



Bishop Provost's 2011 Lenten Pastoral Letter

First Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 13, 2011

My dear People of God,

In my three previous pastoral letters for Lent, we have reflected upon the Sacrament of Penance. What we call commonly "confession" or "reconciliation" is the sacrament by which sin is forgiven and we experience the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father. This love prompted the Father to send the Son, who died for our sins, and extends loving mercy in the sacrament He gave to His Church. To His Church, in the person of His apostles, Jesus said on that first Easter night, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:22-23). The Church continues His work and mandate of forgiving sin for salvation's sake. However, we must seriously ask ourselves a question. What do we do with our lives once we have experienced the grace of conversion, repentance and forgiveness? The answer is, of course, to strive ceaselessly to cooperate with this grace in a life of holiness.

Jesus calls us to holiness, each and every one of us. He speaks of this call to holiness a number of times but particularly in the Sermon on the Mount. In this principle teaching moment of His life, Jesus says, "I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20). This is the preface statement to an entire set of teachings on a certain number of key commandments—on anger, adultery, divorce, swearing, justice and love of enemies. Jesus concludes with this central statement: "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). We are called to perfection, not mediocrity.

When we hear those words, "be perfect," our reactions vary. As a pastor, I listened to many a complaint. Some would say, "I'm not a monk. I live in the world and have to make a living. I must be realistic"—as though in some way making a respectable living for your family meant that out of necessity you had to commit at least a few sins from time to time. Still others would say, "Jesus was speaking about an ideal. The best I can do is live with my weaknesses and hope for the best"—which often became an excuse for continuing to live in sin. Finally, some defeated souls said, "I have tried and tried and fail every time. I give up"—which was the saddest response of all because of its hopelessness. The common element missing in these and any other response was the commitment needed for change. To pursue perfection requires change that is a result of conversion. This is essential but it is this change that frightens us the most. Fear, however, must be eliminated so that the grace of conversion can do its work. If not, the universal call to holiness will never receive our full and adequate response.

For this reason we need Lent and its call to conversion. We need also the Sacrament of Penance with its reminder

of God's love and forgiveness, not just in Lent but year round.

The universal call to holiness is not only the chief message of the Second Vatican Council but also the continuous teaching of the Church through the centuries. In explaining the instruction of Jesus to "be perfect," the Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoted the Second Vatican Council. "In order to reach this perfection the faithful should use the strength dealt out to them by Christ's gift" (*Lumen Gentium* 40, 2). This perfection means striving to do the Father's will in everything. That will is rooted in love, a real self-sacrificing love that places God and neighbor above self, not what so many commonly think of when they speak of love these days—a kind of comfortable, cozy fellowship that issues no challenge but rather opens the door to permissiveness. Real love, which is the way of perfection, comes only by way of the Cross. The Catechism says plainly, "There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2015).

When we began the new millennium, the Venerable, soon-to-be Blessed, John Paul II issued an apostolic letter, *At the Beginning of the New Millennium (Novo Millennio Ineunte)*, in which we are challenged to consider where we have been and where we are going. The Holy Father spoke of a "program" for Christianity. He stated that there was no need for a "new program." The "program" for Christianity already existed. He wrote, "...it has its center in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfillment in the heavenly Jerusalem." In speaking in this way, the Holy Father reminded us that holiness is not only a state of being but for our purposes a task to be embraced. We must come to know, love and imitate Jesus Christ. This is a holiness that requires work, effort, and conversion. In another source, Pope John Paul II reminded us: "Christian holiness is not sinlessness but to always fight not to give in and be ready to start over again after each fall. Holiness is not the result of a person's will power, but of his effort not to impede the action of grace in his soul, and to be the Holy Spirit's humble collaborator."

