

"I think it is in the areas of marketing, long range development and planning that helps make a school stronger," she said. "When a school is seen as stronger in the public eye, then parents feel more comfortable investing in their child's education there. So these are two areas where we are going to focus this year – marketing and development."

"I believe we can all learn from each other," she continued. "From what I have seen so far, every school in this diocese, is distinctly its own community and has both its own challenges and its own talents that their faculty and administration and staff bring to the table. So, I would hope that we can all come together this year and learn from one another."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For more on this story, visit lcdioocese.org.)



Sue Ledet, left, and Susan Fontenot, right, both officers of the Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Committee on Scouting, join John Halloran, also of Lake Charles at the recent training sessions held at the Philmont Center in New Mexico.

Two Diocesan Scout leaders participate in training courses

LAKE CHARLES – Two officers from the Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Lake Charles recently returned from attending Relationship Week at the Philmont Training Center near Cimarron, New Mexico.

Committee chairman Susan Fontenot and secretary Sue Ledet attended the course 'Scouting in the Catholic Church', along with 25 other participants from around the country who were kept very busy during most of the week. During the four days of classroom work they received refresher training on the Mission, Methods and Aims of Scouting as well as the Charter Concept and the Role of the Chartered Organization Representative. Their Catholic Faculty instructed them on Scouter Development - Lay Apostolate Formation for Scouting, Catechism, Renewing the Vision and about the Catholic Committee on Scouting Structure and Mission at the National (NCCS) and Diocesan level.

At midweek they were given

the opportunity to explore the surrounding area or to hike some of the trails at Philmont. A member of the faculty for the week was John J. Halloran, Jr., also from Lake Charles and currently serving as chair-elect of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Relationship Week provides the opportunity for the major religions to train their members on how "Scouting as Youth Ministry" can make a positive impact not only on Scouting but in their respective faiths as well.

Philmont Scout Ranch is located in the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ)

mountain range. It was part of the Beaubien-Miranda land grant from Mexico in 1841. The Santa Fe Trail passes along Philmont's eastern boundary. Both Kit Carson and mountain man Lucien Maxwell built homes, which are located at the southeast corner of the ranch.

It has a rich history and heritage of Spanish, Native American and Anglo cultures. Oklahoma oilman Waite Philips used the ranch as his home away from home from 1922 until he donated it to the Boy Scouts of America in 1938.

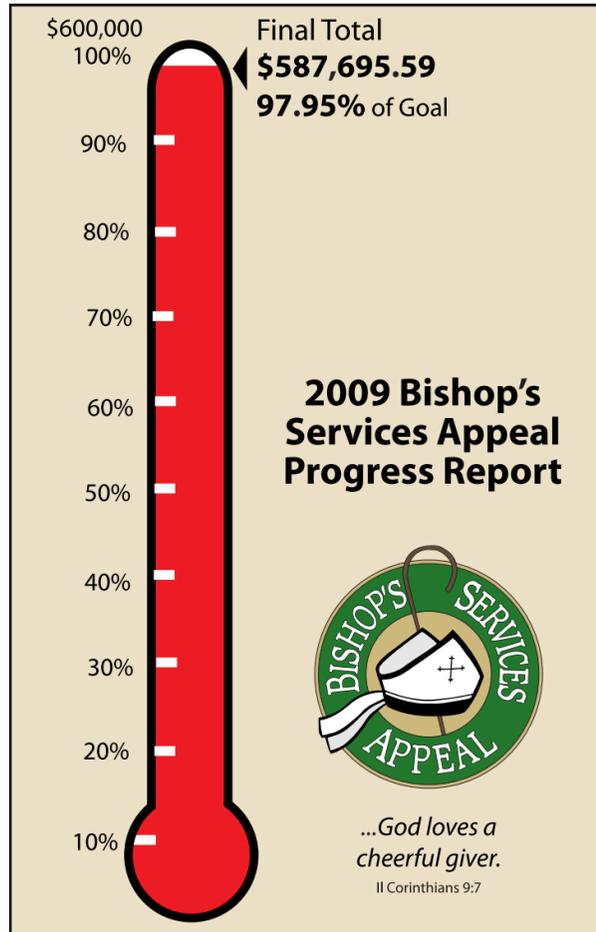


Blake Bruchhaus, right, is joined by Vanessa Landry, second from left, and Lyndsey LeBlanc, seated, a member of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Core Team, along with Milissa Thibodeaux, Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry as they watch streaming video of *Glad Tidings*, the Diocese of Lake Charles' Sunday morning television program on the Internet. Now, if you miss the early morning program, you can catch up by logging onto the Diocesan website - lcdioocese.org. Try it out, then send your comments to communications@lcdioocese.org.

Pope's August Prayer Intentions

VATICAN CITY- Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for August is: "That public opinion may be more aware of the problems of millions of displaced persons and refugees, and that concrete solutions may be found for their often tragic situation".

His mission intention is: "That those Christians who are discriminated against and persecuted in many countries because of the name of Christ may have their human rights, equality and religious freedom recognized, in order to be able to live and profess their own faith freely".



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