



Two churches in the Diocese of Lake Charles held processions on the streets of their neighborhoods on June 6, the Feast of Corpus Christi (the Body and Blood of Christ). At left, Father Ruben Buller, and seminarian David Hardey walk before Father Daniel Torres, pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church, who carries the Blessed Sacrament at the start of the 1.5 mile march. The photo at right shows Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle carrying the monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament in procession from the church in Hackberry.



Year for Priests comes to conclusion in Rome

LAKE CHARLES - On Friday, June 11, 2010, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, concluded the Year for Priests in Rome.

For the conclusion of the Year for Priests, the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles joined Bishop Glen John Provost during the first week of June for the Convocation of Priests held at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. The bishop and priests spent three days in prayer and reflection. Bishop Gerald Kicanas, vice-president of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops and Bishop of Tucson, Arizona,

was the special guest presenter. Bishop Kicanas shared timely reflections with the priests and Bishop Provost on the Priesthood and priestly life, as well as insights into Pope Benedict's three encyclical letters, most especially *Charity in Truth*.

It was also announced that the bishop and priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles would attend a Day of Recollection on Wednesday, August 4, 2010, the Feast of St. Jean-Marie Vianney, the patron of priests. The Day of Recollection will take place at the Church of St. John Vianney in Bell City and include Holy Hour, Mass, and reflections on the priesthood

given by Father Whitney Miller, the Secretary for Christian Formation for the Diocese.

Bishop Provost stated: "The Year for Priests has been a true occasion of grace for the Church and its priests. We pray that the seeds of spiritual renewal planted during this last year will bear much fruit as our priests continue in faithful prayer and ministry. I ask the laity of the Diocese of Lake Charles to join me in prayer for good and holy priests who will reflect and live the virtues proper to their state in life. God bless our priests."



Bishop Gerald Kicanas, Bishop of Tucson, Arizona, left, was the guest presenter at the recent Priest's Convocation at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. Bishop Glen John Provost, right, invited Bishop Kicanas, who also serves as the vice president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, to talk to the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles about Priesthood and priestly life.



Two of the couples honored for milestone marriage anniversaries on June 13 were, from left, Lawrence and Mary Jane Jones (50 years) and Dolores and Bernard Beaco (55 years).

Long-married couples honored

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, honored 61 couples marking marriage milestones during 2010 at a Liturgy on Sunday, June 13, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Diocese's Office of Family Life sponsors the annual event.

Bishop Provost, before beginning his homily, blessed the married couples.

In his homily the Bishop spoke of the witness the couples have made to the beauty of married life.

"Married life is important to us for a number of reasons," Bishop Provost said. "It is first and foremost the very basis of our civilization, the faithful marriage of man and woman. Furthermore, for the Christian, marriage is a symbol of the union of Christ with His Church. No less a teacher than St. Paul reminds us of this.

"For no one hates his own flesh," writes St. Paul, speaking of husbands and wives, but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. The love of husband and wife is a testimony to the love of Christ for His Church. We thank you for that witness."

The Bishop noted that over the years of married life each couple will have had to grant forgiveness to one another.

"When a husband and wife have those arguments and disagreements that are inevitable, then there can be

no reconciliation until the offending party admits that there is much in his or her own life that could stand changing," he said. "And, the offending party cannot apologize and ask forgiveness until he or she has admitted fault. All of this requires humility, a joyful humility, admitting that we are part of a human family that is flawed and in need of God's grace."

The couples and their families enjoyed a reception held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral Office Building. Bishop Provost greeted each couple and presented them a special certificate honoring their lifelong commitment to Christian marriage.

Two of couples, were honored for 70 years of marriage, Royland and Jeanne Marie Miller and James and Alita Stewart.

Couples married 60 years numbered seven and included John and Madge Cardone, Lawrence S. and Dolores A. Dilks, Buddy and Genny Dupin, Patrick and Dorothy Gallagher, Rena and Pat Gayle, Richard and Betty Hebert, and J.B. and Ruby Melanson.

