



Seminary, Holy Land Collections set Good Friday, Easter weekend

LAKE CHARLES – Support of Christians in the Holy Land and assistance for the educational expenses of the men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles will be key to two very special upcoming collections to be held on Good Friday, April 2, and Easter weekend (April 3-4).

The Easter weekend Seminary Collection helps provide for funding necessary to pay for the educational expenses of the men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles. The cost of educating these nine men is more than \$225,000 for the current school term and increases yearly. The Catholic Church Extension Society and the Committee on the Home Missions are other sources of funding for seminarian education and recruitment. Last year the Seminary Collection totaled \$63,031.76 from the Catholic faithful of the 38 parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Bishop Glen John Provost has instituted a number of concepts to help foster vocations to the priesthood. He has appointed vocation recruiters to help young men consider their vocation path including Rev. Ruben Buller, Rev. Susil Fernando, Rev. Anthony Fontenot, Rev. Nathan Long and Rev. Marcus Johnson. The Very Rev. Daniel Torres serves as the director of vocations and seminarians. Some of the programs begun include Vocaré, monthly meetings of young men discerning a vocation with the vocation recruiters in the each of the three diocesan deaneries, to have supper, discuss the priesthood and their potential life journey while leaving time to reflect before the Blessed Sacrament.

Currently there are nine seminarians in various stages of study, including, Jeff Starkovich (Christ the King Church) at the Pontifical North American College in Rome; John Huckaby (Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lake Charles) at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans; Bryan Thompson (Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception) at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; David Hardey (St. Theodore Church, Moss Bluff) at the Pontifical Josephinum; Matthew Cormier (Our Lady of LaSalette Church, Sulphur) at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington; Ruben Villarreal (St. Lawrence Church, Raymond) at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC; Brandon Jones (St. Henry Church) at St. Joseph Seminary College; Corey LaVergne (Our Lady of LaSalette Church, DeQuincy) at St. Joseph Seminary College; and Cristian Gonzalez (Our Lady Queen of Heaven

Church) at St. Joseph Seminary College.

The Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land, according to a letter from the Congregation for Oriental Churches, "aims to promote among the Christian faithful a love for the Land of the Lord. For the Church to survive there it must rely upon a loving and nurturing solidarity on the part of each Christian; a solidarity which bears witness to faith in Him Who was born in that land, Who preached the Gospel there and Who also died and was resurrected there." The Congregation for the Oriental Churches has been entrusted by the Pope with the task of keeping alive interest in that blessed Land. The Christians of the East have a responsibility that belongs to the Universal Church, in other words the responsibility to preserve the 'Christian origins', the places and people who are the sign of them, so that those origins may always be the reference of the Christian mission, the measure of the ecclesial future and its security. They therefore deserve the support of the entire Church.

Pope Paul V was the first Pope to formally state his wish that the Universal Church observe Good Friday as a day of prayer and almsgiving on behalf of the Catholic community in the Holy Land and for the maintenance of the sacred sites linked to the Redemption. With the Apostolic Breve "Coelestis Regis" on January 22, 1618, Pope Paul V specifically set forth this objective, also known as the "pro terra sancta" collection, for Good Friday. Benedict XIV confirmed this in 1746. The most recent papal document on this annual appeal for the Holy Land was Paul VI's Apostolic Exhortation "Nobis in animo" of March 25, 1974.

