



Bishop celebrates Mass to Avert Storms

CAMERON – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, celebrated a special votive Mass to Avert Storms on the first day of the 2010 Hurricane Season, June 1, in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

Father Richard Adiukwu, pastor of St. Eugene Catholic Church in Grand Chenier, and Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry concelebrated.

In the Bishop's homily, he noted that the special Mass was celebrated "to invoke our Blessed Mother's intercession under the title of 'Our Lady Star of Sea,' that we might be spared stormy and destructive weather."

He pointed out that the great spiritual writers of the Church remind that any time we approach God with a petition we must possess two qualities.

"The first quality is virtue of faith," the Bishop said. "We must believe and believe firmly."

He also noted, from Luke 17:6, that Christ spoke of this firm faith when He said, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

The Bishop said the second quality we should have



Bishop Glen John Provost incenses the altar at the beginning of the Votive Mass to Avert Storms celebrated on the first day of Hurricane Season in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron.

is the quality of humility.

"In living the virtue of humility, we are prepared to acknowledge the fact that we are not perfect and that we come in weakness to God with our intentions."

Following the liturgy, at the end of which the *Prayer*

for Safety During Hurricane Season (written by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of Lafayette following Hurricane Audrey in 1957) was recited, Bishop Provost and the people processed to the Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea, for a blessing of the shrine and

of the people.

More than 125 people attended the Mass.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: To read Bishop Provost's complete homily go to live.lcdioocese.org/bishop-provost/homilies/584-votive-mass-to-avert-storms.html)

South Dakota youth trek to Cameron

CAMERON – In the time since Hurricane Rita devastated the Cameron coast and other areas of Southwest Louisiana, many groups and individuals from around the country have made the journey here to provide aid and comfort to those in need and help them rebuild their lives and property. One such group from St. Michael Catholic Church in Sioux Falls, S.D., has returned year after year.

The week-long summer sojourn by the 40 youth and 15 adults this year was the fifth, according to Rhonda Kelsey, youth director for St. Michael Church. The group was in Cameron during the first week of Hurricane Season.

"This year's trip combined youth from St. Michael's and St. Mary's," Kelsey said. "Over the five years we have probably brought about 150 kids down here."

Kelsey said she first became aware of the needs of the area after the storm through Catholic Charities.

"I read on Catholic Charities where Denise Donahoe had posted a need for religious education supplies because they had lost everything in the parishes affected by the storm," Kelsey continued. "After contacting her, because we wanted to help with that need, we decided that we didn't want to just send money, although we did do that."

She decided that the something they wanted to do would be a hands-on trip.

"That first year we came down and did Vacation Bible School at St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake," Kelsey said. "Then we had other people – adults - who wanted to come down to Cameron to see what they could do."

"We connected with Sandy Gay, the director of the diocesan office of Disaster Preparedness and Response and then with Julie Burleigh in Cameron Parish and have been working with her ever since," she continued.

The young people and their adult guardians, who had spent a long day of helping out in lower Cameron Parish on June 1, were unexpected attendees at the Votive Mass to Avert Storms celebrated by Bishop Glen John Provost at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

"I every once in a while look at the Cameron Pilot and I saw the bishop was going to do Mass," Kelsey said. "I first thought that it was at the end of the day and our attire wouldn't be Mass attire. Then my second thought was that it was a chance to receive the Eucharist and that overshadowed my first thoughts. We were humbled to be there and I think it was a very important thing for the kids to say that they had celebrated the Mass with the bishop of this diocese and prayed with the people of the diocese that the storms wouldn't come and cause any more damage."

Kelsey said they will continue to return and help "as long as they still have work and by the grace of God. Every year we have done something that I find really uplifting."

"Before we come down I show them a slide show from previous years, then after the first day, when we get back to where we are staying (this year at Saint Katharine Drexel Conference Center at Saint Charles Center), we show them the images again. It makes more sense to them then, after they've seen it themselves."

