



An Easter Message from Bishop Provost

“Speak, Mary, declaring/ What you saw, wayfaring./ ‘The tomb of Christ, who is living,/ The glory of Jesus’ resurrection.” From the *Sequence* Hymn for Easter

Over the last few weeks, we have seen unfolding before us the tragedy in Japan. Scores of thousands of people were killed in an earthquake and the subsequent flooding caused by a tsunami. Then, we see the workers braving the growing threat of radioactivity, trying to stop its spread and remedy a catastrophic situation, seemingly without consideration for their own health and well-being.

All of this is reminiscent of the natural disasters that we in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast have faced in recent years. The consequences of the flooding of New Orleans, the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts, a result of Hurricane Katrina, and in our own area, the destruction of our homes, churches and communities by Hurricanes Rita and Ike particularly, have left us with persistent memories and rebuilding in the future.

Our prayers and our thoughts are with the people of Japan on this Easter Sunday, as we celebrate the continuing joy that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ brings to us. The Archbishop of Osaka, Japan, Archbishop Leo Jun Ikenaga, made this observation in the statement he issued: “We watch with unbearable sorrow the many people who continue to live as helpless refugees, often mourning the loss of family members or fearing for their safety... From the midst of these scenes of devastation, we have already seen the first movements toward rebirth and revival.”

As I read those words, I thought of the first Easter. We read in the Gospel of St. John, “Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning” (John 20:1). What did Mary expect to see? All of the disciples knew that their Master had been crucified, suffering an ignoble and tortuous death on the cross of Calvary. He had been buried hurriedly in a borrowed tomb so that the Sabbath would not be defiled (John 19:31). The Roman officials had authorized a guard at the

tomb, so that the body could not be stolen and false claims be made of a resurrection (Matthew 27:64). The words of the Archbishop of Osaka apply: “We watch with unbearable sorrow.”

“Unbearable sorrow” must have filled the hearts and minds of the companions of Jesus. They watched their Lord go to be crucified, suffering unspeakable torment, and they could do nothing. In the case of Peter, some would disclaim Him. With others, they would return to their house and lock the door (John 20:19). In the words of the hymn we sing at the Way of the Cross, they had seen the soldiers “pierce the hands of the one who blessed and cured us” (*Stabat Mater*). It must have seemed a moment of irretrievable defeat and utter terror. There was little thought, if any at all, given to Jesus’ own prophecies of His Resurrection. He was dead, and He lay in a tomb. There was nothing left to do but mourn and survive as best as one could.

Then, just as surely as the sun begins to rise with a gentle glow on the horizon, the victory manifested itself gradually to the apostles and disciples. Just as morning light is first soft before the sun appears to dispel all darkness, “Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb” (Matthew 28:1). And the sun revealed its first morning brightness. A great earthquake and an angel descending from heaven (Matthew 28:2) were like rays that cut through the frost and dry up the dew. And the marvel of this Easter rising of the Son of God was like the inevitable answer to the hope that Christ gave in a prophecy that was both shocking and too good to believe: “The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised” (Luke 9:22).

The Archbishop of Osaka added, “From the midst of these scenes of devastation, we have already seen the first movements toward rebirth and revival.” And so did the apostles and disciples on that first Easter day. What they

saw, however, on that first Easter was something truly remarkable and extraordinary. It was without parallel in human experience. As a matter of fact, it was God’s work, His victory over death. Jesus appears to them in His glorified body. His body was so glorious that some did not recognize Him at first (Luke 24:16). They came slowly to understand the “rebirth and revival” that was completely new and victorious through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We can come to know it too. As the ancient hymn sung on Easter Sunday before the Gospel says, “We know Christ indeed from death is risen” (*Sequence “Victimae paschales laudes”*). Do we see the “rebirth and revival”? Does it make any difference to us?

As I mentioned in one of my Lenten homilies, the story is told of the great English author Graham Greene who once attended a Mass offered by Padre Pio. He was deeply moved, but when asked if he wished to meet Padre Pio after the Mass, declined the invitation. He explained, “I don’t want to change my life by meeting a saint.” C. S. Lewis once commented: “I am not sure, after all, whether one of the causes of our weak faith is not a secret wish that our faith should not be very strong. Is there some reservation in our mind? Some fear of what it might be like if our religion became quite real?”

