



## Holcomb tells shocking tale of “dream turned nightmare”

LAKE CHARLES – Meeting a rock and roll superstar in the early 1970s was a dream for many young people. Such a meeting and the subsequent three-year relationship turned into a nightmare for one 16-year old girl. Julia Holcomb was that girl in 1973 and her meeting with Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler would eventually bring her close to death from a fire and the horrific saline abortion of the couple’s child that she carried. Now, these years later, Holcomb travels the country speaking at events like last December’s Pro-Life Dinner sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles telling her story.

Holcomb, married for 33 years and the mother of seven children, told the story of her early childhood, her meeting with Tyler backstage at a Portland, Ore., concert, her mother’s signing over of her guardianship to Tyler, and the sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll lifestyle they lived. She talked also of her feelings about the abortion, the child she never knew, and the vastly different life she has lived since those terrible days, including her experience with the Rachel’s Vineyard post-abortive retreat program.

“I am here to be silent no more about the worst sin I ever committed in my life,” Holcomb said. “There have been 60 million abortions since *Roe v Wade* (1973) in the United States. Almost one in three women have had an abortion and I am one of those women. As a Priest for Life and Silent No More spokesperson, with all my heart I want you to know that I regret my abortion.

“Abortion leaves a trail of victims,” she continued. “Of the 60 million abortions since 1973, over 60 percent involve coercion of the woman.”

The women are often made to choose between the baby and the street. “I wish I had chosen the street ... somehow, God would have helped me,” Holcomb said.

“If you know someone in your life who has had an abortion, I would encourage you to remind them that God is loving and forgiving and that they should begin to make the path back to God on their knees asking for forgiveness, trusting humbly that he will

forgive them and help. If you know someone who might be considering having an abortion, I would encourage you to remind them that abortion is never the answer. If you choose life that is an answer you can live with.”

The banquet provided funding for a number of diocesan pro-life ministries, including Rachel’s Vineyard/Silent No More (healing abortion one weekend at a time/ men and women do regret their abortion); The Gabriel Project (making abortion unthinkable) and the Youth Pilgrims that traveled to March for Life in Washington DC.

For information on Rachel’s Vineyard retreats and the Gabriel Project, call 337-439-7400, Ext. 317 or e-mail [rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.org](mailto:rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.org).

You can read Holcomb’s full story on the Priest’s For Life website at <http://www.priestsforlife.org/testimonies/2155-The-Light-of-the-World---the-Steven-Tyler-and-Julia-Holcomb-story>.

## Forty Days of Lent

Lent began on Wednesday, Feb. 18. At the top left is a graphic of the three traditional pillars of the penitential season. (CNS graphic/Nancy Wiechec). At the top

right side is a graphic that includes the Scripture passage, “He fasted for forty days and forty nights,” from a Mass reading for Ash Wednesday. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson).

## Broad consultation for October Synod of Bishops

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost has requested Rickard Newman, director of the Office of Family Life of the Diocese, to coordinate the consultation process of the clergy and faithful requested by the Holy See for the upcoming XIV Ordinary Synod of Bishops, next October in Rome. That Synod’s theme is “The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World.”

To facilitate that consultation, questions will be asked

of groups such as the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and various others involved with Marriage and Family Life. In addition, an open forum will be in the Assembly Room of the Chancery, 414 Iris Street, at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

For information on the consultation, contact the Office of Marriage and Family Life at 337-439-7400, Ext. 307.

The principal document to be used in the consultation is the *Relatio Synodi*, or the *Lineamenta*, that

came out of last year’s III Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in Rome. A thoughtful reading and reflection of the document, which can be found in English on the Vatican website at [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/synod/documents/rc\\_synod\\_doc\\_20110202\\_lineamenta-xiii-assembly\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20110202_lineamenta-xiii-assembly_en.html), is necessary in order to provide well thought-out responses on serious challenges to family life and to marriage.



Julia Holcomb, left, was the guest speaker at the annual Pro-Life Dinner sponsored by the Office of Family Life and Pro Life of the Diocese. She told of her relationship as a teenager with rock star Steven Tyler and the horror of near death and a forced abortion. Others on the dais, from left, were Rickard Newman, director of Family Life and Pro-Life; his wife, Alana; Marjorie Long, Site Leader for Rachel’s Vineyard and The Gabriel Project; and her husband Kenneth.



Bishop Glen John Provost, at podium, prays a blessing at the January Pro-Life Banquet over the pilgrims who attended the 42nd Annual March for Life held in Washington. More than 300 youth, young adults, adult chaperones and diocesan staff attended the March on the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v Wade* decision making abortion legal. The decision has led to more than 60 million children killed by abortion since that day – January 22, 1973. More photos of the March are on page 3.

## Marriage preparation classes set

LAKE CHARLES – The next available Together for Life marriage preparation class is Saturday, April 11, in the Chancery Building at 414 Iris Street.

Remaining dates for the year are: May 16, June 20, August 1, September 12, October 10, and November 21.

Secure a registration form by contacting the Office of

Family Life, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, by phone at 337-439-7400, or register on-line at [live.lcdioocese.org](http://live.lcdioocese.org) by clicking the “Support the Diocese” button and then the Together for Life, Prepare-Enrich link, and pay by either credit card or e-check.

Registration fee is \$100 per couple and includes the Prepare/Enrich Online As-

essment, the seminar, lunch, and materials.

Classes fill quickly; therefore couples should not delay in securing and mailing in the registration form. If the requested date is full, the couple is placed in the next available class. Contact Office of Family Life 337-439-7400 Ext. 307 for more information.

## Annual Catholic Schools Week Mass celebrated

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the celebrant and homilist of the annual Catholic Schools Week Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, Jan. 27, the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. The Bishop remained following the liturgy talking with the students in attendance and answering their questions.

Eighth grade students from the Catholic schools in the Diocese along with the senior class of St. Louis Catholic High School were present. The St. Louis Choir sang before the Mass and music was provided during the liturgy by the choir from Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings. Teachers, principals and staff members from each school also attended.

Clergy concelebrating included Rev. Msgr. James Gaddy, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Rev. John Huckaby, St. Theodore; Rev. Rommel Tolentino, Cathedral, Rev. Nathan Long, Our Lady of

Good Counsel, Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich, St. Margaret of Scotland, and Rev. William Miller, St. Margaret of Scotland. Rev. Ruben Buller was the master of ceremonies while Deacon Chris Fontenot and Deacon Stephen Starr attended Bishop Provost.

The seven Catholic schools in the Diocese are St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; Our Lady’s Catholic School, Sulphur; Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings; and St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff.

In his homily, Bishop Provost thanked the pastors, principals, and superintendent of Catholic Schools for all they do for catholic education here in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

He noted that the scripture verse that appeared in the day’s Gospel of Mark, as well as Matthew is important

to remember.

“The mystery of the kingdom of God has been granted to you,” the Bishop said. “Jesus said these words to his apostles, to those most intimately called by him. He added, and it is translated in various ways, ‘there are those who will not understand the parables, who will not understand what he is saying but that is alright because to you has been entrusted the mysteries of the kingdom of God.’”

The Bishop noted that it was the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, “one of greatest geniuses the world has ever known, a priest that lived about 800 years ago and taught at the University of Paris, whose knowledge reached far and wide. Some say much of modern thought is either a development of or a reaction to his ideas... particularly in ethics, natural law, metaphysics and political theory.”

“Aquinas is considered patron of catholic schools,” The Bishop continued.

See SCHOOLS, Page 6



Bishop Glen John Provost stands with representatives of the seven Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles in front of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception before the annual celebration of the Mass on Tuesday, Jan. 27, during Catholic Schools Week. Students pictured include Kate O’Byrne and Joshua France, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Isabella Lundy, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School; Grace Richert, Our Lady’s Catholic School, Sulphur; Zachary Boullt and Kari Bushnell, St. Louis Catholic High School; Michael O’Brien, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings; Jillian Primeaux, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School; and Matthew Fontenot, Holy Family Catholic School, Moss Bluff.



# 2015 LENTEN PASTORAL LETTER

## The Rosary: Mary Points the Way to Jesus Christ

My Dear People of God,  
One of my earliest and most vivid childhood memories is taking a walk with my mother. When she had finished her work in the evening, she would take me by the hand and we would walk together under the oaks that surrounded the university campus which lay across the street from our home.