That statement brings me back to the Sacrament of Penance. Let us speak practically and personally. When I admit my guilt and ask forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance, I make what we as Catholics call "a firm purpose of amendment." What is this? "A firm purpose of amendment" means that I will cooperate with the grace of conversion and strive to know, love and imitate Christ more fully. For example, when we confess that we have "missed Mass on Sunday," we must ask why? Was it laziness or a soccer tournament or simply indifference? Some sins require more effort to determine the cause—like hatred of neighbor or denial of the faith. For others the cause is rather obvious—like stealing or pornography. When we have discovered the reason, then we will know what it is we must do. Perhaps we must reset our priorities. Perhaps we must learn to love

Christ more than our pleasures. Whatever the reason, the truth is challenging, but this is what conversion is all about and it comes through "Christ's gift" that has been given to us for our perfection. "There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle." And there is no transformation of family and community, much less history, without holiness.

Many ask today, "Where am I going? What am I doing with my life?" They seem lost. It is a feeling with which all of us can identify at times. This sense of being lost comes from sin and alienation from God. The only remedy is God's grace and a willingness to cooperate with that grace which is conversion. Prayer can help us.

The life of holiness, about which we have been speaking, requires prayer. Prayer is simply being present to God. Jesus left us numerous examples of His prayer in the Gospels. He often went off to a deserted place or up a high mountain to be alone in prayer. What were those moments of prayer like? About the prayer of Jesus, one thing is certain. He began by calling upon God as "Father" (cf. Mark 14:36 or John 17:1). And we by adoption do the same. As St. Paul so beautifully described it, "... you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, *Abba, 'Father!'*" (Romans 8:15).

As a priest, I have often been struck by the silent stillness that descends on the congregation at the moment of the Consecration in the Eucharistic Prayer. As the sacred host is lifted, all eyes are fixed upon the altar and there is a silence like no other. What prayers are we joining to Christ at this sacred moment? What needs and petitions, what praise and adoration, are we bringing to the "Father"?

Another "Abba" moment for me as a priest is the moment at which the penitent enters the Reconciliation Room. The sinner is preparing to say, "Father, forgive me for I have sinned," and I am preparing to listen as Christ would listen and to speak as Christ would speak. I have rarely felt so humbled and inadequate.

And in the quiet of our churches before the Blessed Sacrament or in our own homes late at night or early in the morning at some moment of personal encounter with our Lord, when we lift our voices in prayer and say, "Father, your will be done," these are the moments of intimacy that confirm the life of conversion to which we are called. They are "Christ's gift" to us, for He taught us how to pray.

May your Lent be filled with many graces and may you know and live the call to holiness.

Devotedly yours in our Lord,

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Catholic Schools Notes

Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School

Immaculate Conception Cathedral School registration information for the

2011-2012 school year is available. New Family registration is Monday, March 28. For more information, please contact Susan Percele at 433-3497 or spercle@iccschool.org.

Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School

St. Margaret Catholic School hosted an Open House for new families on March 3. Teachers showcased their 13 new Promethean ActivBoards and tours of the school, with a PowerPoint presentation, were provided. The fifth and sixth grade classes studied the life of St. Joseph and prepared a prayer service and a delicious St. Joseph's Altar in honor of his feast day.

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School

OLI's Open House is Tuesday, March 22 from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. New Family Registration opens Monday, March 28.

Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School

On the Feast of St. Joseph, Sacred Heart School thanks God for all the fathers in our school community and the carpenter-builders who help maintain our campus - Mr. Rodney Papillion and Mr. Silmon Sonnier!

New Family Registration is Monday, March 28. For more information, call 436-3588.

