



## Louisiana Bishops issue statement on need to reform access to health care

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a statement regarding the need to reform access to health care in the United States. It was released on Monday, October 26.

The statement reads as follows:  
"The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops recognizes the need to reform access to health care in the United States. The Catholic Church has been and continues to be an advocate for health care reform that provides medical care for all in an accessible and affordable manner.

According to church teaching, health care is not merely a privilege, but a basic human right. In *Pacem in Terris*, Pope John XXIII stated that 'rights are universal and inviolable, and therefore altogether inalienable.' These include, but are not limited to, the 'right to medical care,' and 'to be looked after in the event of ill health.' The New Testament Scriptures further reveal an apostolic duty, commanded by Jesus, to heal the sick while proclaiming the Gospel (MT 10: 7-8).

For centuries, Catholic hospitals have served and ministered to the sick and the dying. Other Catholic institutions have welcomed and served the elderly, handicapped, expectant mothers, newborns, and others with physical, emotional or spiritual needs. This is an important expression of our respect for the innate dignity that lies within every human being, regardless of race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or social class.

This respect for life and dignity directs us to urge congress to support reforms that:

- Exclude public health care monies for abortion;
- Prohibit any form of euthanasia;
- Protect the right of conscience of a health care professional or institution; and
- Respect the right of a physician and a patient to decide treatment for the healing of that patient without interference.

Finally, in shaping public policy on access to health care, we appeal to congress for a plan that ensures basic affordable medical care for all, including legal immigrants, and a plan that protects the role of personal and private entities in carrying out their health care mission.

The bishops urge that any health care plan embraces all of these principles, and invite all Catholics to pray for all legislators that they will be enlightened by God to know what is good for our society and particularly those in need."

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops is composed of the Bishops and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the six Dioceses of the State of Louisiana - The Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans; The Most Rev. Sam G. Jacobs, Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux; The Most Rev. Michael Jarrell, Bishop of Lafayette; The Most Rev. Robert W. Muench, Bishop of Baton Rouge; The Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog, Bishop of Alexandria; The Most Rev. Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles; The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca, Bishop of Shreveport; and The Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans.



Mrs. Bernell Ezell, the Director of the Office of Evangelization, speaks to the members of parish evangelization committees at the forum held at St. Lawrence Church in Raymond.

## Evangelization forums draw large crowds

LAKE CHARLES -- Three forums sponsored by the Office of Evangelization of the Diocese of Lake Charles for parish evangelization teams brought together 144 people representing 21 parishes to discuss each parish's current evangelization efforts.

The approximately four-hour forums were held at St. Lawrence Church in Raymond, Immaculate Conception Church in Maplewood and Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church in Lake Charles, according to Mrs. Bernell Ezell, Director of Evangelization. Msgr. Ronald Groth facilitated the forum at St. Lawrence Church while the Rev. Whitney Miller led the groups at Immaculate Conception and Our Lady Queen of Heaven.

The forums sought to provide, through presentations and in parish groups, various models for effective evangelization opportunities to assess the needs of their own parish and, ultimately to have parishes submit three achievable goals especially suited to their faith community.

The Diocesan Core Team

will continue to follow up on each parish's progress, offer to assist or mentor where appropriate and offer resources to the parishes, according to Ezell.

"We anticipate as each of the parishes moves forward with their programs that some goals may be modified," Ezell said. "We anticipate being able to help them by providing resources where they are needed. Already, for instance, a parish has said they would like to do adult Bible study and we have a wonderful video resource here in our office that they can check out and use."

In compiling the list of goals, Ezell found that some parishes had very similar ideas. The list of goals for various parishes includes - develop a functional, interactive parish website; offer ongoing adult catechesis and/or Bible study; offer more fellowship opportunities (before/after Masses); develop better communications among varied ministries and leaders in the parish; inform parishioners better about what the parish has to offer; find more effective ways (i.e. ministry fair, service weekend, one on one calling) of expanding involvement throughout the parish; and survey parishioners to assess needs and interests.

Also, practice personal outreach to inactive and/or unchurched people; evaluate and improve welcoming strategies; incorporate more contact (even home visits) with families, parents of prep students and sacramental program participants; involve youth and young adults more in parish; utilize technology better (i.e. email addresses, social networking sites, etc); improve bereavement, sick and homebound outreach; make informational and promotional packets for: hotels, casinos, visitors, families with new babies, newcomers to the area, etc.; encourage Eucharistic Adoration; offer retreats (i.e. ACTS, Parish Renewals.)

In addition to setting the goals many teams agreed to set regular meetings to re-evaluate goals and improve unity in the parish evangelization ministries.



