



Christian Leadership Institute provides skills training

LAKE CHARLES – As its name implies, the annual Christian Leadership Institute, teaches leadership skills to high school age students – essentially how to be Christian leaders.

This is done through learning and honing communication skills, group dynamics, problem solving exercises and conflict resolution techniques, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

“In all of that they work on facilitation skills during the week-long event through small group planning and facilitation, conversation, partner work, and large group workshops,” Mrs. Thibodeaux said. “Basically, they learn how to communicate, how to problem solve, resolve a conflict, how to make a decision. And, that’s going about it with Christ in front of you.”

The 2010 session drew 95 youth, including 26 attending the Advanced Christian Leadership Institute. The advanced track was implemented a number of years ago for juniors or seniors in

high school who had already participated in CLI. The entire group was overseen and aided by 41 staff members, including eight diocesan seminarians.

Mrs. Thibodeaux said that no year is the same.

“We are presenting the same material but every year you get a different outcome, depending on the dynamics of the group, their personality styles,” she said. “Those things will determine the flow of the week.”

One of the activities in which the youth participate is euphemistically called “Car Wreck”. “It is a group dynamics and group interdependence game,” Mrs. Thibodeaux said. “Some of the kids lose their senses - sight, use of their hands, use of their voice - and have to rely on their teammates to accomplish a task. For instance, someone who is blind – they are actually blindfolded – is helped by their partners in order to knock a golf ball into the hole. It’s teamwork!”

The eight seminarians in attendance were a great addition, according to Mrs. Thi-

bodeaux.

“They were absolutely amazing,” she said. “They learned things. Of the eight, only two had been to the program so the other six really didn’t have a clue as to what CLI was about. We challenged them to be open to the week – open to what God was putting in front of them. They actually worked through the same activities as the kids but within their own group. They all said they wanted to come back.”

Twenty-six of the 41 volunteers had been to CLI as participants and, according to Mrs. Thibodeaux, this helped make the program so much better.

“The program continues to thrive because of the staff who return to help these young people experience something they themselves experienced in their youth,” Mrs. Thibodeaux said. “If I could call in these 26 and ask them what was one thing in your high school experience that changed the way you are as a person, I bet 90 percent would say CLI.”



In top photo, Katie Prejean, right, explains to CLI participants the afternoon team challenge they will face while ACLI members, in bottom photo, work on one of the two memory gardens they built during the week.



Bishop Glen John Provost, third from right, and Father Anthony Fontenot, chairman of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese, fourth from left, along with seven other priests Provost are pictured at the annual Convocation for Priests held at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. Seven of the priests and Bishop Provost celebrate milestone anniversaries of their priesthoods in 2010. From left are Father Whitney Miller (30 years); Father Herbert May (35 years); Father Wayne LeBleu (15 years); Father Fontenot; Father Joseph Gosselin, M.S. (45 years); Father James Gaddy (45 years); Bishop Provost (35 years); Father Celsius Offor (15 years); and Father Andreas Kedati, S.V.D. (10 years). The group enjoyed cake and cookies with their brother priests.

Collection for the Catholic Church in Africa this weekend

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Read more at lcdioocese.org under Latest News – Collection for Church in Africa)

LAKE CHARLES – This weekend the faithful of the Catholic Church of Southwest Louisiana will be asked to contribute financially to the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. This initiative was founded on the basic principles of Pope John Paul II’s call to action in *Ecclesia in Africa* and the adoption of the 2001 statement *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* from the bishops of the United States.

Building on that statement the full body of U.S. bishops authorized the creation of a voluntary diocesan collection and an Ad Hoc Committee on the Church in

Africa in November 2004. In 2008, it became a Subcommittee of the Committee on National Collections.

The Subcommittee is charged with creating and managing the Fund, which serves as the repository of amounts raised through voluntary diocesan collections, gifts, and other means. The Pastoral Solidarity Fund aims to strengthen the pastoral capacity of the Church in Africa, a Church that is spiritually rich but desperately poor. Working from the goals outlined in *Ecclesia in Africa*, the Subcommittee is responsible for receiving, distributing, and accounting for these funds and designating them for pastoral projects of the Church in Africa. The Subcommittee also

hopes to provide a basis for assessment, planning, and decision-making for dioceses and parishes looking to coordinate their responses to Africa.

This initiative seeks to provide a serious, sustained response that will meet genuine needs, strengthen the capacity of the Church in Africa, and provide for effective and transparent accountability.

The collection for the Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa is Saturday and Sunday, July 17-18, in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Please give as generously as you are able to aid our Catholic brothers and sisters in Africa.



In the top photograph, participants in the 2010 Abrazando Cristo Mission trip to Nicaragua are commissioned by the Very Reverend Daniel Torres during the Liturgy at St. Henry Catholic Church while in the bottom image, the group prepares to depart for the airport in Houston for their flight to Nicaragua early on Saturday, July 3. The group returned earlier this week from the annual mission to help those most in need in the Latin American country.



