



The Diocese of Lake Charles
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CATHOLIC CALENDAR



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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Courses taken at Center for Catholic Studies may transfer to McNeese

LAKE CHARLES – An agreement between McNeese State University and Holy Cross College of New Orleans, coordinated by the Diocese of Lake Charles, officially marked the beginning of the Center for Catholic Studies. The accord between the schools affords local students an opportunity to take undergraduate Catholic theology courses offered through Holy Cross at the Center located in Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Student Center and provides, depending on the student's degree program, for the acceptance of the courses as electives.

The Diocese and Our Lady of Holy Cross College have cooperated in providing theology courses for a number of years but the agreement between Holy Cross and McNeese provides an advancement of the cooperative effort.

Universities throughout the United States have similar agreements with other accredited universities coordinating with Catholic dioceses.

"It is also common to see universities offer programs of coursework in Women's Studies, African-American Studies or Jewish Studies, reflecting the diversity among college students," Father Nathan Long, director of the Center for Catholic Studies said. "By offering a venue in Catholic Studies, this agreement meets the needs of the many Catholics in the community seeking to deepen their education in the Catholic tradition."

Bishop Glen John Provost expressed his enthusiasm with the arrangement saying, "The agreement is sure to bring about much good in our community. The very idea of a university originated under the auspices of the Catholic Church. Seeking to provide civilization with a unified vision of reality, the university was a means of promoting dialogue between all of the sciences, sacred and secular. We are delighted that this rich tradition has been revived in our area. The Diocese of Lake Charles wishes to thank Dr. Philip Williams (McNeese president) and the administration of McNeese State University for their broad vision and their dedication to this important educational endeavor."

In comments on the agreement, Dr. Williams said, "I appreciate the work of Bishop Provost that facilitated the agreement between McNeese and Our Lady of Holy Cross College. The courses offered at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Student Center will provide elective options for students in certain degree plans. Collaborating with accredited institutions, like Our Lady of Holy Cross College, helps to streamline the course transfer process for McNeese students."

The official announcement of the agreements took place Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. Present for the event with Bishop Provost were Dr. Williams; Dr. Jeanne Daboval, McNeese Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs;

and Dr. George Mead, Dean of the College of Science and Campus Coordinator of the Louis Stokes-Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation.

Others in attendance were Father Long and Father Alan Trouille, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel as well as clergy that serve as faculty of the Center - Father Ruben Buller, Father D.B. Thompson, and Deacon Glenn Viau. Other of the Center's faculty are Father Jacob S. Conner, Father Edward Richard, M.S., and Father Jeffrey Starkovich. Current course offerings are *Introduction to Sacred Scripture*, *Fundamentals of Catholicism*, *Church History*, and *The Catholic Novel*. Additional course offerings are under consideration, according to Father Long.

McNeese students must register for the courses through the Center for Catholic Studies and obtain departmental approval to apply for transfer credit.

One does not have to be a student to take part in the Catholic Center for Catholic Studies. Anyone - Catholic or those of another faith tradition - is welcome to audit the courses for a fee.

Registration forms for the Fall 2014 Semester will be available in the Spring. They can be obtained at The Newman Center at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 221 Aqua Drive; Crossroads Bookstore, 601 W. Prien Lake Road; and the Office of Religious Education, 411 Iris Street.

Bishop Provost will preside at Sacred Triduum in Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil - on April 17-19, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. On Palm Sunday, April 13, the Bishop will bless the palms in the Courtyard of the Cathedral.

Very Rev. Derek Covert, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar, will be the homilist for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday.

On Wednesday, April 16, the Bishop will celebrate the Chrism Mass at 10 a.m. in

the Cathedral. This annual Mass has been celebrated in the Catholic Church for over 1,000 years and is marked by the ceremonial blessing of the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the consecration of the Oil of Chrism.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7 p.m. on Holy Thursday, April 17. The Bishop will wash the feet of 12 members of the laity in commemoration of Christ washing the feet of His Apostles.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place at 3 p.m. on Good Friday, April 18. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word,

followed by Veneration of the Cross, with the faithful recognizing the Cross of Christ as our only hope of salvation. The celebration concludes with Holy Communion and the congregation leaves the Cathedral in silence.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19, begins at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral. On Easter Sunday, Bishop Provost will celebrate the 9 a.m. Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

Mass times for Easter Sunday, April 20, in the Cathedral are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.



Bishop Glen John Provost and Dr. Philip Williams, president of McNeese State University, seated left to right, were joined in the official announcement of the establishment of the Center for Catholic Studies and the roles played by the Diocese, McNeese, and Our Lady of Holy Cross College of New Orleans by a number of clergy faculty and McNeese officials. Standing, from left, are Dr. George Mead, Dean of the College of Science and Campus Coordinator of the Louis Stokes-Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation; Father D.B. Thompson; Father Ruben Buller, Deacon Glenn Viau; Dr. Jeanne Daboval, McNeese Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Father Nathan Long, director of the Center for Catholics Studies; and Father Alan Trouille, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel and director of the Catholic Student Center.

Louisiana Interchurch Conference Assembly set March 31-April 1

LAKE CHARLES – The 44th Annual Assembly of the of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC) is set for Monday, March 31, and Tuesday, April 1, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Assembly's working theme is "Revisioning the Church, Mission and Christ's Call to Unity."

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will welcome the attendees and give opening remarks as the Assembly begins on Monday. Bishop Provost will also provide the greeting and Call to Worship for the evening's prayer service.

Dr. Robert Welsh, President of the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ is the keynote speaker at 2:30 p.m. Monday in Ave Maria Hall. Attendance at the keynote address is open to the public.

Dr. Welsh has made significant contributions to national and international ecumenical conversations. An ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he has served as president of the Council on Christian Unity since January 1, 1999.

He graduated from Transylvania University (BA) and Lexington Theological Seminary (D. Min.) in Lexington, Kentucky. He has done post-graduate studies at the

Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches outside Geneva, Switzerland, and Westminster College in Cambridge, England. He is married to Nancy Moorhead Welsh, has two grown children, Jennifer and David, and three grandchildren.

The Monday prayer service, which is open to the public, will be at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, located in the 600

block of Louisiana Avenue.

Bishop Jacob Owensby, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana, is the homilist. Father Clyde Thomas is the hosting pastor. The service will also include the installation of new and re-elected officers, including incoming president, The Most Reverend Shelton Fabre, Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. LIC

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Looking over the schedule of events for the 44th Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC), to be held in Lake Charles on March 31-April 1, are Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., left, Louisiana Interchurch Conference Immediate Past president and president of the Louisiana Home & Foreign Missions Baptist State Convention, Inc.; Mary Jane Jones, center, LIC board member; and Sir Joe D. Hill, Capt., right, USNR (Ret), Military and Hospitalier Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem.

Marriage preparation changes offer evangelization opportunity

LAKE CHARLES – Changes in the marriage preparation program of the Diocese of Lake Charles provide opportunity for evangelization, according to David Dawson, director of the Office of Family Life.

The office will be using mentor couples from the parishes of the diocese to work with engaged couples before the marriage and with the newly married as they move forward in their sacramental relationship. The training for these mentor couples began with a session in February and another is scheduled for April, Dawson noted.

"Marriage is a perfect opportunity for evangelization because of the incredible beauty and truth of the Church's teaching on marriage," Dawson said. "Ultimately people

are starting something brand new most of the time and it is hard to picture that they are beginning a completely life changing thing.

"The concept (mentor couples) allows the engaged couple an opportunity to build a relationship with another couple that has already been through this," he continued. "They are long time married couples who can help the engaged couple and then the married couple with assistance over time."

The training for the mentor couples provides them with training and materials they need to make this a priority.

"When a couple first goes to the priest and say they want to get married, their first option, first thing presented to the engaged couple is the mentor couple program," Dawson

said.