Judges from the 14th and 38th Judicial Districts along with those from other jurisdictions located in Southwest Louisiana in addition to attorneys and other government officials attended the Second Annual Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception recently. Bishop Glen John Provost was the celebrant of the liturgy, held to open the Court Year. The St. Thomas More Society, Judge Henry Yelverton Chapter is the sponsor of the Red Mass. The local St. Thomas More Society recently made the decision to honor the late Judge Yelverton, a noted and highly respected attorney and jurist, by changing its name.

## Bishop Provost, priests "adopted"

LAKE CHARLES - Various grades and classes at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School have "adopted" a number of priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles in celebration of the "Year for Priests" as declared by Pope Benedict XVI earlier this year.

Bishop Glen John Provost was recently "adopted" by the school's kindergarten class. These young students will serve as the bishop's prayer support team for the year. During Bishop Provost's visit to the school, the students interviewed him regarding his own ministry and gathered some biographical details about his life that will be displayed on a special bulletin board in his honor.

The students presented him with his very own "adoption" papers and then a "Document of Agreement" was also given as a sign of the students promise of prayer. Each of them signed this document using their very own thumbprints.

Other clergy and their adoptive class include Rev. Keith Pellerin, seventh grade; Rev. Brian King, Cathy King's class; Rev. Aubrey Guilbeau, first grade; Msgr. James Gaddy, second grade; Rev. Alan Trouille, pre-kindergarten; Very Rev. Daniel Torres, third grade; Rev. Whitney Miller, Fine Arts Department; Rev. T.L. Herlong, Early Childhood Center; Rev. Charles McMillin, fourth grade; Rev. Wayne LeBleu, fifth grade; Msgr. Jace Eskind, sixth grade; and Rev. Nathan Long, eighth grade.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School invites all the community to join with it in prayer as we celebrate the Year of the Priest.



Bishop Glen John Provost, seated center, is surrounded by members of the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School kindergarten class after the youngsters "adopted" him as part of the celebration of the "Year for Priests."



Jared France



Todd Guillory



Julie Vaughan

## St. Louis seniors advance in scholarship competitions

LAKE CHARLES - Two St. Louis Catholic High School senior students have been named as Semifinalists in prestigious national scholarship programs.

Jared France was named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist and Todd Guillory is a Semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. A third senior student, Julie Vaughan, was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

France has been identified as an academically talented high school senior who will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards, worth \$36 million, that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must advance to the Finalist level of the

competition by fulfilling several requirements. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Guillory is among only 1,600 Black American high school seniors who will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 800 Achievement Scholarship Awards, worth \$94 million, to be offered next spring. Approximately 1,300 Semifinalists are expected to fulfill additional requirements and advance to Finalist level in the spring. They will be selected on the basis of their abilities, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Vaughan was selected as one of 34,000 high performers who were named on the basis of their exceptional academic promise. Although she will not continue in the 2010 competition for National Merit Scholarships, she placed among the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students who took the PSAT last year.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Program. Scholarships awarded through the program are underwritten by NMSC's own funds and by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

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## Discernment program continuing in Diocese

LAKE CHARLES – Finding men who feel they may have a call to a priestly vocation is a very important part of the Episcopal ministry of The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles. To that end, Bishop Provost has appointed five priests of the Diocese to serve as vocation recruiters and assist Very Rev. Daniel Torres (daniel.torres@lcdioocese.org) in his roles as Director of the offices of Vocations and Seminarians.

One of the methods to elicit interest of young men who have expressed interest in further discernment about a priestly vocation is Vocaré, a monthly meeting of these men with a priest recruiter.

While all three deaneries are working toward this goal, the Central Deanery has advanced more quickly, having already had three such meetings. In October the meeting was at L'Évêché, the residence of Bishop Provost. The meetings are held on a Sunday evening with a meal and conversation, followed by a period of Adoration. Rev. Nathan Long (nathan.long@lcdioocese.org), the parochial vicar at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, is the vocation recruiter for the Central Deanery, which is composed of 13 churches located in Lake Charles, Bell City, Big Lake, Iowa and Moss Bluff.

"The group is good support for these young men," Father Long said. "It consists of juniors in high school through college and allows them fraternal support in facing some very big decisions. It also offers the recruiters the opportunity to share their own insights into discernment and direct the men, if they choose to pursue their promptings further."

Of the three Central Deanery meetings, the average attendance has been about 10, according to Father Long. The largest group, 14, came to the October meeting at Bishop Provost's residence.