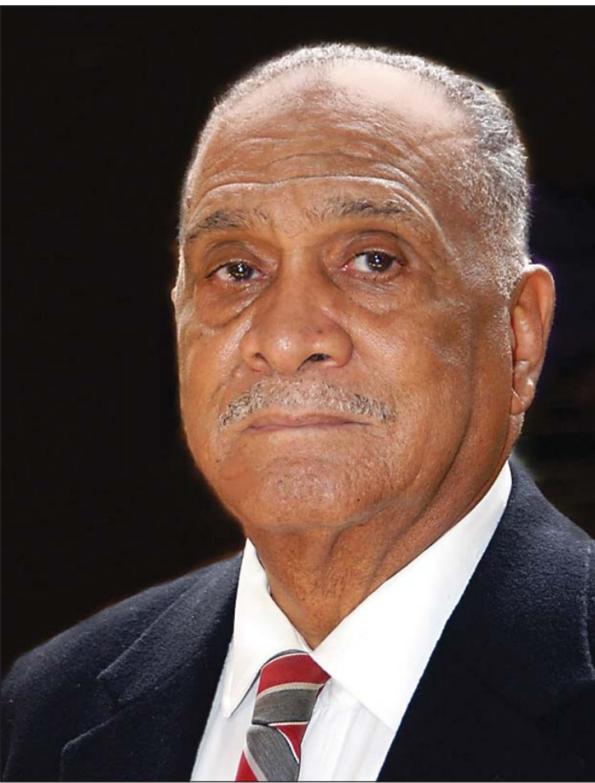
The annual Collection for the Holy Land helps maintain Christian sites there, provides care for aged religious who spent their lives ministering in the land of Jesus and supports projects that help native Christians remain and thrive in the region.

Last year's collection, in addition to providing study grants for priests and seminarians from the Holy Land to study in pontifical universities, allowed various restoration projects to be carried out in, among other places: Ain Karem (shrine of the Visitation), Jerusalem, Bethany, Bethlehem, Haifa, Magdala, Nazareth, Mount Nebo, Mount Tabor and Nain. Funds were also distributed to support parishes, families, schools and universities, and - through the Custody of



the Holy Land - to various cultural projects, such as the faculty of biblical sciences and archaeology of the "Studium Biblicum Franciscanum" in Jerusalem, and the Francisca Media Centre, a new form of apostolate which uses television networks to divulge the message of the Holy Places and the life of the local Christian communities.

Carl Ambrose named to St. Louis Catholic Hall of Fame



Carl Ambrose, Sr.

LAKE CHARLES – Carl Ambrose, a lifelong resident of Lake Charles and staunch supporter of Catholic education, has been named to the St. Louis Catholic High School Hall of Fame for 2010.

He will be enshrined into the Hall of Fame during ceremonies Thursday, March 25.

Mr. Ambrose, who graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic High School in 1955, holds an undergraduate degree (B.A.) from Xavier University in New Orleans (1959) and graduate degrees – M.Ed (1969) and M.Ed. +30 (1973) from McNeese State University in addition to the Career Education Program as a graduate assistant and career counselor.

The father of three sons, Carl, Jr. and twins William and Wilton, he is married to his college sweetheart Gloria Pinkney Ambrose. Carl, Jr. and William are graduates of St. Louis while Wilton graduated from Lake Charles High School.

His career in Southwest Louisiana as a teacher, elementary and middle school principal, and supervisor of child welfare and attendance spanned 35 years in

the public school system. He retired in 1994 but he hasn't stopped working!

Having been a product of a Catholic school education, Mr. Ambrose saw to it that his children also gained similar benefits initially placing his sons at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School and later Sacred Heart. He and his wife were stalwart members of the PTO at St. Margaret and took part in a great many other activities at the school.

There being no kindergarten at the time at his alma mater, now Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, he began working as a member of the school board to institute a program. Mr. Ambrose has been active not only as a board member at Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel but in the parish and school as a fund raiser, bingo worker, carpenter, gardener, food preparer for the church fair, trustee, member of the parish council, finance council (serving as chairman at various times for both) and many other activities. He is also an active contributor and worker for the Sacred Heart Alumni Association.

When his children began

high school, he brought his work ethic and Christian attitude with him to St. Louis. While supporting the school at athletic events, like football and basketball games, Mr. Ambrose also served as a member of the St. Louis school board for many years.

