



## Celebration of Diocesan 30th anniversary begins

(For more on this story go to [lcdioocese.org](http://lcdioocese.org))

LAKE CHARLES – Thirty years ago, on April 25, 1980, Bishop Jude Speyrer was ordained a Bishop and installed as the first Bishop of Lake Charles.

It had been on January 29, 1980 that Pope John Paul II decreed the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles, breaking off the five westernmost civil parishes of the Diocese of Lafayette to create the new diocese. The then-Msgr. Jude Speyrer had been the Chancellor and Vicar General of the Diocese of Lafayette when he was tabbed as the Founding Bishop of Lake Charles. The Lake Charles Civic Center was the site of the grand celebration on that last Friday in April and the thousands who attended or who watched live on television will remember the great joy they experienced in seeing the beginning of a new era for the local church of Southwest Louisiana.

Over these last 30 years, the clergy and laity of the diocese have seen God's grace working in many marvelous and wonderful ways.

The observance of the milestone began Saturday, April 24, with Bishop Glen John Provost hosting an Anniversary Banquet, featuring The Most Reverend Gregory Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, as the keynote speaker. Bishop Speyrer, now Bishop-emeritus, was in attendance as was Washington, D.C. Auxiliary Bishop-emeritus Leonard Olivier, a native son of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lake Charles; Bishop Michael Jarrell of Lafayette; and Bishop Curtis Guillory, a Louisiana native and Bishop of Beaumont, Texas. More than 300 people attended the banquet. Funds raised from the event are benefitting Catholic Charities of the Diocese

of Lake Charles. Serving as waiters and waitresses for the event were the members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Core Team.

Archbishop Aymond, who served as Rector of Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans prior to his elevation to the Episcopacy as Bishop of Austin, Texas, was named Archbishop of New Orleans on June 12, 2009.

In his remarks, the Archbishop noted that, "one of the greatest compliments that you can give to another person is to say 'at a very young age you have accomplished a great deal and you have done so with integrity'. May I suggest that that high compliment is one that goes to you as the people of God of the Diocese of Lake Charles. You are only 30 years old. We still call that in our world today, young and, perhaps, young adult. But also, when you look at the history of our Church, when you look back over 2,000 years, you are indeed a very, very young Diocese. Yet, you have accomplished so much as the People of God here in Lake Charles for this local Church."

Archbishop Aymond then listed numerous programs and missions of the Diocese of Lake Charles that "you have embraced, that the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ is very active and alive here.

"I bring this litany of accomplishments to you, in order that you and I together can certainly give thanks to God because all that we do and accomplish is because of the gifts that God has given to us and because of the energy and the influence that the Spirit of God gives us to accomplish them." The Archbishop said "I also give you that list as a way to say thank you for making this Local Church so alive and so faith-filled and so faithful to mission and ministry of Christ."



Bishops present at the Anniversary Banquet celebrating the 30th year of establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles included, from left, Bishop Curtis Guillory of Beaumont, Texas; Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans; Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop-emeritus Jude Speyrer, Bishop Michael Jarrell of Lafayette, and Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Leonard Olivier of Washington, DC.

## Bishops address variety of issues in current legislative session

BY LAURA DEAVERS  
EDITOR, CATHOLIC COMMENTATOR  
(Go to [lcdioocese.org](http://lcdioocese.org) for more on this story)

Hearing "There is no money" over and over again at the State Legislature, Danny Loar, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops (LCCB) executive director, carefully chooses the legislative matters he will lobby for or against during this current legislative session.

The shortage of money for state programs has caused a lot of tension in the capital, said Loar as he talked about the bills the LCCB is following. "So many groups are being hurt: health care, the handicapped, the elderly. These are tough times."

Loar and Rob Tasman, LCCB associate director, have been meeting in the archdiocese and each of the six Louisiana dioceses with the archbishop, bishops and the legislators that represent those areas to discuss the legislation that is of interest to the LCCB.

The Foster Grandparent Program provides a stipend of \$2.65 per hour to low-income persons 55 and over, who assist children with their schoolwork. This program is funded by the federal government, with states expected to provide an "Action Match" which traditionally is 10 percent of the monies.

The scholarship program in New Orleans, which has been in effect since 2008, is not being cut, Loar reassured. The governor's office has placed \$8 million in the 2010-2011 budget for this program, which in 2011 will have students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

Immigration is an issue the federal government and many states are grappling with.

The Catholic Church believes all immigrants have inherent dignity and worth as human beings, regardless of their immigration status, said Loar.

Current law requires that the physician intending to perform an abortion shall, at least 24 hours before the abortion, perform an ultrasound examination of the unborn child. LCCB is supporting a bill that would require the physician to display the ultrasound images so the woman may choose to view or not view the images of the unborn child.

