



Bishop Provost opens "Year for Priests" in the Diocese

LAKE CHARLES – On the feast day of St. John Vianney, the Cure Ars, Bishop Glen John Provost presided over a Vespers Service officially beginning the Year for Priests in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Pope Benedict XVI called for a worldwide Year for Priests in June, naming the 18th Century priest, who had already been the patron of parish priests, as the patron of all priests. St. John Vianney was proclaimed Venerable on Oct. 3, 1874 by Pope Pius IX and enrolled among the Blessed on Jan. 8, 1905. Pope Pius X proposed him as a model to the parochial clergy and he was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1925.

St. John Vianney lived a life of service, Bishop Provost noted in his homily and the Bishop recalled an image of service from his seminary days in Rome.

"When I was a seminarian in Rome, there was an older gentleman in his 80s whose name was Umberto. He was frail, weak, and very slow moving.

"Every morning he would dress up in a morning suit and position himself at the entrance of the college and there he would do only one thing, he would open the door and close the door for all the seminarians as they passed," the Bishop continued. "This is what he would do, this is all he did. He wasn't hired to do it but it was what he would do. He wasn't asked to do it. He just did it, because he wanted to do it. Because, it was his only way of being of service.

"When he would open the door for the seminarians, he would always kiss your hand, which was for me always a very humbling experience," Bishop Provost said. "I felt I should be kissing his hand. He was a reminder of service. A gentleman in retirement making an effort to do what little he could do, and doing it faithfully and well. This is what I think St. John Vianney did."

St. John Vianney's life was a life of service, he served the needs of his parishioners,

from morning to night, with what little sleep he had, waking early so that he could continue his service, according to Bishop Provost.

"Hearing confessions for a dozen or sixteen or 18 hours a day, one wonders when he had time for anything else - his catechetical instructions, his visitations to the sick, his caring for those who are dying, the list goes on and on," Bishop Provost noted.

His assignment at Ars, which to this day, according to the Bishop, is an out of the way place, changed the parish.

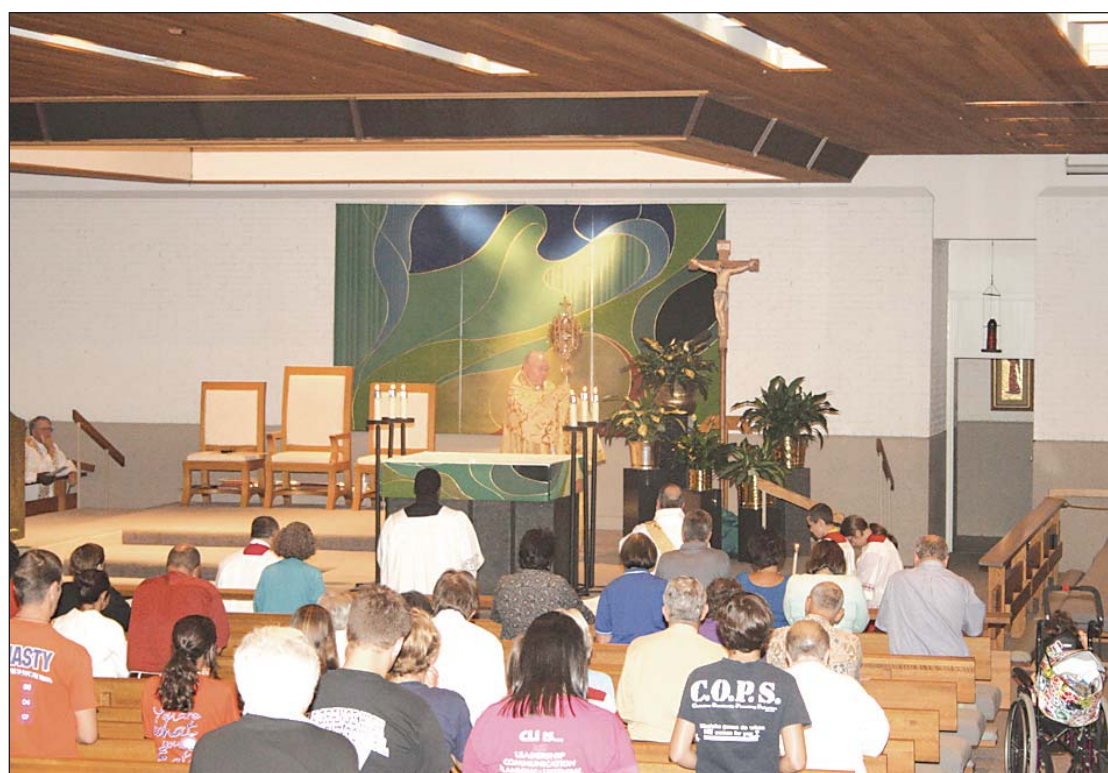
"He came to a parish whose religious practice was lukewarm at best, if not non-existent," the Bishop said. "By the time he died, the place was thriving with people who had flocked from all directions of France and from Europe too, to have their confessions heard by this priest to whom God had given the gift of reading hearts.

