



Bishop Glen John Provost sprinkles Holy Water over bowls of ashes, left, prior to applying the ashes to the foreheads of the faithful, right, during Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. The ashes, which are the burned remains of the palms distributed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, are applied to the foreheads as a sign of the person's repentance.

"The Light is On For You" at Penance Nights

LAKE CHARLES – "The Light is On For You" is the theme for the Diocese of Lake Charles Sacrament of Penance Nights scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. in every parish in the East Deanery on Tuesday, March 23, the Central Deanery on Wednesday, March 24; and in the West Deanery on Thursday, March 25, according to Bishop Glen John Provost. "The purpose of these Penance Nights is to allow

available times for individual confession and the Sacrament of Penance in every parish of the diocese," Bishop Provost said. "Priests will be available in all the churches and having these specific dates and times will bridge the evenings to allow for those who work and others with scheduling difficulties and busy lives to celebrate this splendid Sacrament of Reconciliation."

Diocesan Briefs

Sacrament of Penance Nights

LAKE CHARLES – Diocesan Sacrament of Penance Nights will be celebrated in every parish in the Eastern Deanery on Tuesday, March 23; in the Central Deanery on Wednesday, March 24; and in the Western Deanery on Thursday, March 25, from 5 to 7 p.m., according to The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles.

Forty Hours Devotion sites and dates

LAKE CHARLES –Forty Hours Devotion before the Blessed Sacrament praying for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life will be held Monday, March 8 through Saturday, March 13, in St. Philip Neri in Kinder, Monday, March 15 through Saturday, March 20, in Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings and Monday, March 22 through Saturday, March 27 at Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Jennings.

Abrazando Cristo Mission raffle tickets available

LAKE CHARLES – The annual fundraising raffle for the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program has now begun with the selling of raffle tickets for the top prize of \$5,000.

Second prize is \$1,000 while third prize is \$500. The drawing for the prizes will be Sunday, June 20 at 2 p.m. in the St. Henry Community Center, 1021 Eighth Avenue.

Tickets are \$100 each and may be purchased by sending a check to Rev. Daniel Torres, Abrazando Cristo Mission Program, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. Your raffle ticket will be mailed back to you. Only 500 tickets will be sold.

Proceeds from the raffle benefit the mission program by purchasing medicines, food, bibles and aid in the completion of construction of the Church of St. John the Baptist in the Diocese of Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

St. Louis Catholic 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.

A list of qualifications and application forms may be accessed on the St. Louis Catholic High School website – slchs.org. Resumes and applications should be sent to: Deborah Frank, President, St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 or fax (337) 436-6792 before March 30, 2010.

Central Deanery Vocaré meets March 14

LAKE CHARLES – The next Central Deanery Vocaré 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@lcdioocese.org, or call Our Lady Queen of Heaven at 477-1236 for more information.

Icon painting retreat at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF – A basic and intermediate retreat/workshop in icon painting will be held July 12-18 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. Father Mefodii of the Skete of Maximus the Confessor Monastery of Palmyra, Virginia, will be the instructor.

During the six-day retreat/workshop, the participants are introduced to the practical and the theoretical aspects of the iconographic tradition. In addition to the technical instruction, the participants will learn the iconographic symbolism and the theological base of each step of the icon-writing process.

The final day to register for the program, which is limited to 18 participants, is May 15. The suggested donation for this program is \$915 per person for a single room and \$855 per person for double occupancy. This donation includes all art supplies and other expenses. A deposit \$105 is due upon registration.

Call 337-855-1232 to register.

"Love Thinks" workshop March 13

LAKE CHARLES – The Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles will offer a one-day workshop for single persons, whether single by choice or circumstance on creating healthy relationships March 13 beginning at 8 a.m. in the Chancery, 414 Iris Street. Mass will follow at 4 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Entitled "Love Thinks: P.I.C.K. Program", the workshop uses the motto "love thinks" instead of "love is blind." P.I.C.K. stands for **P**remarital, **I**nterpersonal **C**hoices and **K**nowledge. The program recognizes the balance of keeping the head and heart in balance.

Registration of \$30, which includes a workbook and a catered lunch, is due by March 8. Call 337-439-7400, Ext. 301 or e-mail connected.catholics@lcdioocese.org for more information.

Benefit golf tournament scheduled

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Johnnie Thibodeaux, Jr. golf tournament will be held Saturday, June 5 at the Mallard Cove Golf Course.