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, accepts a check in the amount of \$1,673.10, from Col. (Retired) John Halloran, Diocesan Coordinator for the Fourth Degree District of Louisiana, for the group’s annual Excellence in Religious Education program in the Diocese. Pictured, from left, are Aldon Young, Faithful Navigator of Msgr. Cramers Assembly #320 of Lake Charles, Col. Halloran; Bishop Provost; and Harry Jones, Past Faithful Navigator of Father Veillard Assembly #2087 of Sulphur. Other Fourth Degree Assemblies in the Diocese participating in the annual fundraising effort are Father James. J. Shahrigan #2182 of DeRidder and Msgr. Peeters #332 of Jennings. The annual grant is given to aid in the continuing education and training of diocesan religious education instructors through the Adult Education component of the Office of Religious Education.

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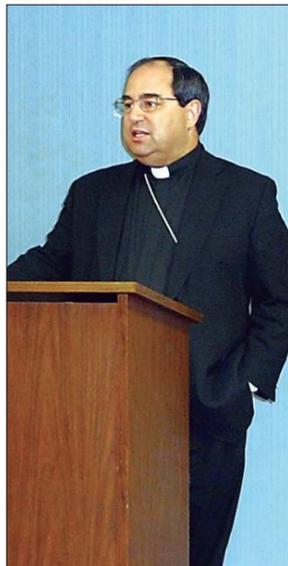
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Bishop Michael Duca, Bishop of the Diocese of Shreveport, (photo at right) was a keynote speaker at the recent meeting of Region V (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky) Vocation Directors held at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. In photo at left, Vocation Directors listen intently to Bishop Duca's remarks. (Photo by Father Anthony Fontenot, Vocation Recruiter, East Deanery)

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 from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday.

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.

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 on-line 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.

Lay Carmelite Regional Conference Aug. 14

LAFAYETTE – The annual Southwest Regional Lay Carmelite Conference will be held Saturday, Aug. 14 at St. Genevieve Catholic Church.

Rose Holland, T.O. Carm., of St. Therese of the Little Flower Community in Lake Charles will be the guest speaker.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with Mass at 8 a.m., and the program starting at 9:15 a.m., preceded by a light breakfast.

Pre-registration is available through local Lay Carmelite communities for \$15 or by check for \$15 to Carmel Southwest Region, 1113 Coulee Kinney Rd. Abbeville, LA 70510. On-site registration will be \$18.

Call Cindy Gates at 337-783-8872 or Laura Gaspard 337-893-2381 for more information.

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 are scheduled 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 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.

Archbishop Dolan advises Bishops on CRS Haiti activities

In a recent letter to the Bishops of the United States, New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan, chairman of the Board of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), spoke of his gratitude to them and the Catholic Church in America for the generosity shown to CRS and its work in assisting Haiti in the ongoing tragedy following last January's devastating earthquake.

"I want to let you know how your support is being used and to respond to some concerns you may have heard about CRS' operations in Haiti," Archbishop Dolan said. "Having visited Haiti and often receiving frequent reports from our people on the scene, I can assure you that we can all be extremely proud of the work our agency is doing."

In the months since the earthquake, CRS has accomplished a great deal. It has fed more than 880,000 people, while continuing to operate feeding programs that were in place before the earthquake that regularly benefited 10,000 vulnerable children through orphanages and child-care centers. School feeding programs are benefitting more than 24,000 students in over 100 schools.

At the St. Francis de Sales hospital that CRS helped to reopen and continues to support, surgeons brought in by CRS have performed more than 800 emergency surgeries and about 60,000 outpatient consultations. CRS has installed hundreds of latrines and hand-washing stations, drainage, potable water tanks, and inflatable water bladders in 10 sites in and around Port-au-Prince.

It has established child-friendly spaces for unaccompanied children in two of the largest and densely crowded camps, serving nearly 2,000 children, and provided more than 5,000 families with vouchers that allow them to choose the types of seeds and fertilizers they want – an approach that also benefits local seed supplies and stimulates local markets.

"These accomplishments would be remarkable under normal circumstances as part of an on-going program," the Archbishop continued. "To me, the fact that they have been done under most difficult circumstances by staff, most of whom were directly hurt by the earthquake, is remarkable."

Archbishop Dolan also spoke of the news accounts, many unfortunate and unfairly criticizing the most active aid agencies, including CRS, for not quickly spending the majority of the donations they have received for Haiti earthquake relief.

"We take scrupulous care that all donated funds are used in the most responsible and accountable way possible, both for immediate relief and long-term development," he said. "We must always balance good stewardship with the desire to respond as quickly as possible."

"CRS responded with remarkable speed to the initial crisis," he continued. "Since the emergency began in January, we have spent, distributed or made available over \$19 million of supplies, personnel and assistance. But we are also carefully planning how it will use a significant portion of donated funds for long-term redevelopment. CRS has a five-year strategy that will involve comprehensive programs focusing on the areas of Port-au-Prince, the southern peninsula including the towns of Jacmel, Leogane, and the northern border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic."

All of this is being done with nearly all of the funding received from generous people across the United States.