"There are many ways in which a priest might give his life in service - he could teach in a seminary, be a missionary in a foreign land, serve as a chaplain to a charitable institution, to a prison, or a school - but for St. John Vianney it was as a parish priest that he served, communicating Christ in his life and in the Sacraments."

The Bishop noted that "like Umberto we are not quite sure of what we can do, but what we do we are going to do faithfully, we are going to persevere doing it and we are going to do it as well as we can."

At the beginning of the Year for Priests, Bishop Provost asked that everyone "pray for priests daily, heeding the exhortation of Pope Benedict, who said he was calling the year for priests in order to have a spiritual renewal of priests. The spiritual renewal of priests is always necessary because without holy priests the faithful cannot be called to holiness."

In closing his homily, the Bishop said, "So, we pray for our priests. And, at the end of



At the conclusion of the Vespers Service at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church on the Feast Day of St. John Vianney, Bishop Glen John Provost, his shoulders enveloped in the humeral veil, took the monstrance, containing the Blessed Sacrament, into his hands and with it makes the sign of the cross in silence over the kneeling congregation.

this special vespers, which I think is such a marvelous occasion for us to be gathered around the Blessed Sacrament in adoration, we begin this year for priests seeking the intercession of St. John Vianney for our priests and for vocations to the priesthood as well. Let us pray that we might follow the example of St. John Vianney, who served faithfully, perseveringly and well and in so doing mani-

fested a holiness to which he was called by God and an example he left for us to follow as well."

St. John Vianney, pray for us and intercede for us, who strive to follow the example that you set that we might witness in our own lives to the sufferings of Christ and share the glory that He promised to those who do the Father's will.



Reverend Richard Uche Adiukwu, Pastor of St. Eugene Catholic Church in Grand Chenier, and Administrator of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole, blesses the fleet from the newly rebuilt jetty pier recreational facility in Cameron on Friday, August 7. The blessing officially opened the 2009 Cameron Parish Lions Club Fishing Festival. The event, which returned to Cameron this year for the first time since Hurricane Rita, supports numerous community and youth events, as well as the Lions Club Scholarship Program. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers).



The Rev. Monsignor Jace Eskind, J.C.L., makes a presentation dealing with confirmation to catechists at the opening meeting of Parish Catechetical leaders of the Diocese of Lake Charles held at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

Want to know about the Faith? Contact your local Catholic Church

LAKE CHARLES – In Catholic churches around the Diocese of Lake Charles and across the United States, a process to help inquisitive people learn more about the Catholic faith will begin soon. This process, which is done at the Church parish level, is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), according to Bernell Ezell, Director of the Office of Evangelization for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

"The RCIA is a process, where any practicing Catholic, fallen-away Catholic, member of another faith tradition or of no faith tradition, can seek out answers to their questions about the Catholic faith," Ezell said. "Anyone with questions can contact any of the churches of the Diocese to help find answers."