The tournament, which benefits the foundation established in the name of the late Barbe High School and LSU baseball player who lost his life in an automobile accident in 2005, provides assistance to the San Cristobal Boys Home in Managua, Nicaragua. The home is also a project of the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program.

Call Johnnie or Susan Thibodeaux at 337-478-4095 for more information.

Catholic Relief Services Collection March 13-14

LAKE CHARLES -- Over the weekend of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 13-14, a more than 65-year tradition will again take place in the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles - the Catholic Relief Services Collection.

This national collection, known as the American Bishops Overseas Appeal until it was renamed in 2004, supports emergency relief, human development, and peace initiatives around the world while continuing the theme of "Jesus in Disguise," reminding the faithful of the presence of Christ in each of our brothers and sisters in need.

Organizations that benefit from the CRS Collection in-

clude Catholic Relief Services for international relief and development, USCCB Migration and Refugee Services for refugee resettlement, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) for immigration legal services, USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development for advocacy, Holy Father's Relief Fund for emergency relief, USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church for evangelization and ministry.

Last year in the Diocese of Lake Charles generous contributors made donations totaling \$28,235.82.

Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. Bishop's official international humanitarian or-

ganization, has been a leader in recent efforts to assuage the terrible conditions people in Haiti found themselves involved with following the January 12 earthquake on the island. A special collection, specifically called by Bishop Glen John Provost on January 15-16, to help fund these relief efforts has collected more than \$206,000.00. Catholic schools of the Diocese have also held special events to raise money, awareness of the needs of the survivors of the quake and to provide food, clothing, and personal items lost in the disaster. Items such as these can be sent to Friend Ships, 1019 North First Avenue, Lake Charles or call 337-433-5022.

This non-profit group has sent two ships to the island nation fully loaded with supplies for the survivors and continues to seek additional assistance for the devastated country and its people.

Gifts to this special diocesan effort for Haitian earthquake relief can still be made by sending a contribution directly to the Diocese of Lake Charles, P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602-3223. Checks should be made payable to the *Diocese of Lake Charles - Haitian Earthquake Relief*. These funds will be sent directly to Catholic Relief Services for the benefit of the earthquake survivors.

Church to receive 125 new Catholics at Easter

LAKE CHARLES - One hundred twenty-five catechumens and candidates, in addition to their sponsors, representing 27 parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles, took part in the Rite of Election and the Celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion on the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 21, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, received 31 Catechumens who, based on the testimony of godparents and catechists and on the catechumens' reaffirmation of their intention, were judged by the Church ready to continue their advancement toward the sacraments of initiation. This "election" made by the Church is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts. The step is also called the enrollment of names because as a pledge of fidelity the individuals inscribe their names in the book that lists those who have been chosen for initiation. Following the introduction of the catechumens to Bishop Provost, he affixed his signature to the Book of the Elect.

The Bishop also was introduced to 94 candidates, who publicly acknowledged their readiness to be received into full Communion with the Church.

At the Easter Vigil in their home parishes, the Elect will take part in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist while the Candidates will celebrate Confirmation and Eucharist.



Bishop Glen John Provost incenses the Book of the Elect held by Deacon Bennett McNeal of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jennings during the Rite of Election in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