Other vocation recruiters, appointed by Bishop Provost, are Rev. Anthony Fontenot (anthony.fontenot@lcdioocese.org) of Immaculate Conception Church in Jennings for the Eastern Deanery, Rev. Susil Fernando (susil.fernando@lcdioocese.org) of St. Joseph Church in Vinton for the Western Deanery, Rev. Marcus Johnson (marcus.johnson@lcdioocese.org), Rector of St. Louis Catholic High School, and Rev. Ruben Buller (ruben.buller@lcdioocese.org) of St. Henry Church for the Catholic schools.

Father Fontenot is working to set up dates and times for Vocaré in the Eastern Deanery as is Father Susil in the Western part of the Diocese.

In addition to Vocaré, there are other opportunities for exploring a vocation to the priesthood, according to Father Long.

"Each year, the college seminary at St. Joseph Abbey in Covington hosts a "Come and See" weekend," Father Long said. "This year it is next weekend, November 13-15. Men who are interested can make a campus visit, experience life as seminarian for a few days, and enjoy the great Benedictine atmosphere."

Anyone interested in finding out more about the weekend or making arrangements to take part in the event should call Father Long at 477-1236 or e-mail him at nathan.long@lcdioocese.org.

Father Long also noted the establishment of the "Knights of Annunciation," a fraternal group of men committed to discerning more deeply the plan of God in their lives. "They are men who want to 'get to the bottom of it,' when it comes to the possibility of a priestly or religious vocation" Father Long said. "Institution into the Knights of Annunciation is not a commitment to enroll in the seminary. It's a decision to actively discern the possibility of entering in the foreseeable future."



Father Nathan Long, right, greets Jimmy Jarnigan, Treville Belcher, and Jared France at a Vocaré meeting held recently at L'Évêché, the residence of Bishop Glen John Provost.

"Discernment is a concrete activity," Father Long continued. "It involves a commitment to prayer, sacramental grace, spiritual direction, and service. By their pledge, knights are actively giving God permission to move them in to a particular vocational path."

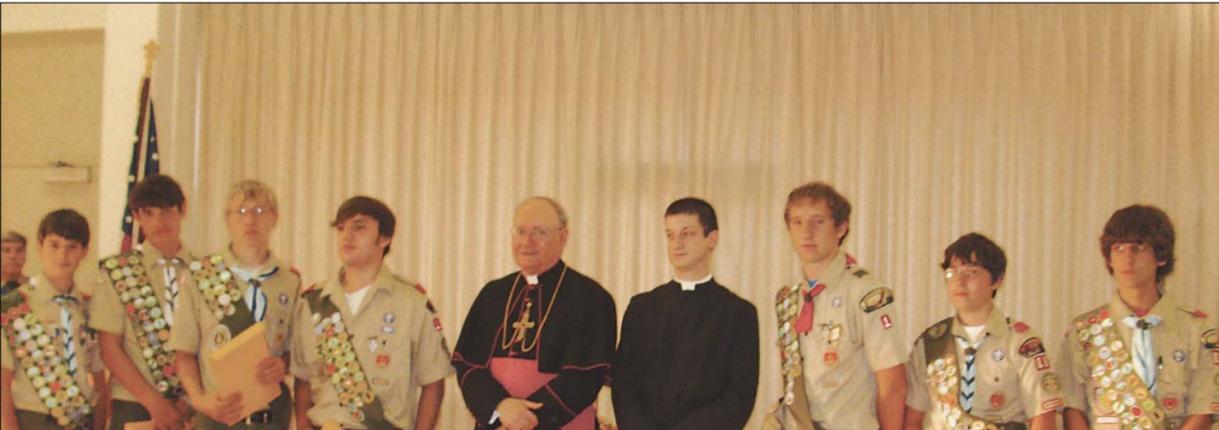
As the title of the society suggests, the Virgin Mary will be the group's Patroness and intercessor. Bishop Provost will call forth those men who wish to move into this direction of discernment at a public liturgy. This year's inaugural event will be held at the midday mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The Diocese has nine men in various stages of training and education for the priesthood and these events and opportunities are all seen as ways in which those numbers will continue to climb.

"These things and, indeed, great prayer will help us to find those men who feel the Holy Spirit's call to vocation," Father Long said.

Many dioceses around the country have seen an influx of seminarians and in many places the number of ordinations continues to climb. For instance, the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska (a Diocese not much larger in Catholic population than Lake Charles) currently has 40 seminarians while even closer the Diocese of Lafayette boasts 32 men studying for the priesthood.