For those who have questions and perhaps want to know more about becoming Catholic, the first period of the journey is called the inquiry period. This is where seekers ask hard questions about Christianity and receive truthful, life-sharing answers from Catholic Christians. The informal discussions during the inquiry period help the seekers link their personal life stories to the Good News as witnessed and lived by the Roman Catholic community.

The RCIA process is a se-



RCIA

ries of carefully planned stages, marked by liturgical rites in the presence of the whole community, in which new Catholics embark on and join us in a continuing and deepening conversion into faith and discipleship. The RCIA takes the distinctive history and spiritual needs of each person into account, differentiating between the baptized and the unbaptized, the catechized and the uncatechized. The needs of mature, practicing Christians from other faith traditions are considered on an individual basis.

The RCIA draws its model from the "catechumenate" of the ancient Church. Becoming Christian in the early days of the Church involved a sharp break with the surrounding culture. New Christians entered into the joy of new life and a life-sharing community of faith, but also entered into a way of living, which demanded deep commitment and entailed great risks. In the modern world, our faith also

demands deep commitment - our beliefs and the beliefs of our society are often in tension. The Church revived the catechumenate -- embodied in the RCIA -- because new believers in the modern world need careful preparation and caring support as they enter into the mysteries of Christ and the commitment of Christian living.

So, if you have questions about the Catholic faith, contact your local parish. If you don't know where the Catholic Church in your community is located, you can go to the website of the Diocese of Lake Charles at ladiocese.org to find addresses and phone numbers. You might also contact the Office of Evangelization and Mrs. Ezell can help pinpoint the faith community nearest to you.

(For more information on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, go to ladiocese.org, go to Diocesan Structure and click on Evangelization.)

Logo unveiled for Youth Day 2011

MADRID - The logo for World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid reflects youth of the world beneath the cross, united to form the crown of Our Lady, patron of Madrid.

World Youth Day is scheduled for Aug. 16-21, 2011.

The logo designer, José Gil-Nogués, explained that the image symbolizes "youth of the whole world united to celebrate their faith together with the Pope, at the foot of the cross, and they form the crown of Our Lady of Almu- dena, patron of Madrid."

The crown, Gil-Nogués added, forms the "M" of Mary and of Madrid. And the cross, symbol of Christianity, presides over the event.

The message of the logo, the designer continued, is "a

catechesis, an opportunity for evangelization: The quick and sure path to reach Christ is the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and of mankind. In Mary's faith, youth have the example and model for reaching Christ and fulfilling the primary goal of World Youth Day: to bring their message to the world."

"The logo has a firm and spontaneous stroke," Gil-Nogués suggested, "like youth of the 21st century. It is close, friendly, open, joyful, carefree and positive."

"The use of a palette of warm colors -- red, orange and yellow -- transmits unmistakable warmth and friendliness, symbols of the identity of a city like Madrid, a nation like Spain. These colors also reflect the 'divine warmth' of Trinitarian Love."

The logo was selected after a competition among professional graphic designers.



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“Inquirers” welcomed to Permanent Diaconate preparation program

MOSS BLUFF – The Most Reverend Glen J. Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, along with Monsignor Ronald C. Groth and Reverend Archimandrite Herbert J. May officially welcomed, the 20 “Inquirers” and their spouses, chosen to participate in the newly re-established Diocesan Program of Preparation for the Permanent Diaconate. The “Inquirers” and their spouses gathered at Saint Charles Center to begin their studies with a weekend retreat on forms of spirituality, directed by Monsignor Groth and Archimandrite May.

Those selected to participate in the program were nominated by their respective pastors and interviewed by members of the Diocesan Seminary Advisory Board before Bishop Provost invited them to take part.