The diocese is also moving away from the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory to the Prepare/Enrich Inventory, which will be all online.

"Prepare/Enrich is the ultimate vehicle to provide mentor couples with more information to help them work with their strengths and areas of growth in their relationship," he continued. "It provides the engaged couple the opportunity to work with those mentor couples who have already gone through the issues that come up in the early days of marriage and help them with a perfect situation for evangelization. With a relationship that is one on one because you are not truly going to interiorize the faith, interiorize truth

and get excited about it if you are not having a relationship with someone who is already excited about it."

The engaged couple has six meetings with the mentor couple.

"The mentor couples can provide a framework in these meetings and develop a relationship so that when the newly married couple begins to hit the weak areas, the disillusionment in the first years of marriage, they have someone to turn to and it's just in the beginning of the marriage but as an ongoing relationship.

Once the mentor couples complete their second training session in April, where they will be shown how to use Prepare/Enrich in

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A Lenten Pastoral Letter from Bishop Glen John Provost

My Dear People of God,
Almost every month from September to May, I meet with men and women of the Diocese to study the Bible. This year we are reading the Gospel of St. Luke. When we recently came to this verse, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:34), we were reminded that everyone is called to holiness. This vocation to holiness is the call of the Gospel which the Church has never ceased to proclaim. For this reason, I have chosen the call to holiness as the theme for my Lenten Pastoral Letter. Pursuing holiness compels us to reconsider what keeps us from holiness—the separation from God which is sin. Let us begin with the Gospel of this First Sunday of Lent.

We read about the devil tempting Jesus Christ in the desert as recorded in the Gospel of St. Matthew. We must never be deceived into thinking that the devil does not exist or that the devil is simply an absence of good. Our own Holy Father, Pope Francis, has frequently reminded us of the devil’s existence and his evil. The Church always asks us to reflect on the temptations of the devil at the beginning of Lent for a number of reasons. Let us look more closely at what we find in St. Matthew’s account.

The devil at first seems not to know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The tempter addresses Jesus with these words, not once but twice, “If you are the Son of God...” (Matthew 4:3, 6). Is the devil pretending? Certainly pretending is a common ploy of the devil, yet his knowledge and power are not unlimited. With the third temptation, the taunting persists, but Jesus reminds the devil of the Book of Deuteronomy’s mandate, saying, “The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve” (Matthew 4:10; cf. Deuteronomy 6:13). The devil is a trickster who stirs confusion to compensate for his own inadequacies. Such is part of the psychology of evil. We can readily conclude, as does our Catholic Catechism, “The power of Satan is ... not infinite. He is only a creature, powerful from the fact that he is pure spirit, but still a creature. He cannot prevent the building up of God’s reign” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #395). Nonetheless, the devil can make a great deal of trouble and does, but, as St. Paul reminds us, “We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). In other words, the devil can cause chaos if we allow him. We obstruct the devil’s plans when we love God and conform ourselves to God’s will. There is an important lesson here, which brings me to the topic of my letter.

We are called to holiness. Jesus leads us to this realization by His example. And what is that example? He will follow His Father’s will. He will not change stones into bread to satisfy His hunger. He will not impress the crowds by throwing himself down from the parapet of the temple in order to be saved by hosts of angels. And He certainly will not fall down and worship the devil—an absurd proposition that only demonstrates that the devil is still stirring confusion, pretending he is not convinced that he is dealing with the Son of God.

Holiness consists in doing the Father’s will. And the Father’s will is that Jesus must first suffer and die before rising from the dead. “This is why the Father loves me,” Jesus said, “because I lay down my life in order to take it up again” (John 10:17). Jesus makes this offering of his life freely. “No one takes it from me,” He continues, “but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father” (John 10:18). The Christian life as the imitation of Christ stems from this basic and elementary free act. God gives us grace, and we freely respond by embracing His will. The forceful “Get away, Satan!”

uttered by Jesus is a command spoken by a free person, rejecting evil and accepting totally the Father’s will. Jesus left us this example, and the saints give us testimony to it.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was our first native-born saint from the United States. She was a wife and mother, a convert to Catholicism, and a founder of a religious community of teaching sisters in Maryland that soon spread the mission of Catholic education throughout our country in its earliest years. In one of her conferences to her sisters, St. Elizabeth gave this instruction: “I once read or heard that an interior life means but the continuation of our Savior’s life in us; that the great object of all his mysteries is to merit for us the grace of his interior life and communicate it to us, it being the end of his mission to lead us into the sweet land of promise, a life of constant union with himself.” The “interior life,” what we also call the spiritual life, is nothing less than the continuing work of Jesus in our lives. I find the notion of Jesus continuing His saving work in our lives to be a great encouragement. God calls all of us to this life, not just a privileged few.

The call to holiness is not meant only for clergy and religious. The call to holiness is a universal call. The Second Vatican Council reminded us of this. As a matter of fact it was a major theme of the Council. “All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity.” The Council continues, “In order to reach this perfection the faithful should use the strength dealt out to them by Christ’s gift, so that ... doing the will of the Father in everything, they may wholeheartedly devote themselves to the glory of God and to the service of their neighbor” (Lumen Gentium 40 § 2; cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church # 2013ff.). “[D]oing the will of the Father in everything”—that is it. That is how we should strive daily for holiness.

But some will say, “I am a sinner.” Aren’t we all? Admitting one’s sinfulness is not the same as remaining obstinately in sin. Pope Francis pointed this out in strong terms recently when he spoke to an assembly of religious superiors. In speaking of candidates for religious life and who should be accepted, Pope Francis stated, “I am not speaking about people who recognize that they are sinners; we are all sinners, but we are all not corrupt” (Address to Religious Superiors, November 29, 2013). God’s mercy is eternal, and while all of us are sinners, God calls us to His mercy through repentance. We have a great responsibility to exercise our freedom in accepting the call to repentance. We do so primarily in the Sacrament of Penance but also through participation in the other Sacraments and the life of prayer—all of which must be on-going in our lives.

Our relationship with God, living out this call to holiness, can be compared to a child’s relationship with a parent. Did not Jesus tell us to call God our Father? What child would tell his or her parents to only once in life, “I love you”? Instead, the child would repeat those words over and over again, at every opportunity possible—perhaps even daily! As a matter of fact, a child’s entire life is spent developing a relationship with parents, learning from mistakes, improving behavior, and fostering the good of the family. If this does not happen, then there are problems. And the problems are solved or overcome when we have the courage to admit the truth about them and



**Bishop
Glen John
Provost**

address them with courage and grace.

To return to our Gospel passage, the devil would want us to fall down and worship him. We must have the courage to say that we will not do this. And what gives us that courage? Jesus Christ does with His own example. I would like to offer three ways that Jesus does this.

First, Jesus prayed. He instructed us on the topic of prayer (Matthew 6:5-15). He gave us an example to follow by going off to deserted places and up high mountains alone to pray to His Father. We should do the same. Many of our parish churches have Adoration Chapels where we can stop in and pray. Do this daily. Praying before the Blessed Sacrament, in exposition or in our tabernacles, is a powerful instrument of grace. We cannot remain in the dishonesty of sin for long, if we find ourselves on our knees before the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. We should also make time for an annual retreat or day of recollection. We should also practice charity, fast and penance, as Jesus himself instructs us in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:1-4, 16-18).

Second, Jesus died. Yes, He died the humiliating death of the cross, a harsh fact our crucifixes remind us of every time we look at them. Jesus taught, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and daily follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it” (John 9:23-24). To deny our crosses is a lie. To embrace them in the spirit of Jesus is the truth, and the truth will set us free (John 8:32).