"I am very hopeful of our efforts," Father Long said. "After all, the Lord has said, 'I will give you shepherds' – we simply must pray and work on our end so as to benefit from this divinely promised blessing on the Church."



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, stands alongside Father Nathan Long, chaplain for the Catholic Committee on Scouting, at the annual Bishop's Dinner for Scouting after presenting the Pope Pius XII award to Ben Bergeron, James Berry, Matthew Berry, Jarrett Buller, Jeremy Leger, John Patrick O'Dowd, and Jeremy Picard.

## Scouting Medals awarded by Bishop Provost

LAKE CHARLES -- The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, recently presented Religious Scouting Awards to a large group of youth at the annual Bishop's Dinner for Scouting held in the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Center.

Awards were given for those scouts who completed the various requirements during the previous year as well as those who had earned their medals in earlier years but had not been recognized. This was due to the recent reconstitution of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The four awards handed out by Bishop Provost includes the Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei; Ad Altare Dei, and Pope Pius XII.

The purpose of the Light of Christ is to help the Cub Scout develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Recipients were, for 2009, Richard Broussard, Isaac Burleigh, Joseph Esposito, Will Gage, Miguel Gentry, Jacob Hebert, Benjamin Hilliard, Joshua Lessigne, John David Monlezun, Vic Parks, Jonah Reggie. Medalists from previous years were Drew Alley, Parker Belaire, Daniel Best, Ian

Bruce, Samuel Bruchhaus, Andrew Coe, T. J. Collins, Austin Crawford, Grant Davis, Charlie Ehlers, Anthony "TBeau" Faul, Michael Fibich, Austin Gaspard, Evan Gilchrist, Julian Gonzales, Alexander Ieyoub, Matthew Ieyoub, Ethan Johnson, Patrick Juneau II, Chase LeBeau, Lex Martin, Juan Mendez, Thomas O'Dowd, Jacob Ottenweller, William Richard, Kyle Rougeau, Jacob Sharpe, Grant Tassin, Cameron Taylor, Brandon White, Jacob Williams.

The purpose of the Parvuli Dei (Children of God) emblem is to help young boys explore a wide range of activities in order to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their families and parishes, and also to develop a good, positive self-image through the contributions they can make to the group or community.

Recipients for 2009 were Ian Bruce Ronald Metoyer, Jack Ringuet, Cameron Taylor, Bailey Sexton, Curtis Luke Fontenot and from previous years, Brandon Amiot, Matthew Berry, Daniel Best, Brennan Eisen, Ryan Gilchrist, Joshua Leger, John Patrick O'Dowd, Thomas O'Dowd, Adam Richard, Michael Richard, Zachary Stump, Michael Stunkard, Aaron Tanner.

The purpose of the Ad Altare Dei (to the altar of God) program is to help Catholic Boy Scouts of the Roman Rite develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community.

This year's recipients were Ben Bergeron, James Berry, Matthew Berry, Brett Billodeau, Jarrett Buller, John Patrick O'Dowd, and Jeremy Picard, while Cory Gilchrist was honored from a previous year.

Pope Pius XII is Catholic Scouting's church-related ministries and vocation program. The program deals with different life choices (single, married, religious, ordained), occupations and ministries in the church as calls from God.

Award winners for 2009 include Ben Bergeron, James Berry, Matthew Berry, Jarrett Buller, Jeremy Leger, John Patrick O'Dowd, and Jeremy Picard. James and Matthew Berry along with O'Dowd completed requirements for all four medals.

## Diocesan Briefs

### Guadalupe Torch Run Nov. 9-10

LAKE CHARLES – The annual relay, the International Run Carrera Antorcha Guadalupana Mexico-New York Torch Race, which connects Mexico and the United States, will make its way through the Diocese of Lake Charles on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 9-10.

Local runners will join the international participants at the Louisiana-Texas border and continue their journey across Southwest Louisiana and into Lake Charles. The Torch will be delivered to St. Henry Catholic Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue, about 4:30 p.m. on Monday after following a route through Lake Charles from the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1205 Lakeshore Drive, down Broad Street to Eighth Avenue and on to St. Henry.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will be on hand to meet the Torch and the runners at St. Henry.

A 6 p.m. Liturgy will be celebrated in St. Henry Church, followed by a reception in the Community Center.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10 runners will recommence their journey from St. Henry down Broad Street to U.S. 90 through Iowa, Welsh, Roanoke and Jennings before crossing over into Acadia Parish at the Mermentau River and into the Diocese of Lafayette.