The Catholic Church believes that restorative justice be pursued when considering criminal law. Restorative justice involves the return to right order affected through the acceptance of responsibility, the assignment of appropriate punishment and the return or restoration of as many as possible to the human community. This is why the LCCB is supporting legislation that provides for juveniles younger than 15, who are found guilty of serious crimes, be given the possibility of parole.

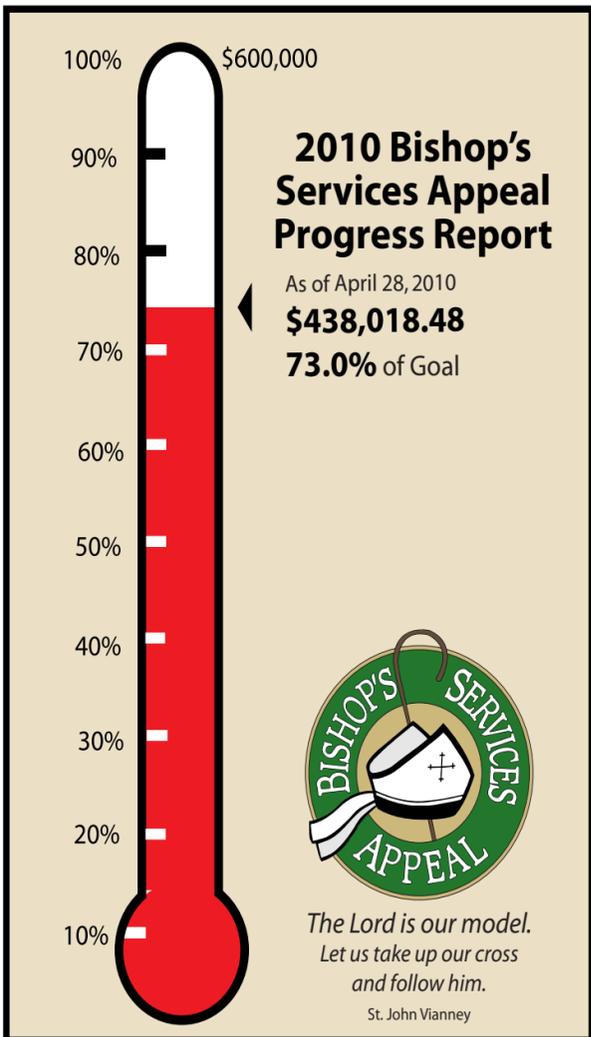
Catholic schools in Louisiana educate 17 percent of all students in kindergarten through 12th grade, the highest percentage in the United States. But they receive only 57 percent (\$14.3 million) of what it costs (\$24.9 million) to collect information in 15 categories required by the State Department of Education.

These schools are requesting what they are legally entitled to receive, noted Loar.

The population of Louisiana is 31 percent Catholic, but Loar remarked that 51 percent of the legislature is Catholic.



Bishop Glen John Provost blessed and dedicated the "Our Lady of Life Prayer Garden", located at the entrance to St. Louis Catholic High School, on the third anniversary of his ordination and installation as Bishop of Lake Charles, April 23. The Prayer Garden, part of the final phase of the school's Opening Windows Capital Campaign, was provided through the generosity of Rick and Elly Bercier, long-time and very active proponents of Pro-Life initiatives. The statue of the Blessed Mother is the central theme of the space. A bronze plaque on the base of the statute reads as follows: "Our Lady of Life": Pray that we recognize Your Son in all unborn children.



### Did you know...

Elton's St. Paul Church is the fifth oldest parish in the Diocese. Father Marshall Boulet has served as pastor since 1992 and the only other priest to serve as pastor at St. Paul since the formation of the Diocese was Father Michael Barros, from 1980 to 1992.

Of parishes founded after the establishment of the Diocese of Lafayette in 1918, one has had even fewer pastors than St. Paul's nine shepherds. Do you know the name of the church? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

### May 2010 Papal prayer Intentions

•Human Trafficking. That the shameful and monstrous trafficking in human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may stop.

•Priests, Religious, and Committed Lay People. That priests, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to bring missionary enthusiasm to the communities they serve.



Father Daniel Torres, pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church and Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Lake Charles, blesses Vocation Candles at the Mass on World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 25 at St. Henry. Representatives from each parish church in the Diocese were present and returned to their faith communities with one of the candles. The people of the parishes will continue to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and the religious life here in the Diocese.

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## Diocese keeps half of gifts to Communications appeal

(For more information go to [lcediocese.org](http://lcediocese.org) - see Latest News)

LAKE CHARLES - Bringing the Good News of the Diocese of Lake Charles to everyone is an important and expensive proposition. Last year the budget for those communication efforts was more than \$350,000.