Third, Jesus rose. The fact of the Resurrection is our hope. Have we ever stopped to think that every time we participate in the Eucharist we participate in the hope of the Resurrection. St. Paul reminds us of this. “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes” (I Corinthians 11:26). The “death of the Lord” is not the end. He rose and He lives, and the Eucharist invites us to rise and to live. As some have described it, the Eucharist is an “eternal now.” All that Christ is, from the beginning to the end, is made present here and now. For this reason, “A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup” (I Corinthians 11:28). And those prevented in conscience from receiving the Eucharist must never, never give up hope. They should make an act of spiritual communion with our Lord, bring Him all the good will they can muster, and allow the grace of God to work in their lives, as did the tax collector who beat his breast and dared not lift his head or the centurion who would not even allow Jesus to enter his house because he was unworthy. All of us can identify with that contrition.

God’s works are marvelous. Our prayers never go unheard or unanswered. Let us reject the temptations of the devil, as did Jesus in the Gospel, and say “yes” to the Father’s will, making it our own. Let us accept the call to holiness.

With prayers for you and your intentions, as well as blessings for a fruitful Lent, I remain

Devotedly yours in our Lord,

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Good Friday collection aids work in Holy Land

LAKE CHARLES -- On Good Friday, a pontifical collection is taken up in every parish of the Diocese of Lake Charles and across the United States. The proceeds from the collection go to support ministries and works, largely under the direction of the Franciscans, in the Holy Land.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection offers a direct link for parishioners to be witnesses of peace. Their support is a sign of Christian unity, which helps protect the Holy Places. This annual Good Friday Collection unites all Christians with the Holy Land.

These funds are used to support Catholic schools, parishes and religious education in the Holy Land. The Good Friday collection also preserves the shrines for pilgrims and provides assistance, including housing and food, for the poor and needy.

Pope Francis will soon travel to the Holy Land. His presence will be a great source of encouragement to all Christians there. His pilgrimage will also demonstrate that the

Holy Land is a high priority of his pontificate. He has asked all Catholics to support Christians in the Holy Land.

The Custos of the Holy Land, Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM, said, “It is important that the Christians all over the world to support the Church in the Holy Land, so we can continue our work.”

Last year’s Good Friday Collection provided support for the Holy Land in these ways:

- Supported 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, three academic institutions
- Helped keep schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students
- Supported 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers
- Helped rehabilitate 80 homes for Christian families
- Provided Senior Care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth
- Created 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land
- Preserved 54 shrines from the life of Jesus and the prophets



Deacon Matthew Cormier, left, makes his Profession of Faith and takes the Oath of Fidelity at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans February 16 in preparation for his anticipated June ordination to the priesthood in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Father James Wehner, right, rector and president of Notre Dame Seminary, receives Deacon Cormier’s statements. Deacon Cormier, along with other fourth year men preparing for ordination to the priesthood and third year seminarians preparing for ordination to the transitional diaconate the took the Oath and Profession before the seminary community during Solemn Vespers. Father Wehner reflected with the candidates on Pope Francis’ challenge of what type of shepherd the Church needs today and how the new evangelization challenges us to meet the needs of our people.



Abbot James M. Liprie, O.S.B., was the speaker for the recent Morning of Reflection for the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Abbot Liprie, a Lake Charles native and an Olivetan Benedictine Monk, is Abbot of Mother of the Redeemer Monastery located in Opelousas. Msgr. Daniel Torres and St. Henry Catholic Church hosted the Morning of Reflection.

Dr. Brant Pitre to speak at St. Martin de Porres

LAKE CHARLES -- Dr. Brant Pitre, a speaker, best-selling author on Sacred Scripture, and professor at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, is speaking at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, 5495 Elliott Road, on Thursday, March 27, at 6:30 pm. He will introduce and discuss his newest book, Jesus the Bridegroom.

St. Martin de Porres is using Dr. Pitre’s DVD teaching series to facilitate an adult catechism study called the Catholic Faith Journey, each Fridays during Lent. The Fridays of Lent begin with Mass at 8 a.m., followed by Adoration beginning at 8:30 a.m. with Benediction at 5:30 p.m.. The Stations of the Cross will follow Benediction. A small

meatless soup and bread meal will be offered after then Stations of the Cross, sponsored by several church service groups and then the Catholic Faith Journey teachings, facilitated by the weekly meal service groups.

The public is encouraged to attend and is free of charge. Call 337-478-3845 or go to www.smdpcatholic.com for more information on Dr. Pitre’s appearance and the Catholic Faith Journey series.

Dr. Pitre earned his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, where he specialized in the study of the New Testament and ancient Judaism. He is the author of several articles and the books Jesus, the Tribulation, and the End of the Exile.



The Very Reverend Derek Covert, J.C.L., left, stands with Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, center, the newly named director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, and Sr. Jennifer Reed, a postulant of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, on the steps of the Diocesan Chancery. Bishop Glen John Provost appointed Father Covert as chaplain for the Religious Sisters of Mercy in the diocese.

Father Tolentino appointed Chaplain for Extraordinary Form

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost has appointed Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry and Chaplain of the Apostleship of the Sea, Seafarers Center, as Chaplain for the Extraordinary Form of

the Liturgy. The appointment became effective March 6.

Father Tolentino takes the place of Father Roland Vaughn, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Fenton. Father Vaughn will retain his duties as Diocesan Penitentiary.

St. Louis Catholic seeks principal for 2014-15

LAKE CHARLES -- St. Louis Catholic High School is seeking a Principal-Head of School for the 2014-2015 School Year, according to Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The successful applicant must be a practicing Roman Catholic, hold a Master's Degree with a minimum of 10 years of teaching or administration experience, and must meet Louisiana Department of Education requirements for a Non-Public School Principal.

Applicants must submit of a letter of interest along with a resume and administrators application to St. Louis Prin-

icipal Search, Office of Catholic Schools, 1112 Bilbo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. The Administrators Employment Application is available at live.lcdiocese.org/images/stories/pdfs/catholic_school_principal_application.pdf to be downloaded and completed.

Deadline for applications is Friday, April 4.

St. Louis is an incorporated Catholic high school under the supervision of a Rector and a Board of Pastors. A co-educational secondary school, St. Louis is accredited by AdvancED with an enrollment of 590 students and 58 teachers, many with advanced degrees.

Catholic Charities Jazz Brunch slated May 18

LAKE CHARLES -- The annual Jazz Brunch, this year featuring Chester and Jarvis Daigle along with entertainment by Diocesan Clergy benefitting the ministries of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, will be from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, at the Lake Charles Country Club. Tickets are \$75 each and a table for eight is available for \$700. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, R.S.M., the director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, will deliver a welcoming address.

Two special sponsorship levels are available: Disciple



Providing Help. Creating Hope.

- \$1,500.00 and includes a table for eight and recognition at the event; Friend - \$1,000 and includes a table for eight and recognition at the banquet.

For more information and to purchase tickets contact Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, 1225 Second Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 or call 337-439-7436.

St. Peter Lenten Mission slated Sunday, March 30

HACKBERRY - St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, under the Blessed Virgin Mary's title of Our Lady of Good Success will host a Lenten Mission on Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. in the church.

Matthew Arnold, Catholic speaker, author, and host on the Radio Maria Network, will be the presenter, leading those who attend to discover: Our Lady's centuries-old prophecies and her promise for the Church today; What

the title Our Lady of Good Success really means; The miraculous history of this fully Church-approved Marian devotion; Why you have not heard of Mary under this title until now; and much more.

Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor, invites everyone to come and discover the 400 year-old message of restoration and hope that Mary brought especially for those of us in the Church today.

Bishop Provost names directors of Catholic Charities, Religious Education

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost has appointed directors of two very important areas of ministry in the Diocese of Lake Charles - Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, is now the Director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana and Sister Miriam MacLean will become the Director of the Office of Religious Education following her August 16 profession of perpetual vows for the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan.

Sister Miriam will assume the duties currently the responsibility of Father Nathan Long, who has served as interim director of the office since Feb. 1, 2012.