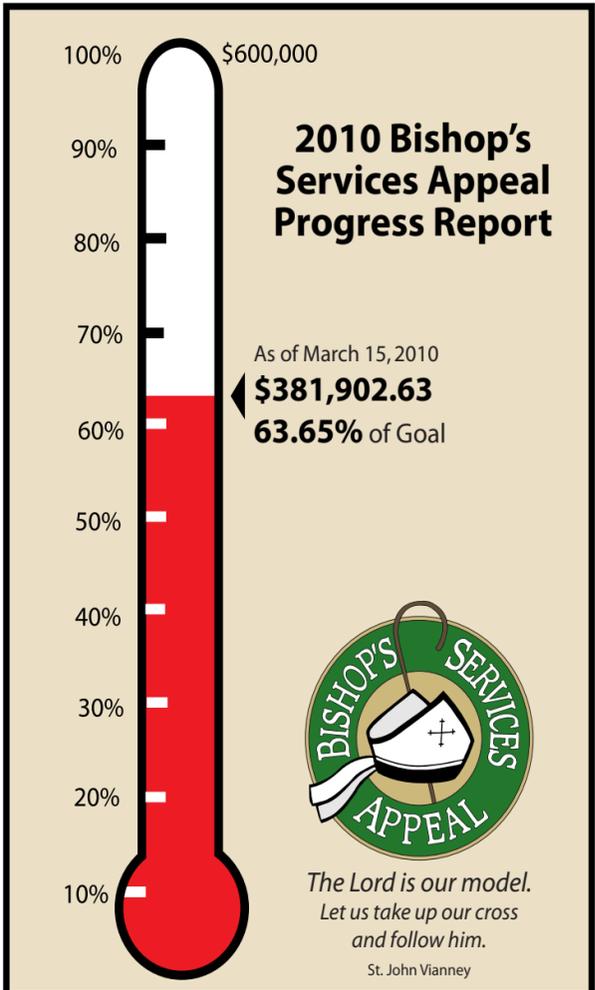
Both he and his wife continue to fully support Catholic education with their financial commitment to Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel as well as their voices encouraging students from the African American community to attend St. Louis, knowing the opportunities that exist there.

His great love of children along with his strong Catholic background is evident in all of these activities, from his teaching career to his community service career to his life of faith. He has taught multiple generations of families. In his efforts, he has tried to teach them to be as successful as he has been fortunate enough to be, to show the community how to live a good Christian life and to acknowledge everyone as being made in the image and likeness of God.

Mr. Ambrose continues to

be an active member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion and a member of the Male Chorus.

Local civic and fraternal activities in which he has participated include: a member of the Lake Charles Planning and Zoning Commission (6 1/2 years, Sudduth and Savoie administrations); member of the Louisiana Job Training Partnership Act Board (2 years, Roemer Administration); Lake Charles Kiwanis Club North, current member, director and past president; Lake Charles Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, member, board of directors, and past president; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Service Award recipient, 1985; coached and managed Little League and Dixie Youth Baseball for 11 years; member of Seven G's Social Club; selected as one of the 10 Outstanding Educators in Louisiana, 1977; member of the Christus St. Patrick Hospital Foundation Board and member of the Lake Charles Community Development Board.



The St. Louis Catholic High School cheerleaders captured second place in the Mardi Gras Nationals competition held in New Orleans. While in New Orleans, they attended Sunday Mass at St. Louis Cathedral and were welcomed by retired Archbishop Alfred Hughes. The senior cheerleaders were honored by being asked to bring the gifts to the altar at the Offertory. They are shown here with Archbishop Hughes following the Liturgy. The cheerleaders are coached by Mrs. Karen Crawford.

Did you know...

