



Office of Disaster Preparedness and Response readies for hurricane season

LAKE CHARLES – The hard lessons learned following Hurricane Rita in 2005 helped the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Response better handle the aftermath of Gustav and Ike in 2008 as well as prepare for this 2010 hurricane season, which began last Tuesday.

Mrs. Sandy Gay, who has led the office since its establishment in the aftermath of Rita, heads the office, takes a very common sense approach to getting ready for hurricanes or disasters of any sort. "I think it is just responsible day-to-day living," Gay said. "We all just need to look around us and take care of our business. Preparedness is not seasonal, you must be ready for a disaster at any time and there are many more than one kind of disaster that we might face."

"The lists of how to prepare are out there everywhere," she continued. "You can look at the special insert in the American Press, go to the Red Cross, NOAA, FEMA and many others. We just

have to look for the information."

Following Hurricane Rita, for which no one was really prepared, according to Gay, the Diocese worked to institute policies for its parish leadership in addressing any emergency.

"It is really why the office was established in the first place," Gay said. "We want to continue our focus on helping people get ready and then helping people respond or rebuild or restart their lives following the passage of any disaster."

"After all, there is more than one kind of disaster," she continued. "It is important for us to be attentive and be ready to provide whatever assistance we can to other people."

Some of the websites that can be accessed that will also provide those interested in making further preparations for the potential storms ahead include www.nhc.noaa.gov/; www.ready.gov/america/bel-informed/hurricanes.html;

www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/; www.fema.gov/hazard/index.shtm; www.weather.gov/om/brochures/hurr.pdf; www.redcross.org/.

Earlier this week, on the opening day of hurricane season, the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, celebrated a Votive Mass to Avert Storms in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron. This church parish was founded in 1958, a year following the deadly passage of Hurricane Audrey.

Following last Tuesday's liturgy, Bishop Provost led a procession to the beautiful Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea located in front of the church. This current Shrine, dedicated to the Mother of God, Protectress from Storms, was built at the initiation of the late Bishop Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of Lafayette. The seven-foot Carrara marble statue was commissioned by the Bishop during his time in Rome. The shrine was dedicated on Sept. 11, 1963.

Bishop Schexnayder also penned a memorable prayer "Prayer for Safety During Hurricane Season", asking the Mother of God to protect her children from the harm caused by storms. This prayer continues to be used and Bishop Provost has asked that during hurricane season that everyone in the Diocese of Lake Charles pray for the Virgin Mother's protection. (Editor's note: The prayer is reproduced elsewhere on this page and is available on the Internet at http://live.lcdioocese.org/images/stories/pdfs/hurricane_prayer2010.pdf.)

Bishop Provost has also asked that the priests of the Diocese include in their Prayers of Petition at Mass the following petition: "For all of us during this hurricane season, that we may be protected from all storms, loss of life and destructive weather, we pray to the Lord."

Let Us Pray

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2010 the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey in 1957.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.

The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its quietude.

You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father.

Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder
Second Bishop of Lafayette



First Cycle of Parish Visitations completed by Bishop Provost

On Ascension Sunday 2010, I completed my first cycle of parish visitations. Every bishop has the opportunity in his own diocese to visit each of his parishes over an unspecified period of time. This official visitation gives the bishop the real opportunity of meeting not only the parishioners but also the parish leadership, as well as those who make possible the various ministries that serve the People of God.

I began my visitations in the autumn of 2009. Of the five parishes randomly selected, the first was Our Lady of the Lake in Lake Arthur. This was followed over a period of months by St. Philip Neri in Kinder, Our Lady of Good Counsel in Lake Charles, St. Joseph in Vinton, and finally, the weekend of May 15 and 16, St. Joan of Arc in Oberlin.

The itinerary for the parish visitation began with meeting the pastor and being introduced to the parish. I then celebrated all of the Masses and delivered the homily on Saturday and Sunday. After each Mass with the pastor concelebrating, we greeted the parishioners, and on Saturday evening a dinner followed which variously included as guests, the pastoral council, finance council, trustees, religious education leadership, youth and charitable service directors. On Sunday morning there were either parish breakfasts, brunches, or covered dish lunches. Each and every occasion offered us an opportunity to get acquainted and for me to learn more about the parish.