For me the rosary is a walk with my mother. Mary, our Mother, takes all of us by the hand and leads us through the mysteries of her Son's life, the joyous, sorrowful, glorious and luminous moments that teach us all we need to know about what He came to do—redeem us from our sins. Each decade of ten salutations to Mary guides us in our journey with the Lord from His birth through His public ministry, to His suffering, death and resurrection. The gentle recitation of Mary's prayer forms a backdrop for reflecting on these mysteries revealed to us in the Sacred Scriptures.

We come to know Jesus Christ through His mysteries. Recall the famous episode in the Gospel of St. Matthew when the disciples wondered why Jesus taught in parables. Why not speak plainly? Jesus answered them saying, "Because of the knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). The parables could be enigmatic. This was as it should be because the prophet Isaiah had foretold that when the Messiah came there would be those who heard but did not understand, looked but did not see (Matthew 13:14-15). However, the disciples were to have a wise and knowledgeable insight into what Jesus was revealing. Jesus was so intent on their understanding these mysteries that at times He even explained the parables to the disciples (cf. Matthew 13:18ff; 13:36ff.).

So the mysteries are entrusted to us. Like a precious gift given to us by a mother, we embrace the mystery, observe it, ponder it, and delve into it. Before each decade of the rosary, a mystery is introduced, and it rests in our mind so that our thoughts might revolve around it and then enter into it. In this way, we kneel in a room at Nazareth when Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of God (Luke 1:26-38). We run to the Manger at Bethlehem to join the shepherds in adoration (Luke 2:15-20). We listen to the words of Simeon as he acknowledges Jesus as Messiah (Luke 2:29-32). We are present as Jesus begins His proclamation of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:17-20). The mysteries of His life become our atmosphere, the air that we breathe, as we wander the streets of Jerusalem, sit in the synagogue of Capernaum, recline at the table of the Last Supper, mourn at the foot of the cross, marvel at the empty tomb, gaze as Jesus ascends, receive the fire of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room, and await fulfillment of the Church's hope with the "woman clothed with sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Revelation 12:1).

When we visit an art gallery, look at photographs of our vacation, or stand in awe of a beautiful landscape, the object re-

mains external to us. But the rosary allows us to take into ourselves the object or objects of our faith, to kneel or sit with the mystery that consumes our attention, feeds our imagination and engages our love. And, we must never forget, it is the Sacred Scriptures that inform us.

The Rosary is a Scriptural prayer. The prayers we recite come to us from the Gospels. The Our Father from St. Matthew (Matthew 6:9-13; cf. Luke 11:2-4). The Hail Mary from St. Luke (Luke 2:28, 42). Their repetition forms the background for the action of the mysteries we contemplate, like scenery for a play or the strumming of a guitar for the singer. If we see the repetition in this way, then we understand its true purpose.

But allow me to address a common complaint from some about the rosary. They find it too repetitious, even monotonous. Didn't Jesus warn us against needless repetition?

In answer I begin with human experience and return to the walks with my mother. Parents don't accompany their child once and then never again. A father doesn't take his son fishing once in his life. A mother doesn't cook one meal to remember always and then never again. No, this is not human. My mother went walking with me frequently. You might even call it a routine. I call it love.

We don't tell someone we love that person only once. A husband doesn't say, "Well, I told my wife I loved her on our wedding day. That's enough." This would be ridiculous. Love requires repetition. So do the words that express it. So do the actions that prove it. So does prayer, if it has any meaning.

But didn't Jesus say that we should "not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words" (Matthew 6:7)? What did He mean? All we need do is read ancient pagan prayers, which can be found in any good library or history book of the period, to understand what Jesus meant. The babbling or repetition had to do with superstition. The pagans were obsessed with "getting it right." Jesus wanted to save us from this. So, Jesus adds, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:8). Jesus is not admonishing us not to pray. Jesus wants us to pray, or as St. Paul will teach us, "[P]ray at every opportunity" (Ephesians 6:18) and "Persevere in prayer" (Colossians 4:2). For this reason, we must never be afraid to bring prayer into our homes.

The family rosary is an excellent opportunity for us to bring the power of prayer into our midst. Our liturgical prayers, like the Mass and the other sacraments, have their proper place in our churches. Very often we pray with the Scriptures where we work, recreate or study. The rosary can be with us



**Bishop  
Glen John  
Provost**

anywhere, but primarily in our homes around the dining room table or kneeling before sleep or beginning a day of work.

Daily praying the rosary is a superb way to bring a family together. In today's frantic world, the family is torn apart by a multitude of competing interests. Extra-curricular school activities, rehearsals, practices, tournaments, tutoring, and lessons are added to the occupations and obligations of the parents that can create an illusion that something is actually being accomplished. When we fill our lives with too much, we lose sight of what really matters in life. The difference between a group photograph and a portrait is the difference between many and one. The lens of our camera needs adjustment. The quiet pause of the family rosary can help to focus on the One who really matters to us.

The family rosary brings into our homes the mysteries that we celebrate in our churches. In this way the faith ceases to be compartmentalized, as something we do only at church on Sunday. The gift of faith is not meant to be left behind when we drive out of the church parking lot. Mary, as it were, takes the family by the hand and leads us through the mysteries of her Son. There is no babbling here, no useless repetition. Instead, we have a watchful mother who leads her children to the Son. "[K]nowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven" belongs to us.

Through the rosary, the family comes together. Quarrels and disagreements cease. A husband and wife can forget their personal troubles or, better yet, bring them to prayer, where they belong. Children can join their brothers and sisters, laying aside the petty differences that divide them, turning off the distractions of electronic media, and recollect themselves. Perhaps such quiet moments can teach us something about silence which is so necessary for listening to God.

May Mary's prayers bring our families together, especially as we prepare for our Holy Father's visit to the United States in September for the gathering of our families. May Christ live in our hearts and in our homes.

With prayers for your intentions, that Lent be a time of renewal for you and your families, I remain  
Devotedly yours in our Lord,

+Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

## Rite of Election Sunday, Feb. 22, in Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES – The Rite of Election, the recognition of God's choice to call catechumens for immediate initiation into the Church, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 22, the First Sunday of Lent, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will preside and meet the more than 200 catechumens and candidates.

The rite closes the period of the catechumenate, and begins the preparation for baptism at Easter. Catechumens who undergo this rite are called the "Elect" during

the period of purification and enlightenment.

Two elements are key to the Rite of Election: the inscription of the names of the Elect, and the testimony of godparents and catechists. Testimony occurs in the form of affirmation by the godparents and the assembly. After the catechumens are presented, the Bishop asks the godparents if they consider the candidates worthy for initiation. This question and answer presumes that some deliberation has taken place prior to this moment. The Rite of Election brings to a ritual moment the decision

that these catechumens are ready for baptism.

The inscription is made in the Book of the Elect of the names by which the Elect will be baptized. After the enrollment, the Bishop announces that the catechumens are members of the Elect. All offer prayers on their behalf.

Baptized candidates, preparing for full communion with the Church, are asked to participate in the rite of calling the candidates to continuing conversion. The candidates along with their sponsors are presented to the Bishop for recognition.



Msignor Daniel A. Torres, pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church, greets one of the Elect and his father during the Rite of Election. Bishop Glen John Provost greeted both the catechumens and candidates that afternoon. The Rite of Election this year is Sunday, February 22.

## Power Up in Faith set Thursday, March 26

LAKE CHARLES – Power Up in Faith, an event sponsored by the Christus St. Patrick Foundation and Christus Home Care, Hospice and Palliative Care, will feature LaDonna Gatlin, sister to the legendary Gatlin Brothers and a nationally recognized motivational speaker on Thursday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Reeves Uptown Catering.

The non-denominational evening is a dinner for men and women of faith to come together to hear a message that will help them renew their faith, refresh their energy, and recharge their souls. It also provides uninsured and underserved patient services through CHRISTUS Home Care Hospice and Palliative Care-St. Patrick.

Tickets are \$50 each and available online at [www.stpatrickfoundation.org](http://www.stpatrickfoundation.org) or the office of Christus Hospice and Palliative Care, 4444 Lake Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605.

