



Home Missions Appeal helps Catholics strengthen the Church in SW Louisiana

WASHINGTON - The 2010 Catholic Home Missions Appeal calls Catholics to Strengthen the Church at Home. The appeal will be conducted here in the Diocese of Lake Charles and in most other dioceses around the country on the weekend of April 24-25.

This year, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal turns its focus to youth ministry, an essential component of the life, vibrancy and future of the Church, explained Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Great Falls-Billings, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions.

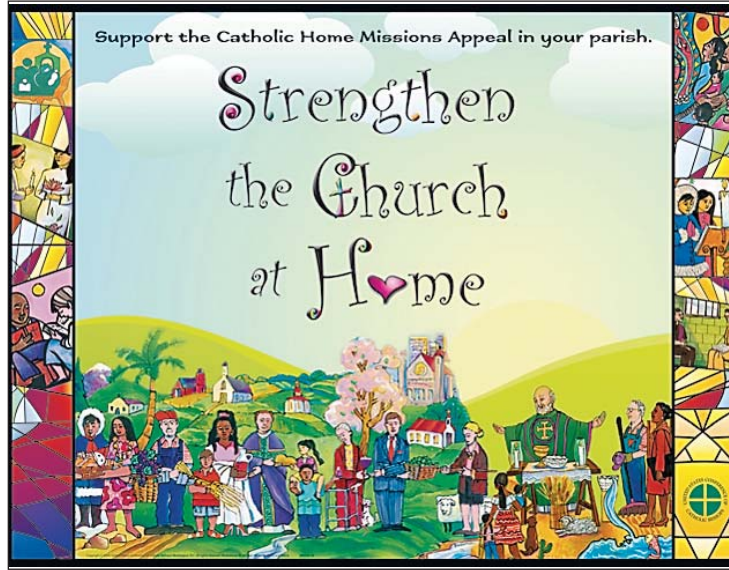
"In youth ministry programs, young Catholics grow in faith and gain valuable leadership skills. Without this appeal, some poorer dioceses might not be able to sustain vital youth programs," Bishop Warfel said. From 2003-2007, the Catholic Home Missions Appeal gave more than \$2.25 million to 130 diocesan youth ministry programs, sustaining faith formation for the next generation.

The local church in Southwest Louisiana was the beneficiary of a \$125,000 grant

from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal in 2009. These funds made it possible for the Diocese to provide financial subsidies to eight of our most needy parishes and one mission chapel. As well, the grant helped fund programs and ministries in the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the Office of Evangelization, Lay Ministry Formation through the Office of Religious Education, the Office of Vocations and the Office of Communications. The Diocese has been helped by the Catholic Home Missions Appeal since its inception, nearly 30 years ago.

The Home Missions Appeal funds a wide range of essential pastoral activities in mission dioceses across the United States, with special emphasis on evangelization; religious education; ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people; youth ministry; and support for poor parishes.

Home mission dioceses often exist in rural settings with struggling economies, long distances between parishes, and a lack of priests and lay people to sustain parishes. As the U.S. continues to recover from



the economic downturn and too many Americans remain unemployed, the poorest dioceses, financially fragile in the best of times, are the most vulnerable.

Approximately 90 of the 195 Latin and Eastern-rite dioceses (eparchies) in the United States, about 45 percent, are unable to provide basic ministries of word, worship and service for their people without funding from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. They need support from Catholics in places where the Church is financially stronger.

In the Diocese of Lexington, a 2009 grant of \$125,000 from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal made it possible for nine mission parishes in Appalachia to remain open. Funds helped pay salaries and benefits for priests, pastoral assistants and office staff. In the Diocese of Salt Lake City, Home Missions supported nine seminarians. The vast diocese, which encompasses the entire state of Utah, is in dire need of priests to serve the growing Catholic population.

Diocesan anniversary banquet set April 24

LAKE CHARLES -- New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond will be the guest speaker at an "Anniversary Banquet" celebrating the 30th year of formation of the Diocese of Lake Charles on Saturday, April 24 at Treasures of Marilyn, 3510 Fifth Avenue.

Bishop Jude Speyrer, Bishop-emeritus; retired Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, DC Bishop Leonard Oliver, a Lake Charles and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church native; and Bishop Michael Jarrell, Bishop of Lafayette, will also be attending. The event, while a celebration of the diocesan anniversary, also serves as a fundraiser for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will preside at Solemn Vespers in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m. to complete the anniversary celebrations.

Our Lady's School seeking applicants for principal's job

LAKE CHARLES - Qualified applicants for the position of principal at Sulphur's Our Lady's Catholic School, are currently being sought.

Applicants must be a Catholic for whom loyalty to Christ, his people and the Church are of primary importance and hold a philosophy of education consistent with this Catholic conviction, possess a master's degree, preferably in education, from an approved university, and have at least five year's of teaching or other school administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic school, demonstrated leadership abilities. Experience in curriculum and instructional leadership is preferred.

Resumes should be mailed to the Mrs. Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent, Office of Catholic Schools, 1112 Bilbo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. An application form can be downloaded at live.lcdioocese.org/news/517-principaladministrator-being-sought.html. Deadline to apply is April 26.

Our Lady's Catholic School is owned and operated by six Catholic Church parishes in Sulphur and surrounding communities. Our Lady's Catholic School is an elementary school serving pre-K through eighth grade students. A professional faculty and staff strive to provide the approximately 200 students with a safe environment where they can learn to become responsible and caring members of their community through academic excellence, strong family involvement and a loving relationship with God.