The program of formation for these “Inquirers” is five years in length and will be co-directed by Monsignor Groth and Archimandrite May. Each “Inquirer,” along with his spouse, will participate in 10 semesters of education and formation in theology, sacramentology, scripture, morality and pastoral and liturgical practice. In the first year of study, slated to begin on September 13, the “Inquirers” will complete a study of “The Catechism of the Catholic Church” under the direction of Mrs. Sandy Gay and Archimandrite May. They will also study the fundamentals of philosophy under the direction of Reverend Father Clyde Thomas.

Upon completion of these ‘introductory’ classes, the “Inquirers” will begin, in the Fall 2010, their ‘official’ studies of theology which will continue over four years. Each of the “Inquirers” will be required, during this time of study and formation, to receive regular spiritual direction under the guidance of a priest or deacon approved for this ministry by Bishop Provost.

Along with their spouse, the “Inquirers” will also participate in a ‘tutoring program’ which will be directed by currently ordained deacons and their wives from the Diocese. While continuing their studies, the “Inquirers” will also be expected to regularly be involved in various ‘service ministries’ in their parish.

The men selected to be part of the “Inquiry Phase” of preparation include Brian J. Babineaux and J. Dennis Verette from Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish (Lake Charles), Glen D. Bertrand and Albert Weinnig from Saint Joseph Parish (DeRidder), Erroll J. DeVille and Harold J. Nixon from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish (Lake Charles), Richard E. Donahoe, III, from Saint Martin de Porres Parish (Lake Charles), Josue Canelo Quintero (Hispanic Ministry), David K. Ellender from Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish (Carlyss), Christopher S. Fontenot from Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish (Lake Charles), Daniel K. Foreman from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish (Sulphur), J. Christopher Gregory for Immaculate Conception Parish (Sulphur), Michael P. Guillory from Saint Paul Parish (Elton), Leo A. Hebert from Saint Theodore Parish (Moss Bluff), Patrick Hebert from Saint Henry Parish (Lake Charles), Jesse R. Menard from Saint Joseph Parish (Vinton), G. Todd Palombo for Saint John Bosco Parish (Westlake), Anthony P. Pousson from Saint Margaret of Scotland Parish (Lake Charles), Brian J. Soileau from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish (Oakdale), and Stephen G. Starr from Saint Raphael Parish (Iowa).



The 20 men along with their spouses who are participating in the “inquiring” portion of the newly re-established program of Preparation for the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Lake Charles spent a weekend retreat at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center on August 7-9 with Rev. Archimandrite Herbert J. May and Msgr. Ronald Groth, co-directors of the program.

Youth participate in mission, retreat

HACKBERRY – Youth from five churches in the Diocese of Lake Charles and one from the Diocese of Lafayette took part in “Uplift ‘09: No Words Necessary”, a youth retreat held in early July at St. Peter the Apostle Church.

The retreat was based on Franciscan spirituality and the main topics were the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, according to Josh Boutte, one of the organizers.

About 40 youth and 10 adults from Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Sulphur; Immaculate Conception, Maplewood; Our Lady of LaSalette, Sulphur; St. Theodore, Moss Bluff; Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Lake Charles; and St. Bernard in Breaux Bridge took part.

During the day the youth would do hurricane relief work in the Hackberry area, including trash pickup, painting, yard cleanup, sheetrocking, and some demolition work, including tearing out showers. “They did a multitude of things,” Boutte said.

“We also provided a Bible camp for St. Peter the Apostle’s young children and visited the homebound each day,” he continued. “The kids worked during the day and then in the evening took part in the different things you would find at a youth retreat. We had different speakers each night, games, prayers, and music. We prayed the Angelus at noon, had evening prayer, and daily Mass.”

“Bishop (Glen John) Provost celebrated one of the evening liturgies and Father Rommel (Tolentino) made himself available 24/7 for us. He was a really big part of the operation.”