Those funds came from a variety of sources, individual contributions, a portion of gifts to the Bishop's Services Appeal, and sponsorships for the Catholic Calendar. In addition, the Catholic Communication Campaign collection, this year scheduled for April 15-16, provided \$11,663.01 or slightly more than three percent of the budget. The collection is unique among other national efforts in that proceeds are split equally between the Diocese and the national office.

Diocesan news gets to the people in a variety of ways - Glad Tidings, the Sunday morning television program broadcast on KPLC-TV; the Catholic Calendar, the twice-monthly (first and third Fridays of each month) publication in the

American Press, Beauregard Daily News, Cameron Pilot, and Jennings Daily News; the diocesan website [lcediocese.org](http://lcediocese.org) which also provides streaming of Glad Tidings and available downloads of the Catholic Calendar; and the Sunday airing on radio (1470 AM and 1290 AM) of the 9:30 a.m. Bishop's



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HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND

Mass from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

All of these technologies are, according to Pope Benedict XVI in his 43rd Message for World Communication Day, "truly a gift to humanity and we must endeavor to ensure that the benefits they offer are put to the service of all human individuals and communities."

The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) collection was established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1979 to respond to the national and local communications needs of the Church.

Your gift to the Catholic Communication Campaign helps make possible the continuation of the communication efforts of the diocese and provides assistance to innovative national projects as well. Please consider a generous contribution to the Catholic Communication Campaign on the weekend of May 15-16.



John Huckaby, left, is shown with The Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, Bishop of Birmingham, Ala.

## John Huckaby admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders

NEW ORLEANS - John Huckaby, seminarian for the Diocese of Lake Charles, was admitted to "Candidacy for the Diaconate and Priesthood" on March 25th at Mass in the Chapel at Notre Dame Seminary. The Most Rev. Robert J. Baker of the Diocese of Birmingham, Ala., celebrated the Liturgy.

Admission to Candidacy is a public acknowledgement on the part of the seminarian of his intent to proceed toward Holy Orders and to continue to prepare diligently in the final period of preparation. Huckaby and 11 of his classmates in their

third year of theology took this important step during Holy Mass on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

Bishop Baker received the twelve candidates on behalf of their respective bishops. In his homily, Bishop Baker exhorted the candidates to model their final period of preparation on the patience and zeal of St. Anthony Mary Claret, the founder of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He also provided each candidate with a copy of the book *When Did We See You, Lord?*, that he

co-authored with Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.

In accepting Huckaby's petition for Admission to Candidacy, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, reminded him of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta's response to an interview question about her advice to seminarians drawing near to ordination. She said in reply: "Put your hand in Mary's hand and ask her to lead you to Jesus. When Jesus came into her life, she went in haste to give Him to others. And you too when you become his priest, with her go in haste to give

Jesus to others...During the day, learn to pray the work; work with Jesus, work for Jesus. Always keep close to Mary." Bishop Provost echoed Blessed Teresa's exhortation to always make time for daily prayer amid the busy schedule of studies and ministry.

Mr. Huckaby will be in residence at St. Henry Parish in Lake Charles for his diaconate internship from late May through October. He will also accompany Rev. Daniel Torres and the Abrazando Cristo missionaries to Nicaragua in July.

## SH/SKD Catholic School given preservation award

(For more on this story go to [lcediocese.org](http://lcediocese.org))

LAKE CHARLES - Now 102 years old, Sacred Heart Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School has been honored by the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation with a 2010 Preservation Honor Award.

At the organization's recent annual conference in Shreveport, the school, which was founded in 1908 - the first private, parochial school for African-Americans in the city - was presented with the award by organization secretary, A.C. Bourdier of Lake Charles. The presentation was made to Herman Metoyer, a former principal of the school as well as an alumnus, who accepted on behalf of the school. Bourdier, who worked diligently with Metoyer to nominate the landmark, noted that the school is now automatically included on the list of Calcasieu Historic Preservation Awards to be given in January.

Local African-American businessmen saw the great

need for a school to educate their children and eventually hired Miss Eleanor Figaro, who, along with Miss Mary Ryan, began teaching in a building located at the corner of Enterprise Boulevard and Mill Street with 18 students.

In 1910, a new structure was built at the corner of Louisiana Avenue and Pine Street, which would be nicknamed the "little red schoolhouse".

It was in May 1922 that the relationship between Sacred Heart and St. Katharine Drexel began as Father Hackett secured the services of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. The daughter of Francis Drexel, the scion of a wealthy Philadelphia family, she used her inheritance to finance her religious order and build schools for Native Americans and African Americans across the United States.

Saint Katharine Drexel who made several personal visits to the school, was canonized by Pope John Paul II on October 1, 2000.