To this, Jesus says, “Do not be afraid” (Matthew 28:5). Do not be afraid of Jesus, the reality of His Resurrection, the hope it gives. Do not be afraid to believe and to accept what faith expects of us. Christ is risen, truly risen.

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles



Deacon Patrick Lapoint, right, Director of the Seafarers Center at the Port of Lake Charles, holds the center’s certificate of nomination for the 2010 International Committee on Seafarers Welfare award as Seafarers Center of the Year. At left, is Rev. Lloyd Nelson, a Baptist minister who works with Deacon Lapoint at the Center, who was one of six to make the worldwide shortlist for the group’s 2010 Personality of the Year award. In the middle is one of the Center’s longtime volunteer Peter Perna.

Seafarers’ Center, staffer honored

LAKE CHARLES – The Lake Charles Seafarers Center was one of the worldwide nominees for the International Seafarers’ Welfare Awards seafarers’ center of the year award for 2010. The nomination was made by seafarers worldwide who themselves had visited the Port of Lake Charles. More than 2,000 seafarers took part in the nomination process.

Individually, Rev. Lloyd Nelson of the Carey Baptist Association, who has worked ecumenically with Deacon Lapoint since 2005 was nominated for the Welfare Personality of the Year and did make the five-person shortlist of finalists, the only American to be so honored.

Though the Seafarers Center did not make the shortlist of five, it received a certificate honoring the nomination. Awarded to the center that has done the most to provide the highest quality of welfare services and facilities to visiting seafarers, this year’s top center was Rosenhill Seaman’s Centre in Gothenburg, Sweden.

More than 1,100 ships visited the various docks that make up the Seafarers Center’s area of operation. Staff from the center visited 738 of those ships, while 8,058 sailors

were transported to the center or around the community for various needs by the center’s transportation vans. At Christmas, the center provided 800 bags filled with toiletries and other items, which were donated by the community through different churches of all faith traditions.

Criteria for nomination for the seafarer center of the year included: What services & facilities does the seafarer centre provide?; Describe your ship visiting service including the number of ships visited by each volunteer/welfare worker; How accessible is the centre/ when is the centre open?; What makes your centre stand out from other centres?; and How do you measure seafarer satisfaction with the services and facilities you provide?

Nominations for the Welfare Personality of the Year had to follow the following criteria: How has this person or organization provided a high quality welfare service to seafarers?; What makes them excel?; and Why should they win this award?

This was the first year for the International Committee on Seafarers Welfare to present the awards on a worldwide scale.

Second cycle of parish visitations completed

By Bishop Glen John Provost

Last October, my second cycle of parish visitations began with Immaculate Conception Parish in Sulphur and ended this March with Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Jennings. In between, I had the good fortune to visit also Our Lady of Seven Dolours Parish in Welsh and St. Paul Parish in Elton. As I mentioned in my first report, such visitations are not only required of the Bishop but also gives the Bishop the opportunity to see firsthand what is happening in the parishes of the diocese.

With the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council in the fall of this year, we will have an opportunity “to bring to the table” the observations made of pastoral life in our parishes during the visitations and also hear from representatives of the parishes about pastoral needs and initiatives that can help promote the New Evangelization, that is the furthering of the Gospel message as preached and lived by the Church. This, I think, cannot be done effectively unless we first know what many good things are going on in our parishes and where more emphasis could be placed on effective ministry and outreach.

After scheduling, parish visitations really commence with a parish visitation form being sent to the pastor. He and his staff provide me with information on the pastoral administration and ministry of the parish. I study these forms and come to the visitation with questions, observations, compliments and perhaps suggestions. I am pleased to announce that in all my visits this cycle I found vibrant parishes in which zeal for the sacraments, spirituality, education, and charitable works were all obvious.

One concern that arose frequently—and this is something I hear at other times when I visit parishes for Confirmations—was our youth. Of course, parents are concerned about their children, but the concerns I heard came from religious education leaders in the parishes. They are worried about what they see as indifference on the part of the children, how new technologies interfere with their concentration, how sporting events and extracurricular activities prevent the children’s participation in religion classes, Church youth activities, and even Mass.