A very valuable tool for this visit was the parish visitation report. The pastor and his staff would present me prior to my arrival with a report, detailing the vital areas of parish ministry and statistics of interest. This parish visitation report gave me some introductory information that I could study in order to ask questions and make observations. At the meeting with parish leadership on Saturday evening, the report offered all of us with topics for sharing and discussion. I found this most constructive.

One of our major areas of emphasis is priestly vocations. At each and every parish—and this is true as well in the parishes for confirmation—at least one or more approached me with interest in becoming priests. God is answering our prayers, the prayers that we have been offering in our Forty Hour Devotions and in countless other spiritual exercises in our diocese. Thanks be to God and the intercession of our Blessed Mother and St. John Vianney!

I will begin my second cycle of parish visitations in October of 2010. Over the summer months, we will be looking at calendars and consulting with pastors. We will choose four or five parishes for the coming fall and spring, and I am looking forward to our visits and to being with our people. For me personally, it is a true joy and abundant grace.

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

New principal at St. Louis Catholic

LAKE CHARLES – Ted W. Nixon, a 39-year veteran teacher, coach and administrator in Calcasieu Parish public schools and at McNeese State University, has been named principal at St. Louis Catholic High School, according to Mrs. Deborah Frank, president.

"I am looking forward to working with Mr. Nixon as he brings many talents that will complement the President/Principal Model of administration St. Louis has implemented," Mrs. Frank said. "He is a strong, Catholic family man who is an excellent role model for our students."

"He also brings a long, outstanding record and reputation of teaching and coaching the young people of Calcasieu Parish," she continued. "He has a history of participation in Catholic education, with a daughter who graduated from St. Louis and who is teaching in a Catholic school in Texas, while his wife retired from teaching at



Ted Nixon

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School."

For the past 17 years, Nixon has been a teacher and coach at Barbe High School. In the classroom he has taught Biology, Physical Education and Driver's Education and been the head boys and girls track coach and an assistant football coach.

"I am looking forward to working with the students, faculty and staff at St. Louis," Nixon said. "It is fortunate that I will be working in a school with which I am familiar. I am well aware of the many deep traditions of St. Louis Catholic and I feel privileged to be where I can combine religion with the education of the students."

He earned a bachelor of science degree from McNeese State University with a major in Health and Physical Education and minors in General Science, Biology, and Driver's Education. Nixon earned a Master of Education degree from McNeese in Health and P.E. and a minor in Administration and Supervision as well as a Master of Education + 30 from McNeese.

He began his career in 1971 at S.P. Arnett Middle School and Westlake High School, moved to Sam Houston High School in 1975, and coached at Iowa High School from 1982 to 1983.

Nixon was a graduate assistant football coach at McNeese from 1983-1984 and served as a part-time coach and professor at the university the following year.

From 1985 to 1991, he was a teacher and coach at Barbe High School and in 1991 became assistant principal at S.J. Welsh Middle School.

A member of numerous local, state and national educational and coaching associations, Nixon served as a three-year member of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) Executive Committee.

"With his past leadership in LHSAA positions, he brings a wealth of knowledge about athletics and their supervision, which will be a huge help since St. Louis offers every sport sanctioned by the LHSAA," Mrs. Frank said.

Nixon and his wife Joan, who is a graduate of St. Charles Academy, have three children.

State-wide Hispanic Ministry meeting held

LAKE CHARLES – St. Henry Catholic Church and Rev. Arturo Lozano, Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Lake Charles, recently hosted the quarterly statewide meeting of Hispanic Ministry Directors. A total of 27 members of the clergy, religious and laity involved in Hispanic Ministry attended.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was on hand for the opening prayer and spoke to the group about the importance of their ministry.

Father Lozano presented a history of Hispanic Ministry efforts in the Diocese to Bishop Provost and to Rev. Jose Burgues, director of the Southeastern Pastoral Institute (SEPI) located in Miami.

Dioceses of Louisiana represented, in addition to Lake Charles, were Alexandria, Houma-Thibodaux, Lafayette, Shreveport and New Orleans. These meetings are held with the purpose of sharing ideas and offering support for each other on-going projects, activities and future plans. Each diocese presented its progress on current projects and offered its future plans. Training and information regarding provincial, regional and national issues that affect Hispanic Ministry are also available.