St. Louis Catholic High School

The annual Junior Classical League convention was held recently in Baton Rouge. The St. Louis Catholic High School Chapter of the JCL was represented by 18 delegates from all classes, who competed in various academic, creative arts, and athletic events. SLCHS students who placed were: Latin Convention 2011 - Olympika - Marathon: Upper: 2nd Chris Ange, Catapult: 3rd St. Louis (designed by Craig Jones). Impromptu art - Upper: 3rd MaryKate Core, Lower: 5th Sarah France. Photography - Upper: 1st MaryKate Core, 3rd Tiffany Fontenot. Poster - Upper: 1st Andy DeRouen. Modern myth - Upper: 3rd Maria Josee' Mendez. Classical Art and Architecture - Level III: 5th Andy DeRouen. Grammar - Level II: 4th Julia Falgoust. Derivatives - Level II: 2nd Julia Falgoust, Level III: 2nd Anne Monk. Mythology - Level II: 2nd Tanner Marting, 1st Maria Josee' Mendez, Level III: Joe Vanchiere. Vocabulary - Level II: 3rd Maria Josee' Mendez, Level II: 1st Julia Falgoust, Level III: 1st MaryKate Core, Scrapbook: 4th St. Louis (designed by Julia Falgoust), T-shirt: 5th St. Louis (designed Andy DeRouen). State 2011-2012 Tech Coordinator: Craig Jones.

St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School

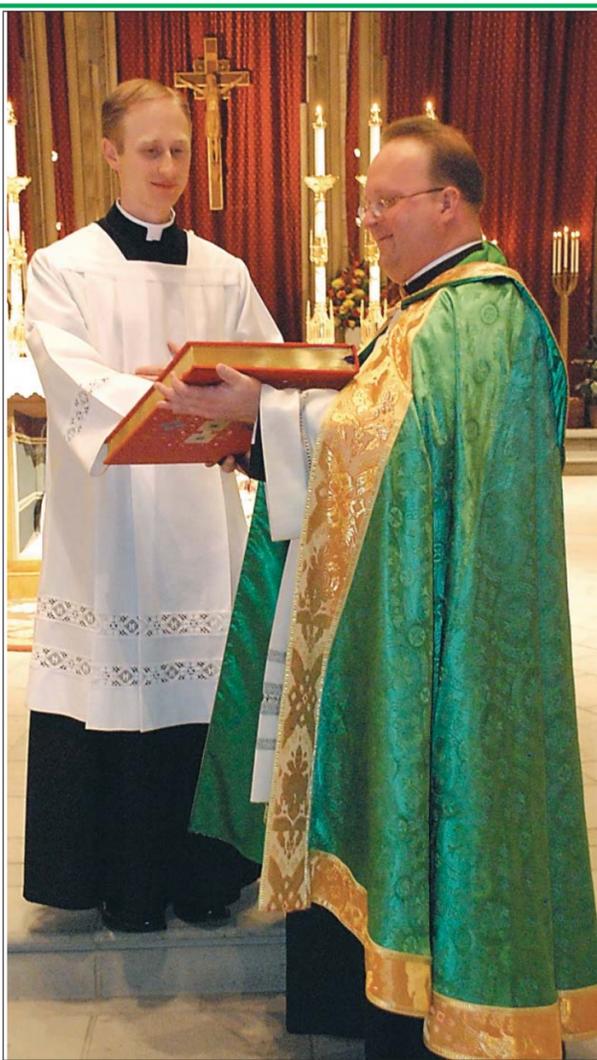
Registration continues for the 2011-2012 school year, with New Family Registration on Monday, March 28. St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School Golf Classic April 9 at Pine Shadows, call school for more information, call 855-9465.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School

OLQH School Alumni Fanfare Weekend - Friday, April 8 - OLQH Golf Classic; Saturday, April 9 - "Heavenly Fun Run for Others"; and Saturday evening "Garden Gala"; Sunday, April 10 - OLQH Family Mass & Brunch. Call 477-7349 for information.

Our Lady's Catholic School

Our Lady's School Spring Fling: Golf Tournament, April 2; School Festival and Annual Lip Sync, April 9; Fun Run April 16. Please come out and help us celebrate three fun filled weekends. Call 527-7828 or visit the web site at www.olcs.org for more information



Diocese of Lake Charles seminarian Bryan Thompson, left, recently made the Profession of Faith and took the Oath of Fidelity in the presence of the seminary community at the Pontifical College Josephinum in preparation for ordination to the diaconate. Candidates for ordination pledge to always remain faithful to the teachings of the Church and, with their hand on the Book of Gospels, swear before almighty God to be faithful teachers of the Gospel and never to lead the people astray with false teachings. He is shown here with the Very Reverend James A. Wehner, STD, Rector / President of the Josephinum, right, who instructed the seminarians: "Too often in the Church, priests have confused the People of God by offering opinions or false teachings either as a result of arrogance or improper training. Today, the Church thanks you for your commitment to the Gospel, for saying 'yes' to Jesus Christ, and for your willingness to be heralds of the Good News." (Photo courtesy of R. Christopher Axline, seminarian of the Diocese of Phoenix.)