The Bishop has also named Very Reverend Derek Covert, J.C.L., as Diocesan Chaplain for the Religious Sisters of Mercy. Father Covert retains his duties as Judicial Vicar.

Sr. Mary Vianney, a native of Boston, graduated from Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing as a Register Nurse in 1969, received a Bachelors of Science in Nursing from St. Joseph College in Hartford Connecticut in 1992 and a Masters Degree in Social Work from Michigan State University in 1995. As an RN, she worked in medical/surgical intensive care, nursing supervision, and as research assistant on a grant to research the needs of the elderly in rural Minnesota.

In the area of social work, Sr. Mary Vianney has served as a Hospice social worker, from 1996-2005 as a clinical social worker, and from 2005 to the present as head of nursing services for seminarians and clergy assigned to Rome. She also served as consultant and counselor in the field of medical services for various religious congregations in Rome. In 1999, she qualified for Academy of Certified Social Workers certification, achieving 4,000 hours of supervised social work by a

licensed clinical social worker.

The Religious Sisters of Mercy, with its Motherhouse located in Alma, Michigan, is a Religious Institute of Pontifical Right dedicated to the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Established in 1973 in response to the renewal called for in the Second Vatican Council, the Institute recognizes Venerable Catherine McAuley as its original foundress. Sr. Mary Vianney entered the Institute in 1985.

The offices of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana are located at 1225 Second Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and the telephone number is 337-439-7436.

"We are delighted to welcome Sister Mary Vianney and the Religious Sisters of Mercy to the Diocese," Bishop Provost said. "We look forward to a long collaboration in the area of work with the most needy of our brothers and sisters, particularly in the service of Catholic Charities."

Sr. Miriam received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from Ave Maria University in 2005. After entering the Religious Sisters of Mercy and completing her first two years of formation, she was assigned to Washington, D.C., where she served as Director of Visitor Services at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception from 2008-2013. She earned a Masters degree in Social Work from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in 2013.

In the past year, she worked at St. Vincent's Catholic Charities in Lansing, Michigan, as a mental health therapist and school counselor.

She continues to work toward a Ph.D. in social work at Michigan State University.

Thomas Merton Centennial set for 2015

ST. BONAVENTURE, N.Y.

-- The life of beloved Catholic contemplative, poet and Trappist monk Thomas Merton will be the focus of the summer 2014 conference "Coming home and going forth: Merton as mirror and model."

The three-day event at St. Bonaventure University June 19-22 will celebrate the relationship between Bonaventure and Merton in anticipation of Merton's 100th birthday in 2015. Speakers include America magazine columnist Fr. Dan Horan, O.F.M. For schedule and registration information, visit www.sbu.edu/merton.

While Merton's time in Western New York was brief, his experiences at St. Bonaventure, from the time that his friend Robert Lax brought him to Olean to his days in Devereux Hall, were influential in his life's journey.

Merton's autobiography "The Seven Storey Mountain," regarded as one of the 100 best non-fiction books of the 20th Century, reflects on his time at St. Bonaventure University.

Through keynote speakers, worship experiences and tours, the conference will explore the relationships Merton had with the people and places of St. Bonaventure.

In addition to Horan, renowned Merton scholars on the schedule include William H. Shannon Chair in Catholic Studies (Nazareth College) Christine Bochen and professor of religious studies and vice president for mission and Catholic identity at Sacred Heart University Michael Higgins.

St. Bonaventure University President Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., said the conference will appeal to both those who have studied the life and perspectives of

Merton and those on a spiritual journey of any kind.

"Merton's time at Bonaventure can be both a mirror and a model for those of us who strive to find a spiritual home in our own lives," she said.

Conference coordinator Julianne Wallace says the conference theme harkens to Merton's calling to religious life.

"Merton's spiritual home was the Abbey of Gethsemani, the bells of which called him to pursue monastic life. We echo that call with this conference invitation to gather current and future Merton enthusiasts to continue to learn from and build upon the tremendous spiritual and intellectual gifts he gave the world," said Wallace, who is the director of faith formation, worship and ministry at St. Bonaventure.

Visit www.sbu.edu/merton for the schedule of events,



Thomas Merton, O.C.S.O.

speaker biographies, and conference registration information. Follow the conference preparations and latest news on Twitter using #MertonMirrorandModel.



The St. Louis Catholic High School cheerleaders attended Mass on Saturday, January 18 at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, while visiting the city for the annual Mardi Gras Nationals Cheer Competition. Pictured with the group is Very Rev. Philip G. Landry, the Rector of the St. Louis Cathedral. Freshmen: Emilee Papadimitriou, Madeline Stine, Maddie Sanders, Kara Kramer, Tatiana Manthey, Julie Vincent, Londyn Worley, Kayla Lambert, Mary Amanda Bell, Gentry Crain and Dasia May; Sophomores: Claire Morris, Anna Duplechin, Malia Thigpen, McKenzie McManus, Anna Hanks, Kerrigan LaPointe, Madison Darbonne, Molli Gibson, Juliana Cain, Raegan Borders, Julia Boult, Kaley LaRocca, and Madeline Noble; Juniors: Gabi Gonzales, Allison Vincent, Haley Harless, Megan McGuire, Katie Vincent, Gambrelle Palmer, Valerie Hogan, Jamie Gilmore, Kennedy Kober, Carley Billedeaux, Elaina Kilpatrick, and Lizzy Portie; and Seniors: Whitney Conner, Claire Watkins, Mary Claire Fontenot, Gabby Kadlubar, Maria Francois, Laura Vaughan, Abby Schmitt, and Lauren Courville. Sponsors pictured are Karen Crawford and Susan Percle.

Archbishop says 2015 meeting can help transform families

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- A powerhouse team of religious, civic and business leaders will travel to Rome to plan for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next year.

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput led a news conference with Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter on March 7 at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center to announce they will lead a delegation March 24-26 to meet with Vatican officials to plan the international event. They also will have an audience with Pope Francis.

Throughout the news conference, speakers told of their confidence that the pope will visit Philadelphia in September 2015 and vowed to personally convince him to make his first pastoral visit in North America to the city for the conclusion of the eighth World Meeting of Families.

"I plan to extend to the holy father a warm, vigorous and hopefully very persuasive invitation to visit our state next year," said Corbett, who added Nutter and other members of the delegation also would "sell" the pope and Vatican officials on making a papal visit.

"It's only in Philadelphia that folks talk about trying to 'seal the deal' with the pope," Nutter quipped.

Pope Francis has not confirmed he will attend the last day of the meeting, which past popes have done.

Archbishop Chaput announced members of the leadership team planning the World Meeting of Families event, and they

include some of the heaviest hitters in Philadelphia's civic and business spheres.

Robert J. Ciaruffoli, president of the big Philadelphia accounting firm Parente Beard, was named president of the 2015 World Meeting of Families organization, which is a separate group and not a Philadelphia archdiocesan office.

Named as co-chairs of the group were Brian L. Roberts, CEO of cable TV giant Comcast Corp.; David L. Cohen, a top executive with Comcast; Joseph Neubauer, chairman of food services firm Aramark; Daniel J. Hilferty, CEO of Independence Blue Cross; and James Maguire of the Maguire Foundation and leading philanthropist for Catholic causes in the region.

Corbett said he expected perhaps 1 million visitors if Pope Francis celebrates the public Mass on Sept. 27, 2015, the concluding day of the event. The most recent such meeting in Milan, Italy, in 2012 drew 1 million to that city.

Corbett also estimated the economic impact of the visit is "in the range of \$100 million."

Although Comcast's Roberts and Cohen will not attend the meeting at the Vatican later in March, the other members and Archbishop Chaput, Corbett and Nutter will begin meetings March 25 with Vatican officials to plan logistics for the Philadelphia event.