There are a number of other sponsorship opportunities available as well. Levels of sponsorship include FAITH - \$5,000, sponsors the speaker and area pastors, a reserved table for eight; logo/name on

all media advertising, a banner at the event; HOPE - \$2,500, reserved table for 8 guests; name on all media advertising, a banner at the event, and recognition at event; TRUST - \$1,000, six tickets, signage at the event; BELIEVE - \$500, four tickets and signage at event; and PEACE - \$250, two tickets and signage at the event.

Direct donations are gladly accepted as well.

Donations to be confirmed on or before Monday, March 16.

Payments by check should be addressed - Check should be addressed to: CHRISTUS St. Patrick Foundation, 524 Dr. Michael De-



**LaDonna Gatlin**

Bake Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601

Make checks payable to: CHRISTUS St. Patrick Foundation - Memo: Power Up in Faith. For more information call Debbie Lacassin, Event Chair at (337) 499-3239 or Christus St. Patrick Foundation, TIN: 72-0411322 at (337) 430-5353

## Hot showers, a shave, haircuts at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Hot showers, a soapy shave and spiffy haircuts are available for free for those whom the Vatican calls "our homeless pilgrims."

Thanks to charitable contributions from Pope Francis and private donors, the Vatican has finished remodeling

and expanding a public bathroom a few steps from Bernini's Colonnade, surrounding St. Peter's Square.

The Vatican announced Feb. 6 that the construction work was finished and that the updated bathrooms now include three showers and a barber's chair.

## Discover your treasure, share with others, pope tells young people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Everyone is born with a treasure chest of gifts and talents that they need to discover and share, Pope Francis told a group of young people with disabilities who explained to him how technology has brought them joy and helps them communicate.

Seven young people from six countries shared their stories with the pope and asked him questions Feb. 5 during a Google Hangout, a live video conversation online.

"You help us understand that life is a beautiful treasure that has meaning only if we share," the pope told the young people.

Alicia, a 16-year-old amateur filmmaker from Spain, asked Pope Francis if he, too, likes to take photographs and upload them to his computer.

"Do you want me to tell you the truth," he asked the young woman with Down syndrome. "I am a disaster with machines. I don't know how to deal with a computer. It's embarrassing, isn't it?"

The videochat with the pope came at the conclusion of a gathering in the Vatican of Scholas Occurrentes, a project Pope Francis

supported as archbishop of Buenos Aires and expanded as pope. Through schools it links students from different neighborhoods, countries, economic backgrounds and faiths to promote communication, understanding and cooperation.

Isaiah Bauer from Kearney High School in Kearney, Nebraska, and his schoolmate Teynor Karson also were part of the Google Hangout. Bauer told the pope he has difficulty keeping up with his studies and that his "lack of fine motor skills" slows down his writing and typing.

"What do you do when you face something difficult?" Bauer asked the pope.

"First, I try not to get angry, stay calm. Then I try to figure out how to do it, to overcome the difficulty. If that is not possible, I try to endure it until I have the possibility of overcoming it," he said. "We should not be afraid of difficulty. We are capable of overcoming anything, but we need time to understand, intelligence and courage to keep moving forward."

Manoj Kumar, a 13-year-old from India, who told the pope he is a big fan of Bruce

Lee films on YouTube, asked the pope how the Scholas Occurrentes project can help young people.

"Building bridges, communicating with each other," the pope responded. "When you communicate with each other, giving the best of what you have inside and receiving the best from others, this is very important. When we do not communicate we are left alone with our limitations and this is bad for us."

Pope Francis ended the conversation with the young people by telling them and the thousands of other children watching online around the world, "All of you have a chest, a box, and inside there is a treasure. Your job is to open the chest, discover the treasure, develop it, give it to others and receive from others the treasures of your treasure."

"Each one of us has a treasure inside," he said. "If we keep it there, closed up, it will stay there. If we share it with others, the treasure will multiply with the treasures that come from others. What I want to ask of you is that you do not hide the treasure that each of you has."



# Diocese of Lake Charles March for Life Pilgrimage • Jan. 18-23



More than 300 pilgrims, including youth, young adults, seminarians, adult chaperones, staff, clergy, and religious arrived at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in the early morning hours of Jan. 18 (photo 1). They boarded buses (photo 2) for the 20-hour ride to Washington, DC for the National March for Life Rally on the anniversary of the 1973 *Roe v Wade* U.S. Supreme Court decision making abortion legal. Enroute, the pilgrims stopped in Nashville and prayed with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, (photo 3), led by Father Nathan Long (kneeling). In photo 4, pilgrims stand and pray before the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Photo 5 shows Lake Charles pilgrims kneeling in prayer in front of the White House. In photo 6, pilgrims from Lake Charles are seated at right in blue shirts, with *DOLC* printed on them, as they joined thousands of others at the opening Mass (photo 7) of the National Prayer Vigil at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 21. Students, staff, and parents are seen in photo 8 standing in front of the Washington Monument. Photo 9 shows Lake Charles pilgrims at a rally before the beginning of the March on Jan. 22. Photo 10 shows Father Long, center, along with student and adult pilgrims preparing for the March. During the March, in photo 11, Bishop Glen John Provost was able to use a portable public address system to speak to Lake Charles pilgrims. On the day of the March, Bishop Provost celebrated Mass in Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown, the oldest Catholic Church in Washington, established in 1787. This was the second year that the Bishop and pilgrims were able to gather together, something not all dioceses have the opportunity to do. In photo 12, after a long week and assorted slowdowns on the journey home, the pilgrims arrived back in Lake Charles in the early morning hours of Saturday, Jan. 24.

## Marriage is topic for April 14 talk at Catholic Student Center

LAKE CHARLES – The Catholic Student Center at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church will host a talk by Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D., a William E. Simon Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14. Anderson is a member of the DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society. His recent work at Heritage focuses on the constitutional questions surrounding same-sex “marriage.” He is the co-author with Princeton’s Robert P. George and Sheriff Girgis of the acclaimed book “What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense” (Encounter Books, December 2012). Justice Samuel Alito cited the book twice in his dissenting opinion in the Supreme Court case involving the Defense of Marriage Act. The three also co-wrote the article “What is Marriage?” in the winter 2011 issue of *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*. Anderson is also the editor of *Public Discourse*, the online journal of the Witherspoon Institute of Princeton, N.J. In addition to a memorable 2013 debate about marriage on CNN’s “Piers Morgan Live,” Anderson’s has appeared on

CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC. His work has been featured in or published by major newspapers and magazines, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Examiner*, *National Review*, *Weekly Standard* and *Christianity Today*. It also has appeared in journals such as *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *First Things*, *Claremont Review of Books*, *New Atlantis*, *Touchstone*, *Books and Culture*, *The City and Human Life Review*. Anderson received his B.A. from Princeton University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude. He earned his doctoral degree in political philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, where he received his master’s degree. His research spans the natural law tradition in conversation with classical and contemporary liberalism. His dissertation, which he defended in October 2014, is titled: “Neither Liberal nor Libertarian: A Natural Law Approach to Social Justice and Economic Rights.” Anderson, who was born in Baltimore, Md., currently resides in Washington, D.C.



Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D.

## Lenten Mission with Fr. Pisegna set at St. Martin

LAKE CHARLES – Father Cedric Pisegna, C.P., a Passionist priest from Houston will lead a Lenten Mission at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church from Sunday, March 1 through Tuesday, March 3. The mission begins daily at 7 p.m. and will include a Reconciliation Service on Tuesday. St. Martin de Porres is located at 5495 Elliot Road. Fr. Pisegna’s television program “Live with Passion!” airs nationally on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), locally on Sunday at 7 a.m. He is one of only two Catholic priests with programming on TBN and his offerings are designed to inspire and encourage believers. For more information call the church office at 337-478-3845 or visit the website at [www.smdpcatholic.com](http://www.smdpcatholic.com).

## Saint Charles Center schedule of events

MOSS BLUFF – The program of events in late February and March at Saint Charles Center will include a Lenten Silent Preached Retreat, sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley, from Friday, Feb. 27 to Sunday, March 1 at Tabor Retreat House.