Bishop Provost re-establishes Diocesan Pastoral Council

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost has re-established the Diocesan Pastoral Council, effective Friday, July 1. Bishop Provost promulgated the diocesan policy for the establishment of the Council on Monday, Jan. 24.

The Pastoral Council will be made up of members of the Christian faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles, drawing members from clerical and laity, and appointed by the Bishop.

"I am establishing a Diocesan Pastoral Council for the Diocese of Lake Charles for essentially two reasons," Bishop Provost said, "First, as the Code of Canon Law states, this Council is a consultative body for the Bishop who 'investigates, considers, and proposes practical conclusions about those things which pertain to pastoral works in the Diocese.' This Council will create a further channel of communication between the diocesan leadership, the laity, and me.

"In this way, all of us can hear, study, and reflect constructively on the pastoral efforts of the Church in our Diocese," the Bishop continued. "Second, this Council allows for an expansion of creativity on the part of our laity in the work of the New Evangelization. I see this as a primary function and role for this Council and look forward to working with its membership."

The makeup of the Council will have 10 lay members, three from each of the regional deaneries - East, West, and Central - and student member appointed from the Catholic Student Center at McNeese State University. The Bishop will also appoint a woman religious to the Council.

Members of the clergy who shall be ex officio members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council will include chair of the Presbyteral Council and the chair of the Deacons' Council. All members of the Council will have the same rights and all exercise the right to voice and vote.

The Deans of the Regional Deaneries will solicit nominations from the pastors in each Deanery through a letter, which will include a nomination form detailing the qualifications of membership. The Deans will then forward the names of those nominated to Bishop Provost for his selection. The term of service on the Council for the laity will be three years.

The Bishop will convene the Council at least twice a year and he may convene the membership at other times, as he may deem necessary. The Council will cease to exist when the Diocesan See becomes vacant and Bishop Provost may disband the group at his discretion.

Did you know...

St. Raphael in Iowa celebrated its 80th anniversary on Feb. 7; St. Joseph in Elton was 60 years old on Jan. 9; St. Lawrence in Raymond will be 60 on June 16; Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Jennings will be 50 years old on July 3; and Our Lady of LaSalette in Sulphur will be 50 on September 17. St. Theresa of the Child Jesus will celebrate its 40th anniversary on August 22.

This year Easter Sunday will be April 24. What is the latest date on which Easter can fall? When did it last happen and when will it occur again? Find out which parishes in the next Catholic Calendar.

This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles through the generous sponsorships of the following:

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Your Knights of Columbus Council Here | Catholic Charities Diocese of Lake Charles 337-439-7436 | Saint Charles Center/Tabor Retreat House 337-855-1232 | Crossroads Your Store of Faith 474-7100 | Watch "Glad Tidings" Sunday at 6 a.m. on KPLC-TV | "Connected Catholics" Diocesan Singles Ministry 337-439-7400 | For sponsorship information Call 337-439-7400, Ext. 307 sponsorship@lcdioocese.org |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|



Father Torres named Chaplain to His Holiness by Holy Father



Monsignor Daniel A. Torres

LAKE CHARLES – The Very Reverend Daniel A. Torres, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lake Charles and pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church, has been conferred with the title Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI. The diploma will be presented and the appointment celebrated at an 11 a.m. Mass tomorrow, Saturday, March 19 – the Solemnity of St. Joseph – in St. Henry Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue. Bishop Glen John Provost will preside.