### St. Margaret School celebrates 60 years

LAKE CHARLES – Alumni and parents of alumni along with parents and friends of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School are invited to join in events celebrating the conclusion of the 60th anniversary of the school the weekend of Nov. 14-15.

Rev. William Miller, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, will celebrate the Alumni Mass at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15, in the church. The liturgy will be followed by a large reception in the Family Center, located on 17th Street behind the Church.

The Annual Family Bingo will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14 with dinners served, including jambalaya, hot dogs, pizza, and sweets. A live auction kicks off at 5:45 p.m. and the bingo begins at 6:30 p.m.

The Sisters Marianites of the Holy Cross will host a prayer retreat this Sunday, Nov. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the school's cafeteria.

### KC Council 13931 earns Star award

LAKE CHARLES – The John W. O'Reilly, Sr. Council Knights of Columbus 13931 has been named by the Supreme Council Knights of Columbus as a Star Council. The Council the top award by winning the Columbian Award, Founders Award and the Father McGivney Award.

Other councils earning various awards include St. Theodore Council 3623 in Moss Bluff (the Columbian Award for Activities); St. Henry Council 5022 in Lake Charles (the Columbian Award) and St. Margaret Council 3208 (the Columbian Award and the Founders Award for Insurance Members).

Council Council 3012 of Lake Arthur was also awarded with a Father Michael McGivney Award for its outstanding membership recruitment and retention efforts during the 2008-2009 fraternal.

### Safe Environment Initial Training Sessions

LAKE CHARLES – Two November Safe Environment Initial Training Sessions have been set in the Assembly Room of the Chancery of the Diocese, 414 Iris Street, the first on Sunday Nov. 8 at 2:30 p.m. and the second on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. Attendees should use the east side parking lot entrance.

To register, please call Mrs. Ezell at 337-439-7400, Ext. 308.

### Bishop celebrates Mass for Our Lady of Palestine

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, presided at the celebration of Mass on Oct. 25 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets.

Members of The Equestrian Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem attended to honor the group's patron, Our Lady Queen of Palestine, whose Feast Day was Thursday, Oct. 29.

The group took the annual opportunity to continue its practice of praying for peace in the Holy Land and around the world.

Members of a number of other Orders, who also support peace in the World and help finance the maintenance of various Christian sites in the Holy Land, were present as well.

### KC informational meeting set

LAKE CHARLES – An informational meeting regarding the possible formation of a new Knights of Columbus Council at St. Martin dePorres Catholic Church will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7 at St. Martin dePorres.

For further information, call Peter Snatic, District Deputy, at 478-3079 or 764-0541.

### SE update lessons posted to lcdioocese.org

LAKE CHARLES - The web-based safe environment single update lesson for the 2009-2010 year is now posted on the Diocese of Lake Charles website – lcdioocese.org, according to Bernell Ezell, Director of Child and Youth Protection.

She urges safe environment coordinators to encourage all those on their parish and school lists to complete the lesson as early as possible and noted that if anyone has yet to complete the two update lessons for the year 2008-2009, it is not too late as the lessons are archived.

### "Taste-N-Tell" set for Dec. 9

LAKE CHARLES – Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School's "Taste-N-Tell Chef's Showcase", featuring special guest and emcee Chef John Folse will be held Wednesday, Dec. 9, in the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Center gym beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Chef Folse will debut his new cookbook, "Hooks, Lies & Alibis" at this exceptional event and be available to personally autograph copies.

Tickets are on sale now in the school office, 3908 Creole Street, and will be available in a limited supply at the door for \$30 and \$40 each. Call 477-9349 for more information.

Local chefs are also invited to share their culinary specialties and have the opportunity to be chosen as the "top chef" of the evening. Chef participation registration forms are available through Lisa Jakel or Diane Jackson at 439-7349 or by e-mail: ljakel@olqhs.org. The chef registration fee is \$250.

Attendees can vote for their favorite dish or chef by purchasing "Baron Bucs" on the night of the event. Last year Msgr. James Gaddy, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, was the winning chef. All donations are tax deductible.

## Did you know...

In 1925, Mrs. J. A. Landry, after hearing a moving sermon given by Bishop Jules Jeanmarc about the need for Catholic education in the city, decided to establish a school for boys as a memorial to her late husband. She purchased the building and surrounding 16 acres of what had been a Baptist orphanage at a cost of \$25,000 and then spent an additional \$30,000 to remodel and adapt the property into a modern school. Landry Memorial opened on Sept. 6, 1927 with 85 students in grades fourth to ninth grade.

Several other schools were opened in Southwest Louisiana over the years. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Fall River, Mass., staffed one of them. Do you know where that school was located? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

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