The original church building used by what is now the youngest parish in the Diocese of Lake Charles, Christ the King, was sold by a Mennonite community, which had come to the area in the mid-1920s to settle, to Immaculate Conception Church in Lake Charles for \$1,000. The purchase of this small, white wooden structure, which was located on what is now Lincoln Road, took place in October 1925. The building held 10 pews on each side of the main aisle and became St. Elizabeth Chapel, the first mission chapel in Southwest Louisiana. In 1945, the chapel came under the supervision of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish and in 1955 the newly built chapel of Christ the King was dedicated at the current location on the Gulf Highway. The small wooden structure known as St. Elizabeth was sold and moved.

There are 38 parishes in the Diocese of Lake Charles, all but one are "territorial" parishes, which means they have geographic boundaries. One is known as a "personal" parish. Do you know which parish that might be? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

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"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 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, from 5 to 7 p.m., according to Bishop Glen John Provost.

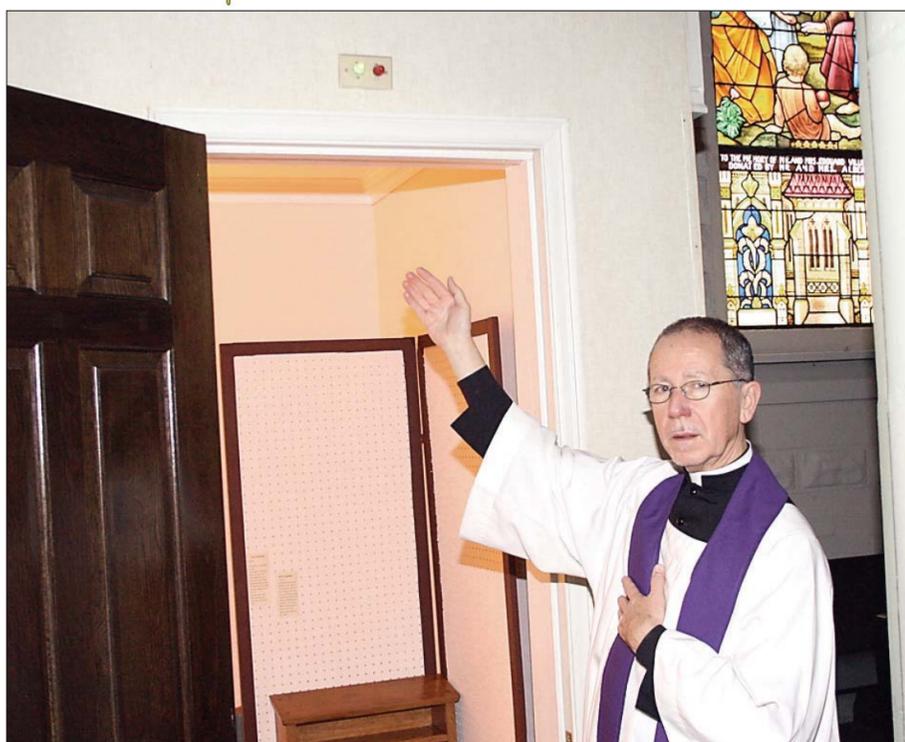
"The purpose of these Penance Nights is to allow available times for individual confession and the Sacrament of Penance in every parish of the diocese," Bishop Provost said. "Priests will be available in all the churches and having these specific dates and times will bridge the evenings to allow for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

Eastern Deanery churches and cities are Our Lady Help of Christians, Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, all in Jennings; Our Lady of Seven Dolours and St. Joseph, both in Welsh; Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Arthur; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale; St. Charles Borromeo, Fenton;

St. Joan of Arc, Oberlin; St. Joseph and St. Paul, both in Elton; St. Lawrence, Raymond and St. Philip Neri, Kinder.

Churches and their communities in the Central Deanery include the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Christ the King, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Henry, and St. Martin dePorres, all in Lake Charles. Also, St. John Vianney, Bell City; St. Mary of the Lake, Big Lake; St. Raphael, Iowa; and St. Theodore, Moss Bluff.