Marriage: Nature's Blueprint

As an amateur student of Western history, I often marvel at the confusion we moderns have about some very fundamental questions. For all the rather superior view we take of ourselves in relation to our forebears, it seems to me that, although at least as sinful and vicious as we, they were yet clear about some of the most central building blocks of a healthy society, while we seem to have lost our bearings. My own opinion is that one reason for their clearer thinking is their closer, daily connection to the created world.

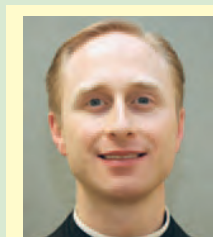
Among the misunderstandings and evils we are currently suffering in Western societies, one of the most vital to the health of our society concerns the nature of marriage. Although the basic nature of marriage has been understood by all civilizations, both Jewish and pagan, up to our own day, a fundamental collapse has occurred that should be of deep concern to all of us because the ones to suffer will be the young generations.

Therefore, we ought to do ourselves (and our children) the favor of examining, if only in a very introductory manner, what marriage is in its essence. Although I will use written Revelation (Scripture) to illustrate this, I want to be clear that these things could be known by human reason alone, without Revelation, by understanding the structure of the human person (natural law). This is the plan God has written into our souls and bodies and is shown to us on the very first pages of the Sacred Scripture. Recall that Genesis relates how God went along creating the world and, after each stage, He says, "It is good." Well, after a long series of "It is good" comes something startling; God says, "It is not good that man is alone; I will make him a helpmate like himself" (Gn 2:18). And so, God takes from Adam and makes the Woman, whose name after the Fall will be Eve. When the Man sees the Woman, he exclaims,

"At last this one is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh" and the sacred author, Moses, goes on to say, "It is for this reason that a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two become one flesh" (Gn 2:24). So, Adam gave up some of what he was so as to have Eve and each becomes whole by clinging to the other; they become "one body."

What does Genesis teaches us? First, that Adam and Eve are of equal dignity, because God created each of them as human beings, in His image and to His likeness. Second, however, notice that although they are equal in their human dignity, Adam and Eve are not identical, but complementary. God did not create two Adams, but Man and Woman, each in His image but in a distinct way. Finally, notice also that when they come together Adam and Eve form, as it were, "one flesh" or "one body." Now, this is very revelatory because as soon as the Scriptures tells us that they can become one flesh, the very next verse uses the words "husband" and "wife" for the first time (v. 25). It is precisely because Adam and Eve can come together as "one flesh" or "one body" that they can be husband and wife. What does this one flesh union mean? It means that together they form, as it were, a new whole, a single body, that can bring about a single biological good that they could not have as individuals. Namely, they can conceive a new life.

We are now in a position to understand marriage as God instituted it and why no human power, neither the Church nor



Rev. D.B. Thompson

governments, can change its nature. In almost every case, any marriage which is ratified by the free and knowing exchange of vow/consent and consummated at least once by the one-flesh union cannot be dissolved by any human power. Therefore, as our Lord says in the Gospel, divorce is not possible because this would be to tear asunder a living body, which is called murder. Also, since a single body does not admit of the addition of another foreign element, adultery is absolutely excluded because this would destroy the unity of the "one flesh." Finally, and this is a point much misunderstood today, marriage requires one man and one woman only, because these are the only two who are fitted by the very nature of the souls and bodies to come together to form one flesh and to achieve a good that only they can together: the conception of a new life. Indeed, the nature of marriage as instituted by God as indissoluble and so absolutely one with each other that all others are excluded is precisely in the service of the new life that is conceived. Family, the proper fruit of marriage, is also indissoluble and one. It is not possible, therefore, that marriage be any other combination because only a man and a woman can cling to one another as to form one flesh or one body. No more could this be changed than could all fish tomorrow have fur instead of scales. One man, one woman, until death, for the formation and protection of the life of the great foundation of healthy society: family.

Rev. D. B. Thompson was ordained for the Diocese of Lake Charles in 1982. He is currently the Parochial Vicar for St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles and serves as the Co-Chaplain for Hispanic Ministry and serves as an Advocate on the Diocesan Tribunal.

Bueche speaks at St. Theodore Lenten Missions

MOSS BLUFF -- Kerry F. Bueche, a Catholic lay-evangelist from the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, will present "The Battle of Prayer: Dynamics and Application of Prayer" on five Mondays during Lent at St. Theodore Catholic Church. The talks begin at 6 p.m. each day.

Bueche is the President and Founder of "Voice of the Lord Ministries, Inc.," a non-profit organization based in Houma. His desire is to reach people where they are and as they are; he ministers throughout the country.

The schedule follows: March 10: Evaluation of Our Present Situation and Circumstances in Life: Curses and Blessings - "Understanding your home is a 'domestic church' and we are the temple of the Holy Spirit"; March

17: Revelation as to Whom We Are in Christ, Jesus - "As a child of God, we are called to live a supernatural life as partakers of his divine nature"; March 24: The Work of Grace: The Book of Job - "Suffering and hardship: Why God allows evil to exist and Satan's continuation"; March 31: Utilizing the Armaments of the Kingdom of God in Our Warfare: The Prophet Elijah - "The weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but mightily through God for the destruction of strongholds of the enemy"; and April 7: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory - "Understanding what happens after death in regards to our Judgment... Explanation of Purgatory."

Rev. Msgr. Charles Dubois invites everyone to attend.



Bishop Glen John Provost, right, and Deacon Fred Reed, left, distribute ashes during the midday Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014, the beginning of the Penitential Season of Lent. The foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and remind us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told - "Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return." Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

Saint Charles Center April events

MOSS BLUFF -- A number of events are scheduled for Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center in the upcoming weeks.

Lenten Private Directed Retreats will be led by Fr. Whitney Miller, Fr. Don Piraro, Judy Savoie, and Gloria Villegas from Monday, March 31 to Sunday, April 6. A directed retreat is a form of silent retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola focusing on the personal prayer of the individual. There are no group activities or conferences other than the daily Eucharist and an individual daily meeting with the director. The retreatant spends about four hours in contemplative prayer each day of the retreat. The retreatant may choose to do three or five days. For more information or to register, those interested must call 337-855-1232, as there is no online registration. The suggested donation is \$265.00 for three days, and \$440.00 for five days. Scholarship information is available upon request for those in need of assistance.

Fr. Miller, Fr. Piraro, Judy Savoie, and Gloria Villegas will also lead a

Lenten Introduction to the Directed Retreat, Friday, April 4 through Sunday, April 6. The directed retreat is prayerful silence and tailored to the individual needs of the retreatant. This weekend introduction helps the retreatant learn the prayer technique and prepares the retreatant for a longer retreat. Those interested must call 337-855-1232 to register, as there is no online registration for this event. The suggested donation is \$265.00 per person and scholarship information is available upon request for those in need of assistance.

A Women's Lenten Silent Retreat sponsored by the women of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church Friday, April 11 to Sunday, April 13 is open to any and all women who choose to participate. The theme of the retreat will be: "The Last Week - a Day-by-Day Account," using the Gospel of Mark as a guide, and following current scripture scholarship. Presentations will be led by Sister Barbara Breud, O Carm and prayer experiences led by Sister Terry Falco, RSM. Suggested donation for this retreat is \$190.00 for a private room, \$170.00 each for shared accommodations, and \$75.00 for commuters. Contact Elaine Trahan at 337-474-0178, the Center at 337-855-1232, or stcharlescenter.com for registration. Scholarship information is available upon request for those in need of assistance.

