



Patron's Feast Day Sept. 12; honors to be accorded

LAKE CHARLES – On Sunday, Sept. 12, a Vesper (Evening Prayer) Service in honor of Saint Peter Claver, Patron of the Diocese of Charles, will be held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the Principal Celebrant of this annual event, which this year concludes the year-long observance of the 30th Anniversary of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The territory that is today known as the Diocese of Lake Charles consists of five civil parishes, which were formerly known as "Imperial Calcasieu Parish" and was established by Pope John Paul II on January 29, 1980. Monsignor Jude Speyrer, until then the Vicar General of the Diocese of Lafayette, was named the founding bishop of the Diocese. He was consecrated and installed on April 25.

Bishop Speyrer continued to shepherd the Diocese for some 20 years and during his administration the infrastructure of the Diocese was created. Saint Charles Center was built during Bishop Speyrer's administration and was the accomplishment of a long cherished dream on his part.

Bishop Speyrer was succeeded by Bishop Edward K. Braxton, then auxiliary bishop of St. Louis, Missouri, who was installed on February 22, 2001. Prior to Bishop Braxton's reassignment to the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, in March 2005, he established two new parishes.

On March 6, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI named then Monsignor Glen John Provost as the third bishop of the Diocese

of Lake Charles, and on April 23, he was consecrated and installed at ceremonies in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Provost requested that a "Year of Celebration Commemorating the Establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles" be observed from September 2009 through September 2010. During this year, all Diocesan activities and celebrations have, in some way, incorporated the establishment of the Diocese. On April 24, a "Gala Banquet" was held at Treasures of Marilyn's in Lake Charles and Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans was the principal speaker. Proceeds from this banquet were given to the Diocesan Office of Catholic Charities.

The Vesper Service will be an occasion to offer thanks to God for the good work that has been accomplished by all members of the Diocese of Lake Charles during these 30 years and to ask the Lord's continued blessings upon the Diocese and ministry which it offers for years to come.

During the celebration some 90 people will be honored with Diocesan and Papal Awards in recognition of services rendered to the Diocese and the Universal Church. Members of the Diocese who have previously received such recognition are invited to attend the ceremony. Bishop Provost extends an invitation to all in the Diocese to share in this time of prayer and gratitude. A reception will follow immediately after the Vesper Service in the Cathedral's Ave Maria Hall.



St. Peter Claver
Diocesan Patron Saint

Day of Recollection concludes Year for Priests; honors St. John Vianney

BELL CITY – Bishop Glen John Provost and the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles celebrated the completion of the Year for Priests in Southwest Louisiana and the Diocese's 30th anniversary with a Day of Recollection on the Feast of St. John Vianney, August 4, here in the parish church named for him.

The saint, the Curé of Ars, had been declared the Universal Patron of Priests by Pope Benedict XVI in June 2009 when the Holy Father initiated the Year for Priests.

The Rev. Whitney Miller, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation for the Diocese, was the director for the large number of priests attending the day, which concluded with the celebration of Mass and a luncheon.

Father Miller gave two talks on St. John Vianney, the first on some of the lesser known aspects of the saint's life and the second on three elements of John Vianney's spirituality as a priest that could inspire and encourage modern day priests.

"He was quite a fire and brimstone preacher," Father Miller said. "Eighty-five of his sermons have survived and can be read, but he also blended in his ready availability and consistent concern."

"St. John Vianney saw as the goal of his preaching that he was entrusted to lead this flock of Ars to the gates of heaven and it was not a gentle ride," Father Miller continued. "In almost every sermon his preaching returns to one of three themes – death,



Father Whitney Miller speaks to the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles at the recent Day of Recollection held at St. John Vianney Church in Bell City. Bishop Glen John Provost had called for the day to officially conclude the Year for Priests in the Diocese as well as to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its establishment. The event was held on the Feast of St. John Vianney, the Universal Patron of Priests.

judgment and hell."