Bernard and Dolores Beaco, Dr. Richard and Patsy Calhoun, Herbert and Bradley Conner, Tony and Barbara Cutrera, Fred and Lauretta Fluit Jr., and Fred and Cora Matthias were honored for 55 years of marriage.

Couples celebrating 50 years of marriage were Carl and Gloria Ambrose, Johnnie and Patricia Bihm, Eugene and Patricia Braquet,

Jack and Sue Brooks, Clifford and Carrie Broussard, Joseph and Wilda Cook, Stephen and Barbara DuBose, Mayo and Martha Dupre, Darrell and Ruth Goodwin, Joseph and Rita Guidry, Wilfred and Yvonne Guillory, Shelley & Shawn Hacker, Joseph and Norma Hebert, Gilbert and Jean Higginbotham, Winfield and Judy Hundley, Raymond and Mary Alice Hurst, Lawrence and Mary Jane Jones, Benny and Betty LaRocca, William D. and Sylvia Lavergne, Henry and Anne Lestage, Rodney and Joyce Mattix, Robert and Pam McCall, Fred and Dena Nodier, James and Dorothy Pellerin, Calton and Jeanette Pitre, Leroy A and Annette M. Pronia, Vincent and Mildred Richard, Louis and Catherine Rogers, James and Patricia Ryder, John and Gladys Singleton, David and Jo Ann Tilbury, Paul and Jean Verret, Charlie and Joanna Viccellio.

Those honored for 25 years of marriage were Ronald and Luisa Bertrand, Richard and Lisa Deville, Henry and Lisa Duhon, Anthony and Carmel Fazio, Percy and Lou Fontenot, Shelley and Shawn Hackett, Alan and Bridget Hinton, Ken and Deanna Kolde, Deacon Patrick and Sandra LaPoint, Edward and Sandy Mason, Michael and Connie Nodier, Leroy and Joyce Peoples, Ricky and Carrie Rigmaiden, Jack and Brandy Wheeler, Frank and Renee Wood.

Oil spill is lesson in humility says the Vatican

VATICAN CITY - The head of the Vatican Press Office, Rev. Federico Lombardi, S.J., has said the continuing catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico must be a lesson in humility for all human activities, not only for the energy industry.

Father Lombardi, speaking on the a recent episode of *Octava Dies*, the weekly program produced by Vatican Television, said, "It is difficult to calculate the dimensions of the disaster, but they are certainly enormous and continue to grow."

The results of the April 20 blowout on the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling platform continue to daily affect the lives of people along the Gulf Coast as well as the families of those killed and injured by the initial explosion and fire.

"There come to mind other grave environmental disasters connected with human activity, like those of the chemical factory in Bhopal, India in 1984, or that of the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl in Ukraine in 1986, which caused a num-

ber of deaths and serious harm to people," Father Lombardi said.

"What is striking in this case is the sense of impotence and slowness in finding a solution in the face of the disaster, on the part of one the largest and most well-equipped multinational oil companies in the world, but also on the part of the most powerful country on earth."

The oil well's owner, BP, has been deemed the main culprit for what has become the largest spill in U.S. history, though the multinational corporation objects to this accusation.

The U.S. government has declared a fisheries disaster for the states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. It is estimated that the fishing industry will lose some \$2.5 billion due to the spill.

"This is something incredible, but it is a fact," Father Lombardi said. "It is not the eruption of a volcano but of a relatively small hole made by man on the ocean floor. And yet, in two months, super-specialized scientists

and technicians have not been able to stop it. Will we be able to learn a lesson from this about prudence and care in using the resources of the earth and about the planet's equilibriums?"

"Certainly, much will change from now on in the oil drilling industry to make it safer," Father Lombardi continued. "But perhaps we can also learn a lesson of humility. Technology will always make progress, but if in relatively simple production processes such impotence is manifested, what will we do if much more complex processes get out of control, like those that have to do with the energy hidden in the nucleus of material or still more in the processes of the formation of life."

In conclusion Father Lombardi noted, "Benedict XVI was quite right to end his last encyclical on the big problems of humanity today with a chapter on responsibility in the use of power and technology."