In the Western Deanery, the churches and locations are Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, and Our Lady of LaSalette, all in Sulphur; Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Our Lady Star of the Sea, Cameron; St. Eugene, Grand Chenier; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Creole; St. John Bosco, Westlake; St. Joseph, DeRidder; St. Joseph, Vinton; St. Peter the Apostle, Hackberry and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Carlyss.



Rev. Charles McMillin, pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Jennings, will be one of the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles welcoming the faithful to the Sacrament of Reconciliation across the Diocese next week. "The Light is On For You" in churches of 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. each day.



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, center, Bishop of Lake Charles, welcomed members of the Southwest Louisiana legislative delegation recently to discuss topics important to the Church which may come up in bills filed in the upcoming session of the State Legislature. Pictured with Bishop Provost are, from left, Sen. Dan Morrish, Sen. Willie Mount, Rep. John E. Guinn, Rev. Charles Kleckley, and Rep. Mike Danahay.

Bishop Provost will preside at Sacred Triduum in Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil - on April 1-3, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. On Easter Sunday, Bishop Provost will be the celebrant of the 9 a.m. Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church.

On Palm Sunday, March 28, Bishop Provost will bless the palms prior to the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral.

The Bishop will be the celebrant of the Chrism Mass at 10 a.m. on Wednesday,

March 31 in the Cathedral. This is the Mass where the Holy Oils used during the year are prepared and blessed. The priests of the Diocese will concelebrate.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Holy Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m. The Bishop will wash the feet of 12 members of the laity in commemoration of Christ washing the feet of His Apostles.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will take

place on Good Friday at 3 p.m. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross, with the faithful recognizing the Cross of Christ as our only hope of salvation. The celebration concludes with Holy Communion.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 3, will begin at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral.

Mass times for Easter Sunday, April 4, in the Cathedral are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed on Holy Thursday (April 1), Good Friday (April 2) and Easter Monday (April 5). Regular hours will resume at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 6.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Catholic Charities receives Block Grant

LAKE CHARLES - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles has been awarded a \$30,000 Community Development Block Grant from the City of Lake Charles to fight homelessness within the city limits, including assisting clients with rent and utility deposits or to pay rent payments in order to help the client to avoid eviction.

In January, Catholic Charities assisted clients with over \$1,300 in rent payments, nearly \$900 in utility payments, \$400 in funeral expense assistance, over \$780 in prescription drug assistance, nearly \$800 in ID/employment expense assistance, and an additional \$375 in miscellaneous client needs.

Grocery distribution at the Catholic Charities Office, 612 Louisiana Avenue, will be Friday, March 26. For guidelines and qualifications please contact Trish Trejo at trish.trejo@lcdioocese.org

Office hours for Catholic Charities are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is the policy of Catholic Charities to ensure equal opportunity in all aspects of its programs and services without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs or disability.

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 today, March 19 and 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 Matalgapa, 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 Principal 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.

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.

"Cash Knight Trois" April 11

LAKE CHARLES - St. Margaret Council 3208 Knights of Columbus Council will host its "Cash Knight Trois" on Sun-

day, April 11 in the Knights of Columbus Hall at 1500 18th Street.

Tickets, available from any Knight of Council 3208, are \$25 each and include the chance to win a first prize of \$1,000 and a second prize of \$500 in addition to drinks, a meal, and a chance for door prizes. There will also be a "split the pot" ticket sale in addition to silent and live auctions.

Only 200 tickets will be available.

For further information contact Albert Duplantis at 337-912-0069 or Mike Sedotal at 337-477-0911.

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.



The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles and the office's director Milissa Thibodeaux recently hosted the quarterly meeting of Diocesan Youth Ministers in the Province of New Orleans. Attending were from left clockwise, Mrs. Thibodeaux; Luc Noel, Alexandria; Ansel Augustine, New Orleans; Sr. Maruchi Palomo, New Orleans; Julie Ginther, Baton Rouge; Shannon Baldrige, Baton Rouge; Brigitte Burke, Baton Rouge; Rosie Brown, Lafayette; and John Smestad, New Orleans.

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