“Finding the Tiny Whispering Sound,” will be presented by Fr. Tim Goodly, pastor of St. Pius. This annual retreat is open to all. Suggested donation is \$180.00 for a private room, and \$160.00 each for a shared room. Sr. Diane Depwe will lead “Let Go, Let God” on Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. Registration deadline is Friday, February 20. The suggested donation of \$20.00 includes supper.

Lenten Private Directed Retreats will be led by Fr. Miller, Fr. Piraro, Judy Savoie and Gloria Villegas from Monday, March 9 to Sunday, March 15. The retreatant may choose to do three or five days. For more information or to register, you must call the Center at (337) 855-1232. Suggested donation is \$265.00 for three days or \$440.00 for five days. There is also a Lenten Introduction to the Directed Retreat from Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15. This weekend introduction helps the retreatant learn the

prayer technique and prepares the person for a longer retreat. You must call the Center to register at (337) 855-1232. Suggested donation is \$265.00. “Saving America,” presented by Sr. Diane Depwe is Tuesday, March 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. Registration deadline is Friday, March 13 and the suggested donation is \$20.00. Father Piraro will lead the spring Spiritual Book Club from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17. The selection is “Backpacking with the Saints, Wilderness Hiking as Spiritual Practice” by Belden Lane. The suggested donation of \$20.00 includes supper. Registration deadline is Friday, March 13.

Penance Night in the Assumption Chapel of the Saint Charles Center is Thursday, March 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. with Fr. Miller and Fr. Piraro. A Women’s Lenten Silent Retreat, sponsored by the women of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, is Friday, March 27 to Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday Weekend. “The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus in Light of Human Experience: Praying the Third and Fourth Weeks of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola” is presented by Fr. Steve Kimmons, S.J. This silent retreat is open to all women. Suggested donation is \$190.00 for

a private room and \$170.00 each for shared accommodations, and \$75.00 for commuters. Contact Elaine Trahan at (337) 474-0178 or the Center for more information. Scholarship information is available upon request. Information on all programs can be obtained by calling 337-855-1232 or visiting [stcharlescenter.com](http://stcharlescenter.com). Saint Charles Center stands as a place apart, offering an atmosphere of serenity and peace, where one can achieve spiritual renewal and growth – rediscovering life’s meaning in quiet reflection and is located at 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway in Moss Bluff.

## Pope Francis to address Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) – House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, announced Feb. 5 that Pope Francis will address a joint meeting of Congress Sept. 24. The pontiff’s “historic visit” would make him the “first leader of the Holy See to address a joint meeting of Congress,” Boehner said. Boehner noted that “in a time of global upheaval, the Holy Father’s message of compassion and human dignity has moved people of all faiths and backgrounds.”



# Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity held

LAKE CHARLES – The Week of Jesus for Christian Unity was celebrated in the Diocese of Lake Charles from January 18-25 and highlighted with an Ecumenical Prayer Service held in the First Baptist Church.

Rev. Archimandrite Herbert J. May, pastor, of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole, presented the message.

The annual event is sponsored jointly by the Imperial Calcasieu Cadre of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, The Lake Area Ministers Group, and members of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.

During the processional, participants poured water into a common bowl symbolizing the ‘water and spirit’ shared despite creedal differences.

In beginning, Father May noted that act by saying “We gather tonight, as did Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, despite our ecclesial and theological differences, to pray that Christ will gift us with the ‘living water’ that will enable us to continue to pray and work for unity among all Christians.”

The Gospel reading from St. John (4:4-15) – Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well – provided the basis for the service.

“From Jesus’ request of the woman to ‘Give me a drink,’ comes a dialogue,” Father May said. “A dialogue in which the differences of theology and practice of the Jewish peoples and the Samaritans becomes apparent.

“Even more important is that Jesus, despite being of a different position and belief than the Samaritan woman, finds in her and her belief something that she can ‘give/share’ with Him while also offering her something that she does not have and can only find in her.”

Father May pointed out that the Scriptures of the evening “remind us of truths that are

most important” for those gathered.

“First, like Jesus and the Samaritan woman, we must know and own our personal faiths with its beliefs and traditions,” he said. “Second, recognizing that we come from different churches and beliefs, we must respect each other and each other’s positions; and beliefs.

“We must be willing to share our beliefs with others while at the same time allowing others to share their beliefs with us and finally, we must recognize that while we have more in common when it comes to faith and how we live it, that we have by way of difference,” Father May said.

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem traces its foundations to the third century in Jerusalem where an order of hermit-monks provided medical care to pilgrims who came to the Holy City. To his “hospitaller order was added a military dimension in the Middle Ages, when Knights who had come on crusade became ill and joined with the ministering monks to provide care to the ill and protection from hostile forces.

In 1772, the Order was secularized in Europe and, by 1837, was placed under the spiritual care of the Catholic Patriarch of Antioch. The Order was revived in the United States in the 1900s and currently consists of over 2,500 members worldwide and has as its mission/purpose, the restoration of unity among all Christians and on-going care for the ill and suffering.

Others taking part in the event included Dr. Bruce Baker, First Baptist Church; Rev. Dr. Bobbie Yellott, Rev. Darrell Bourgeois, Sir John Halloran, Deacon Erroll DeVillie, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church; Rev. Erica R. Jenkins, Rev. Chandler Willis, and Rev. Paul Pettefer. Music was provided by the Sacred Heart of Jesus Men’s Choir.



Rev. Archimandrite Herbert J. May reflected on the scriptural readings of the evening at the annual Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity held First Baptist Church in downtown Lake Charles on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Father May is pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole. The Imperial Calcasieu Cadre of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, The Lake Area Ministers Group, and members of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference sponsor the event.

# Vocation Drawing Contest entries now being sought

LAKE CHARLES – Once again this year, the Diocese of Lake Charles will conduct a Vocation Drawing Contest for all students grades two through 12, in preparation for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, set for Sunday, April 26.

The drawing must be done on an 8.5 by 11 inch white sheet of poster board and depict the awareness of the vocation to the priesthood in the Southwest Louisiana. Drawings must be turned into the Office of the Vicar General, Msgr. Daniel Torres, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, by noon on Thursday, March 5. It must be placed, unfolded, in a large envelope with the following information printed on the back - the name of the artist, their age, grade, church parish attending/city, and name of school indicating. The envelope should indicate that it is an entry for the Vocation Drawing Contest.

Winners will be announced by Friday, March 20.

First place will receive \$200, second place, \$100, and third place \$50. The first place winner will have their drawing reproduced on prayer cards in observance of World Day of Prayer for Vocations and distributed April 26 at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, celebrated by Bishop Glen John Provost, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



Above is last year’s first place image in the Vocation Drawing Contest, sponsored by the Office of Seminarians and Vocations. Claire Adams, a student at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School and a parishioner at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, was the top artist.

# Lenten Regulations

In order to enter more deeply into the life of Christ, every Catholic is to participate in some way in the spiritual and penitential disciplines of Lent. The regulations for the Church in the United States are as follows:

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. Concerning the Good Friday fast, the fathers of the Second Vatican Council encouraged us to prolong it, if possible, “throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with a clear and uplifted mind.”
- The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals during the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may voluntarily embrace these disciplines, if possible. Remember, Lenten disciplines should never endanger one’s health. Therefore, consult your doctor. Those who are truly unable to participate in the prescribed disciplines may participate in other ways. For example, one might fast or abstain from permissible forms of entertainment, replacing them with increased prayer and devotions.
- Divine and Natural Law holds that all the faithful are morally bound to do penance. The Fourth Precept of the Church obliges Catholics to observe the penance of fasting and abstinence for the specified days of Lent. Blessed Paul VI affirmed that the substantial observance of Lenten days of penance binds gravely. The Five Precepts of the Church as a whole are the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor. They are the minimal response to the call of Jesus and true Christian conversion.
- The season of Lent is an opportunity for Catholics and all Christians to grow in faith. However, spiritual and penitential disciplines are to overflow into the whole year. The Fridays **outside** of Lent, those Fridays throughout the calendar year, are also days of penance and spiritual discipline. Abstaining from meat is the traditional way of observing these days of penance. However, **outside** of Lent, each person may replace the traditional observance with some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance. For example, abstinence from meat may be replaced with abstinence from some other food. One may spend more time praying with and studying the Scriptures, praying devotionals such as the rosary or making visits to the Blessed Sacrament, performing acts of thoughtfulness and charity to those in need, performing acts of personal witness to one’s faith such as teaching a religion class or speaking out on social evils like abortion, euthanasia, and racism.

