



The Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Schools: An Education you can have Faith In

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Catholic Schools Week is celebrated across the country, this year during the week of January 31-February 6. The eight Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles are St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Sacred Heart of Jesus/St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff; Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings; and Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur.)

Choosing a school for a child is one of the most important decisions parents make. From academics and curriculum to school environment and parental involvement, there are many compelling factors to consider when looking at a school. The Diocese of Lake Charles schools provide an education you can have faith in. Diocesan schools meet the academic needs of students by integrating faith, life, and culture in a disciplined and safe environment.

Academics

The Diocese of Lake Charles students perform better academically than their counterparts in public schools. In comparing scores from standardized tests, students from the Diocesan schools scored substantially higher than the national average at every grade level. Statistics also show that Catholic school students are less likely to drop out and are more likely to go on to college. Catholic schools provide smaller classrooms and more personal attention to every student. With a smaller teacher-to-student ratio, teachers are able to gain insights that enhance the whole learning process for students. Realizing that each child is unique with different learning styles, teachers are able to utilize individualized plans for classroom teaching. Parents are assured that students receive a strong academic education

in an environment structured to have lasting value.

Environment

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles provide a disciplined, safe environment in which students can excel both academically and personally. Self-discipline, responsibility, and self-motivation are among the benefits of an environment that is both nurturing and structured. Catholic schools are able to provide a disciplined environment that fosters responsibility and emphasizes Christian values. Catholic schools also welcome and expect parents to become involved in school programs and daily activities of students. Parents are acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Catholic school faculties share this responsibility by providing students with equal opportunities for spiritual, intellectual, and social development.

Christian Development

A Catholic school education prepares a child for life. At a Catholic school, students learn much more than reading, writing and arithmetic. Religious education is an everyday part of the Catholic school curriculum. Classes encourage the discussion of faith and Christian values, focused on the total moral development of each child. Students take what they learn and apply it to everyday life through projects, activities, and school clubs that emphasize service and social justice.

There are many compelling reasons beyond the benefits of an excellent education to choose the Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Schools. Diocesan schools strengthen the overall faith of students while they learn Christian values and morals necessary for a full and productive life. Each school will be holding an Open House or has already done so and is preparing for Spring registration. Listed below are the Open House dates and contact information:

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School
2510 Enterprise Boulevard
Lake Charles
436-7959
Open House on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:00 p.m.
in school cafeteria

477-7349
Open House on Tuesday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m.

785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway
Moss Bluff
855-9465
Open House on Thursday, March 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Cathedral School
1536 Ryan Street
Lake Charles
433-3497
Open House on Wednesday, March 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School
1100 Mill Street
Lake Charles
436-3588
Open House on Tuesday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School
600 Roberts Avenue
Jennings
824-1743
Open House on Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School
3908 Creole Street
Lake Charles

Our Lady's Catholic School
1111 Cypress Street
Sulphur
527-7828
Open House on Sunday, January 31 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School
1620 Bank Street
Lake Charles
436-7275
Now registering students for 2010-2011

St. Louis Catholic High School

1536 Ryan Street
Lake Charles
433-3497
Open House on Wednesday, March 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

1620 Bank Street
Lake Charles
436-7275
Now registering students for 2010-2011

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School

3908 Creole Street
Lake Charles

1620 Bank Street
Lake Charles
436-7275
Now registering students for 2010-2011



Jared France

Caroline Robertson

Nicholas Cassidy

Students of the Year Named

LAKE CHARLES -- The Non-Public School Students of the Year for 2009-2010 in the Diocese of Lake Charles have been announced by Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

This year's winners are Jared France, 12th grade, St. Louis Catholic High School, Lake Charles; Caroline Robertson, eighth grade, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings and Nicholas Cassidy, fifth grade, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings. The trio advance to the regional competition in New Orleans on Monday, February 8, hosted by the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Thirteen student winners from non-public schools in the area participated in the competition.

Fifth grade school winners were: Kenzie Wyninger - Our Lady's Catholic School, Sulphur; Gage Navarre-Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Lake Charles; Wyatt Mallett-Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Lake Charles; Abby Sonnier - St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School, Moss Bluff; Nicholas Cassidy - Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings and Jake Cavenah II - Bethel Christian School.