From left, Father Emanuel Tanu, SVD, Chaplain, CDA Court 1506, Our Lady of Fatima; Bishop Glen John Provost; Karen Drewett, Regent; Father Aubrey Guilbeau, State Chaplain, Father William Miller, St. Margaret of Scotland Church pastor; Flora Doucet, Vice Regent; Pat Myers, Financial Secretary and State Secretary, are shown at the awards banquet honoring the 61st anniversary of establishment of the Court. Service pins were presented to Madge Miller, 60 years; Elizabeth Thompson, 55 years; Lou Charles, Virginia Fontenot, and Juanita Fralick, 50 years.

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Nicaraguan charity aided by local golfers, missionaries

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Read more of this story at lcediocese.org - Nicaraguan charity)

LAKE CHARLES - She calls herself a builder and a visionary, but Charlotte Somarriba is much more than that. She's a teacher, even though she doesn't do it in the classroom. She teaches by her example of hard work, which is why many children in Managua, Nicaragua are being regularly fed and educated at the three centers she oversees in that Central American city.

Mrs. Somarriba was in Lake Charles recently to thank some of the people who have helped her with their financial contributions as well as their own work. The Johnnie Thibodeaux Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament, held each year at Mallard Cove Golf Course, was organized by Johnnie and Susan Thibodeaux in memory of their son, who died in a 2005 automobile crash. Funds from the event go to the San Cristobal Boys Home in Managua as well as the Asociacion Pan Y Amor or the Association of Bread and Love in Managua. This year's event made \$15,000 and had 118 golfers participating.

The Association was created by a group of volunteers - spearheaded by Mrs. Somarriba - who saw the necessity for an organization which would assist the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of Nicaragua's already impoverished society, by offering adequate solutions to meet these peoples' most basic needs. Their mission is, "to offer Nicaraguan children and adolescents living in high risk areas an excellent education, nutrition and health care, teach life skills and offer technical training, thus enabling them to grow to their full potential and lead productive, useful lives."

Father Daniel Torres, who leads the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program in the Diocese of Lake Charles, has also been of great help to Mrs. Somarriba. For a number of years now Father Torres has brought volunteers each summer to Nicaragua to work among the poorest of the poor.

She was born in Nicaragua, was forced to leave the country in 1979 because of the revolution there, came to the United States

(where she and her daughters became U.S. citizens) and returned with her husband in 1995.

She started volunteering with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity upon her return.

"I began with one day, then two days," she said. "You couldn't volunteer for all five days because they keep one day for their spirituality but I worked four."

Then in 2000, she and others embarked on opening a feeding center in the Mercado Oriental neighborhood, one of the poorest and most dangerous in the city.

"We started with 40 children," she said. "They would come in at 7 o'clock in the morning, get a light breakfast and have three hours of basic tutoring - reading, writing and basic mathematics. Then a hot lunch and we would send them out to the local schools."

In two years the number of children had grown to 90 and the group so loved the center they didn't want it to close on weekends.

"So, we became a school," she continued. "We registered (with the government) and in 2002 started with 200 children, including a daycare center. We had three levels of pre-school and all of primary school - first through sixth grade."

The school started with a half day and then went to nine full hours with the children coming in at seven and receiving a hot breakfast.

"We would provide them with a formal education in the morning and after lunch have extracurricular activities - art, dancing, computer classes, English tutoring, and sports. They would leave at five o'clock."

This year her group assumed management of another school operation - a big one.

"It came to us from an Austrian organization that was taking care of children in a protective environment," she said. "It was built 10 years ago along with another school in the north of Nicaragua. They offered it to us. It is a beautiful building, something we had planned to do some time in the future, but they offered to us on a silver plate."



From left, Johnnie and Susan Thibodeaux, Charlotte Somarriba, and Father Daniel Torres are shown at the Johnnie Thibodeaux Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament held at Mallard Cove Golf Course. Proceeds from the event help Mrs. Somarriba's Pan Y Amor feeding and educational programs in Nicaragua as well as the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program led by Father Torres.

Did you know...