With any penitential discipline, however, both the letter and the spirit are to be maintained. For example, replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with both letter and spirit. Remember, penitential and spiritual disciplines are always appropriate, especially during periods of special need for individuals and communities.

# Seminary burses number 85

LAKE CHARLES – Three recently established seminary burses along with contributions to several others have increased the number of burses to 85 and the amount invested to nearly \$1.7 million.

Three burses were created, two memorial burses – one remembering Earl and Alverdy Vermon and another in the name of the late Father James C. Miles. A burse was also established in the name of Deacon Glen and Tirana Bertrand.

Monies now invested total \$1,648,306.03.

A seminary burse is a permanent fund of which the principal amount is never spent but invested, with the interest used each year for educational expenses of those men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese. Since the principal is never touched, this fund is truly a “gift that will give forever.”

Donations made to any seminary burse will continue to support the education of seminarians in perpetuity. Seminary burses can be established in honor or memory of a loved one, in the name or memory of especially well-loved priests and religious (there are a number of these types of burses already established) or in the name of an organization.

Contributions may be added to current burses at any time. Checks, made payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, should be sent to Rev. Msgr. Daniel Torres, V.G., Diocese of Lake Charles, P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602-3223 along with a description of the donor’s wishes for the naming of the burse. Please note in the memo portion of the check that the gift is for a seminary burse.

For further information on seminary burses, please call Monsignor Torres at 337-439-7400, Ext. 220 or e-mail: daniel.torres@lediocese.org. A list of burses follow and can be found at live.lediocese.org/vocations/444-seminary-burses.html on the website of the Diocese.

## Diocese of Lake Charles Seminary Burses (As of February 8, 2015)

Msgr. Louis Boudreaux	\$ 6,982.50
Bishop Jeannard	\$ 9,276.69
Latrielle Houssiere	\$ 15,000.00
Charles Houssiere	\$ 15,000.00
Gelu Houssiere	\$ 15,000.00
Henry Houssiere	\$ 15,000.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. Teurlings	\$ 3,092.23
Mr. William Eugene Houssiere	\$ 15,000.00
Israel Hebert Family	\$ 15,000.00
Fr. Moise Hebert	\$ 2,231.66
Pro Ecclesia	\$ 5,203.55
Immaculate Conception	\$ 3,092.23
Saint Joseph	\$ 1,217.93
Lake Charles Seminary	\$ 15,000.00
Cure d’ Ars	\$ 3,092.23
Mr. & Mrs. C. Delahoussaye	\$ 15,000.00
Msgr. Lerschen	\$ 1,203.35
Saint Theresa	\$ 5,356.71
Catholic Daughters of the Americas	\$ 1,666.46
Msgr. Louis Boudreaux	\$ 15,000.00
Herrington Family	\$ 15,000.00
Horvath Family	\$ 12,500.00
Harry Van Tiel Family	\$ 1,031.96
Habetz-O. Van Buijtenen	\$ 5,000.00
Msgr. A. Van Buijtenen	\$ 5,508.00
Msgr. Jules Daigle	\$ 15,000.00
Mr. and Mrs. Galip Jacobs/Sam Joseph	\$ 600.00
Msgr. Charles Levasseur	\$ 70,000.00
Plauche Family	\$ 4,000.00
Rev. Oscar S Vasquez-Munoz	\$ 1,429.00
Msgr. Bede Becnel	\$ 23,652.68
Jeffery Savant	\$ 2,435.00
Rev. Robert Lee Shreve	\$ 25,973.33
Bishop Jude Speyrer	\$ 73,725.73
Our Lady of the Snows/ CDA Court	\$ 20,200.00
Msgr. Curtis Vidrine	\$ 28,689.60
Msgr. Murphy Bernard	\$ 27,476.90
Dr. Alphonse M. Volpe	\$ 25,122.62
East Deaneery Serra Club	\$ 550.00
Msgr. Charles Dubois	\$ 9,926.70
Msgr. Amos J. Vincent	\$ 34,723.21
Rev. Oris A. Broussard	\$ 27,810.66
Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc	\$ 160,127.43
Rev. John Giles	\$ 25,132.21
Rev. Maurice Martineau	\$ 27,087.40
Truman Stacey	\$ 10,382.09
Lorraine Yelverton	\$ 5,050.00
The Ordinarly Family	\$ 50,000.00
Walter Henry/Agnes Stevenson Granger	\$ 40,000.00
Edward Thomas (Tom) Cassidy	\$ 2,000.00
Mitchell Duhon	\$ 252,984.14
Joe and Janet Stoma	\$ 7,250.00
Marion Bonet Courage	\$ 1,000.00
Bill Moriarity	\$ 50.00
Dr. and Mrs. David Buttross, Jr.	\$ 10,000.00
Blessed Pope John Paul II	\$ 1,500.00
Edgar and Penny Perkins	\$ 25,000.00
Angela and Frank Miller	\$ 8,500.00
Rev. Charles Soileau	\$ 42,173.35
Rev. T.L. Herlong/Sr. Pius Blanchard, MHS	\$ 24,343.35
John and Dinah Bradford	\$ 2,500.00
Dr. W. Gerry & Susan Hebert Family	\$ 15,000.00
Ola Mae and F. M. Thornton	\$ 100,000.00
Kenneth and Marjorie Long	\$ 2,000.00
Mr. and Mrs. Earl B. Evans	\$ 9,500.00
Rev. James A. Doyle	\$ 43,763.14
Ray and Dorothy Conner	\$ 275.00
Todd and Missy Theriot Family	\$ 5,000.00
Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Bourque	\$ 57,340.74
Most Holy Trinity	\$ 3,000.00
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Louviere	\$ 2,500.00
Kevin P. Gayle	\$ 10,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. Garrett Caraway, Sr.	\$ 10,000.00
Maurice and Patricia Serice	\$ 2,500.00
Frank and Frances Terranova	\$ 2,000.00
Richard and Worth Miller	\$ 15,000.00
Nancy A. Hayes	\$ 5,000.00
Serra Club of Lake Charles	\$ 1,000.00
Jacob Louis Dietz	\$ 1,000.00
Rev. Whitney Miller, Ph.D., L.P.C.	\$ 4,400.00
Dale and Jennie Reichley	\$ 10,000.00
Benedict XVI	\$ 3,500.00
Earl and Alverdy Veron	\$ 1,000.00
Glen and Tirana Bertrand	\$ 15,000.00
Rev. James C. Miles	\$ 25,676.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,648,306.03</b>

# St. Katharine Drexel Mass March 8

LAKE CHARLES – A mass to commemorate the feast of St. Katharine Drexel, is Sunday, March 8, at 11 a.m. in Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 612 Louisiana Avenue.

St. Katharine, who died in 1955, founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, a congregation of religious women dedicated to Catholic education for Black and Native American peoples. She is the founder of the only Black Catholic University in the western hemisphere, Xavier University of Louisiana. Pope St. John Paul II canonized her on Oct. 1, 2000.



# Celibacy: A Vocation to Love

Recently, while visiting a CCD class, I was asked by one of the children, "Father, do you think you will ever get married?" It was an honest question that I was glad to have the opportunity to answer, and the children were very impressed when I explained to them that I had consecrated my entire life to helping them to get to Heaven, but it was rather startling to realize that it can no longer be taken for granted that Catholics understand the nature of the priestly vocation. And, why should they when the culture in which they are drowning sees little value in self-sacrifice for a higher good. Just look at the ease with which "marriages" are formed and "unformed," the low birth rates, the difficulty of recruiting for military service, and the "crisis" in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

In October of this year, Bishops from around the world will be called to Rome for the Ordinary Synod on the Family. Providentially, this year the whole Church is also celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life, decreed by His Holiness Pope Francis, which began on the First Sunday of Advent and will continue until the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (also called the Presentation of the Lord) on February 2, AD 2016. I say that this is an act of the heavenly Father's providence because the fact of these two, concurrent celebrations in the life of the Church allow us to keep together what should never be separated: the committed love of husband and wife that results in the family (the domestic Church) and the celibate, consecrated love of men and women for Christ, whose "solicitude" for "the things belonging to the Lord" (1 Cor 7:32) reflects for us the Church Triumphant in Heaven, the definitive "family" of Christ our Lord (see Mt. 12:49-50).