Father Tolentino is the Pastor of St. Peter the Apostle.

The success of the event has provided organizers with the hope that they will be able to do it again next year, according to Boutte.



Bishop Glen John Provost gives his homily during the Mass he celebrated at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Hackberry during “Uplift ‘09”.

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Happy Birthday Bishop!



Bishop Glen John Provost is shown here with a birthday gift from the priests of the Diocese, a framed image of St. John Vianney the universal patron of priests and the symbol of this “Year for Priests” called for by Pope Benedict XVI, on the occasion of a luncheon in his honor on Friday, Aug. 7, at St. Henry Catholic Church. The picture of St. John Vianney now hangs in the Bishop’s office in the Chancery. The Bishop celebrated his birthday on Sunday, Aug. 9.

Did you know...

Monday, Sept. 11, 1882 saw 28 young ladies embark on their formal education under the tutelage of five newly arrived Sisters Marianites of the Holy Cross in a building that had once housed the first Catholic chapel in the area. This was the beginning of St. Charles Academy and the start of the educational system in Southwest Louisiana.

The year 1883 was another high water mark for the Church in the city. Do you know why? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

Bishop Provost joins Sheen Foundation

PEORIA, Ill. - Bishop Glen John Provost has joined the Episcopal Advisory Board for the Cause for Beatification of the Servant of God Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Bishop Provost joins bishops from around the U.S. in supporting the cause.

Fulton Sheen (1895-1979) was a universally popular evangelist, radio/TV personality, writer and missionary. His cause for beatification and canonization was officially opened in 2002 by the Diocese of Peoria, Ill., Sheen’s birthplace.

The Sheen Foundation is the official promoter of the beatification cause.

Visit the Foundation’s website, www.archbishop-sheencause.org to learn more about Archbishop Sheen’s Canonization and how to help the Cause.

Busy time for Seafarers Center

LAKE CHARLES – Deacon Patrick Lapoint and the staff of the Seafarers Center of the Diocese of Lake Charles at the Port of Lake Charles had a busy May with 80 ships docking at port facilities up and down the ship channel.

Visits were made to 63 of those vessels and 774 seafarers were transported by the Center while 421 sailors visited the center at the Port. The Rev. Rommel Tolentino, chaplain for the center, celebrated two masses on board ships in July.

For the first seven months, 2,609 seafarers visited the Center, there were 1,652 volunteer hours worked, 1,906 permanent hours, 427 ship visits, and 4,117 seafarers transported in the Center van. There were 620 ships docked at port facilities since January and 10 shipboard masses were celebrated along with one Mass held in the Center chapel. A total of 173 attended the Masses. In addition one Communion Service was held onboard a vessel and there were 14 visits to ships by Father Tolentino.

Diocesan Briefs

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. Feature 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.

Breakfast, luncheon schedules told

LAKE CHARLES – The presentations of Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, on the Book of Revelation will continue with the Women’s Luncheon on Tuesday, September 1, beginning at noon in the Lake Charles Civic Center and at the Men’s First Friday Prayer Breakfast on September 4, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Office Building at 7 a.m.

Women should send a check in the amount of \$10, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and include a stamped, self addressed envelope. Men should call 439-7400 to register.

Dates for the remaining luncheons of 2009 are October 6 and November 3. No luncheons will be held 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 October 2, November 6, and December 4, with no Prayer Breakfast in January. Dates in 2010 are February 5, March 5, May 14, and June 4, with no Prayer Breakfast in April. Due to scheduling the May breakfast actually takes place on the second Friday.

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.

Catechist Workshop set August 29

SULPHUR – The Diocesan Catechist Workshop, “Getting Started as a Catechist”, is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church. Registration begins at 8:40 a.m.

For more information, call Elise LeBouef at 496-9700 or 527-8307.

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. tomorrow, 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.

Order today by calling Lula at 433-5162 or Eula at 433-7670. On Saturday, make your order by phoning 439-1159.

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