Father Torres was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles by Bishop Jude Speyrer on May 25, 1996 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and his first assignment was as Parochial Vicar to Our Lady Queen Catholic Church, serving from July 1, 1996 until June 30, 2000. He was named Pastor of St. Joseph Church in DeRidder in July 2000, serving there until his assignment to St. Henry in June 2008. He was appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia by Bishop Provost on July 1, 2007. He also serves as Director of Seminarians and Vocations.

In 2010, Father Torres was nominated for the Catholic Church Extension Society's *Lumen Christi* Award and was one of six finalists. In the nomination Father Torres was lauded for his good works, including his leadership in the Abrazando Cristo mission program that travels to Nicaragua each summer to provide help to those in tremendous need there. He also stood out for his work following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 in assisting the displaced by offering his parish hall at St. Joseph in DeRidder as a shelter and organizing a food drive to provide sustenance to those who were in need. Then, less than one month later he remained at his parish during the passage of Hurricane Rita and continued to assist those in need who evacuated from the coastal areas.

A Chaplain to His Holiness is an honorary office given at the request of his bishop to a priest by the Vatican, in the person of the Holy Father's Secretary of State. There are three "grades" or "types" for this honor. Chaplain to His Holiness is the initial grade. The next is Prelate of Honor, and the highest is Protonotary Apostolic. The grade to which a priest is appointed depends on certain qualifications, including age and years of ordination. Also, the Vatican has established a rule that not more than 10 percent of the clergy in a diocese may possess this title at any given time, but vicars general are always eligible for the honor. All priests so honored can then be addressed both in speaking and in correspondence with the title "Monsignor."

The term "Monsignor" is the English form of a Romance language word meaning "My Lord"—in French "Monsieur" or in Italian "Monsignore." This form of address

originated centuries ago and was used in documents and conversation with nobility or persons of distinction in society. It is simply an honorific, much as in our own society we speak of a "Colonel on the Governor's Staff" or as a university differentiates its teaching staff with titles such as "Professor" or "Associate Professor."

Titles such as this are used in the Church as honorifics but some would ask 'Why have titles at all?'

"This is a very good question," Bishop Provost said in discussing the conferral. "To understand why the Church uses titles in these rare instances, one must remember that the Church is not only a divine institution but also a human one. It is a society, meaning simply a group of human beings who relate to one another at various levels.

"We use titles in our own secular society. Judges are addressed as 'Your Honor,'" the Bishop continued. "Presidents, congress men and women, and secretaries of departments continue to be addressed as 'Mr. President' or 'Mr. Speaker' or 'Madame Secretary' even after they have left office. Titles are a means for a society to show a deference and respect for senior or respected members of that society. In this way, the society keeps itself from becoming crude or impolite or disintegrating into barbaric behavior.

"Titles are also a way for a society to express how its members are related to one another," Bishop Provost said. "Even in a society such as ours, namely contemporary American, where we are informal and consider it acceptable to address anyone we meet by his or her first name, we still honor certain people with either earned or honorary titles, such as 'Chief,' 'Doctor,' 'Prof,' or 'Reverend.'"

For certain occasions, in church or at secular events like a commencement exercise, as a Chaplain to His Holiness, Monsignor Torres would dress in a purple-trimmed black cassock with a purple sash.

Monsignor Torres joins eight other priests of the Diocese who have been named Honorary Prelates. Three - Msgr. Charles Dubois, Msgr. James M. Gaddy, and Msgr. Harry D. Greig - are also Chaplains to His Holiness while the others - Msgr. Joseph A. Bourque, Msgr. Ronald Groth, Msgr. Louis Melancon, Msgr. Vincent A. Sedita; and Msgr. Jace F. Eskind - are Prelates of Honor to His Holiness.

Only two priests who have served in the Diocese of Lake Charles since its establishment in 1980 were Protonotaries Apostolic - the late Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc and the late Msgr. Amos Vincent.