"We discussed several on-going issues during the meeting but one of the highlights was the presentation by Fa-



ther Burgues of the Community Evangelization School," Father Lozano said. "This is a program that, if brought to Louisiana, would expand the methods of evangelization and would benefit small communities where it is hard for people to travel."

"Requirements for these 'Evangelizers' are that they must attend the School of Ministries, a 20 weekend courses offered by SEPI and a weekend training to begin

teaching," Father Lozano continued. "It was decided that each diocese would select personnel believed capable of teaching these basic courses and ask for a SEPI instructor for the training where they will receive the materials needed to start."

The Southeastern Pastoral Institute includes 30 dioceses in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Caro-

line, Tennessee and Kentucky. It was created in 1978 to assist the bishops of Regions V and XIV of the United States in their pastoral ministry to Hispanic Catholics. It is an educational and service organization that assists these dioceses to develop and train leaders in their faith and culture for the integration of the Hispanic community in the life of the Church and society.

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St. Louis Catholic High graduates 150 students

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles, was the key speaker at the 2010 Commencement Exercises of 150 St. Louis Catholic High School seniors on Tuesday, May 18.

Bishop Provost was joined by Very Rev. Marcus Johnson, the school's Rector; Mrs. Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Ms. Deborah Frank, President of St. Louis; and Deans of Students, Mrs. Dee Butts and Mr. Tony Johnson in conferring diplomas to the graduates.

The Bishop also presented the St. Louis Awards to Hannah Vidrine and Jared France. The St. Louis Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a St. Louis graduate, is given each

year to a male and female senior voted outstanding Christian student by their peers and approved by members of the faculty.

The awards, sponsored by the Serra Club of Lake Charles, are presented to students who have shown the following characteristics: Love of God and Neighbor, Strong Moral Character, Desire to Serve Community, Courage to Stand up for Christian Principles, a Daily Christian Lifestyle, and Proper Use of God-Given gifts.

In his address to the graduates and their families and friends, Bishop Provost asked graduates to consider that as they complete a chapter in life, something is left behind and something is left to be accomplished. As graduates move on to the next

phase of their lives, he asked them to keep in mind that when they build their house, they should keep God a part of it, or their labor will be in vain. Bishop Provost reminded graduates that God is always with them, and that they should be faithful to the principles they have been taught in their Catholic education. He asked them to remember that God has a plan for them and is building a house for them.

There were 30 Honor Graduates in the Class of 2010, including Co-Valedictorians, Farid Abdel-Raouf Abu-Shamat and Jonathan Doucet, who joined together to give their valedictory address to the those in attendance. It was noted that 2010 St. Louis graduates were offered a total of \$2,623,793 in scholarships.

Other clergy in attendance included Msgr. Harry Greig, Msgr. Jace Eskind, Msgr. James Gaddy; Very Rev. Daniel Torres, Rev. Keith Pellerin, Rev. Whitney Miller, Rev. Ruben Buller, Rev. Joseph Gosselin, M.S., Rev. Gerard Boulanger, M.S., Rev. Alan Trouille, Very Rev. Aubrey Guilbeau, and Rev. Nathan Long.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For a complete listing of graduates as well as information on St. Louis Senior Class honors, go to lcdioocese.org.- Latest News - St. Louis graduation)



The 2010 recipients of the "St. Louis Award", the highest honor that can be bestowed on a graduating senior from St. Louis Catholic High School, were Hannah Vidrine and Jared France. Bishop Glen John Provost made the presentations at the school's graduation ceremonies and was assisted by Very Rev. Marcus Johnson, Rector of St. Louis.

Bishop calls for prayer

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has reiterated his call to not only the Catholic faithful of the Diocese but all people of good will to offer prayers for a swift conclusion to the disastrous oil spill still fouling the waters and coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico.