In one of his most outstanding Encyclicals, *Familiaris consortio*, written on the family, Saint John Paul II explains (n. 16) that "when marriage is not esteemed, neither can consecrated virginity or celibacy exist; when human sexuality is not regarded as a great value given by the Creator, the renunciation of it for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven loses its meaning. Rightly indeed does St. John Chrysostom say: 'Whoever denigrates marriage also diminishes the glory of virginity.'" What this great Pope would have us understand about celibacy (the lasting commitment to remain unmarried) and

consecrated virginity is that "in virginity or celibacy, the human being is awaiting, also in a bodily way, the eschatological marriage of Christ with the Church...[such that] the celibate person thus anticipates in his or her flesh the new world of the future resurrection."

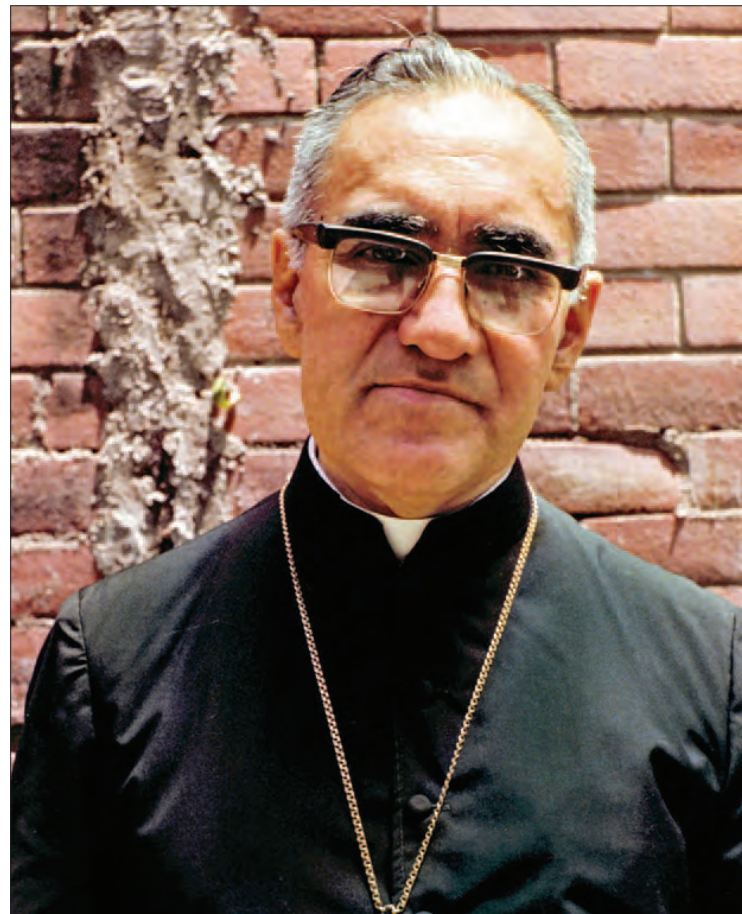
As we prepare this year for a Synod on the Family and as we spend this year growing in our understanding of religious life (which includes in some way the priestly life of celibacy), Saint John Paul II teaches us that it is only by holding in esteem both (true) marriage and the (true) renunciation of marriage that we can understand the place and the irreplaceable value of each for the Church Militant on Earth. Only if marriage is rightly understood to be a great good, even for the Christian, can the renunciation of that good illuminate the magnitude of the Love for Whom this good is sacrificed, which results in a great spiritual "fecundity" redounding to life unending.

Therefore, it is in this context that we can rightly understand the Church's unchanging teaching that the vocation to priesthood and consecrated life represents the highest calling in the life of the Church since, "Virginity or celibacy, by liberating the human heart in a unique way, 'so as to make it burn with greater love for God and all humanity,' bears witness that the 'Kingdom of God and His righteousness' is that pearl of great price which is preferred to every other value no matter how great, and hence must be sought as the only definitive value."

*Rev. D. B. Thompson was ordained for the Diocese of Lake Charles by Bishop Glen John Provost on May 26, 2012. He is the Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, serves as the Co-Chaplain for Hispanic Ministry, and as an Advocate on the Diocesan Tribunal.*



**Rev. D. B. Thompson**



**Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero is pictured in a 1979 photo in San Salvador. (CNS photo/Octavio Duran)**

## Archbishop Romero's beatification soon

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero will be beatified in San Salvador "certainly within the year and not later, but possibly within a few months," said Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, the postulator or chief promoter of the archbishop's sainthood cause.

Speaking to reporters Feb. 4, the day after Pope Francis formally recognized that the slain Salvadoran archbishop was killed "in hatred of the faith" -- and not for purely political reasons -- Archbishop Paglia said the two decades it took to obtain the decree were the result of "misunderstandings and preconceptions."

During Archbishop Romero's time as archbishop of San Salvador -- from 1977 to 1980 -- "kilos of letters against him arrived in Rome. The accusations were simple: He's political; he's a follower of liberation theology."

To the accusations that he supported liberation theology, Archbishop Paglia said, Archbishop Romero responded, "Yes, certainly. But there are two theologies of liberation: one sees liberation only as material liberation; the other is that of Paul VI. I'm with Paul VI" in seeking the material and spiritual liberation of all people, including from the sins of injustice and oppression.

All of the complaints, Archbishop Paglia said, slowed the sainthood process and "strengthened his enemies," who, he said, included the late Colombian Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, who believed the Salvadoran archbishop tended toward Marxism and thought his canonization would be seen as a canonization of the materialistic, political form of liberation theology criticized by the church.

This mountain of paper, unfortunately, weighed down" the cause, the archbishop said. But the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith examined all his homilies and writings and cleared them.

Promoters of the cause, he said, collected "a mountain of testimony just as big" to counter the accusations and to prove that Archbishop Romero heroically lived the Christian faith and was killed out of hatred for his words and actions as a Catholic pastor.

## Becoming a cardinal a call to greater love, patience, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In a Valentine's Day ceremony to create 20 new cardinals, Pope Francis offered a meditation on Christian love and, especially, what it means for those who guide and minister in the church.

"The greater our responsibility in serving the church, the more our hearts must expand according to the measure of the heart of Christ," he said Feb. 14 during the consistory, a prayer service during which he personally welcomed 19 churchmen into the College of Cardinals.

The 20th new cardinal, 95-year-old Colombian Cardinal Jose Pimiento Rodriguez, retired bishop of Manizales, was unable to attend the ceremony and was to receive his red biretta -- a three-cornered hat -- and his cardinal's ring in his homeland.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI attended the ceremony, sitting in the front row of St. Peter's Basilica alongside the already existing members of the College of Cardinals.

Pope Francis' meditation at the ceremony focused on the famous passage about love from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (13:4-7), which begins: "Love is patient, love is kind."

"All of us, myself first," should be guided by St. Paul's words, he said, because every Christian ministry "flows from charity, must be exercised in charity and is ordered toward charity."

The patience Christian love calls for, he said, is a call to catholicity. "It means being able to love without limits, but also to be faithful in particular situations and with practical gestures. It means loving what is great without neglecting what is small."

St. Paul says love is "not jealous or boastful" and truly being neither, the pope said, "is surely a miracle of love since we humans -- all of us, at every stage of our lives -- are inclined to jealousy and pride since our nature is wounded by sin."

Not being "irritable or resentful" can be a challenge for a pastor, especially when dealing with other clerics, Pope Francis told the new cardinals.

"Charity alone frees us" from the temptation of snapping at others and, especially, from "the mortal danger of pent-up anger, of that smoldering anger which makes us brood over wrongs we have received," he said. "This is unacceptable in a man of the church."

Christians, the pope said, should be "persons always ready to forgive; always ready to trust, because we are full of faith in God; always ready to inspire hope, because we ourselves are full of hope in God; persons ready to bear patiently every situation and each of our brothers and sisters, in union with Christ, who bore with love the burden of our sins."