In the end, though St. John Vianney's best sermon was his life, Father Miller noted.

"He lived in total and full dedication to the people of God he served. Through his devotion to duty as a parish priest, which included preparing sermons as best he could for his parishioners."

Continuing Father Miller noted that "as builder and pastoral planner/steward, in addition to being a deeply

prayerful man, he also had the vision and plan for many parish buildings, additions, renovations and programs of improvement."

Father Miller also pointed out "the anawim aspect" of St. John Vianney's life.

"Like the 'little ones' of sacred scripture St. John Vianney would have identified with these rejected ones because he too experienced this in his life, as a poor student and later as a deserter from the military. He became a priest for all people,

the saint and the sinner, the great and the small, the wealthy and the poor, the fallen and the faithful. He was a man totally and fully for others, for all."

In Father Miller's second talk he spoke of how St. John Vianney's spirituality speaks to the contemporary spirituality today of priest in prayer, love and union with God.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: 'Anawim' is a Hebrew term meaning poor, humble or afflicted.)



Each year the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles, works with a group of teens, young adult and adults from across the diocese known as the Core Team. This group works together to plan and promote programs for teens of the diocese as well as promote and attend events held in various parishes of the diocese. In addition, they work to serve the diocese through community involvement, service projects, and mission work. This year's core team is made up of 65 plus teens and more than 15 young adults and adults from 27 parishes across the diocese. The group is shown here at its recent Core Team Retreat, held at Saint Charles Center. Milissa Thibodeaux, Director of the Office said, "We are very excited about the upcoming year and ask for prayers and support from the entire diocese. This is an amazing group of young people who work hard each day to live and work as Christ's disciples. They are an inspiration to me and to all who see them 'Walk the Talk.'"

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Called 2B Catholic Youth Festival slated Sept. 11

LAKE CHARLES -- The Fourth Annual Called 2B Catholic Youth Festival, "Rejoice in the One," will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, beginning at noon in St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street, followed by a Eucharistic procession at about 5:45 p.m. from the school to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Mass beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant.

Entertainers and speakers scheduled to appear include Steve Angrisano, Josh Blakesley, Cooper Ray, Ayleron, Christina Theriot, Nichole Lanthier, Katie Prejean, Chip Gauthier, Miranda Tilley, Kathy Owen and others.

Angrisano, who will be remembered by those who attended *Reunion 2009: Rise Up and Witness* that was held at St. Louis High School in May 2009, is recognized as one of the most dynamic and effective communicators with Christian youth in the country. A singer, songwriter and storyteller, he creates relevant, dynamic music for liturgy and listening, proclaiming that through Christ we have the power to carry out God's work.

His unique blend of laughter, song, story and often hilarious audience interaction have made him a popular



Steve Angrisano

choice for parish missions, concerts, workshops and youth events. He's been featured at major youth events nationally and internationally, including two World Youth Days, four National Catholic Youth Conferences and countless parish, school, camp and diocesan events. Steve has also worked extensively as a ropes course instructor and youth ministry trainer and has given workshops at both National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers and National Catholic Youth Conference events.

Blakesley's Christian music journey began in 1992 while he was involved with a high school peer ministry team. During that time he saw the power of God at work in the lives of teens as they were transformed into believers and lovers of Jesus Christ.

He vowed to be "sold out" for Christ and to use his gift of writing music to glorify God. In a world where well-produced secular music is dominant, he has dedicated himself to making quality contemporary Catholic music. In addition, he's committed to spreading the Gospel through dynamic speaking and personal testimony.

In 1993, Josh was a praise and worship leader for the papal visit at World Youth Day in Denver, Colorado. He has led music for over 10 years at various Steubenville Youth Conferences throughout the U.S. He has worked as a musician with the Catholic Heart Work Camps and the Life Teen Camps.