Eighth grade school winners were: Natasha Navejar

- Saint Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School, Moss Bluff; Madeline Shelton - Our Lady's School, Sulphur; Andrew Ammons - Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Lake Charles; Annabelle Bang - Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Lake Charles; Kaycie Kennison - Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel School, Lake Charles and Caroline Robertson - Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings.

The twelfth grade school winner was St. Louis' Jared France.

Did you know...

Very Rev. Daniel Torres each year shepherds the Abrazando Cristo mission trip to provide assistance to the poor in Nicaragua. This

year's journey will be from July 3-11.

One parish of the Diocese can boast of providing two of its native sons to the priesthood as

well as seeing both men raised to the Episcopacy. Do you know who the men were and from which parish they came? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

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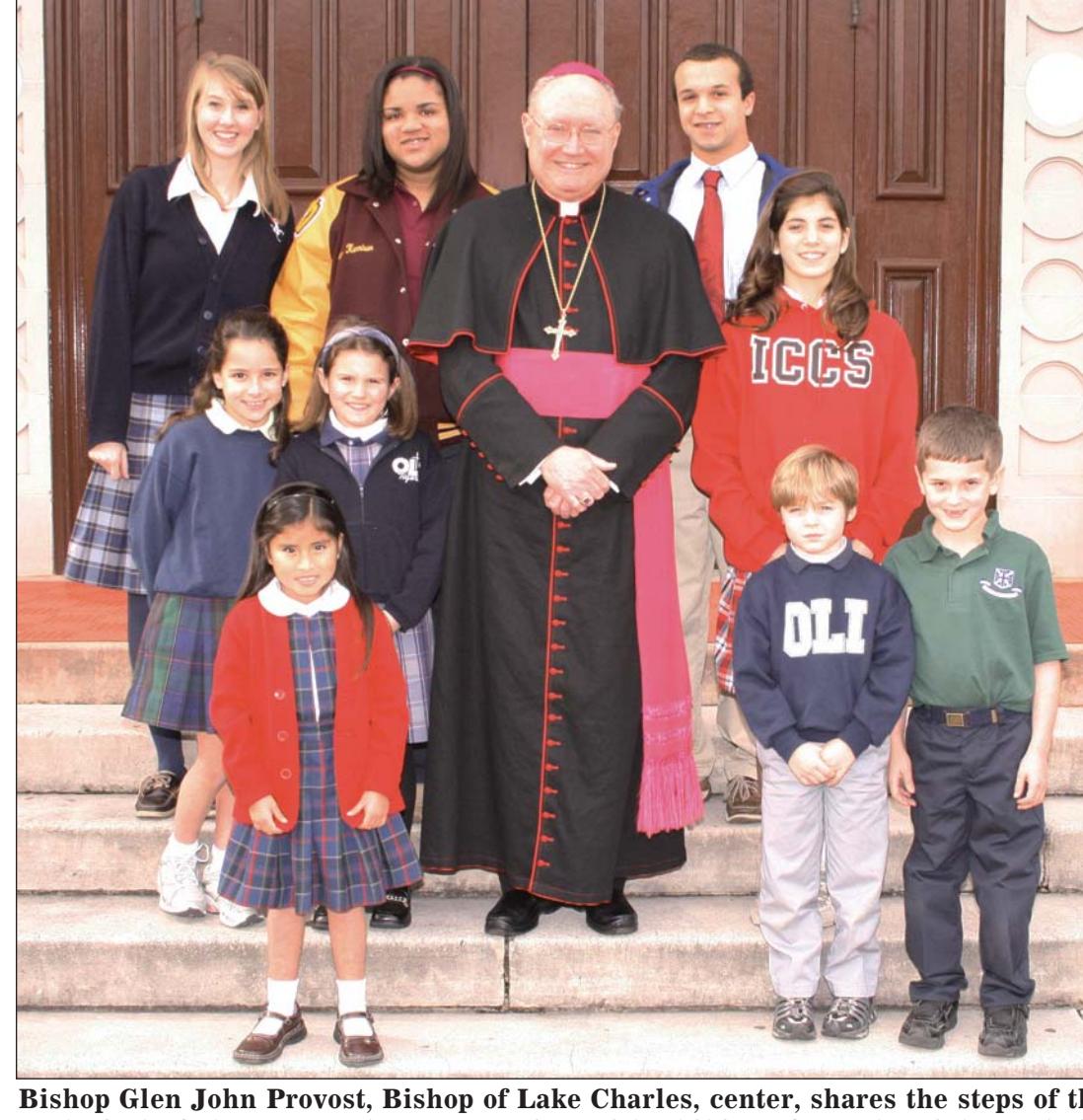
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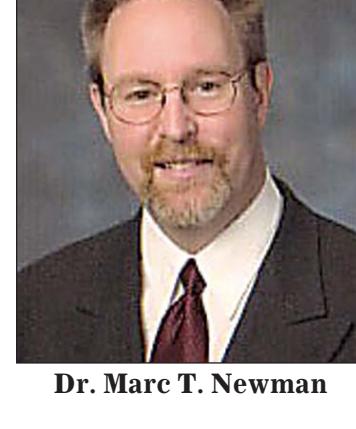
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337-439-7436