Fr. Miller and Fr. Piraro lead Good Friday Meditations on Friday, April 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those attending will have the opportunity to honor these holy hours of quiet spirit and solemn reflection throughout one of the most sacred days of the liturgical year by spending some time in prayer at the

Saint Charles Center. A brief meditation will be given by Fr. Miller on the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and Fr. Piraro on the hours of noon and 2:00 p.m. After each, a contemplative silence will be observed by all participants until the next hour meditation. All those planning to attend should bring your own lunch and beverage, if so desired. There is no fee for this event but pre-registration by calling 337-855-1232 is appreciated.

On Tuesday, April 22, from 6 to 9 p.m., Sr. Diane Depwe will lead "Understanding Our Mass Liturgy." The retreat will be uplifting and inspiring as those attending learn more about the Word of God and the Mass. Call 337-855-1232 or go to stcharlescenter.com to register. Deadline is Friday, April 18. The suggested donation is \$20.00 per person.

Glad Tidings airs each Sunday morning

LAKE CHARLES - Glad Tidings, the Sunday morning television program of the Diocese of Lake Charles, broadcast on KPLC-TV. Closed captioning for Glad Tidings on television has been available since February 2013.

The show was the first communications vehicle developed by the newly established diocese and Bishop Jude Speyrer, beginning on October 5, 1980.

In the first half hour, each program brings the viewer news from the diocese, the region, the United States and the World and a discussion on the Gospel of the day between Bishop Glen John Provost and one of several of the more re-

cently ordained priests - Fathers D.B. Thompson, Jeffrey Starkovich, Jacob S. Conner, and John Huckaby.

In the second hour, one of five interview segments is aired - Exploring Theology (moderators - Fathers Derek Covert, Anthony Fontenot, and Ruben Buller), Catholic Life Today (Deacon George Carr), From the Pew (Allison Fontenot), Lead Kindly Light (Bernadette Ponton and Renee Reina), and Priestly Journeys (Father Don Piraro).

During the program, viewers can meet some of the men studying for the priesthood for the diocese as well as hear about the ministries and programs of the Diocese.



2013-2014 Bishop's Services Appeal Progress Report

As of March 14, 2014
\$550,231.33
68.78% of Goal



"Without a Vision, the People Perish"
Proverbs 29:18

St. Theodore's "Walk to Calvary" set April 12

MOSS BLUFF -- St. Theodore Catholic Church presents a "Walk to Calvary" and an enactment of "Live Stations of the Cross" Saturday, April 12. The walk starts at 1 p.m. from Saint Charles Center and moves in procession east down Sam Houston Jones Parkway to St. Theodore.

Anyone interested in joining the walk should meet at the Retreat Center at 12:30 p.m. Those wishing to attend the final crucifixion scene should be at the church by 2 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to this family event. Come join in this spiritual experience and walk the Path of Jesus to his death, a death for our salvation. For further information, contact the St. Theodore Rectory office at 855-6662



An icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa, also known as the Black Madonna, which had blessed and dedicated in the chapel of the original, ancient icon in Poland, visited the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception recently. Bishop Glen John Provost received this third class saintly relic and led veneration. Veneration continued until the celebration of Mass by Father Nathan Long. Following the liturgy, attended by several hundred people, veneration continued. Father Peter West, vice president of Human Life International, was the homilist and provided a history of the Madonna. the icon is traveling throughout the United States during 2014 on a pilgrimage around the world – “From Ocean to Ocean,” – sponsored by Human Life International and allowing each community to dedicate its efforts at building a culture of life to Our Lady. Above, in the photo at left, Bishop Provost incenses the icon after it was carried into the church. In the photo at right, some of the faithful kneel before the icon.



HOLY WEEK OFFICE HOURS

Regular office hours - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - will be in force in the offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles on Monday, April 14, Tuesday, April 15, and Wednesday, April 16. Offices will be closed Holy Thursday, April 17 and Good Friday, April 18, as well as Easter Monday, April 21. Regular office hours resume on Tuesday, April 22. The next Catholic Calendar will be published on Good Friday, April 18.

Jeff Cavins to speak at Bible Conference

ALEXANDRIA -- Jeff Cavins, an inspiring national and international speaker and Bible teacher, will be the guest speaker for the Inaugural Bible Conference Friday and Saturday, April 4-5, at the Divine Providence Hall, 401 21st Street. The Diocese of Alexandria's Office of Religious Formation and Training (ORFT) sponsors the two-day conference.

Famous for his Bible Timeline Seminar, Cavins has traveled the world extensively speaking on biblical topics. Using a unique color-coded system, the Bible Timeline presentation is remarkably effective in assisting Catholics uncover the divine truths revealed in Holy Scripture, giving them an easy and engaging way to read and understand the Bible.

The conference begins Friday, April 4 at 5 p.m. with registration from 5 to 6:30

p.m. Cavins will present the Friday evening retreat, titled, The Way Love Feels -- A Deeper Look at the Cross of Christ. Eucharistic Adoration and Procession, led by Fr. Jose Robles Sanchez, coordinator of Steubenville South, is later on Friday.

Saturday's seminar, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., includes the famous Bible Timeline presentation by Cavins. The Most Rev. Ronald Herzog, Bishop of Alexandria, will celebrate Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral and Paul Hood, youth director at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Alexandria, will lead the worship music for the weekend.

The cost for the two-day conference is \$45 per person and includes lunch and conference resources. To register, go to www.diocesealex.org or call 318-445-6424, Ext. 221. Seating is limited.

Pope Francis to South Korea in August

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis will travel to South Korea in August for Asian Youth Day and to preside over the beatification of a large group of Korean martyrs, the Vatican spokesman said.

The pope will leave Rome Aug. 13 and fly to South Korea, staying in the country Aug. 14-18, according to Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman. He said no other countries would be on the itinerary.

The main point of the trip, Father Lombardi said, is to participate in the youth gathering Aug. 13-17 in Daejeon, South Korea. The theme of Asian Youth Day is “Asian youth, wake up! The glory of the martyrs shines on you.”

Sponsored by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, the gathering is expected to draw delegates from 30 countries.

Father Lombardi said

Pope Francis also will visit South Korea's capital, Seoul, and meet President Park Geun-hye.

According to the Korean Herald, Park's office issued a statement saying, “The upcoming visit by Pope Francis, a symbolic figure of (someone who has lived) a poor but honest life and (upheld) neighborliness, will be an opportunity to deliver the message of love and peace to the northeast Asian region.”

In February, Pope Francis signed a decree recognizing the martyrdom of Paul Yun Ji-Chung and 123 companions, clearing the way for their beatification. The martyrs were among an estimated 10,000 Catholics in Korea killed for their faith between 1785 and 1888.

Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung of Seoul said the people of South Korea appreciate the pope's willingness to “travel so far.”

Beaumont abortion provider closes doors

BEAUMONT -- The prayers of many Catholic men, women, and children from the Diocese of Lake Charles and elsewhere have been answered! On Wednesday, March 6, the abortion provider here -- Whole Woman's Health -- closed its doors.

It was one of three in the state, including two in the Rio Grande Valley, to permanently close in the face of strict state laws that require hospital admitting privileges for abortionists.

Texas lawmakers passed some of the toughest abortion laws last July, including a ban on abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy and the mandate that requires abortion providers upgrade to meet the standards of ambulatory surgical centers. The surgical center aspect of the law becomes effective in September and could cause even more closures across the state.

Miracle attributed to Archbishop Fulton Sheen

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) -- A seven-member team of medical experts convoked by the Vatican reported there is no natural explanation for the survival of a child delivered stillborn and whose heart did not start beating until 61 minutes after his birth.

The survival of the child, James Fulton Engstrom, now 3 years old and developing normally, was credited by his parents to a miracle attributable to the intercession of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, a Peoria diocesan priest who gained fame for his 1950s television show “Life Is Worth Living” and his 16 years at the helm of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The medical experts' report was announced March 6 in Peoria by the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation, which is headed by Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria.

