

CATHOLIC CALENDAR



The Diocese of Lake Charles
lodiocese.org



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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One hundred and eighty-two men, women, and children – 64 catechumens and 118 candidates – along with their sponsors and godparents were present for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on the First Sunday of Lent held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Above, at left, Bishop Glen John Provost greets one of the catechumen from St. Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley. Father Timothy Goodly, the pastor, waits to congratulate them on their journey to the Faith. At right, above, Father Keith Pellerin, pastor of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder, speaks to those from his parish taking part in the day's rite.

Bishop Provost presides at 2015 Rite of Election

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost presided at the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion for 82 catechumens and 118 candidates in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, Feb. 22, the First Sunday of Lent.

The period of the catechumenate closed and then began 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 occurred in the form of affirmation by the godparents and the assem-

bled. After the presentation of the catechumens to the Bishop, he asked the godparents if they consider the candidates worthy for initiation. This question and answer presumed that some deliberation has taken place before. The Rite of Election brought the decision that these catechumens are ready for baptism to a ritual moment.

The Bishop signed each parish's Book of the Elect, in which were inscribed the names by which the Elect will be baptized.

Baptized candidates, preparing for full communion with the Church, were also presented to the Bishop as those called to continuing conversion.

In his homily, Bishop Provost welcomed the catechu-

men and candidates, saying, "We welcome you. We are with you in prayer and support your decision. May God complete in you the good work He has begun."

He also spoke of the Lenten Message of Pope Francis, in which the Holy Father reminded about the danger of indifference.

"Quoting St. Paul, he said, 'If one member suffers, all suffer together' (from I Corinthians 12:26). This reflection of Pope Francis brought to mind the suffering of persecuted Christians throughout the world, but particularly in the Middle East."

Bishop Provost spoke of a 1997 trip to Syria that took him to holy sites including where St. Paul began his Christian life.

"One day the guide took our group to Maalula, a lovely Syrian town in the Lebanon mountains where many of the 2,000 inhabitants were still Christian and spoke Aramaic, the language of Jesus," Bishop Provost said. "We went to the beautiful fourth century Church of St. Sergius. Built on the ruins of an earlier pre-Christian pagan temple, the church had ancient holy paintings and the altar dated back to Roman times. There, 2,000 years of Christianity in continuous existence lay before me.

"Our priest guide—truly a child of God—welcomed us warmly and sang the "Our Father" in ancient Aramaic," the Bishop continued. "He then invited us to taste a little of the local wine made at

the church and said that we were one of 26 groups of tourists and pilgrims that he had welcomed that day alone. It was with great distress that I recently read the news stories from Syria about Maalula—how the 2,000 residents had fled the rampage of Islamic army rebels, how the 13 nuns of the monastery had been abducted but later released, how only the walls remained of the once beautiful Church of St. Sergius, the altar I had so admired demolished, the precious icons having survived over a 1,000 years lay defaced on the floor or stolen, crosses removed, and the bottles of apricot preserves and wine, that we had received in hospitality, shattered on the floor of the roofless gift shop. I asked

myself, "Where was that priest who greeted us so generously? Where were those kind people now?" We must never forget our Christian brothers and sisters who are being persecuted.

"Saying you are a Christian is one thing, but if you take your faith seriously, there are consequences," Bishop Provost said. "You are here today for us to welcome you. You are making a commitment. You desire to be received into the Catholic Church. You must take that commitment seriously, as seriously as the Christians of Maalula. As our Lord said, much will be demanded of the one to whom much has been given."

Bishop Provost to celebrate Holy Week in the 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 2-4, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. On Palm Sunday, March 29, the Bishop will bless palms in the Courtyard of the Cathedral before the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Bishop Provost will be the homilist for the Holy Thursday Mass and at the Easter Vigil while the Very Rev. Derek Covert, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar, will be the homilist on Good Friday.

On Wednesday, April 1, 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 2. 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 3. 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 4, 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 5, in the Cathedral are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. The celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Liturgy will take place at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral on Easter Sunday.