Watch "Glad Tidings"
Sunday at 6 a.m.
on KPLC-TV



Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, center, shares the steps of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with children from the eight Catholic schools of the Diocese in celebration of Catholic Schools Week. With Bishop Provost are Catherine Delahoussaye and Russell Metoyer from St. Louis Catholic High School; Kaycie Kennison, from Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School; Logan Trahan from Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings; Bryce Sanders from St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School; Elyce Ieyoub from Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Gabi Moreno from Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Hope Bourgeois from Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur and Ana Darbonne from St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff.



Dr. Marc T. Newman

Annual Pro-Life banquet Friday February 26

LAKE CHARLES - The 19th Annual Pro-Life Banquet, sponsored by New Life Counseling, Inc., will be Friday, Feb. 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Buccaneer Room of the Lake Charles Civic Center.

Dr. Marc T. Newman, founder and president of Frontline Communications Services and author of "The Great Abortion Debate Book", will be the guest speaker. Dr. Newman, who has appeared in Time magazine and on The O'Reilly Factor, will give a humorous and insightful presentation. He is the former director of Speech and Debate at the University of California at Irvine and is currently an associate professor teaching in the doctoral program in the School of Communications and Art at Regent University.

Doors open at 6 p.m., which coincides with the start of a silent dessert auction.

Tickets are available for \$60 per person and a table may be purchased for \$450. Contributions will also be gladly accepted and there are various sponsorship opportunities available. The deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 22.

For tickets and more information on sponsorships call 337-474-7003 or e-mail nlcps139@gmail.com.

Diocesan Briefs

St. Louis seeking principal

LAKE CHARLES - St. Louis Catholic High School is seeking a principal for the 2010-2011 school year. The St. Louis administrative team consists of the principal and two Deans of Students who report to and work collaboratively with the President to advance the school's mission.

Candidates must be a practicing Catholic for whom loyalty to Christ, his people, and the Church are of primary importance, and hold a philosophy of education consistent with Catholic conviction; possess a master's degree and meet the requirements of certification for principal by the State of Louisiana and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; have school administrative experience in a secondary campus, preferably in a Catholic school; and demonstrate leadership ability in past or present educational assignments.

Application forms may be accessed on the St. Louis Catholic High School website. Applicants are invited to send resumes and applications to: Deborah Frank, President, St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 or fax (337) 436-6792.

Women's Prayer Luncheon Tuesday Feb. 9

LAKE CHARLES - The monthly presentations of Bishop Glen John Provost at the Women's Prayer Luncheon will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 9 in the Lake Charles Civic Center.

Those who wish to attend should send a check in the amount of \$10, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and include a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Office of Catholic Schools receives grant

LAKE CHARLES -- The Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools is a recent recipient of the Louisiana Department Teacher Quality Grant in the amount of \$10,737.00, according to Superintendent of Schools Kimberlee Gazzolo.