On a very positive note, I heard often how the youth of our parishes were attracted to Eucharistic devotion, par-

ticularly Eucharistic adoration. Religious education and youth leaders told me consistently that on youth retreats and days of recollection, the youth considered Eucharistic adoration to be the highpoint of the weekend or day’s activities. This is encouraging. The silence appeals to them, a silence where they can encounter our Lord Jesus personally in His Eucharistic Presence.

Also, religious education leaders mentioned how rewarding it was to begin each religion class with a reading of the Gospel from the coming Sunday. This helped to center the conversation and discussion on the Word of God and to prepare the young people to hear that Word of God proclaimed to them at Sunday Mass.

I wish to thank publicly the pastors of the parishes visited—Father Aubrey Guilbeau, Father Herbert May, Father Marshall Boulet and Father Charles McMillin. It was such a pleasure to be with them and their parishioners for the celebration of all their weekend Masses, to meet with their parish leadership, and to greet and visit with the parishioners following Masses. I look forward to the future scheduling of a third cycle of visitations to begin in the fall of 2011. God bless you all!



The groundbreaking for the new South Annex of Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School took place recently and work continues. Doing the honors were, from left, Chris Talbert and Kristina Talbert, representing the project’s contractor (Sam Istre Construction); Ray Fugatt, project architect, (CR Fugatt Architect AIA); Dinah Bradford, ICCS principal; The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles; Rev. Msgr. Jace Eskind, Rector of Immaculate Conception Cathedral; Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Lake Charles; and Chris Ieyoub, chair of the ICCS Capital Campaign, “Building On Tradition.” The new three-story building will house four classrooms, student restrooms, a state of the art library equipped with a technology center, a chapel and additional rooms for fine arts as well as for students with special needs and is located on the corner of Ryan Street and Dr. Michael DeBakey Drive.

Vocation Drawing Contest winners

(For more go to <http://live.lcdioocese.org/news/831-vocation-drawing-contest-winners-announced.html>.)

LAKE CHARLES – Will Caraway, a third grade homeschooled student at Holy Family Academy, captured first place in the Vocation Drawing Contest sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Caraway, who won \$200 for his drawing, is a parish-

ioner at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Jennings. His first place drawing most adeptly depicted awareness of the vocation of the priesthood in Southwest Louisiana. His drawing will be used on the prayer cards printed for World Day of Prayer for Vocations set for Sunday, May 15.

Second and third places went to Hallie Ardoin and Mary Caraway, respectively.

Ardoin, a seventh grade student at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings and a parishioner of Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church in Welsh won \$100 for her drawing while Mary Caraway, a second grade homeschooled student at Holy Family Academy and a parishioner of Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings was awarded \$50 for her effort.

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
---------------------------------------	---	---	---	--	--	--



Bishop Glen John Provost, left, uses an enormous pair of scissors to cut the ribbon on the new facilities for Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana as Rev. Wayne LeBleu, secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services looks on. Bishop Provost also blessed the new building as well as the two warehouses used for food storage.

New Catholic Charities offices blessed and open for business

(For more go to <http://live.lcdiocese.org/news/826-catholic-charities-offices-blessed.html>)

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost blessed and dedicated the new office of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana Thursday, March 31. The Bishop and Father Wayne LeBleu, Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services, cut a yellow ribbon on the front door of the building.

The new facilities, located at 1225 Second Street, replace the several temporary sites Catholic Charities has used since Hurricane Rita

destroyed the Catholic Service Center, which had been located on the corner of Broad and King streets. Following Rita, the offices were located at several other sites, including the Catholic Deaf Center on Iris Street and offices on Bilbo Street. Most recently, Catholic Charities' offices were in the former rectory of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church on Louisiana Avenue.

In addition to the new office space, two warehouses provide excellent storage space for foodstuffs, both canned and refrigerated.

The Cagle Memorial Conference Room in the office building was also blessed by Bishop Provost and is named in memory of the late Mrs. Mary Belle Roane Cagle, whose philanthropy greatly assisted Catholic Charities for many years. Present at the blessing were members of Mrs. Cagle's family, including son Mike Cagle, daughters Sue Cagle Shearman and her spouse Bill Shearman, daughters, Beth Cagle Loftin and Marianne Cagle Brame and granddaughter Diane Fruge and her husband Mark Fruge.