On Tuesday, June 1, Bishop Provost issued the following statement:

"I ask the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles to join me in prayer for a speedy solution to the present crisis unfolding in the Gulf of Mexico as a result of the oil spill. There has already been a loss of life, and we must pray for the de-

ceased and their families and friends. Also, we must be aware of the harm that is being done to our brothers and sisters, in the various industries and occupations, reliant on the Gulf for their livelihood. Finally, the impact to our environment is of unprecedented proportions. As modern human beings, we tend to place all our confidence in science and technology to solve our problems. We must never forget God, our heavenly Father, and His power and mercy. Pray for God's intervention and the intercession of Our Lady Star of the Sea, especially in this hurricane season, especially now."

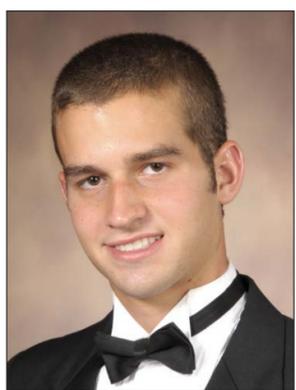
In early May, the Bishop had requested his pastors to include this petition in the response to the disaster:

For the people of our Gulf Coast, harmed by the present oil spill and subject to environmental threat, that the deceased be granted eternal life, that those who mourn be consoled, that our environment be protected, and that we be granted an effective and speedy solution, we pray to the Lord.

Also, the Bishop recommended to his priests that, when allowed by the liturgical calendar, that the celebration of a Mass for Any Need be said for the specific intention of receiving God's help in addressing this catastrophe.



Farid Abu-Shamat
Co-Valedictorian



Jonathan Doucet
Co-Valedictorian

Glad Tidings on June 6 airs only on Internet

LAKE CHARLES – Video streaming of the Sunday, June 6, Glad Tidings television program will be available at 6 a.m. that morning at the website of the Diocese of Lake Charles - lcdioocese.org. The program, which normally airs on KPLC-TV at that time, will be pre-empted due to the NBC coverage of the French Open Men's Tennis Championships from Paris.

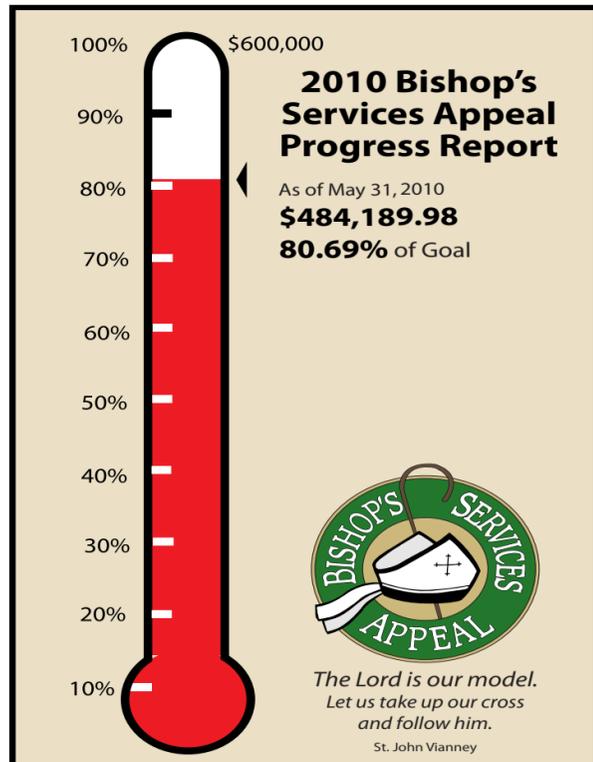
To view the program, go to the Diocesan website, place the pointer on "Resources" at the top of the page and a list of items will open. Move down that list until you reach "Glad Tidings" and click on it.

This will bring you to the video streaming page for the programming where you can click on the black square underneath June 6, 2010, and the program will begin.

Did you know...

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is a true Marian Church because the story of the life of the Virgin Mary is told in the 16 large stained glass windows, installed in 1939. They fulfill a two-fold function, they impart an atmosphere of devotion and beauty and instruct the on-looker in the doctrines and traditions of the Faith.

The first chapel of this current parish was dedicated under the title of St. Joseph and was built with contributions totaling \$279.45, including \$100 from the pastor. Do you know the parish? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.



Diocesan Briefs.....