Ms. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, left, principal of Sacred Heart Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, stands with Herman Metoyer, a former principal of the school and alumnus. Mr. Metoyer holds photos of the first two teachers at the school, Miss Eleanor Figaro and Miss Mary Ryan, with the image of Saint Katharine Drexel, the generous benefactor whose name now graces the school, behind them.

## Bishop Provost, Fr. May in Order of St. George

(For more information go to [lcediocese.org](http://lcediocese.org) - Investiture)

LAKE CHARLES - His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was invested as an Ecclesiastical Knight Commander of Grace in the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George while the Rev. Archimandrite Herbert J. May, pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church in Welsh, was invested as an Ecclesiastical Knight of Grace during ceremonies Friday, April 23, - the Feast of St. George as well as the third anniversary of Bishop Provost's consecration as a Bishop and his installation as the third Bishop of Lake Charles - in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

In addition promotions to Knight of Merit with Star were given to Dr. Lynn Foret

of Lake Charles and David Marcantel of Jennings while Sharon Foret was promoted to Dame of Merit with Star.

Members of the Order from the Diocese of Lake Charles attending the investiture were Frank Tartamella and Mary Ann Moses. Other members of the Order in the Diocese include Bishop-emeritus Jude Speyrer, John Halloran, Philip D. Moses, DDS, and Jacqueline Morris.

The Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George is an ancient and internationally recognized dynastic Order of Knighthood that is actively involved in the defense and promotion of the Roman Catholic religion. It undertakes spiritual, humanitarian, hospitalier and charitable projects and initiatives across the United States and the world.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Men's Prayer Breakfast May 14

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost will continue his presentation on the Book of Revelation at the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Friday, May 14.

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.

### Safe Environment Training

LAKE CHARLES - Three Safe Environment Initial Training Sessions have been scheduled, two in May and one in July, according to Mrs. Bernell Ezell, Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

The first session is Monday, May 10, at 6 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Chancery while the second, also set for the Chancery, will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25. For the May 10 meeting, attendees must use the east side parking lot entrance to the building.

Christ the King Church Hall, 7680 Gulf Highway, will be the site of the July 6 session beginning at 6 p.m.

Contact Mrs. Ezell at 3370-439-7400, Ext. 305 to register.

### Jazz Brunch set June 6

LAKE CHARLES - The 2010 Jazz Brunch to support Catholic Charities will be Sunday, June 6, from noon until 3 p.m. at Treasures of Marilyn's, located on Fifth Avenue, in Lake Charles.

Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased by calling Trish Trejo at Catholic Charities 337-439-7436. The brunch will also feature a live auction and local entertainment.

### Watch Glad Tidings on Internet

LAKE CHARLES - The Sunday morning television program produced by the Diocese of Lake Charles, *Glad Tidings*, can be seen on the Internet at the website of the Diocese - [lcediocese.org](http://lcediocese.org).

If viewers missed last Sunday's, it is available for viewing at the site as well as archived episodes.

To see the program, go to [lcediocese.org](http://lcediocese.org) and place the cursor on the Resources tab at the top right of the page, move the cursor down the list of items until you get to *Glad Tidings*. Click on *Glad Tidings* and a new page brings up the latest program. Place the cursor on the black screen and click and the program begins.

Any comments or suggestions can be made by e-mail to [communications@lcediocese.org](mailto:communications@lcediocese.org).

### Heavenly Fish Fest set May 15

LAKE CHARLES - Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School's Heavenly Fish Fest will be Saturday, May 15.

Fishing will begin from the bank, boat or pier at 6 a.m. with weigh-in starting at 11 a.m. at Calcasieu Point. Participants must be in line to weigh their catch no later than 1 p.m., according to weighmeister Monsignor James Gaddy.

Entry fees are \$25 for an individual or \$60 for a family.

For more information and registration forms contact the school, located at 3908 Creole Street or at 337-477-7349.

### 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.

### 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.

### Wedding Anniversary Mass June 13

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost will honor couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversaries during 2010 as well as those couples with anniversaries of more than 50 years that divisible by five at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on June 13 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Couples who celebrate anniversaries of more than 50 years that are divisible by five are also invited to attend.

The Bishop will bless the couples in attendance and, following the liturgy, will present special certificates of recognition to those celebrating these significant jubilee anniversaries at a reception in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral office building on the corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets.

Couples must contact their parish of their intention to attend the Mass. The parish will forward those names to Mrs. Kathy Owen, director of the Office of Family Life, which sponsors this annual event. A special invitation will then be sent back to the couple.

### Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat set

LAKE CHARLES - Rachel's Vineyard, a post-abortion ministry of healing provided through the Office of Pro-Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will hold its first weekend retreat Friday through Sunday, July 30-August 1st at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

For more information contact the Office of Pro Life at 337-439-7400, Extension 313 or 317.

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