The grant will be used to reimburse teachers who are pursuing state certification in their content areas. Priority is given to those teachers working in high poverty, low-performing schools.

St. Louis Catholic registration dates set

LAKE CHARLES - Registration for the 2010-2011 school year at St. Louis Catholic High School will continue in February and March.

St. Louis Catholic continuing students in the grades 10 through 12 will register Monday, Feb. 8 through Friday, Feb. 12. Transfer students in grades 10 through 12 will be able to register Monday, March 1 through Friday, March 5.

Registration is held on from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

Central Deanery Vocation meeting dates

LAKE CHARLES - The next Central Deanery Vocation meeting will be held Sunday, March 14, at the Our Lady Queen of Heaven offices, 617 West Claude Street, according to Rev. Nathan Long, vocation recruiter for the deanery.

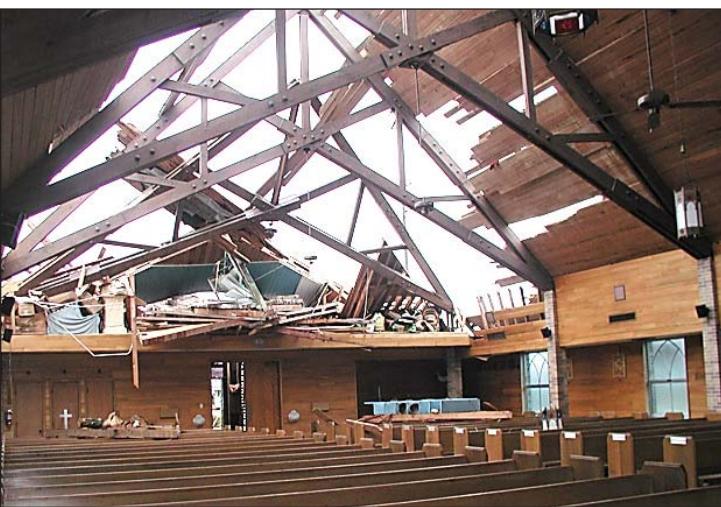
The meeting begins with a meal and discussion in the offices followed by time for Adoration. Young men 16 years or older, who feel they have a vocation calling should contact Father Long at nathan.long@lcdiocese.org, or call Our Lady Queen of Heaven at 477-1236 for more information.