The 20 new cardinals come from 18 nations, including three -- Cape Verde, Myanmar and Tonga -- that had never had a cardinal before. Only one of the cardinals works in the Roman Curia: French Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, head of the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican's highest court.

With the creation of the 20 new cardinals, the College of Cardinals expanded to 227 members, 125 of whom are under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

# Blanchard named to California State University system position

NEW ORLEANS -- Lake Charles native Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D., and current provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs at Xavier University of Louisiana, has been appointed executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the California State University by CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White.

Blanchard, an alumnus of Xavier, will serve on Chancellor White's executive leadership team, reporting directly to the chancellor. A veteran higher education system and campus administrator, Blanchard will resign his position at Xavier and join CSU, which has 23 campuses, almost 447,000 students, and 45,000 faculty and staff, in July.

In a letter to the Xavier community, University President Norman C. Francis stated, "This is a bittersweet moment for me personally and professionally. It is truly an honor that one of Xavier's own has been selected to a top position at the larg-

est four-year comprehensive public higher education system in the United States. Yet his leadership and presence on campus will be missed. He has assured me, though, that while he may physically be on the West Coast, he will not be far away."

Blanchard, who holds a B.S. degree in Speech Pathology Education from Xavier University, a M.Ed. degree in Educational Administration & Supervision from McNeese State University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Georgia, will lead the CSU's Graduation Initiative, which aims to increase student success rates. He will develop and oversee educational policy for the 23-campus system, advise the Board of Trustees, guide and support the campus presidents and provosts on curricula and program design, and serve as the chancellor's designee to the CSU's Academic Senate. He will oversee a team of more than 120 employees with 11 direct reports.

"I am very pleased to have a leader of Dr. Blanchard's caliber as our chief academic officer. He has developed a national reputation as an innovative academic leader and has a knack for developing model student affairs programs that bolster graduation rates. He is respected for his collaborative leadership style and commitment to both faculty and student success, and brings substantive system-based and campus-based experience and success to the CSU. Without question, Dr. Blanchard has the vision and talent to propel us forward as we fulfill our obligation to meet the educational needs of our highly diverse student population thereby sustaining the vitality of California's society and economy," said Chancellor White.

"I am both enthusiastic and honored to accept this new role and join Chancellor White's leadership team," said Dr. Blanchard. "I look forward to working with the CSU campuses to help them in achieving their academic,



**Dr. Loren Blanchard**

research, and student success goals."

Locally, Blanchard served as a Speech, Language, and Hearing Supervisor at the Robinswood School and as a State Certified, Licensed Speech, Language, and Hearing Specialist in the Calcaisieu Parish School System.

# Kathleen Bellow takes on national role

CHICAGO -- Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D.Min. of Lake Charles, assumed the position of Convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS) at the group's 2014 annual meeting.

The Black Catholic Theological Symposium is a national interdisciplinary theological society of the Roman Catholic tradition. The Symposium was established to a) foster among Black Catholics an ethical community of scholarly dialogue; b) publish reports, the Symposium's discussions, and research of Symposium membership; c) encourage the teaching and discussion of Black Catholic religious and cultural experiences and thought within the theology and/or religious studies curriculum of colleges, universities, and seminaries; d) encourage the identification and development of Black Catholic Scholars in the fields of Theology, Liturgy, Ethics, Canon Law, Church history, Biblical Studies, etc.; e) enable the identification development theoretically grounded practitioners in the fields of pastoral ministry and religious education; and f) encourage theologially and

theoretically grounded ministry and program development responsive to the needs of Black Catholics within the Church and society.

For more information about the Black Catholic Theological Symposium or this public service announcement, please contact at dorseybellow.bcts@gmail.com.

Former Convener, C. Vanessa White, D.Min., Assistant Professor at Catholic Theological Union, now serves as Past Convener. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R., D.Min., Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) of Xavier University of Louisiana was elected Associate Convener.

Also, Timone Davis, D.Min., Adjunct Professor at Loyola University in Chicago and Associate Director for C&E Programs at the IBCS, was elected Treasurer. Shawnee Daniels Sykes, SSND, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, was re-elected to a second term as Secretary. Dom Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., D. Hist. Sc., professor emeritus at the St. Meinrad School of Theology, continues as Journal Editor/Archivist.



**Kathleen Dorsey Bellow of Lake Charles, D.Min., left, now serves as Convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium while Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R., D.Min., Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) of Xavier University of Louisiana (New Orleans) was elected Associate Convener of the Symposium. The two assumed their duties at the group's 2014 annual meeting.**

### Did you know...

The canonization of Pope St. John Paul II only nine years after his death was the fastest ever for a pontiff, others have been made saints more quickly, for instance - St. Anthony of Padua in 1232, less than a year after his death, and St. Francis of Assisi 20 months after his death. Of the last 10 deceased popes, only three are neither saints nor being considered for sainthood. Can you name the trio? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar, published on March 20.



# Black History Month opened with Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Hundreds of men, women and children, many in the traditional, colorful clothing of their African and Caribbean ancestral homelands, opened Black History Month at St. Patrick's Cathedral with an exuberant Mass Feb. 1.

"It was a form of family reunion" that reflected the diversity of the black Catholic community in New York, said Christian Brother Tyrone A. Davis, director of the Office of Black Ministry for the Archdiocese of New York.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York was the main celebrant of the Mass, which also marked the 26th National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family and the Year of Consecrated Life.

As he processed up the main aisle, accompanied by joyful music and rhythmic bass drumming, Cardinal Dolan was followed by a man who twirled an open, fringed umbrella over his head, in the manner reserved for chiefs and kings in West Africa.

"For a moment there, I was worried the roof was leaking, but thank God, it's just a magnificent African custom," Cardinal Dolan said. St. Patrick's Cathedral is undergoing an extensive renovation. Scaffolding blocks many pews and obscures familiar details of the soaring interior.

In his homily, Cardinal Dolan asked, "Is it any wonder at all that Moses and the Exo-

odus was the favored image of black American preachers, like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?"

The cardinal said faith inspired the liberated slave and sainthood candidate Pierre Toussaint, whose remains are buried in the cathedral's crypt. "And Jesus, the new Moses, rescued the African slave Josephine Bakhita from tortured servitude to the freedom of the children of God and she is now a jewel in the crown we call the communion of saints," Cardinal Dolan said.

The Sudanese-born St. Josephine was kidnapped into slavery as a child. She won her freedom in Italy in 1889, became a Canossian sister and served for 45 years until her death in 1947. She was canonized in 2000.

Cardinal Dolan said Moses, Jesus, Toussaint and St. Josephine "urge us now to embrace the immigrants who arrive today, embarrassingly scarred by some nativists within our country -- immigrants who only want to 'pass over' into new life."

Cardinal Dolan started the call-and-response prayer, "God is good/All the time/All the time/God is good." We must be good to those in Africa who probably suffer at this very moment a threat of assassination or seeing their churches burned down, or their women sold into trafficking and servitude simply because they believe in Jesus Christ."



Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Deacon Jean Marie Uzabakirihw, who was born in Rwanda and is a fourth-year seminarian at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., elevate the Eucharist Feb. 1 during an annual Black History Month Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. The liturgy also marked the National Day of Prayer for the African-American and African Family. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

## Ruling means church not free 'to practice what we preach'

PITTSBURGH (CNS) -- A three-judge panel's 11 ruling on a court challenge to the contraceptive mandate "says that the church is no longer free to practice what we preach," Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik said.

The panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a decision by a federal judge last November to grant the Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses a temporary injunction against enforcement of the mandate.

Under the federal health care law, most employers, including religious ones, are required to cover employees' artificial birth control, sterilization and abortion-causing drugs, even if employers are morally opposed to such coverage.

"I am deeply disappointed in this decision," Bishop Zubik said in a statement. "Such a ruling should cause deep concern for anyone who cares about any First Amendment rights, especially the right to teach and practice a religious faith. Some of our Catholic beliefs are countercultural.

"Our employees work for us understanding that and, in many cases, giving thanks that they work for an institution that upholds those very values."

The Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses filed suit against the government over the mandate citing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## Archbishops urge 'unity against aggression'

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) -- Catholic and Orthodox archbishops in Ukraine appealed for national unity against pro-Russia separatists as calls mounted for the United States to help arm Ukrainian forces.