"One of the great images is Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole," she continued. "We saw it as it was after the storm and then to see it as it is today, it is wonderful."

Kelsey said she feels the stories the people tell the children about the storms help them and they go home with more of a sense of thankfulness and a realization that they are stronger than they thought.



Youth and adult volunteers from St. Michael and St. Mary Catholic churches in Sioux Falls, S.D., attended the Votive Mass to Avert Storms celebrated by Bishop Glen John Provost at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron on June 1. The group traveled to Southwest Louisiana to continue helping clean up and rebuild following the hurricanes of recent years. It was the fifth year a group had come to Cameron to offer assistance.



Official Appointments



His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, D.D., Bishop of Lake Charles, has made the following appointments, effective July 1, 2010:

The Reverend Monsignor Charles Dubois has been given the title "Senior Priest." Msgr. Dubois will remain Pastor of St. Theodore Parish in Moss Bluff, La.

The Reverend Timothy Goodly has been appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Creole, La. and Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Cameron, La. for a term of six years.

The Reverend Monsignor Ronald Groth has been appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lake Charles, La. for a term of six years. As well, Msgr. Groth has been appointed Director of Development for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The Reverend Andreas Kedati, SVD, has been appointed Pastor of St. Raphael Parish in Iowa, La., with the missions of St. Peter Claver in Iowa and St. Joseph in LeBleu Settlement, for a term of six years.

The Reverend Joseph McGrath has been appointed Pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Raymond, La. for a term of six years.

The Reverend Celsius Offor has been appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Jennings, La. for a term of six years. Father Offor will remain Administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Welsh, La.

The Reverend Babasino Fernandes has been appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Jennings, La. for a term of three years.

The Reverend Nathan Long has been appointed Director of Continuing Formation of Priests and will remain Parochial Vicar of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Lake Charles, La.

The Reverend Don Piraro has been appointed "Director Emeritus" of Saint Charles Center. Father Piraro will continue in residence and service to the retreat center.

The Reverend Whitney Miller has been appointed Director of Saint Charles Center, with complete administrative supervision, for a term of six years. Father Miller will remain Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation and Director of Diocesan Counseling Services.

The Very Reverend Herbert May has been re-appointed Dean of the East Deanery for a term of three years.

Given at the Chancery on Monday, June 6, 2010 by order of The Most Reverend Bishop.

Glen John Provost
+ Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles



St. Louis sophomores honored by ACT Council

(For more on this story go to lcdioocese.org - Latest News)

LAKE CHARLES - Forty-seven St. Louis Catholic High School sophomores have received the "Louisiana Student Achievement Award" from the Louisiana ACT Council for their performance on the

PLAN (Pre-ACT) Assessment.

These students are on target to meet or exceed ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks by graduation, which are empirically-based and identify the level of achievement necessary in English, mathematics, reading and

science to have a successful college freshman experience.

"I am very proud of these students, teachers, and parents who contributed to what they have accomplished and will accomplish in the future," said Laura Smith, the ninth and tenth grade guid-

ance counselor at St. Louis. "Their hard work is paying off and it is evident that these students are focused on pursuing academic success. St. Louis Catholic High School is dedicated to academic excellence, so this achievement by these students is very pleasing to us."

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Two honored at Jazz Brunch for Catholic Charities

LAKE CHARLES – The Second Annual Jazz Brunch to benefit Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana recently honored two veteran “servants” – Pearl Cole, director of Abraham’s Tent, and Sandy Gay, director of the diocesan Office of Disaster Preparedness and Response – who have aided those most in need in Southwest Louisiana for many years.

Ms. Cole, who has been director of the local feeding program for the past 21 years was named the 2010 Caritas Award recipient. She began her ministry at the program, which itself started as Interfaith Ministry to feed the hungry in Lake Charles, as a volunteer. The program began more than 25 years ago and fed about 100 people per day. Today, under Cole’s leadership over 250 individuals are fed each day of the week, based on only one thing – they want a meal.

She had seen the need to help from her home parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary when she saw people who came seeking to be fed. That was the impetus for her volunteering at the program.