Feast of Corpus Christi procession set

HACKBERRY – On Sunday, June 6, the Feast of Corpus Christi, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry and Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in Johnson Bayou will hold a Eucharistic Procession immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass in Hackberry.

The procession, in honor of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ truly and substantially present in the Blessed Sacrament, will be offered to thank Almighty God for the graces of the Year for Priests, which closes in mid June, and to beseech Him to grant us a peaceful hurricane season this year, according to Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor.

Everyone is invited to participate and there will be a reception in the parish hall at the conclusion of the procession.

OLPH Family Fun Day June 6

JENNINGS – Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, will hold its Family Fun Day and Picnic on Sunday, June 6, from noon until 3 p.m. on the church grounds, 920 South Broadway Street. Admission is free.

A "Brown Bag Special" will be available for \$2 as well as a cakewalk, face painting, bowling, basketball and various children's games and prizes. Fun for the entire family and everyone is invited

Abrazando Cristo Mission raffle tickets on sale

LAKE CHARLES – Tickets remain available for the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program's annual fundraising cash giveaway with a top prize of \$5,000.

Second prize is \$1,000 and third is \$500. The drawing 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. The raffle ticket will be mailed.

St. John the Evangelist bazaar June 12-13

LACASSINE – St. John the Evangelist Church will hold its annual bazaar on Saturday and Sunday, June 12-13 at the Lacassine Community Center.

There will be pork steak dinners, hamburgers, games, a raffle, and a sweet shop. The bingo begins at 5 p.m. on Saturday with Cajun music from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. The auction will begin at noon.

For tickets or more information call Charlotte Ardoin at 588-4535 or George Juneau at 588-4466.

Programs slated at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF -- Saint Charles Center will be the site of several retreats during the month of June, all taking place in Tabor Retreat House.

A "Beginning Experience Weekend" will be held from Friday, June 11 to Sunday, June 13. The program helps those who have lost a loved one through, separation, divorce or death to move from the darkness of their grief into the light of a new beginning. The suggested donation is \$135 each for a shared room or \$150 for a single room. For more information or to register contact Janet Lowery at 217-0755 or Georgetown Roy at 824-3197.

"Private Directed Retreats" of varying lengths will be offered by Father Don Piraro, Nelda Turner and Judy Savoie from Friday, June 11 through Wednesday, June 30.

Sister Diane Depwe, LPC, will host the program "Conquering Worries and Anxieties" on Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The suggested donation is \$30, which includes lunch.

Call 855-1232 for information or to register for either of these events.

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 are 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 by 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 1 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.

"Love Thinks" scheduled July 10

LAKE CHARLES – LoveThinks, a program that introduces to young adults the skills needed to create a healthy relationship, will be held Saturday, July 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Chancery of the Diocese of Lake Charles, 414 Iris Street.

Cost is \$15 for registration prior to July 5, and \$20 after July 5 or at the door.

For more information or to register, e-mail youngadult.ministry@lcdioocese.org or call 337-439-7400, Ext. 301.

Safe Environment Training

LAKE CHARLES – The next Safe Environment Initial Training Session will be held on Tuesday, July 6 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Christ the King Church Hall, 7680 Gulf Highway, according to Mrs. Bernell Ezell, Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Clergy, religious, and lay adult volunteers of the Diocese of Lake Charles who have unsupervised contact with minors in any diocesan, parish, or school program must attend a Safe Environment Initial Training Session. Each year following they are required to take part in the update training, which can be found on the Diocesan website - lcdioocese.org. Contact Mrs. Ezell at 337-439-7400, Ext. 305 to register for the Initial Training Session.

Vocation awareness retreat in August

LAKE CHARLES – The Life Awareness Program for single Catholics between the ages of 18 and 50 who are contemplating a religious vocation will be held at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center from Friday through Sunday, Aug. 6-8.

The fee is \$25 for the weekend and those interested should call Father Marcus Johnson, 436-8093, or register online at www.lafayettevocations.org/lifeawareness-retreat

Diocesan Altar Society luncheon slated

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Diocesan Altar Society Luncheon for members of Altar Societies of all of the 38 parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be held on Tuesday, August 31 in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Members will meet at 11 a.m. and then attend the 12:05 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral. The luncheon will follow the liturgy.

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