

## Vespers Service for Saint Peter Claver to open celebration of Diocese's Thirtieth Anniversary

LAKE CHARLES - A Vespers Service (Evening Prayer) has been scheduled for Sunday, September 13 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to inaugurate a year of celebration recalling the anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles, according to The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles.

Bishop Provost will preside over the service that begins at 6:30 p.m. and honors the Patron Saint of the Diocese, Saint Peter Claver.

"It is highly appropriate that we focus our attention on St. Peter Claver as we begin also this Year for Priests," Bishop Provost said. "St. Peter Claver is not only the primary patron of our diocese. He, like St. John Vianney, a good and holy priest, offered his life for others. He is a splendid example of priestly zeal, concern for justice, and total sacrifice in the celebration of the sacraments."

Saint Peter Claver was chosen as the Patron Saint of the Diocese by its first Bishop, The Most Reverend Jude Speyrer. The Diocese is privileged to have a first class relic of Saint Peter Claver, which will be on display for veneration at this service.

Saint Peter Claver was born near Barcelona in modern day Spain in 1580; he joined the Society of Jesus, commonly called the Jesuits. After being influenced by Saint Alphonus Rodriguez, Peter decided he wanted to be a missionary to what was then known as "The New World".

To that end, he continued his studies and was sent to the then called "New Granada" or modern day Colombia and was ordained at Cartagena in 1615. Cartagena was the principal center of the African slave trade and Peter Claver spent his life trying to alleviate the horrible conditions of the slaves. He worked among the slaves in the yards where they were penned and ministered to them with food and medicine. He was able to baptize some three thousand persons in the course of his forty years of ministry. However, his ministry did not just concern the souls of these unfortunates.

Peter Claver would visit the plantations and plead with owners of these slaves to improve their conditions of life and work. During these visits, he actually lodged with the slaves. In addition to his ministry to the slaves, Peter Claver visited the imprisoned and the lepers. He was known as a great

preacher and led a very austere life; he is reputed to have possessed supernatural gifts including that of prophecy, miracles and the ability to read the hearts and minds of people.

In 1650, he was stricken with a plague that beset Cartagena but he did not neglect his duties even when mortally ill. He died on September 8th and was canonized in 1888. Pope Leo XIII named him the patron of all missionary activities to African-Americans. His feast day is September 9.

Since Bishop Speyrer's choice of Peter Claver as Diocesan Patron, his feast has been observed annually. Normally, the celebration is observed on the Sunday nearest to the actual feast day thus allowing more of the faithful to attend and participate.

This year's celebration is especially significant in that it will inaugurate a year-long celebration of the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles nearly 30 years ago. The Diocese was erected by a Decree of Pope John Paul II on January 29, 1980. Three months later, on April 25, 1980, Monsignor Jude Speyrer of the Diocese of Lafayette, was consecrated the first bishop of the newly established Diocese and served as its spiritual leader for twenty years. He was succeeded by Bishop Edward K. Braxton, then Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Louis, who was later named bishop of Belleville. In February, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI, named Monsignor Glen J. Provost of the Diocese of Lafayette as the third bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles and he was consecrated and installed on April 22.

Various activities have been planned from September 2009 to September 2010, to commemorate and celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Diocese. Unique during the year will be an "Anniversary Banquet" on Saturday, April 24, 2010, at Treasures of Marilyn's in Lake Charles. New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans will be the guest speaker. Tickets will be available in each of the parishes of the Diocese at a cost of \$100 per person and the proceeds from the event will be utilized to help fund the work of Diocesan Charities.

On Thursday, September 9, 2010, the Feast Day of Saint Peter Claver, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 10:30 a.m. The final celebration will be on Sunday, September 12, 2010,



Saint Peter Claver

at 6:30 p.m., as the special year concludes with the Celebration of Vespers at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Provost asks that all join during this time to honor our patron saint and celebrate the accomplishments of our Missionary Diocese during this anniversary year.



Everyone, the entire family, will find something to enjoy at this year's Called2BCatholic Family Music Festival of Louisiana to be held Saturday, Oct. 24.

## Called 2B Catholic Family Music Festival of Louisiana set Oct. 24

SULPHUR - Called 2B Catholic Family Music Festival of Louisiana (formerly known as Proud2BCatholic.com Music Festival) will be held from 12:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24 on the Sulphur High School Freshman campus.

Doors will open at noon and Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. The event will close with Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 9 p.m. on the main stage.

"This all-day festival indoor event is more than a concert," said Melissa Thibodeaux, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles, which sponsors the event. "It is a faith-filled event featuring

Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, an opportunity for Confession, breakout sessions on key topics, and some of the best international recording artists, food concessions, Catholic product vendors and various organizations and ministries. It is an event for the entire family!"