Father Wayne LeBleu, Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services, introduced Mrs. Cole and shared with the group his first encounters with her 15 years ago as he was serving his deacon internship. “She showed me the ropes and she showed me how not to be afraid to care for the needs of others,” Father LeBleu said. “She has said that she feels her greatest accomplishment is that she is ‘happy to be a servant’ and that she ‘knew years ago that this was a calling from God – to serve the needs of the poor.’”

In accepting the award, Mrs. Cole said, “I simply want to say thank you to all of you because you have made my job possible. I look around the room and see many donors who have helped keep Abraham’s Tent afloat. I can’t do my job without you. On behalf of Abraham’s Tent, the board of directors and all those that I serve, I say thank you.

Mrs. Gay, who has held numerous positions in the Diocese of Lake Charles since its inception in 1980, was the 2010 recipient of the St. Peter Claver Award, which honors service to the least among us. Mrs. Gay will retire from her current position on June 30,

though she will not be retiring from service to those who are in need.

For many years she was the Director of Religious Education for the Diocese, a position that encompassed many different roles including Youth Ministry, the Loyola Institute for Ministry, Holy Cross College, the Ulster Project, the Catholic Leadership Institute and many others. She has served on many boards and committees on both the local and state level, including Calcasieu Long Term Recovery and the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops Life and Justice Committee.

“Her influence has been felt throughout the diocese for many years,” said Mrs. Trish Trejo, Director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana. “Every where I go when people find out I work for the Diocese of Lake Charles, they say ‘you know Sandy Gay’. It seems everyone knows Sandy.

“With Sandy, it’s people and the relationships between people that are most important,” Trejo continued. “She is naturally the mentor, naturally the intervener. She wants to get in there and find out what’s going on, pulling people together, teaching and in trying to make relationships work.”

In her “State of Catholic Charities” presentation, Mrs. Trejo said, “We are here to help the people who have trouble helping themselves. That is what Catholic Charities is all about, we are providing help and creating hope for the people of Southwest Louisiana.

“There is a crisis that is here every day and it doesn’t come with hurricanes, oil spills or explosions. It comes very quietly and almost without notice, unless you are looking for it,” she continued. “That is the crisis of poverty and the people who are poor don’t always get our attention. Sometimes we have to try really hard to see who they are.”

In the first quarter of 2010, Catholic Charities helped 64 clients with almost \$12,000 in utility bills, 37 clients with almost \$11,000 in rent and mortgage bills and over 1,100 people with food. “We helped 14 clients with just over \$1,400 in prescription medication assistance,” Trejo said. “As you can see the need is great.



Sandy Gay, left, director of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Response, the 2010 St. Peter Claver Award recipient, and Pearl Cole, middle, director of Abraham’s Tent, the 2010 Caritas Award winner, were joined by Bishop Glen John Provost, Rev. Wayne LeBleu, Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services, and Trish Trejo, far right, director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana at the Second Annual Jazz Brunch. Proceeds from the event benefit the work done to aid the needy of the area by Catholic Charities.

“A wonderful thing this year thus far is that we are up in contributions from generous donors from where we expected to be,” she said. “We are only limited by time – how many people we can see in a given period of time.”

Some of the churches have been generous as well while the Emergency Food and Shelter program has provided a little over

\$40,000 to spend on utilities, rent and mortgage while the organization has access to a Community Block Grant from the City of Lake Charles to prevent homelessness.

Catholic Charities can also help provide funeral assistance, employment expenses and identification expense assistance, disaster preparedness and response and immigration services.

Matthew Cormier graduates from St. Joseph Seminary

ST. BENEDICT – Matthew Cormier, a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Lake Charles, was among the 26 students who graduated from St. Joseph Seminary College during its 119th Commencement.

Cormier received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Liberal Arts from The Most Reverend Gregory Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, who also serves as the Chancellor of the College, presided over the ceremonies along with Abbot Justin Brown, OSB and President-rector Father Gregory Boquet, OSB.