Lenten Regulations

Every Catholic, even children and older adults, should participate in some way in the spiritual disciplines and penitential practices of Lent in order to go up to Jerusalem with our Lord. These are the regulations of the Church in United States of America.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and that we have only one full meal on these days. Concerning the Good Friday fast, the Second Vatican Council teaches: "Let the Easter fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind."

The other Fridays of the season of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older are encouraged to participate and may freely embrace these disciplines. However, these disciplines should never endanger one's health.

"The Light is On For You" at April Penance Nights

LAKE CHARLES – Lenten Penance Nights, "The Light is On For You", in the three deaneries of the Diocese of Lake Charles are from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 in the Eastern Deanery; Wednesday, April 13 in the Central Deanery; and Thursday, April 14 in the Western Deanery.

"The purpose of these Penance Nights is to allow available times for individual confession and the Sacrament of Penance in every parish of the diocese," Bishop Provost said. "Priests will be available in all the churches and having these specific dates and times will bridge the evenings to allow for those who work and others with scheduling difficulties and busy lives to celebrate this splendid Sacrament of Reconciliation."

Eastern Deanery: Our Lady Help of Christians, Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jennings; Our Lady of Seven Dolors and St. Joseph, Welsh; Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Arthur; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale; St. Charles Borromeo, Fenton; St. Joan of Arc, Oberlin; St. Joseph and St. Paul, Elton; St. Lawrence, Raymond and St. Philip Neri, Kinder.

Central Deanery: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Christ the King, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Henry, and St. Martin dePorres, Lake Charles, St. John Vianney, Bell City; St. Mary of the Lake, Big Lake; St. Raphael, Iowa; and St. Theodore, Moss Bluff.

Western Deanery: Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, and Our Lady of LaSalette, Sulphur; Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Our Lady Star of the Sea, Cameron; St. Eugene, Grand Chenier; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Creole; St. John Bosco, Westlake; St. Joseph, DeRidder; St. Joseph, Vinton; St. Peter the Apostle, Hackberry and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Carlyss.



Rev. Whitney Miller, right, was presented with the Distinguished Graduate Award by Our Lady Immaculate School principal Nicole Reeves during the Catholic Schools' Week Mass at the Jennings school. The award was given to honor his contributions to the school and the Church.

Bishop Provost's talks on St. John's Gospel continue

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost continues his presentations on the Gospel of St. John in March on Friday, April 1 at the Men's Prayer Breakfast in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex and on Tuesday, April 5 at the Women's Luncheon to be held in the Lake Charles Civic Center.

The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. following Bishop Provost's celebration of First Friday Mass in the Cathedral starting at 6:30 a.m.

Those who plan to attend these presentations are asked to read the passages beforehand.

Women are asked to send a check in the amount of \$10, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 to register and include a stamped-self addressed envelope. The cutoff date for the April luncheon is Thursday, March 31.

Men should call 337-439-7400 to register for the breakfast.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Catholic schools calendars for 2011-2012 released

LAKE CHARLES – The Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles has released its school calendars for the 2011-2012 year for St. Louis Catholic High School and the seven elementary schools in the Diocese.

The school term will begin on Wednesday, August 17 and continue until Friday, May 25, 2012, according to Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Student holidays for 2011-2012 will include Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5; Thanksgiving, Monday, Nov. 21 - Friday, Nov. 25; Christmas, Wednesday, Dec. 21 - Tuesday, Jan. 3; Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 16; Mardi Gras, Monday, Feb. 20 and Tuesday, Feb. 21; Easter, Friday, April 6 - Friday, April 13; and Records Day, Thursday, May 24. Students will report for half-days, due to teacher in-service, on Fridays of Sept. 16, Nov. 4, Feb. 3, March 2, and May 4.

Graduation at St. Louis Catholic in 2012 is Tuesday, May 15.

To download and print these calendars go to http://live.lcdioocese.org/images/stories/pdfs/2011-2012_slchs_rev.pdf for St. Louis and http://live.lcdioocese.org/images/stories/pdfs/2011-2012_element_revise.pdf for the elementary schools.