Citing constant danger to Ukraine, the church leaders called the war "a crime against life" that brings "suffering and death, grief and injustice" in a Feb. 4 state-

ment.

Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki of Lviv, president of Ukraine's Catholic bishops' conference, and Ukrainian Orthodox Archbishop Filaret Kuchеров of Lviv within the Moscow Patriarchate were among those making the appeal.

"But Ukraine, tired and tested, remains unbowed in its faith and dedicated effort of will," the religious lead-

ers said. "Before our eyes, a new state is being born, a new generation of heroes will sacrifice life, forget comfort and tranquility, and be the first to respond to the homeland's cry for help."

The appeal was published as fighting intensified after a new separatist offensive in the self-proclaimed rebel republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

## SCHOOLS

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"That is partly why we are here today, to celebrate catholic schools - their existence and their contribution. Why do catholic schools exist?"

"I would say they exist for two reasons," Bishop Provost continued. "First, Catholic schools exist because of Jesus Christ. If Jesus did not exist, there would be no Catholic schools. It was Jesus who told his disciples to go to all the world and spread the good news, this he said in the Gospel numerous times.

"The good news is on the way, the truth and the life, the teacher of good news is on

fire and sets the students on fire," Bishop said. "The good news is about 'sense of the joy of the Gospel' spoken of by Pope Francis, as well as Pope Benedict, and Pope St. John Paul II before him. The sense of the joy of the Gospel is found in Catholic Schools, if it isn't, then it is not a Catholic School. If teachers are not spreading a sense of the joy of the Gospel, it isn't catholic - period.

"The second reason Catholic Schools exist as Jesus says in the Gospel, the mystery of the kingdom of God has been granted to you," Bishop continued. "He said that to his Apostles. The Bishops to the successors to the apostles, but he said that to everyone

who would come to believe in him through them, so he says it to us.

"To you have been entrusted the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven," he continued. "That is, no hollow statement. The mystery of the kingdom of God belongs to you, the students of Catholic Schools - whether that mystery is taught in a religion classroom, from a pulpit, from a desk in a classroom, from a playing field, it must be taught, for the mysteries of the kingdom of God are too important.

"Catholic education exists for the mysteries of the kingdom. The children of God deserve nothing less."



Christy Papania-Jones, center, was awarded this year's St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School's Distinguished Graduate Award. Rev. William Miller, left, and Mrs. Wendy Wicke, right, presented the award to her at the school's Catholic Schools Week Mass.

## Religious leaders wrote letter to Pres. Obama

WASHINGTON — Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders of 25 national religious organizations wrote to President Obama urging "a renewed, determined U.S. effort, in coordination with the Quartet, to work with Israel and the Palestinian Authority to achieve a negotiated two-state peace agreement before it is too late." The entities comprising the Quartet are the United Nations, the United States, the European Union and Russia.

The religious leaders warned that the Gaza war "demonstrated once again that there is no military solution to the conflict" and given developments on the ground, including violent clashes in Jerusalem, "simply urging the parties to return to negotiations is no longer sufficient."

The signers of the letter represented the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East. Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces, New Mexico, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, represented the U.S. bishops.



Mrs. Pam Fontenot, left, director of religious education at Our Lady Queen Heaven Catholic School, and eighth grade students at the school await the beginning of the annual Catholic Schools Week Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, Jan. 27. The eighth grade students from the other six Catholic schools in the Diocese joined the senior students of St. Louis Catholic High School to celebrate the liturgy.

## Canada's physician-assisted suicide ban struck down

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) -- The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down the Criminal Code of Canada's ban on physician-assisted suicide to mentally competent but suffering and "irremediable" patients.

The historic decision does away with most provisions in law prohibiting physician-assisted suicide. It gives Parliament and provincial governments a year to craft legislation, if they so choose, that allows clearly consent-

ing adults who are enduring intolerable physical or mental suffering to seek medical help to end their lives.

In its decision in the case known as Carter, et al v. the Attorney General of Canada, the court said the Criminal Code provisions infringe on section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom, which covers the right to life, liberty, and security of the person.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### March prayer breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The next women's luncheon has been set for Wednesday March 4, in Ave Maria Hall in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex. The next men's prayer breakfast is Friday, March 6. Women should mail a check in the amount of \$15, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Gaynell Carrier, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Call 337-439-7400 to register for the breakfast and presentation in Ave Maria Hall and is preceded by a 6:30 a.m. celebration of the Mass in the Cathedral.

### SLCHS Hall of Fame candidates sought

LAKE CHARLES -- Nominations are being sought for membership in the St. Louis Catholic High School Hall of Fame. The deadline for the submission is Monday, March 2.

To be eligible, a person must have graduated from St. Louis or one of its merger schools at least 10 years ago. If not a graduate, that person must have been associated with St. Louis or a merger schools at least 10 years prior to nomination.

Forms can be downloaded at the school's webpage (www.slchshs.org), completed electronically there or from the school's development office - 436-7275, Ext. 234.

### Live Stations of the Cross April 3

MOSS BLUFF -- St. Theodore Catholic Church will provide a reenactment of Jesus' Walk to Calvary and Live Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 3.

This year, both the walk and stations will take place on the church grounds beginning at 1 p.m. and concluding by approximately 2:15 p.m.

A Good Friday Service follows the stations at 3 p.m. in the church. In the event of rain, the Live Stations will move inside the church.

Volunteers are still being sought. Contact the church office

at 337-855-6662 for further information.

### Catholic Charities provides assistance

LAKE CHARLES -- Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana provided \$11,835.41 in financial assistance to those most in need during the most recently reported period, a total of 64 clients.

Thirty clients were helped with rental or mortgage assistance. Others who received aid included seven with TWIC card applications, 10 with medication aid, 12 with utility payment help and five were helped with funeral expenses.

A total of 425 boxes of food - 350 USDA and 75 non-USDA - were distributed in January.

### Sacred Heart clothing outreach

LAKE CHARLES -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church continues its outreach ministry for women in the area. "Gently Used Business & Dress Attire" was opened in anticipation of job creation and hiring due to the growth of the area in the future.

Open for donations or free shopping for women's business attire on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. it is located at 1024 Division Street.

For more information, contact Deneen Sweet at gently-usedbusinessdressclothes@gmail.com

### Magnificat breakfast March 7

JENNINGS -- The Lake Charles Chapter of Magnificat will host its breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 7, in the Grand Marais Courtyard & Pavilion with guest speaker Ginger Roche'.

Tickets, at \$15 each, are on sale now at Crossroads Bookstore in Lake Charles and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Arthur. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check payable to Magnificat, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, at Magnificat, Lake Charles, P.O. Box 655, Jennings, LA 70546. Childcare is available with advance reg-

istration. Call, text, or e-mail Staci Thibodeaux at 337-515-4543 or staci.thibodeaux@gmail.com to register.

### Masses in the Extraordinary Form

LAKE CHARLES -- The celebration of Mass in the Extraordinary Form in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception takes place each Sunday at 5 p.m., at 8 a.m. on each First Saturday, and on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

### St. Theodore Parish Mission

MOSS BLUFF -- Sr. Catherine Leroux, S.E. and Sr. Claire Pellerin, S.E., will be presenters at the Sunday, March 1 to Tuesday, March 3 mission - "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself" at St. Theodore Catholic Church beginning at 7 p.m. each day.

The topic for Sunday is "Appreciating Our Stories," Monday is "How Jesus Loved His Neighbor" and "Self Care," and on Tuesday - "Eucharist: Guide and Proof of Love."

Sr. Catherine, a native of New York, has been a vowed religious for 52 years while Sr. Claire, from Massachusetts, has been a vowed religious for 49 years.

### Vocaré on First Saturday at Vianney House

LAKE CHARLES -- Young men ages 16 to 25, seeking to know God's will in their lives, are invited to attend Vocaré, a ministry of the Office of Vocations, on the first Saturday of each month at Vianney House, 1624 Bank Street, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Call Father Nathan Long at 337-77-1434 for more information.

### Divine Mercy Chaplet at OLQH

LAKE CHARLES -- The singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet will continue at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, 3939 Lake Street, each Tuesday following the 5:30 p.m. Mass through April 7.