The graduates represented the Dioceses of Lafayette, Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, Houma-Thibodaux, Jackson, Miss., Austin, Texas and Mobile, Ala., as well as, the Archdioceses of New Or-

leans and Atlanta, Ga. An honorary Doctorate of Human Letters was presented to former Archbishop of New Orleans, the Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes.

Cormier will be attending Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for his graduate theological studies.

Saint Joseph Seminary College prepares young men for the Roman Catholic priesthood through a four-year formation and liberal arts curriculum or a two year pre-theology formation program for students who have already obtained a bachelor degree.

The Abbey was founded in 1889 by a group of Benedictine monks from Germany. The Abbey’s St. Tammany location has been a part of this region since 1902. Saint Joseph Seminary College is SACS accredited.



Matthew Cormier, a seminarian for the Diocese of Lake Charles, who graduated from St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington accepts a congratulatory handshake from New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Archbishop at the commencement. (Photo printed with permission of St. Joseph Seminary College)

Our Lady’s School has new principal

SULPHUR – Trevor Donnelly has been named as the new principal at Our Lady’s Catholic School, according to Mrs. Kimberlee Gazzolo, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

A product of Catholic education, Mr. Donnelly has a Masters Degree in Education and holds teacher certificates in several areas of instruction. He has taught and coached in both Catholic and public schools. Prior to his new position at Our Lady’s School, he was a teacher in the Calcasieu Parish Public Schools Gifted Program.

He is married with two children and the family are parishioners of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church.



Trevor Donnelly

Diocesan Briefs.....

Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel fundraiser July 25

LAKE CHARLES – Smooth Music and Great Food at the Harlequin will be held to benefit Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School on Sunday, July 25 at Harlequin Steaks and Seafood, 501 West College.

A full dinner with Jazz and candlelight will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and only 130 will be sold.

For tickets contact Ms. Dawn Jones at Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel School in June on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. and in July from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday.

Breakfast, luncheon dates announced

LAKE CHARLES – Dates, beginning in September, have been set for the next series of teachings by Bishop Glen John Provost at the Men’s First Friday Prayer Breakfasts and the Women’s Luncheons. Neither breakfasts nor luncheons will be held during July and August of this year.

Bishop Provost’s topic for the coming year will be “The Gospel of Saint John”. The Navarre Bible Commentary on the Gospel of Saint John, which is available at Crossroads Bookstore, will be helpful during the presentations.

The Men’s Prayer Breakfasts will be held on September 10, October 1, November 5, and December 10 for the remainder of 2010. In 2011, the Bishop’s teachings are set for January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6. The breakfasts will be held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception following the Bishop’s 6:30 a.m. celebration of Mass in the Cathedral. Men may register for the September breakfast by calling the Diocese of Lake Charles at 337-439-7400.

The Women’s Luncheons will be take place in the Lake Charles Civic Center beginning September 14. Remaining dates in 2010 are October 12, November 2, and December 7. Dates in 2011 are January 11, February 8, March 1, April 5, and May 3. There will be breakfasts or luncheons in June, July, and August 2011.

Women wishing to attend the September luncheon should

send a check in the amount of \$10 to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and are asked to include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Programs slated at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF – Saint Charles Center will be the site of several retreats during the remainder of June and early July, all taking place in Tabor Retreat House.

Fr. Don Piraro, Nelda Turner, and Judy Savoie will facilitate the “Introduction to the Directed Retreat” June 25-27. The directed retreat is silent and tailored to the individual needs of the retreatant. This weekend introduction helps the retreatant learn the prayer technique and prepares the person for a longer retreat. It is limited to 10 participants only.

Sr. Diane Depwe will host two events, the first “Saving America According to Scripture” on June 29 from 6 to 9 p.m. and “How to Choose Your Battles” on July 6 from 6 to 9 p.m.

For more information on all events at Saint Charles Center, you can go to live.lcdioocese.org/retreats/saint-charles-center/events.html on the Internet or call 855-1232.

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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