The case will next be reviewed by a board of theologians. With their approval, the case could move on to the cardinals and bishops who advise the pope on these matters. Finally, the miracle would be presented to Pope Francis, who would then officially affirm that God performed a miracle through the intercession of Archbishop Sheen. There is no timeline as to when these next steps might take place.

If the Engstrom case is authenticated as a miracle, Archbishop Sheen would be beatified, elevating his from “venerable” to “blessed.” A beatification ceremony could conceivably take place in Peoria, according to the foundation, which promotes his sainthood cause. In general, a second miracle would need to be authenticated for canonization.

St. Louis Catholic High School Religion teacher Kathy Owen has seen numbers of her students make the 60 mile trip to Beaumont to pray for the end of the murder of children in such places.

One senior student, Morgan Fontenot, said, “We are one step closer to our goal of ending abortion in our nation.”

Owen, who noted she had been offering prayers of Thanksgiving in each of

here classes (after hearing the news), said, “Literally answered prayers!! Our Students for Life club was scheduled to go and pray there during Lent, but thrilled about having to cancel this “field trip!”

“We just ended our morality lesson on abortion a few weeks ago and so the students understand well the great importance of this decision,” she continued. And, when I explained the reason it had to close was due to the

new Texas law requiring every abortion provider to have privileges at hospital within 30 miles of the clinic - it is NOT taking care of women as the pro-choice propaganda claims. No hospital would give this abortion doctor “privileges” and therefore could not remain open.”

According to various sources, about a dozen of the state's 36 abortion facilities have stopped offering abortions because of the admitting privilege requirement.



The many and varied work being done by Religious women in the Diocese of Lake Charles was honored at a Mardi Gras-themed dinner held at Christ the King Catholic Church and sponsored by the Vocation Committee. Attending were, seated left to right, Sr. Mary Leonie Therese Iweh, DMMM; Sr. Claire Pellerin, SE; Sr. Raphaela Ikeazota, DMMM; and Sr. Mary Regina Osondu, DMMM. In the second row, from left, are Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM; Sr. Shirley Gobert, SEC; Sr. Jennifer Reed (an RSM postulant); Sr. Mary Charles Chidolue, DMMM; Sr. Camille Martinez, SEC;; Sr. Germaine Henry, SSF; Sr. Jeannette Touchet, SEC; and Sr. Catherine Leroux, SE. At back is Father Rojo Anthony Koonathan, H.G.N. of Christ the King.



Monsignor James Gaddy, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, greets one of the catechumens and her sponsor at the Rite of Election Sunday, March 9, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Glen John Provost, in background, met with catechumens and candidates from all the churches that will be welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil during this centuries old rite. Bishop Provost received testimony from the godparents and catechists about the readiness of the catechumens for Baptism. The Bishop signed the Book of the Elect of each parish as well during the ceremony.

Did you know...

While there have been 13 years when three popes held the See of Peter, the only year in which four men led the Church was 1276 with Gregory X, Innocent V, Adrian V, and John XXI. Gregory X died on Jan. 10 after a four year, 131-day reign. Innocent reigned for 153 days, followed by the 38-day reign of Adrian. John XXI finished out the year but died in May 1277.

There have been a number of instances when no one sat in the Chair of Peter. Do you how many of those times there have been? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar -- April 18.

Marksville couple longest married in U.S.

By Jeannie Petrus
Church Today Editor

On Jan. 27, 2014, Norman and Norma Burmah celebrated their 83rd wedding anniversary. At 103 and 100 years old, the Burmahs, who have been members of Holy Ghost Church in Marksville, are the longest married couple in the United States!

In 2012, the couple was recognized as the longest married couple in the state by the Louisiana Family Forum.

In recognition of this honor, the Burmahs and their family and friends were invited to the Louisiana Governor's Mansion as special guests of Gov. Bobby Jindal and his wife. In addition, they were entered into the LFF "Marriage Hall of Fame."

"We celebrate life-long marriage and are honored

to recognize these covenant keepers who exemplify devotion and who serve as a model for all Louisiana families," Gene Mills, president of Louisiana Family Forum, said.

LFF honors Louisiana's longest known married couple annually during National Marriage Week USA, Feb. 7-14.

This year, however, through additional research, it was determined that the Burmah's were not only the longest married couple in Louisiana, but the longest known married couple in the United States!

"We knew our grandparents were Louisiana's longest married couple and were pretty sure they were the longest living African-American couple in the United States, but the fact that they could be the country's longest living married

couple is just phenomenal," granddaughter Glenda McKinley said. "We see them as our national treasure," she was quoted in a news release by Louisiana Family Forum.

Norman and Norma were married on Jan. 26, 1931, when he was 20 years old and she was 17. Originally from New Orleans, the young teenagers met at the New Orleans' Roof Garden Dance Hall during a live performance by Louis Armstrong.

Norma raised two girls, while Norman owned a private catering company.

"Our parents were loving and kind -- good Catholic parents -- who valued a good Catholic education for their kids," said her daughter Joyce Deselle of Marksville. "We attended Holy Ghost Catholic School in New Orleans."

Through the years, their

marriage has survived a lot of ups and downs -- the Great Depression. World War II, and more recently, Hurricane Katrina.

In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina decimated their home in New Orleans, the Burmahs decided to move to Marksville to be close to their daughter.

This Feb. 14, 2014, representatives of the Louisiana Family Forum will be visiting the Burmahs in their home in Marksville, where they still live independently.

"The Burmahs are good people," said Father Rusty Rabalais, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Marksville. "We see them regularly in our Homebound Visitation Ministry."

They have two daughters (one deceased), six grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.



Sam Ange Jr. was honored as the National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Graduate for St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School for his significant contribution to the school, the Catholic Church and to the United States. St. Margaret principal Wendy Wicke, right, presented Ange, left, with his award certificate at this year's annual Catholic Schools Week Mass in the church.

CRS collection set March 29-30

WASHINGTON — The Catholic Relief Services Collection will take place the weekend of March 29-30. This year's collection theme is "Help Jesus in Disguise." The collection provides an opportunity to change the lives of more than 100 million people at home and abroad, particularly families affected by persecution, war and natural disasters.

"The Catholic Relief Services Collection gives us an

opportunity for charity. We show our love of God through caring for the poorest of the poor, by providing humanitarian aid and funding projects that develop ongoing resources," said Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati, chairman of the Committee on National Collections of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "This collection continues to alleviate suffering around the world in very concrete

ways."

Since 1996, violent conflict has raged in the Democratic Republic of Congo, claiming an estimated 5 million lives. Many armed groups causing this violence fund their activities by illegally mining and exporting minerals used to make cell phones and computers. The USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development's Office of International Justice and Peace (IJP), Catholic Re-

lief Services, and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Congo worked hard to expose the link between violence and illegal mining operations. In 2010, the United States adopted laws that require U.S. companies to show the origin of the minerals they use. Through projects like this, IJP counteracts violence and advocates for those who live in areas of conflict.

CONFERENCE

Continued from Page 1

delegates and the public will pray for greater unity among Christians and to give thanks for the contributions made by the various Christian denominations at the ecumenical service.

Sacred Heart Church is blessed to have had a saint walk its grounds, in the per-

son of St. Katharine Drexel, who financially aided the parish school, and whose nuns (Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) taught and administered Sacred Heart School for many years. She canonized by Pope John Paul II in October 2000.

Besides Assembly sessions, conference delegates will be treated to a first-hand look at city's historic Down-

town, including dinner the renovated Calcasieu Marine National Bank building and morning prayer service in the Cathedral.

The Cathedral is the oldest Catholic parish in the area and is the mother church of the diocese. The building itself recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, being one of the first structures to be re-built after the Great Fire

of 1910.

The LIC is a state-wide organization founded in 1970, which now has 16 member Christian churches as well as representatives from Church Women United. The ecumenical Order of Saint Lazarus is an Associate Member. Its goal is to seek greater Christian unity through sharing a common faith in witness, worship, study, and service.