In addition to composing and recording music, Blakesley serves as young adult coordinator and assistant music director at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Alexandria, Louisiana. He travels many weekends to other parishes throughout the U.S. doing concerts, conducting workshops for musicians,



Cooper Ray

speaking at youth rallies and conferences, and leading praise and worship.

Cooper Ray is a dynamic and light-hearted speaker and musician from Baton Rouge who shares his faith with honesty and passion. Through story, humor, and audience participation, Cooper leads groups of all ages to a greater awareness of who they are as Catholic Christians and how to recognize God's presence in their lives.

He has entertained, motivated, and inspired youth and adults at Proud 2B

Catholic Music Festivals, Catholic Heart Workcamps, Abbey Youth Festival as well as at numerous diocesan, parish, and school events across the country, including, on a number of occasions, the eighth grade retreat here in the Diocese of Lake Charles. He has presented workshops at the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry and led music and emceed at catechetical sites at the international World Youth Day. His relevant message and crowd interaction can reach a teen all the way in the back row.

The Main Stage will feature musicians and speakers throughout the day along with an Adoration Chapel, and coffee shop.

New this year will be two rounds of breakout sessions scheduled at various times during the day. Audiences and topics for the breakout sessions include - for all Audiences: **Gift of Reconciliation, Vocation to Holiness; Rejoice in the One** (A talk on the living the Beatitudes); **Keeping God in Sports; and Knowing Yourself in Your Faith.** Sessions for adults are **Keeping Christ in the Family and Catholic Parenting Skills;** and for high school teens, **Theology of the Body.** Middle school teens can participate in a breakout session on Prayer. Food concessions and other vendors will all be part of the event.



Josh Blakesley

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available at the Diocese of Lake Charles, 411 Iris Street, and in various parishes around the diocese. To place orders for tickets or for additional information, call Caroline at the Diocese of Lake Charles, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, 337-439-7400, Ext. 301.

An "early bird" special package is also available, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, Director of the Office. This special offer, on sale until Friday, Sept. 3, gets the purchaser an event ticket, an event t-shirt and one food ticket for only \$20.

Did you know...

Father James Doyle, Defender of the Bond on the Diocesan Tribunal, and Father Lawrence Kohler, M.S., a Missionary of Our Lady of LaSalette priest residing at Our Lady of LaSalette Church in Sulphur, will celebrate their Golden anniversaries of ordination to the priesthood in 2011. Father Doyle, who was the founding pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fenton, was ordained May 27, 1961.

Father Marshall Boulet, pastor of St. Paul Church in Elton, and Father Roland Vaughn, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, will also celebrate milestone anniversaries next year, 40 years as priests. They were ordained on the same day, December 21, 1971, in St. John Cathedral in Lafayette by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of Lafayette.

The same year as that dual ordination of Fathers Boulet and Vaughn, Bishop Schexnayder established a new parish in Southwest Louisiana. Do you know which one? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

Messages children hear in Safe Environment programs

(To read more of this story go to lodiocese.org and see "Messages children hear" under Latest News.)

WASHINGTON - As schools launch a new academic year, millions of children also are set to learn the ABC's of child protection. In Catholic schools and parishes nationwide, safe environment training gives children the skills necessary to protect themselves from would-be offenders. Mary Jane Doerr, associate director of the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has listed here some of the messages children hear in safe environment programs.

Abuse is never a child's fault, a point that children need to hear over and over again. Offenders try hard to make children feel complicit in the abuse or to blame them for the abuse. Children learn that that is never true! The blame always belongs to the adult who is taking advantage of a child's trust and vulnerabilities.

God loves children forever and wants them to live holy and happy lives. If a child has been abused, that child learns they are still innocent and loved by God and their

families. The shame of child sexual abuse needs to be put where it belongs: on the abuser.

Abuse that has happened should be reported. Children learn to tell a parent or another trusted adult if someone is hurting them and to keep telling until they are believed. One study shows

that children tell of their abuse an average of nine times before someone believes them. Parents can help children learn whom they can trust by pointing out the adults who can be trusted. Parents can also teach children the correct names of private body parts. This simple step gives children

the vocabulary to tell others what happened to them.