Members of the Rosteet family donated property in 1940 to build a chapel, which was named St. Henry in honor of the son of the donor of funds to Catholic Church Extension Society. That \$4,000 helped with the building's construction. St. Henry was established as a parish on June 21, 1958.

He is the longest serving pastor in the history of Iowa's St. Raphael Church. In addition to St. Raphael, he served in four other churches of Southwest Louisiana. Do you know his name? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Monday, July 5. They will reopen Tuesday, July 6, at 8:30 a.m.

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



Bishop Glen John Provost, left, joins Trish Trejo, Director of Catholic Charities, center, and Father Wayne LeBleu, right, Secretary of the Ministry for Pastoral Services with a check for \$13,200 representing the net proceeds from the diocesan 30th Anniversary Gala. The money will assist Catholic Charities in its work among the needy of Southwest Louisiana.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Glad Tidings on Internet July 4

LAKE CHARLES - The Sunday, July 4, production of *Glad Tidings* will not be aired at its regular time of 6 a.m. on KPLC-TV due to the national network coverage of the Wimbledon Tennis Championship Men's Finals match.

The program, however, will be available on the website of the Diocese at lcediocese.org under the Resources tab at the top of the page.

Mission fundraisers total \$56,400

LAKE CHARLES - Proceeds of \$41,400 were raised for the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program with its annual Big Cash Giveaway fundraiser which culminated June 20 at St. Henry Catholic Church, according to Father Daniel Torres.

Father Torres also noted that the Johnnie Thibodeaux Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament which aids Abrazando Cristo and the San Cristobal Boys Home in Managua, Nicaragua, made \$15,000.

"We want to thank the 479 ticketholders for their generosity," Father Torres said. "The mission to Nicaragua, which is set for July 3-11, will benefit greatly from the \$41,400 in profit."

The \$5,000 first prize was won by David S., ticket 0265, while the \$1,000 second prize went to Keith T., ticket 0392; and the \$500 third prize was won by Carrol R., ticket 0109.

A total of 118 golfers participated in the annual golf tournament as a memorial to Thibodeaux, the Barbe High School and LSU baseball standout who lost his life five years ago in an automobile crash.

"May God bless you all for your financial and prayerful support for the mission," Father Torres said.

Join "Taste of Louisiana" taping

LAKE CHARLES - Join Msgr. James Gaddy, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, and Chef John Folse at a live taping of the Louisiana Public Broadcasting's "A Taste of Louisiana" on Monday July 26 in Baton Rouge.

Be a special part of the audience as Msgr. Gaddy and Chef Folse focus on the history of hunting, use of wild game, and the culinary practices of preparing ducks and geese.

Tickets for this special event, which include a delicious lunch at Chef Folse's White Oak Plantation following the taping, are \$40 and only 50 will be sold. The deadline is July 15.

Participants will meet at the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church parking lot at 7:45 a.m. on July 26 and caravan to Ba-

ton Rouge for the taping, which begins at 10:30 a.m.

Contact the church office at 477-1236 or call Lisa Jakel at 626-1169 for more information.

Piano concert slated at Cathedral July 11

LAKE CHARLES - Eric Genuis, a composer, virtuoso pianist and captivating performer, will be featured in a concert on Sunday, July 11, at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The proceeds from the event will benefit Bear Island Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center.

For tickets, which are \$10 each, or more information call 337-304-6128.

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.

Deacon Lapoint re-elected to national post

LAKE CHARLES - Deacon Patrick Lapoint, the director of the Lake Charles Seafarers' Center, has been re-elected as treasurer of the Apostleship of the Sea of the USA at its recent annual meeting in Niagara Falls, Canada, in conjunction with the AOS Regional Conference for North America and the Caribbean.

As treasurer of the AOS-USA Deacon LaPoint will serve a two-year term on the Administrative Board of the AOS-USA, which meets twice each year.

Breakfast, luncheon dates announced

LAKE CHARLES - Dates 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.

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, December 10, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6. The Women's Luncheons will be take place in the Lake Charles Civic Center on September 14, October 12, November 2, December 7, January 11, February 8, March 1, April 5, and May 3.

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@lcediocese.org or call 337-439-7400, Ext. 301.

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.

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