Bishop Provost presents Scouting Religious Emblems

(For more go to <http://live.lcdiocese.org/component/content/article/834-bishop-provost-presents-scouting-awards.html>)

LAKE CHARLES – The Bishop's Dinner for Religious Emblems Recognition was held recently at the Knights of Columbus Hall of Council 4562 of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Various medals earned through the Religious Emblem program went to 24 youth, while 11 adults were honored for services rendered on behalf of Scouting.

Youth awards included the Light of Christ, *Parvuli Dei*, and *Ad Altare Dei* while adult recognition came in the form of the Bronze Pelican, and the St. George Award. Bishop Glen John Provost, aided by Father Nathan Long, Chaplain for the Diocesan Committee on Catholic Scouting, presented the awards. John Halloran, the chairman of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting was the master of ceremonies.

Receiving the Light of Christ Award were Logan Bergeron, Connor Breaux, Andrew Foreman, Shreve Gage, Nathaniel Hill, Alexander Landry, Michael Lavergne, Thomas Lavergne, Aidan Lee, Matthew Miller, and Graham Rougeau.

Parvuli Dei medals went to Samuel Broussard, Holden Fontenot, Matthew Foreman, Austin Fruge, Will Gage, Patrick Lavergne, Gage Navarre, and Joseph Tassin, Jr.

Ad Altare Dei medals were

given to Ethan Habetz, Joshua Leger, Hunter Saltzman, Jordan Saltzman, and Bailey Sexton.

Bronze Pelican Awards to adults who have been supportive of Scouting were presented to Darrell Bergeron, Ann Broussard, Monica Broussard, Roland Buller, James Burnham, Leonard Myers, David Picard and Harold Ribbeck. Also presented with the Bronze Pelican were Fr. Ruben Buller, Diana Cormier, Lester Cormier, and Jesse Menard, who were named last October but had been able to attend the ceremony at that time.

Jimmy and Marty Berry each received the St. George Award.

In addition to these honors, a special award was instituted in memory of four special people - Paul Reggie, Andrew Foshee, Hector San Miguel, and Patrick Rider. The former three were adult leaders who had exemplary records of supporting Scouting while the latter, eight-year old Patrick succumbed to cancer.

The first ICCS Cub Scout Memorial Award was given to Kaleb Foreman.

On the plaque given to the Foreman is the following inscription: Given in honor and memory of Hector San Miguel, Andrew Foshee, Paul Reggie and Patrick Rider to a Pack 7 Cub Scout who has earned a Catholic Religious Emblem and exemplifies commitment to Community, Church, Family, and Child Like Faith.



Bishop Glen John Provost, fourth from left, and Kaleb Foreman, at the Bishop's left, are shown following Foreman's reception of the ICCS Cub Scout Memorial Award honoring and memorializing Paul Reggie, Hector San Miguel, Andrew Foshee and Patrick Rider. Members of the families of those remembered in attendance were Brenda Foshee; Theresa Schmidt San Miguel and Ricky San Miguel; Tina, Jonah, and Sophia Reggie; and Shaine and Claire Rider.

Bishop's Services Appeal over 80 percent

LAKE CHARLES – Through generous contributions from the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles, more than four-fifths of the \$600,000 goal of the 2010-2011 Bishop's Services Appeal has been reached. Through April 12, the total of gifts to the annual fund raising effort to aid the programs and ministries of the local church in Southwest Louisiana had reached \$487,892.31 or 81.32 percent.

Twenty of the 38 parishes of the Diocese have achieved or oversubscribed their goals for this year's Appeal and leading the list is Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron with 128.9 percent of its goal. Our Lady of Good Counsel and the McNeese Catholic Student is second with 110.4 percent of

its goal. The remaining parishes include Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole, 107.6 percent; Immaculate Conception Church in Jennings, 107.5 percent; St. Joseph Church in Vinton, 107.1 percent; Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Arthur, 103.6 percent; St. Joseph Church in Elton, 102.4 percent; and The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles, 102.1 percent.

Others were, Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church in Welsh, 101.7 percent; St. Henry Church in Lake Charles, 101.6 percent; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Jennings, 101.4 percent; St. Paul, Elton, 101.2 percent; and St. Margaret of Scotland, 101.0 percent.