Diocese retains half of the Communication collection

LAKE CHARLES -- The Catholic Communication Campaign is how the "Good News" Gets Around. This national collection, from which the Diocese of Lake Charles retains 50 percent of the contributions, for its own communication efforts will be conducted May 15-16.

Diocesan communication programs aided by gifts from the faithful to this collection include the Catholic Calendar, published in four secular newspapers on the first and third Friday of each month, Glad Tidings, the Sunday morning television program on KPLC-TV, maintenance and upkeep of the website of the Diocese, lcdioocese.org and the airing of the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception each Sunday.

Did you know...

Founded on Dec. 13, 1913, St. Paul Catholic Church has seen only nine pastors. The current shepherd is Father Marshall Boulet who has been pastor since 1992. The founding pastor was Father A.P. Borel. Father William Frantzen, the third St. Paul pastor, retired in 1970 after serving as the parish's leader for 42 years having been installed in 1928.

Besides Father Boulet, only one other priest has served as pastor of St. Paul in the 30 years since the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Do you know his name? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.



Nearly 200 Catholic school eighth graders were joined by 30 students from St. Louis Catholic High School and school catechetical leaders at the 11th annual Catholic school retreat. The event, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese, featured Cooper Ray, a dynamic and light-hearted speaker and musician from the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Sharing his faith with honesty and passion through story, humor, and audience participation, he led the entire group to a greater awareness of who they are as Catholics and how to recognize God's presence in their lives.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament

LAKE CHARLES - Forty Hours Devotion before the Blessed Sacrament praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the Diocese of Lake Charles will be held in churches in the Central Deanery during April.

St. Henry Church in Lake Charles will have devotion from Monday, April 19 through Friday, April 23, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

St. Martin de Porres Church in Lake Charles will host the devotion from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, and Thursday, April 29, and from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, and Friday, April 30.

Safe Environment Training April 19

LAKE CHARLES - A Safe Environment Initial Training Session will be conducted by the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 19, in the Assembly Room of the Chancery of the Diocese of Lake Charles, 414 Iris Street.

Those who attend should use the east side entrance. Contact Mrs. Bernell Ezell at 337-439-7400, Ext. 305 for information and to register.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

LAKE CHARLES - Rev. Daniel Torres, pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church and Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be the celebrant of Mass on April 25, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, at 8 a.m. in St. Henry, 1021 Eighth Avenue.

Father Torres will also bless Vocation Candles to be taken back to the parishes of the Diocese following the Mass by a representative from each church.

Bishop to continue presentations

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost will continue his presentations on the Book of Revelation in May, with the Women's Luncheon on Tuesday, May 4 and the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Friday, May 14.

The luncheon will be held in the Lake Charles Civic Center and tickets may be purchased by sending 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, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Men may register for the breakfast to be held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception offices by calling 337-439-7400.

Bishop Provost will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral prior to the breakfast beginning at 6:30 a.m.

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.

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.

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.

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Palm Sunday, Chrism Mass and the Triduum Revisited



Holy Week began, moving clockwise from top left, with Bishop Glen John Provost blessing the palms on Palm Sunday, aided by Msgr. Jace Eskind. At the Chrism Mass (March 31) the Bishop poured balsam, a perfume, into the oil that will become the Oil of Chrism when consecrated. On Holy Thursday, 12 men had their feet washed by the Bishop emulating Christ's washing the feet of His disciples. On Good Friday, the crowd at the Cathedral lined up to venerate the Cross of Christ in the Cathedral. At the Easter Vigil, Bishop Provost lights the Paschal Candle being held by Deacon Scott Conner, left, and seminarian John Huckaby, right. Following the blessing of water, the Bishop sprinkles the faithful, reminding them of their own baptism at the Easter Vigil.

St. Louis Catholic Special Needs students present Way of the Cross

LAKE CHARLES – The Special Needs students of St. Louis Catholic High School with collaboration from students in the school's Theatre Class used the Passion Narrative to develop a deeper understanding of the Stations of the Cross recently.

The group, led by special needs teachers Tanya France and Bree Breaux along with Theatre instructor Holley Fontenot, acted out the Stations of the Cross for all the Theology Students and The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles.

The students all learned much from each other, while preparing for the production by building props, creating costumes and practicing stage direction.

"Praying the Stations of the Cross was a wonderful prayer to share during Holy Week," Tanya France said. "Our students were able to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, as well as share their faith with

those gathered. Being able to lead our school family in this beautiful tradition of our faith was very meaningful for our Special Needs students. Being able to assist and pray together with our whole school community was very powerful for all."

The Stations were portrayed as silhouette images behind a large screen. Following a welcome and introduction by the Special Needs students, the Theatre students narrated the reflections and meditations. The Theatre students also contributed as lighting technicians, extra actors, and backstage assistants. The collaboration among the students was a wonderful part of learning.

Participating students included Quentin Ange as Jesus, Rick Alston as Simon of Cyrene as well as St. John; Kirby Oertling and Kobe Crowell were the Roman Soldiers; and Abe Reeves as Pontius Pilate.



St. Louis Catholic High School Special Needs teacher Tanya France, at microphone, introduces the cast members of the class presentation of the Way of the Cross.

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