The Archbishop pointed out the longstanding CRS policy that, aside from a small percentage to cover administrative costs – only five percent per year – "all money collected for a specific emergency, such as the Haiti earthquake, must be used for that purpose."

The Archbishop also made sure to note that an accounting of all donations received from the U.S. dioceses in support of the CRS relief and recover efforts to the Haiti earthquake would be shortly provided.

"This report will include both the Special Collection for Haiti Earthquake Relief Efforts and all other support from individuals and organizations within your diocese," Archbishop Dolan said.

He also offered the opportunity for any of his fellow archbishops and bishops to visit the country to see for themselves the work that CRS has been doing.

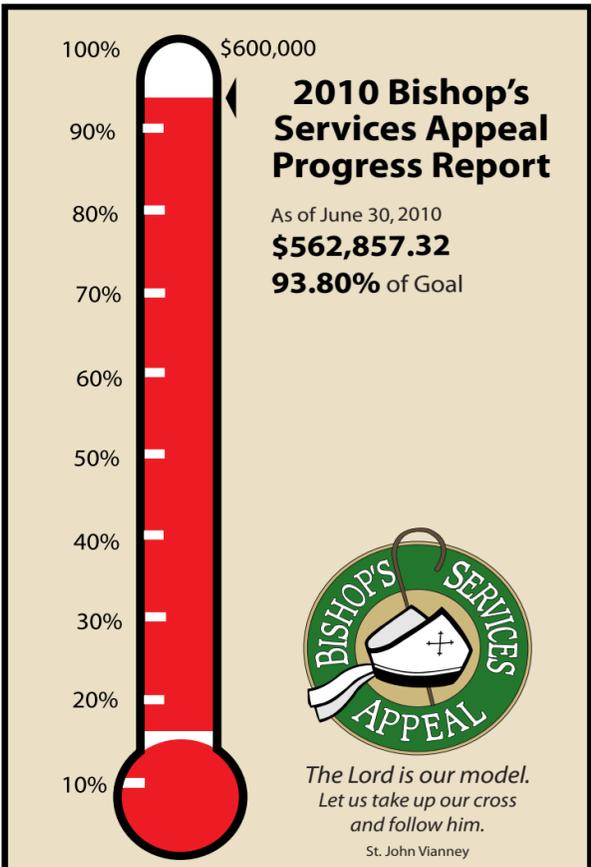
Did you know...

A native of Amsterdam, Father Theodore Hassink was named pastor of St. Raphael in 1948 and served for 19 years until 1967 when he was moved to St. Hubert Church in Lake Charles. Seven years later he became the founding pastor of St. Theodore in Moss Bluff. Father Hassink was also administrator and pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Creole and an associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Lake Charles. He died in 1988, at the age of 73.

Since their establishment two parishes in the geographic confines of the Diocese of Lake Charles have had 24 pastors. Do you know the parishes? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.



Officers of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Courts domiciled in the Diocese of Lake Charles were installed and attended a workshop on Saturday, June 12, at Immaculate Conception Church in Maplewood. State officers attended and the State CDA Chaplain, Father Aubrey Guilbeau, celebrated the Liturgy.



Prayer for the Coastland

O God, all powerful and ever-living, we find security in your faithful presence at all times of life. Bring to an end the unrelenting oil that fouls the Gulf seas; protect the creatures that swim in the sea and fly through the air from the dangers of this oil's destructiveness.

Guard and console those whose way of life is threatened; guide those who are working to solve this problem and bring success to the work of their hands.

Lord God, in you we live and move and have our being. Help us in our present time of trouble and lead us to be wiser in protecting the land and waters you have created for us all. Teach us to seek your lasting help on the way to eternal life.

We ask this through Christ Jesus and with the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

(Adapted from the Sacramentary, Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions)

Jazz Brunch raises funds for Catholic Charities

LAKE CHARLES – The recent Jazz Brunch 2010 to benefit Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana raised more than \$22,000 to aid the work of the organization among those most needy in the area, according to Trish Trejo, director.

"I am very pleased with the success of the brunch, especially in light of the present economic difficulties that all of us are facing," Mrs. Trejo said.

Including \$12,695 from

an auction of a number of wonderful items, including two dinners with Bishop Glen John Provost, prepared by Father Wayne LeBleu who is well-known for his culinary expertise, the event netted \$22,939.10.

"The money raised at this event is crucial to Catholic Charities' ability to serve people in a variety of ways that grants we are able to receive cannot always cover," Mrs. Trejo continued. "For example, a woman recently

needed to pay the deposit to her surgeon for a crucial surgery and did not have the means to do so. Using money from donations, Catholic Charities paid this deposit. She had the surgery on her eyes.

"Before the surgery, she was almost completely blind. Now she has sight in one eye. This life-changing development would not have been possible without the generosity of donors such as those who attended the Jazz

Brunch."

Funds from the event are also used to provide assistance with utility bills, rent and mortgage payments, medications and even funeral expenses.

"Those who come to Catholic Charities often thank us profusely, and the staff tells them that it is the donors they need to thank—those who take the time to think of others who are in need," Mrs. Trejo said.

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