Also, St. Lawrence in Ray-

mond, 100.6 percent; St. Philip Neri Church in Kinder; 100.3 percent; St. Joan of Arc in Oberlin, 100.2 percent; St. Joseph Church in Welsh, 100.2 percent; St. Eugene Church in Grand Chenier, 100 percent; Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings, 100 percent; and St. Mary of the Lake Church in Big Lake, 100 percent.

Bishop's Services Appeal provides funding for a number of programs and ministries of the Diocese, including Catholic Education, Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Vocations and Semi-

narians, Catholic Charities, Family Life, the Seafarers' Center, Diocesan Counseling, Evangelization, Communications and Saint Charles Center.

The Appeal will continue until June 30, 2011 and contributions may be made directly to the parish church or mailed to the Diocese of Lake Charles, P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602-3223. Checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles and the church parish noted on the memo line to assure proper credit.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed today, Good Friday, and April 25, the Monday in the Octave of Easter. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, April 26. Happy Easter!

Did you know...

Eight parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles were established in the month of June. Those churches are Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Sulphur; St. Mary of the Lake, Big Lake; St. Joseph, DeRidder; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale; St. Lawrence, Raymond; St. John Bosco, Westlake; Our Lady Star of the Sea, Cameron; and St. Henry, Lake Charles. The second most popular month was November with five parishes celebrating anniversaries. March is the only month during which no parish in the Diocese was established.

The first parish to be established following the formation of the Diocese was formerly a mission of St. Philip Neri in Kinder. The last parish that was established before the Diocese's formation was formerly a chapel of a church in North Lake Charles. Do you know the names of those parishes and when they were canonically established? Find out in the next Catholic Calendar.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Good Friday, Easter collections

LAKE CHARLES – The Good Friday collection taken up in the churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles today assists the shrinking Christian community in the Holy Land, a community that struggles to remain in the land of Christ's birth, death and resurrection.

At the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, the annual Seminary Fund collection will be taken up throughout the Diocese. There are currently eight men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Next weekend, April 30-May 1, the annual Catholic Home Mission Appeal will take place. The Diocese of Lake Charles receives funding from the Committee on the Home Missions and has since its establishment.

Summer Holy Cross College classes

LAKE CHARLES – Three Holy Cross College courses will be offered for Summer 2011 by the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Basic Teachings of the Catholic Church II will be taught by Barbara Guillory from Monday, June 6 through Friday, June 10 beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until noon each day. The location of the class is Crossroads Bookstore, 601 East Prien Lake Road, Lake Charles.

Deacon Glenn Viau will lead **A Survey of Catholic Morality** at Crossroads from 9 a.m. to noon Monday June 13 through Friday, June 17. This course is a pre-requisite for **Catholic Moral Teaching on Sexuality**.

Finally, **Catholic Moral Teaching on Peace and Justice** will be held on Thursdays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, 1225 Second Street, Lake Charles and will be taught by Trish Trejo.

The deadline for registration and payment of fees is Thursday, May 5.

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

Abrazando Cristo fundraisers

LAKE CHARLES -- The annual Johnnie Thibodeaux Jr. Memorial Golf tournament will be held at Mallard Cove Golf Course, beginning at noon on Saturday, June 4. Contact Johnnie or Susan Thibodeaux at 337-478-4095 for more information or check at local golf courses for registration forms. Proceeds help with the boys home and school in Managua.

Tickets for the Annual Cash Raffle that helps purchase medicine, construction supplies and evangelization materials for mission trip are now available. Contact Monsignor Daniel A. Torres at 337-439-7400, Ext. 220 for information and raffle tickets.

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 in the Western Deanery in May.

Locations and dates are St. Eugene Catholic Church in Grand Chenier on May 2-6; St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton from May 9-13; Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church from May 16-20, and at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry on May 26-28. Contact the individual parishes to fine times of adoration.

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.

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.

Special Needs Masses slated

LAKE CHARLES -- Masses for individuals with special needs, their families, and friends will be celebrated by Father Whitney Miller on July 10 and by Bishop Glen John Provost on October 30 in the Commons of St. Louis Catholic High School beginning at 11 a.m.