MARRIAGE

Continued from Page 1

the mentor couple experience, they will be asked to go online within 12 months to continue their training.

"The online training - catholicmarriageprep.com - provides mentor couples with a lot of the theology and just down to earth things, given in an accessible and articulate way on how to use the Church's teaching on marriage," Dawson said. "Couples may have a deep understanding of basic foundations but this provides them with the beauty of the church's teaching like Theology of the Body.

"People may not have had exposure to some things and it provides ways to address things like contraception, cohabitation, pre-marital sex, pornography. - things that they may not be comfortable with and providing them with lots of opportunities for formation," he continued. "Prepare/Enrich gives them ways to work with the couple, get to know the couple. The online training is a way to present Church teaching that is beautiful and understandable."

Even with the changes, some basic preparatory programs continue, such as Together for Life. A two-day program held at Saint Charles Center on Saturday and the diocesan Chancery on Sunday.

Every couple is asked to go through the mentor program and Together for Life will continue to primary marriage preparation event.

"Up to now, couples will come these events and meet with their priest and that is it," Dawson said. "We want to pare that down and provide the engaged couples with a more substantial diocesan day seminar that will become an opportuni-

ty to come and hear from expert who knows theology well and an can explain the sacrament of marriage well, what makes it sacramental, and how does it apply to their lives."

With the mentor couples working with the engaged couples, the one day seminar will be able to put more time on the Sacrament and theology portion of marriage as well as family planning, according to Dawson.

The monthly Together for Life draws about 15 to 25 couples per session or about 250 couples per year while Engaged Encounter sees about 15 couples per year. According to Dawson, two or three parishes have already been using the mentor couple concept with 15 to 20 couples, depending on the size of the parish, each year.

The Prepare/Enrich program has been embraced by many dioceses around the country and has had a great reception from the U.S. bishops.

The parishes have been asked to recruit one mentor couple for each two or three marriages a year. "They are asked to handpick them because they know them and their situations," Dawson said. There were 35 couples in the first training and Dawson expects more in the April session. If a parish does not have mentor couples, the pastor would be trained, he noted.

Newly instituted for the marriage prep program is the ability to register on line and pay fees for the Prepare/Enrich Inventory as well as select, register, and pay for the Together for Life Seminar.

If a couple does not have Internet access at home, they can either go to their parish to register online or come to office at 411 Iris Street in Lake Charles and use one of several computers designated for that purpose in the Marriage and Family office. Call 337-439-7400 for information

The process applies to anyone and any age, according to Dawson.

"Prepare/Enrich tailors its questions to your unique situation," he said. "If you are older than 55, you will get a different set of questions; if you already have children, a different set of questions; if you are already married and want to enrich your marriage, you will get a different set of questions; if you are living together, different set. All of these situations totally change the dynamic. If you are getting your marriage convalidated, again another set of questions.

"After the initial registration online, the office will send via e-mail a link to take the Prepare/Enrich Inventory," Dawson continued. "Of course, if you go to the parish or here at the office, that can be done right then and takes only 30 to 45 minutes."

The entire process is designed to help keep couples together after the marriage, to help couples see they are not in it on their own, that there are others out there, Dawson noted.

"Nobody can succeed in marriage by yourself," he said. "I think that is why divorce rate is so high, we are not looking for others who can help us. Those who have been through this before with the help of God."

If an engaged couple cannot take advantage of mentor couple there are several options, according to Dawson.

"They would take the Prepare/Enrich Inventory and then attend an Engaged Encounter Weekend," he said. "This is a three-day, two-night program, with an intense focus on the relationship and breaks down things together. If that is not possible, then there is catholicmarriageprep.com - a multi-week online program that connects the couple with a mentor couple somewhere in the country. It is not face-to-face but is still a very good program."

Diocesan Briefs.....

Dominican Sisters to speak March 25

LAKE CHARLES – Two religious women from the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecelia Motherhouse in Nashville, Tenn., will offer a presentation on consecrated life for high school and college age young women at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, in the Community Center of St. Henry Catholic Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue.

The sisters will answer questions about their lives and the beautiful fulfillment they find in being a bride of Christ. Dinner will be provided.

Dinner auction at Our Lady of Prompt Succor

SULPHUR -- Our Lady of Prompt Catholic Church and Our Lady's School will begin the annual Family Fest with a special dinner auction on Thursday, April 24, in the Father Egidio Vecchio Hall. Funds raised will assist in the building a gym for the school.

The event kicks off at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$25 each or a table of eight can be purchased for \$250.

The highlight auction item will be a special dinner for eight with Bishop Glen John Provost at his residence - L'Évêché -- with a social hour, entertainment on the piano by the Bishop, and dinner.

The festival begins in earnest on Friday, April 25, at 6 p.m. and concludes at 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27.

April prayer breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES – The next Men's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost is Friday, April 4 in Ave Maria Hall. The breakfast is preceded by 6:30 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Women's Prayer Luncheon is set for Wednesday, April 2 in Ave Maria Hall.

Women should send a check for \$15, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Gaynell Carrier, P.O. Box 3223, Lake

Charles, LA 70602-3223, and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

"Holy Hour to Discern Vocation"

OBERLIN – The next "Holy Hour to Discern My Vocation," a ministry of "VOCARÉ and the Office of Vocations, is Sunday, April 6, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The program is designed for young men age 15 and older seeking to know God's will in their lives and intended to give them a united effort of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

The hour of adoration is followed by refreshments and fraternity.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat scheduled

LAKE CHARLES – A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend is set for Friday through Sunday, July 18-22 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff.

Call Rachel's Vineyard of Southwest Louisiana at 337-439-7400, Ext. 317 or e-mail rachel.vineyard@lcdiocese.org for information.

Mass, Adoration for Healing on First Thursdays

HACKBERRY – Mass and Adoration for Healing is held on the First Thursday of each month, next on April 3, in St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church with Father Rommel Tolentino as the celebrant. It begins at 5:30 p.m. with Confessions, a Rosary, and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. The Mass is at 6 p.m. followed by Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration with prayers for healing and deliverance, ending with Benediction.

Together for Life Marriage Prep

MOSS BLUFF – Together for Life, a weekend marriage preparation event sponsored by the Office of Family Life, is Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22. Saturday's events are in

Tabor Retreat House at Saint Charles Center and on Sunday the location changes to the Diocesan Chancery, 414 Iris Street.

For more information, call 337-439-7400, Ext. 301. A registration form is available at www.live.lcdiocese.org/forms.html.

Natural Family Planning Training

LAKE CHARLES – The incredible gift of Natural Family Planning is now available in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Three instructors certified in the Creighton Model Fertility(Care) System work with the Diocese and Dr. David Darbonne.

For more information about training contact Bonnie Kron at 337-377-7953; Laura Hobgood at 338-480-1280; Jackie Stewart at 337-540-8959 or the office of Dr. Darbonne at 337-474-3883.

Engaged Encounter Weekend upcoming

MOSS BLUFF – A Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held Friday through Sunday, July 11-13, in Saint Katharine Drexel Center at Saint Charles Center.

Registration fee is \$190 per couple.

Contact Paul and Carolyn Trahan at 337-898-9257 or 337-254-8947, or e-mail cee.trahan@gmail.com for information or to register.

St. Joseph Table at LeBleu Settlement

LEBLEU SETTLEMENT - St. Joseph Catholic Chapel held its annual St. Joseph Table on March 16 with Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May presenting the history of the Table to the community and guests.

Requested to serve as The Holy Family were Aaron Natali, Joe Natali, and Gabrielle Carrier. There were several tables of St. Joseph breads, pies, cakes, and other foods. Along with the meatless spaghetti dinner were a variety of vegetables used to commemorate the Feast Day.