You can recognize abuse when it happens. Children learn to trust that feeling that says something isn't right and to tell a parent or other trusted adult when something happens that makes them feel uneasy. Children learn to question if

someone is telling them to do what the child doesn't like but says it is because he loves the child.

For more information on the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the Diocese of Lake Charles, go to live.lodiocese.org/ocyp-home.html



Mrs. Kathy Owen, standing right, speaks to attendees at the recent "God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage" sponsored by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese. The day-long event for couples who will be soon wed featured Mark and Monica Savage, facilitators from St. Pius X Chapel in Ragley, giving their personal life story relating the beauty of the sacrament of marriage and the realities of married life. They focus on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body as a tool to explain God's plan for marriage, which differs from societal views.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Diaconate Ordination Set Sept. 9

LAKE CHARLES -- Two of the seminarians of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Jeffrey Starkovich and John Huckaby, will be ordained to the transitional diaconate, the penultimate step before priestly ordination, at a Thursday, Sept. 9, Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church beginning at 6 p.m.

Starkovich from Christ the King Church attends the North American College in Rome while Huckaby, a native of Eunice, is a theology student at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

Holy Cross College class schedule announced

LAKE CHARLES -- Holy Cross College course offerings for Fall 2010 as well as Spring and Summer 2011 have been announced by the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Fall courses include Basic Teachings of the Catholic Church I, Sacraments and Sacramentality, and Church History II. Deadline for registration and payment of fees for Fall courses is Tuesday, Sept. 14.

In the Spring, courses will be Collegial Ministry in a Collegial Church, Nature and History of Spirituality, and A Survey of Hebrew Scriptures. Summer 2011 courses scheduled are Basic Teachings of the Catholic Church II, A Survey of Catholic Morality, and Catholic Moral Teaching on Peace and Justice.

Instructors for the nine courses include Barbara Guillory, Rev. Anthony Fontenot, Sandy Gay, Rev. Don Piraro, Trish Trejo, and Deacon Glenn Viau.

For more information contact Bobbie LeBlanc at 337-439-7400, Ext. 309 or go to lodiocese.org - Holy Cross College Schedule - to print out a brochure.

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.

Breakfast, luncheon dates announced

LAKE CHARLES -- Dates for the next series of teachings by Bishop Glen John Provost at the Men's First Friday Prayer Breakfasts and the Women's Luncheons have been set.

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 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 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.

To register for the September events, men should call 337-439-7400 while women should send a check for \$10 to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

St. Joan of Arc Bazaar Sept. 5

OBERLIN -- The 22nd Annual Bazaar of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church will be held Sunday, Sept. 5, following the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the Church.

The Silent Auction, Country Store, Bingo and Sweet Shop open at 9 a.m., with live music starting at 9:30 a.m. and continuing until 1 p.m.

Barbecue chicken and pork lunches to go will be available from 9:20 a.m. until 1 p.m. with dining in starting at 11 a.m. A live auction will begin at 1 p.m.

Admission is free to this family-oriented, alcohol-free festival.

For more information on events call 3378-639-4399.

"Carmelite Spirituality" introduction August 30

LAKE CHARLES --The Saint Therese of the Little Flower Lay Carmelite Community will host an "introductory meeting" for those interested in learning about Carmelite Spirituality at 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 30 in the St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church Day Chapel, 2500 Enterprise Boulevard. For information, call Marie Davidson at 474-9985 or Esther Gallardo at 433-4890.

St. Charles Borromeo Bazaar Sept. 12

FENTON -- The annual St. Charles Borromeo Church Country Bazaar will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12 on the church grounds.

There will be rides, games for the kids, crafts, a country store, bingo and auction, which will begin at noon.

Pork dinners along with hamburgers and much more will be served.

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