A variety of Catholic-Christian music will be performed by Ceili Rain, Vallimar Jansen, Josh Blakesley, Cooper Ray, Greg Walton, Daniel diSilva, Nichole Ackoury Lanthier, Gabriel's Cry and more, according to Ms. Thibodeaux

In addition to the main music stage there will also be the "Music and Ministry

Stage" sponsored by St. Michael Music with breakout sessions on key topics.

Tickets can be purchased at the Diocese of Lake Charles office located at 411 Iris Street, Crossroads Bookstore, and the Youth Office of the church parishes within the diocese. Call Caroline Dupre at 337-439-7426, Ext. 301 to order tickets by telephone.

Lower rates apply for larger groups and diocesan youth groups are encouraged to order together, according to Thibodeaux.

For more information contact Thibodeaux at mlissia.thibodeaux@lcdioocese.org.

For more on this story go to [lcdioocese.org](http://lcdioocese.org).

## Bishop's Golf Classic to be held October 9

LAKE CHARLES - The Second Annual Bishop's Golf Classic will be held on Friday October 9 at the Lake Charles Country Club.

The event provides funding for the Seminarian and Priest Retirement Funds and is being sponsored by Cameron State Bank, Alfred Palma Contractors, Bubba Oustalet and Jeff Davis Bank. Lake Charles Toyota is sponsoring the hole-in-one contest giving away a new Toyota for an ace.

The four-person scramble will have two shotgun starts, 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$125 per individual or \$500 a team. Also available are hole sponsorships at \$150 each and banner sponsorships for \$1,000. Registration forms are available at area golf courses and at the Diocese of Lake Charles, 414 Iris Street. The entry deadline is September 28.

Checks should be made payable to The Diocese of Lake Charles and returned with the entry form to The Bishop's Golf Classic, P. O. Box 2225, Lake Charles LA 70602. For general information, contact Larry DeRousset at (337)794-8339 or by email at [lderousset@laia.com](mailto:lderousset@laia.com).

Prizes will be awarded for 1st Low Gross, 2nd Low Gross, 10th Low Gross as well as the longest drive and closest to the pin hole in each session.

Food will be provided by Port Aggregates/Southern Bar B Que and Chef Andrew Vanchiere.

The cost of educating the men who are studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles is an expensive task. The nine men currently in various stages of their education and training are attending five different seminaries.

This year the cost of tuition and fees for these men will be more than \$250,000. Bishop Glen John Provost's appointment of five vocation recruiters as well as directors of the Offices of Vocations and Seminarians shows his strong determination to seek out others whom the Holy Spirit is calling to the vocation of diocesan priest. More seminarians in the future will mean additional funds will be needed for their education and training.

At the opposite end of priestly life is the retired priest. We must see to the care and welfare of these men who have given their lives to spreading the Gospel message in the faith communities of Southwest Louisiana. Currently ten men, nine priests and our Bishop-emeritus, are in this category.

The Diocese will expend \$280,000 on the welfare of these wonderful and holy men during the next fiscal year. The depth of their sacrifice to the Faith is reason enough to aid them for the remainder of their days.

For more on this story go to [lcdioocese.org](http://lcdioocese.org).

## Catholic Schools open with higher enrollment

LAKE CHARLES - The eight Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles opened for the 2009-2010 term of classes on August 19 with 2,739 students in attendance on that opening day, according to Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Diocesan Schools. The first day enrollment was a 17-student increase overall from last year.

"As we begin the new school year, we are pleased that our total diocesan school enrollment has in-

creased over the past school year," said Mrs. Gazzolo. "All of our school administrators are actively working to ensure that a strong curriculum is in place for their students. Teachers and students have immediately started the task of learning and being a prayerful community."

"Several of our schools have chosen a spiritual theme which will stay with them throughout the year," she continued. "These themes can be a constant reminder to our children of the presence of

Christ within our schools.

"In several of my school visits, I have been impressed by how excited the children are to start their new school year. I have been asked 'what exactly do you do all day?' and I have been invited to come and watch games and skits" Mrs. Gazzolo concluded.

Along with Mrs. Gazzolo, who began her tenure as Superintendent on July 1, three schools have new lead administrators.

For more on this story go to [lcdioocese.org](http://lcdioocese.org).

### 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

## Father Covert goes to Rome for Canon Law, language studies

LAKE CHARLES - Father Derek Covert, until recently the Parochial Vicar (associate pastor) of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, is now ensconced in his student quarters in Rome. Father Covert is beginning his three-year sojourn, as directed by Bishop Glen John Provost, of studies in Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University with an immersion course in Italian. He left Lake Charles for the Eternal City last weekend and was scheduled to begin the language training almost immediately upon arrival.