Calendar

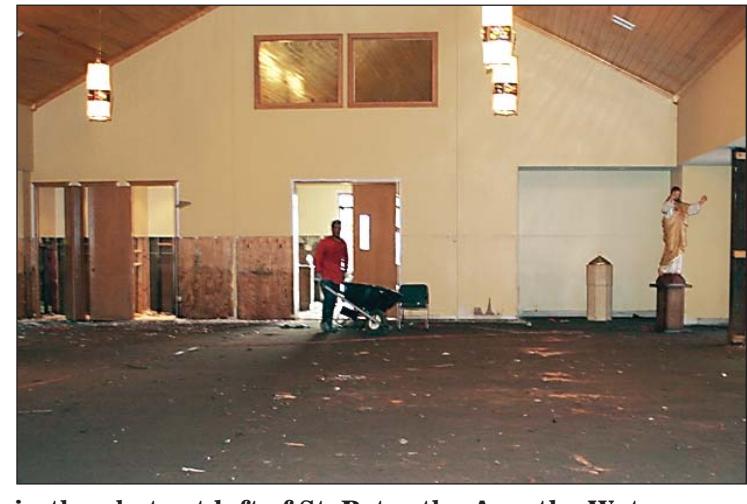


The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

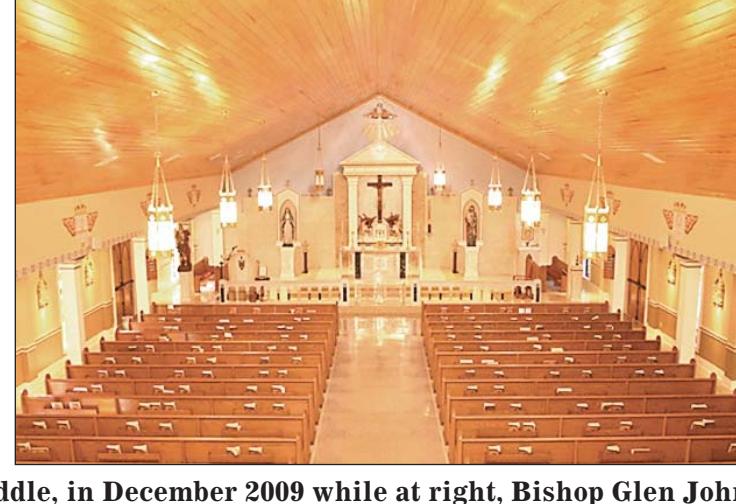
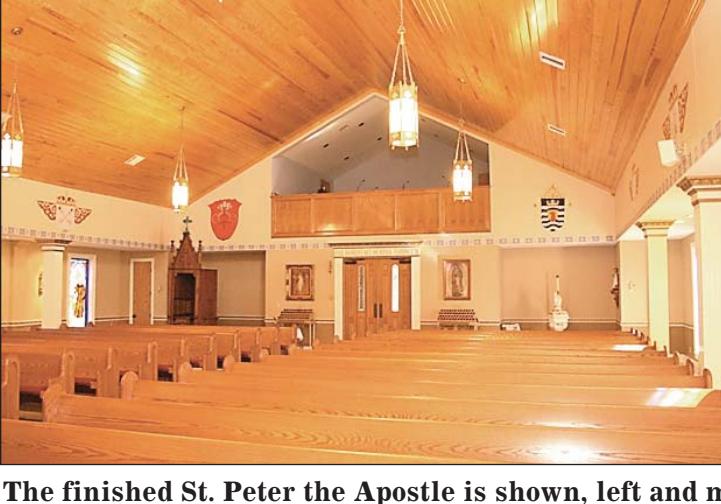
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February 5, 2010



Hurricane Rita in September 2005 did great damage to St. Peter the Apostle Church, left and middle, as well as destroying the rectory and damaging the hall and religious education classrooms. The work to restore the church to pre-Rita condition is shown in the photo at right taken in late 2007.



Hurricane Ike propelled enormous amounts of water as it made landfall in Galveston in September 2008 as shown in the photo at left of St. Peter the Apostle. Water came up nearly 18 inches in the church as can be seen by the stain on the altar cloth as well as the mud on the floor. Work to make the church whole again began as soon as the water receded, photo at right.



The finished St. Peter the Apostle is shown, left and middle, in December 2009 while at right, Bishop Glen John Provost blesses the church, aided by Deacon Patrick La-point.

Lenten Regulations

Every Catholic, even children and older adults, should participate in some way in the spiritual disciplines and penitential practices of Lent in order to go up to Jerusalem with Jesus. These are the regulations for the Church in United States.

• Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and we have only one full meal. Concerning the Good Friday fast, the Second Vatican Council teaches: "Let the Easter fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind."

• The other Fridays of the season of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines. But Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health.

• The Fridays of the year outside of Lent are also days of penance. Abstaining from meat is the traditional way of observing these days of penance. However, each person is free to replace the traditional abstinence from meat with some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance. It is obvious that abstaining from meat is meaningless for vegetarians, who must choose some other form of abstinence. It is equally obvious that replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with the spirit of Lent. Abstaining from meat may be replaced on Fridays during the year with abstaining from some other food. It may also be replaced with time spent reading and studying the Scriptures, special prayers, such as the rosary or visits to the Blessed Sacrament, acts of thoughtfulness and charity to those in need, or acts of personal witness to one's faith, such as teaching a religion class or speaking out on the sinfulness of abortion, euthanasia, racism, and other social evils.

• While the season of Lent is the primary period of Catholic penitential practices, these regulations are not intended to limit the occasions for Christian penance. The practice of spiritual discipline is always appropriate during periods of special need for the individual and the larger community. Parishes, for example, may undertake such disciplines as a part of their communal prayer for vocations or the eradication of a problem in the community.