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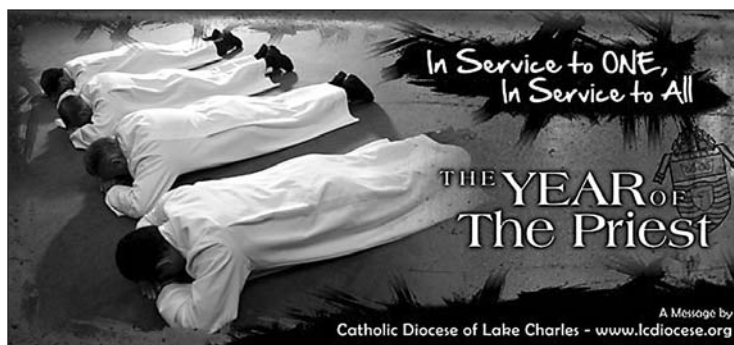
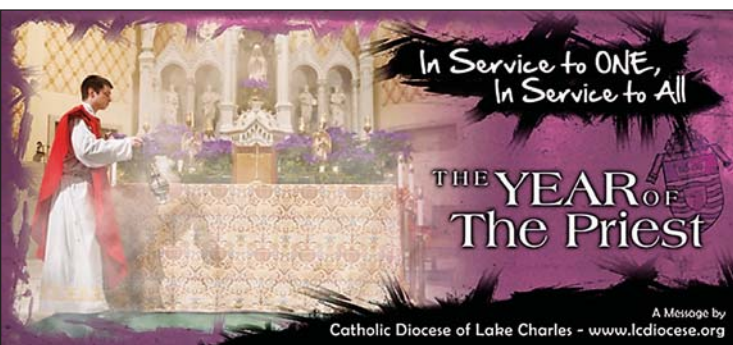
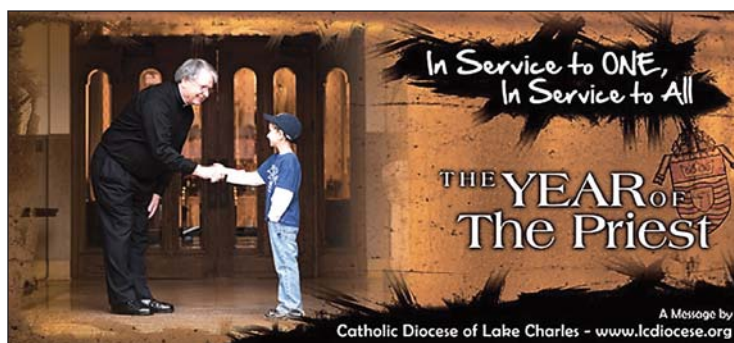
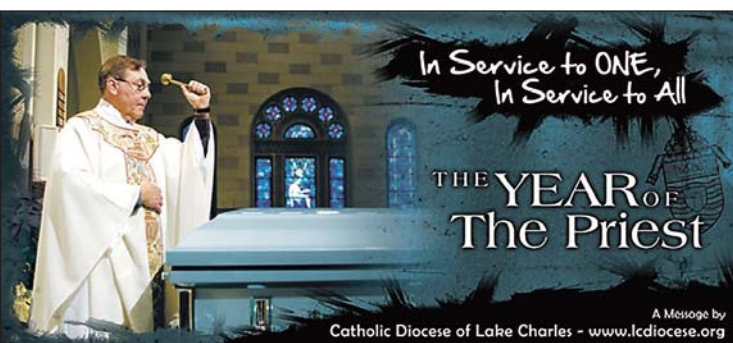
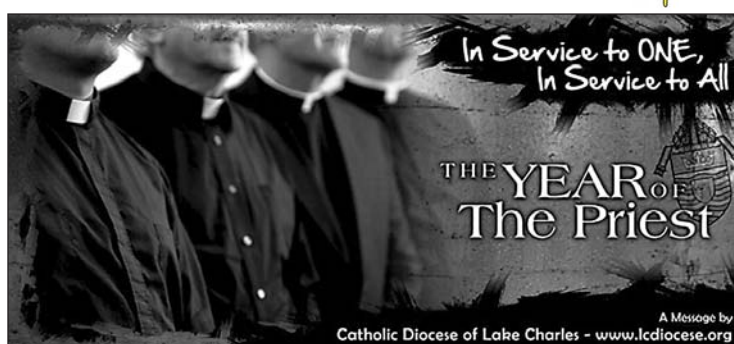
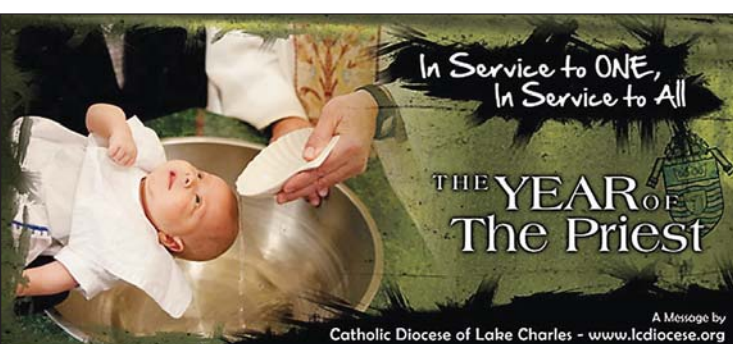
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Billboards display priestly ministries in Year for Priests



The eight images above appear on billboards placed at random locations around the Diocese of Lake Charles (the civil parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis). The program marks the third year that the Office of Evangelization has used this advertising medium to publicize the special year called for by the Pope.