"I will be studying Canon Law in general as well as languages," Father Covert

said. "I will be required to learn three languages - Italian (all of his classes will be in Italian), Latin and also Spanish for the purposes of research."

"The Latin is part of the Canon Law curriculum but I will be on my own with the Italian and Spanish," he continued. "Much as with the Italian, I think I may try to do an immersion program in Spanish, because some of the research (in the course work) will be in Spanish. I think that would be good."

The first semester at the Gregorian begins in October and lasts until February and the second semester starts in February and won't end un-

til late May or early June.

The 33-year old priest was the first man ordained by Bishop Provost for the Diocese on May 26, 2007, only a few short months following Bishop Provost's consecration as the third Bishop of the Diocese.

While he was surprised that Bishop Provost asked him to pursue this course of study he was "excited because I thought there were others who could do this much better than I. The thing that continues to inspire me is what we are doing and why we are doing it."

For more on this story go to [lcdioocese.org](http://lcdioocese.org).

### Did you know...

With the success of the Catholic girls school (St. Charles Academy), which opened in March 1882, the next step was starting a school for boys in Lake Charles. This occurred in March 1883 when the facility, located on the southeast corner of the Immaculate Conception Church's property at Kirby and Bilbo streets, opened its doors to 46 boys ages 12 years and younger and led by a single lay teacher. In early October 1885, after receiving appropriate permission from the order's leadership, a Marianite of Holy Cross Sister took up her duties at the boys school.

St. Charles Academy graduated its first student on June 30, 1887. Do you know who she was? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles through the generous sponsorships of the following:

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Bishop Glen John Provost speaks to the golfers prior to the start of the morning round at last year's Bishop's Golf Classic.

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The first semester of the Gregorian begins in October and lasts until February and the second semester starts in February and won't end until late May or early June.

Until the beginning of his initial semester, Father Covert will be working hard to become fluent in speaking, reading, and writing in Italian. "I will have five weeks of intensive studies in Italian and after those five weeks the same professor who is teaching the immersion program is going to tutor me for about 40 hours," Father Covert said. "Then in the third week of November I will take a proficiency examination and the goal is to pass that test."

While it seems a "sink or swim" concept, Father Covert noted that there will



Father Derek Covert

be a lot of aids to help him. "There are other priests who have already been in the university and they will be of help through notes and things of that nature."

He also pointed out that the university would be different from American universities in that "there won't be quizzes and such, daily or weekly because they deal more with a comprehensive knowledge of the subject. By the time the semester ends, which is in February the hope is that I will be proficient in Italian."

While he had some Spanish in high school and a smattering of Latin classes in the seminary, he was told by one professor that he seemed to pick up languages more easily than other students.

"Although I am not fluent in Spanish, I think I will be able to get some of it back," he said.

According to Father Covert, Canon Law is basically the governance of the Church. "It is used to govern the church as is civil law for our civil government," he

said. "It deals with all aspects of the Church - the Sacraments, the distribution of the Sacraments, teaching in the church, and also deals with the rights and obligations of all the people, the laity as well as the clergy. The work will include studying Roman Law, philosophy, and theology of law and the law itself."

At the end of his course of study, Father Covert will have earned a Licentiate of Canon Law or J.C.L. "It is the equivalent of a master's degree," he said.

Father Covert's return to the Diocese three years hence with his degree would probably mean working in the Tribunal. There are currently four people with the same degree working in the Diocese.

"The anticipation, I believe, would have me return and take time to learn how the Tribunal works, learning from those who are there," he said. "So I believe it is for preparation for the future, when at least some of the three priests (of the four people) would be looking toward retirement in the next 20 years or so. I would have been prepared to take someone's place, who either retired or moved on to other ministry."

The 33-year old priest was the first man ordained by Bishop Provost for the Diocese on May 26, 2007, only a few short months following Bishop Provost's consecration as the third Bishop of the Diocese.

While he was surprised that Bishop Provost asked him to pursue this course of study he was "excited because I thought there were others who could do this much better than I. The thing that continues to inspire me is what we are doing. It is another reason I am greatly honored and appreciate the Bishop having asked me to do this."



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"This all-day festival indoor event is more than a concert," said Milissa Thibodeaux, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles, which sponsors the event. "It is a faith-filled event featuring Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, an opportunity for Confession, breakout sessions on key topics, and some of the best international recording artists, food concessions, Catholic product vendors and various organizations and ministries. It is an event for the entire family!"

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Christian music will be performed by Ceili Rain, Vallimar Jansen, Josh Blakesley, Cooper Ray, Greg Walton, Daniel diSilva, Nichole Ackoury Lanthier, Gabriel's Cry and more, according to Ms. Thibodeaux

In addition to the main music stage there will also be the "Music and Ministry Stage" sponsored by St. Michael Music with breakout sessions on key topics. Speakers will include Cooper Ray, Greg Walton, Daniel diSilva, Katie Prejean, Chip Gauthier, and Joshua Boutte. Each breakout session will begin with a musical act featuring some of our local and regional musicians.