The Catholic faithful should be reminded of the teaching of Pope Paul VI concerning the seriousness of being faithful to Lenten disciplines. He said that the obligation to follow these disciplines in solidarity with the Church is a serious one. However, Catholics should not become scrupulous in this regard. Failure to observe individual days of penance is not considered a serious matter. However, the faithful should look for ways to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed, and works of religion and charity on the Fridays outside Lent, should be considered a minimal response to the call of Jesus to go up to Jerusalem with Him in order that we might experience true Christian conversion in our lives.

Important second collections set in February

LAKE CHARLES – Two very special collections will take place beginning in the early days of Lent 2010 here in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, Operation Rice Bowl, a collection continuing throughout Lent to help ensure that Catholic Relief Services (CRS) can provide assistance to those in need in more than 100 countries, will kickoff.

Each year, Operation Rice Bowl calls us to pray with our families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn more about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas; and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

Seventy-five percent of contributions collected here in the Diocese will go to CRS to help farmers in Bolivia receive training to improve crop yields, children in Afghanistan gain more opportunities for quality education, communities in Ethiopia access reliable water sources even during times of drought, and fund many other vital projects. The remaining 25 percent stays here to help Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles to support local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Last year the Diocese retained \$10,328.99. For more information on participating in Operation Rice Bowl contact your church parish.

The other second collection scheduled in the month of

HAITI RELIEF

Over \$200,000 raised in Diocese

LAKE CHARLES – The special collection called for by Bishop Glen John Provost to provide financial aid for the needy survivors of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti has raised more than \$200,000.

The unofficial total, which will surely increase as more contributions arrive, was \$205,559.34, as of Friday, Jan. 29. The funds came from the parishes and schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles along with individual generous contributors who sent money directly to the Diocese. Several of the Catholic schools will hold collections in February.

Rev. V. Wayne LeBleu, Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services and Director of Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese noted, "Our prayers and support go out to the people of Haiti and those who are working to alleviate the suffering and poverty of so many who were affected by the events of January 12 and the aftershocks

of the earthquake.

"I am grateful for the outpouring of generosity from the people of God from the Diocese of Lake Charles for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti," he continued. "We have been shown such support from the Church of the United States after the recent hurricanes and this is our way to show that we too are able to extend a helping hand to those who have been affected by a natural disaster."

Contributions to this effort will be sent directly to Catholic Relief Services, the official humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Church. If you have not had the opportunity to make a contribution to this effort or if you wish to make an additional donation, there are several ways to do so.

You may mail your gift to the Diocese of Lake Charles, P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602-3223 or drop it off at the Diocesan Chancery, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles.

February will be held on the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 20-21. This special effort is the Black and Indian Mission Collection, which was established in 1884 to embody the Catholic Church's concern for evangelizing the African American, Native American and Indigenous peoples of the United States. It was the only annual appeal mandated by the Third Plenary Council, the gathering of the U.S. bishops held in Baltimore.

The Diocese of Lake Charles has been a grant recipient of the Black and Indian Mission Collection since its inception. During this fiscal year, the diocese will receive \$142,000 for African American and Native American evangelization programs and projects. Here in Southwest Louisiana, the funds will be used to subsidize needy parishes with predominantly African American congregations as well as assist St. Joseph parish in Elton with its evangelization efforts among members of the Coushatta Tribe. Since 1980, the Diocese of Lake Charles has received more than \$1 million for evangelization efforts through the Black and Indian Mission Collection.

In the 2009 collection, the faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles donated \$27,776.28. The diocese is one of 132 dioceses being assisted by the collection, which is providing grants of \$8.7 million.

aged to wear "A Hat for Haiti". They'll contribute a dollar and bring a personal hygiene product, such as soap, shampoo or a toothbrush. The money and items will be given to Friend Ships to support their relief efforts in Haiti.

Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School used three "Free Dress Days" to raise more than \$900 and the school's student council is organizing a campaign to continue Haiti relief throughout the year.

At St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School students rallied to raise \$600, which was matched by Blue Cross Blue Shield for a \$1,200 total for relief efforts. These funds were sent to the Red Cross.

Our Lady's School in Sulphur raised awareness of the plight of the Haitian people by collecting money as well as health packages for the survivors.

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