Lenten series at OLQH on Wednesdays

LAKE CHARLES – Rev. Nathan Long and Msgr. James Gaddy will present **The Prelude to Eternal Life** on each Wednesday of Lent, at 6 p.m. in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, followed by a light meal in the Family Life Center. All adults seeking a deeper understanding of their faith are invited.

For more information, call the church at 477-1236.

March schedule at Saint Charles Center

LAKE CHARLES – A number of events are scheduled for the month of March at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff.

On Fridays during Lent, March 25 and April 1, 8, and 15, the Center will host Stations of the Cross at 1:30 p.m.

Private **Directed Retreats** are available from Tuesday, March 22 through Wednesday, March 30. A weekend **Introduction to the Directed Retreat** will be Friday, March 25 through Sunday, March 27.

For information or to register, call 337-855-1232.

Forty Hours Devotion schedule

LAKE CHARLES – Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the Diocese of Lake Charles will take place at St. Philip Neri in Kinder from Sunday, March 20 at 11 a.m. until Wednesday March 22 at 6 p.m.; Immaculate Conception in Jennings from Sunday, March 27 at noon until 6 p.m. on Monday, March 28; and at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Jennings from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29.

In April, 40 Hours Devotion will be in St. Henry Church from April 4-8, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; St. Martin de Porres from April 12-15 on Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Women on the Way support group

LAKE CHARLES – **Women on the Way** is a monthly support group for women discerning a possible vocation to the Religious Life. Sponsored and hosted by various women Religious in the Diocese of Lake Charles, the meetings are open to all women 16 years and older.

For more information, call Sr. Camille Martinez, SEC at 477-1236.

Spring Vocaré meetings slated

LAKE CHARLES – The next Vocaré meeting will be Sunday April 10, in the offices of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, 617 West Claude Street, from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. Young men 16 years old and older who are discerning a possible vocation to the priesthood are invited to attend for a light meal and discussion followed by time for Adoration.

A Game Day is scheduled for May 15 at a time to be determined.

Contact Father Nathan Long at 477-1236 for more information.

Pre-K registration continues at SH/SKD

LAKE CHARLES – The Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School Pre-Kindergarten program is in its second year of operation under the Non-Public School Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD) operating through the

Governor's Office. Open enrollment for the next school year continues through April 30.

The NSECD program provides scholarships for four-year-old children of families meeting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligibility guidelines. All eligible children must be four years of age by September 30.

For more information, call the School Office at 337-436-3588 or check the Parent Information tab on the NSECD website at www.prekla.org to download the student application.

Institute for Black Catholic Studies in July

NEW ORLEANS – The Institute for Black Catholic Studies is a school of ministry for clergy, religious and laypersons working in the Black community and Roman Catholic Church that convenes each summer at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. The 2011 session is scheduled for July 1-July 23.

For more information, check the website at www.xula.edu/ibcs or call (504) 520-7961.

St. Margaret of Scotland Lenten Mission

LAKE CHARLES – Fr. Jim Sichko will be the presenter for the St. Margaret of Scotland Church Lenten Mission on Sunday, March 20 through Tuesday, March 22 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. each evening in the church.

Known for his storytelling, Fr. Sichko's presentation involves praise, worship and storytelling.

Bishop's Religious Award Dinner set

LAKE CHARLES – The Catholic Committee on Scouting, Camp Fire, and JrCDA for the Diocese of Lake Charles has announced the Bishop's Dinner to award medals for completed religious programs will be Sunday, April 3.

If you have completed, or almost completed, your religious program, or if you would like to begin one for next year, please call, 337-249-4616.

There will be a Religious Emblems Program Weekend at Camp Edgewood on April 15-17, 2011, for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Adults are needed as group advisors. Adults are invited and encouraged to join the committee. Having a child in scouting is not a requirement. The help of the whole "village" does help raise better children.

For information on any of the above, please contact Susan Fontenot, 337-249-4616.