"We will also have a "Vocations.com Coffee House" for teens ages 16 and up, young adults and adults with scheduled talks, testimonies and more," Thibodeaux said. "Those attending can take time out to pray in the Adoration Chapel featuring music by wonderful faith-filled musicians. The chapel will be open from noon to 5:30 p.m."

"In addition to all of this, we will have a "Kids for Christ Play Area" featuring Party for the Pope, Arts and Crafts, Sand Art, music and dance," Thibodeaux continued. "It is our prayer that the event brings over 2000 people from Louisiana and other Southern states to the new state-of-the-art facility in Sulphur."

Tickets can be purchased at the Diocese of Lake Charles office located at 411 Iris Street, Crossroads Bookstore, and the Youth Office of the church parishes within the diocese. Call Caroline Dupre at 337-439-7426, Ext. 301 to order tickets by telephone.

Lower rates apply for larger groups and diocesan youth groups are encouraged to order together, according to Thibodeaux.

For more information about this event, please contact Thibodeaux by e-mail at [milissa.thibodeaux@lodiocese.org](mailto:milissa.thibodeaux@lodiocese.org).

For more on this story go to [lodiocese.org](http://lodiocese.org).

## Diocesan Briefs

### Diocesan offices closed

LAKE CHARLES - The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in celebration of Labor Day. They will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

### St. Joan of Arc bazaar Sunday

OBERLIN - St. Joan of Arc Church is hoisting its 21st Annual Bazaar Sunday, Sept. 6, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with Mass. Live music and bingo will go along with barbecue and pork lunches. There will also be a sweet shop, a raffle and auction.

### SE update lessons online

LAKE CHARLES - The web-based Safe Environment single update lesson for 2009-2010 has been posted on the Diocese of Lake Charles website, according to Bernell Ezell, Director of Child and Youth Protection.

She urges all safe environment coordinators to encourage all those on their parish and school lists to complete the lesson as

early as possible, noting that anyone who has not completed the two update lessons for the year 2008-2009 still have an opportunity to do so as the lessons are archived.

### Bon Ton Festival Sept. 18-20

CARLYSS - The annual St. Theresa Catholic Church Bon Ton Festival is set for Friday through Sunday, Sept. 18-20 on the church grounds, 4822 Carlyss Drive. Admission and parking is free for the festival

On Friday gates open at 5 p.m. and close at 10:30 p.m. and on Saturday activities will be held from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. An outdoor Vigil Mass will begin at 4 p.m. The live auction will be held in the Church hall following the Mass. On Sunday gates open at 10 a.m. and close at 3 p.m.

There will be live entertainment, a Bon Ton Idol contest, carnival rides, and food booths, including fried catfish dinners, barbecue dinners (Sunday), crawfish etouffee, pork jambalaya, funnel cakes and gumbo. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.

### Part-time help sought at Seafarers' Center

LAKE CHARLES - The Seafarers' Center of the Diocese of Lake Charles is seeking applicants for a part-time driver/ship visitor position working 20 hours per week, according to Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Center director.

The successful applicant must be able to pass an FBI background check to receive a TWIC card, have a clean driving record and be willing and able to work nights.

Contact Deacon Lapoint at 436-1315 for more information.

### St. Charles Borromeo bazaar Sept. 13

FENTON -- The annual bazaar of St. Charles Borromeo Church is set Sunday, Sept. 13, on the church grounds. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., the event will feature barbecue dinners, hamburgers, rides and games for the kids, crafts, bingo and a country story.

An auction begins at noon and the bazaar ends at 3:30 p.m.

### Safe Environment Initial Trainings set

LAKE CHARLES -- Three Safe Environment Initial Training Workshops have been scheduled in September, according to Bernell Ezell, Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Sessions are set for Tuesday, Sept. 8, at St. John the Evangelist Chapel Hall, 314 Dugas Road, Lacassine; Monday, Sept. 14, in the Diocesan Chancery, 414 Iris Street; and Monday, Sept. 21 at Immaculate Conception Church, 2700 Maplewood Drive, Sulphur. All will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

For more information or to register call Mrs. Ezell at 439-7400, Ext. 305.

### Calca-Chew Festival Oct. 4

LAKE CHARLES -- St. Margaret of Scotland's "Calca-Chew Festival" will be held at the church's Family Center from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4.

A French Mass will open the festival at 7 a.m. with music by Les Amies Louisianaises Singers. Live music by "Red" Saltzman & Friends begins at 9 a.m.

This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles through the generous sponsorships of the following:

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