LAKE CHARLES - Twenty-five billboards, featuring eight different images of priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles serving in various aspects of their ministries with the theme "In Service to ONE, In Service to All", can now be seen throughout the five civil parishes making up the Diocese.

This marks the third year that the Office of Evangelization, headed by Mrs. Bernell Ezell, has orchestrated the use of display boards alongside roadways throughout Southwest Louisiana publicizing the special years of the Church.

"We did four designs for the Year of the Eucharist," Mrs. Ezell said. "Then last year, we also had four for the Year of St. Paul. Now, during this Year for Priests, which Pope Benedict XVI called last June, we have eight different designs.

"There will be a total of 25 sites for the boards," she continued. "Thirteen were put up during February and 12 additional locations will be added in March."

Among other spots around Southwest Louisiana, examples of the billboards are located at the corner of 15th Street and Ryan Street as well as at the corner of Nelson Road and Prien Lake Road and on Common Street near Petro Bowl.

According to Ezell, the initial idea for the project came from members of her Evangelization Core Committee.

"They were very fired up and wanted a way to express the importance of the Year of the Eucharist," she said. "They came up with the idea of putting messages on the boards along with Scripture verses and related artwork. Last year with the Year of St. Paul, we added images of St. Paul and Pauline verses. This year we want to show the various aspects of the priests doing their ministry.

"The images on the boards are symbolic of the many ways priests serve the many and the one," Mrs. Ezell said. "Even though the Year for Priests ends on June 19, there is still ample time to support and pray for our priests."

In his call for the Year for Priests, Pope Benedict XVI declared St. John Vianney, who was previously regarded as the patron of parish priests, as the Universal Patron of Priests, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the saint, June 19, 2009.

The Holy Father called for the Year for Priests "to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world" (Letter "Proclaiming a Year for Priests", June 16, 2009).

In an open letter to the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Bishop Glen John Provost noted "When our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, called for this year, he did not intend it to be a celebration of 'priest appreciation.' Rather, he wanted it to be a year of deep renewal of the interior life of all priests. Without spiritual renewal, we are dead. Where would we be without prayer, without the spiritual nourishment of the sacraments and the conversation with God that allows us a glimpse into His will for us?"

The Bishop also pointed out the commonality between St. John Vianney and St. Peter Claver, the patron of the Diocese.

"These two great priests had much in common, but one feature stands out amongst the rest. In striving to be 'all things to all,' they manifested the priestly character," Bishop Provost said. "There is much that could be said about the legacy of St. John Vianney, but of his life one thing is sure. He embraced his duties with complete zeal and did so because he loved. In his own remarkable words: 'Were we to fully realize what a priest is on earth, we would die: not of fright, but of love.'"



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, preaches at the closing Mass of the 2010 Diocesan Youth Conference held recently. In his homily, the Bishop spoke to the more than 421 youth, young adults and staff about having faith, just as the disciples did when Jesus told them to lay aside their nets, follow him, and he would make them "fishers of men." The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese sponsors the annual conference.



Lafayette author and counselor Roy Petitfils was the keynote speaker for the recent Diocese of Lake Charles Educators In-Service held at St. Louis Catholic High School. Petitfils also spoke at the annual conference for Diocesan Catechetical leaders the next day.

Did you know...

Four churches celebrate anniversaries ending in "0" this year. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole, the second oldest parish in the Diocese, is celebrating 120 years. Oberlin's St. Joan of Arc Church and Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Arthur are both 90 years old this year while Our Lady of Good Counsel in Lake Charles will celebrate the 40th anniversary of establishment in November.

One parish community's first chapel was purchased from a church of another faith tradition. Do you know what parish this chapel eventually became? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.



Deacon Edward Lavine, left, chaplain at the Phelps Correctional Center in DeQuincy, accepts a plaque from PCC Warden Robert Henderson, right, in honor of the financial donation of the Diocese of Lake Charles to help build the Colonel Harry L. Hooker Memorial Chapel at the facility, which was completed in 2001, as well as the many contributions of the Diocese to prison ministries. The chapel, which had never been officially titled, was named in December 2009 in memory of the long-time corrections employee. (Photo courtesy DeQuincy News)

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