Above are images of Palm Sunday and Holy Week services in the Diocese of Lake Charles from 2014. This year Palm Sunday is March 29, with the Chrism Mass celebrated on Wednesday, April 1; Holy Thursday, April 2; Good Friday, April 3; and the Easter Vigil, April 4. Photo 1 shows Bishop Glen John Provost blessing palms with holy water on Palm Sunday. In photo 2, the Bishop pours balsam into the olive oil that he consecrated into the Sacred Oil of Chrism during the Chrism Mass. Photo 3 shows the Bishop washing the feet of one of the 12 members of the laity on Holy Thursday in commemoration of Christ's washing of the feet of his disciples. On Good Friday, photo 4, Bishop Provost venerates the Cross during the celebration of the Lord's Passion. On Good Saturday at the Easter Vigil, the Bishop, photo 5, prepares the Paschal Candle during the Service of Light. In photo 6, Bishop Provost blesses water that was used in the baptism of the catechumens.

HOLY WEEK OFFICE HOURS

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles are closed Holy Thursday (April 2), Good Friday (April 3), and Easter Monday (April 6), reopening Tuesday (April 7) at 8:30 a.m. for regular office hours the remainder of the week.

PLANTING THE SEED

To proclaim the Gospel, we must know what we are proclaiming

Pope Francis wrote in *The Joy of the Gospel*:

The process of secularization tends to reduce the faith and the Church to the sphere of the private and personal. Furthermore, by completely rejecting the transcendent, it has produced a growing deterioration of ethics, a weakening of the sense of personal and collective sin, and a steady increase in relativism. These have led to a general sense of disorientation, especially in the periods of adolescence and young adulthood which are so vulnerable to change.... In response, we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values (#65).

I think Pope Francis very well summed up the problem and offered a solution. If we are to proclaim the Gospel with a joy that is contagious, then we must know what we are proclaiming—to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values.” How do we do this?

First, we must know what the Sacred Scriptures tell us. For this, we must read the Sacred texts, not selectively but as a whole, seeing how the texts weave in and out of each other, depend upon one another, and compliment God’s message that He reveals fully in Jesus Christ. The Sacred Scriptures must be read in context, and that proper context is the Church, as we find in the Second Letter of St. Peter: “Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of per-

sonal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God” (II Peter 1:20-21). Or as we find in St. Paul: “[S]tand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours” (II Thessalonians 2:15).

The second answer to our question flows from this. We must be faithful to the teachings of Christ in His Church. If we are not concerned about authentic teaching or the truthfulness of what it is of the flesh, then we become, in words of St. Paul, followers “of the flesh and the impulses” (Ephesians 2:3). There is enough of that in the world, as Pope Francis says it, reducing “the faith and the Church to the sphere of the private and personal,” “weakening [a] sense of the internal and collective sin.” There is a great beauty of the personal harmony that exists between and within the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Sacred Scriptures and the Church He established to communicate His message (cf. Matthew 16:18-19).

A third way in which we insure the joy of proclaiming the Gospel is knowing, loving and serving Jesus Christ. We can-



Bishop Glen John Provost

not be selective about Jesus Christ, picking and choosing what it is we like in His teaching and discarding the rest. This is not honest. It is not truthful. Jesus Christ taught many challenging things. He called us to conversion. And it is those who have encountered Jesus Christ personally in this way that know the “joy of the Gospel.” Their lives have been changed. They are convinced of the genuine value of Jesus and His message, and they are not afraid to have Him continue challenging them to become even better disciples. Again, to cite Pope Francis, we need encouragement to develop “mature moral values.” The way we live will reflect the quality of our love for Jesus Christ. Love of Christ transforms our lives and continues transforming our lives as long as we are given time on this earth.

In parish religion, a catechist told me a story. She said that one of her vocation students said that getting a driver’s license was one of the happiest days in his life. Why, the religion teacher asked? Because, the teenager answered, “Now I can drive myself to Mass because my parents never brought me.” God bless that young man. Let us pray for the parents. Perhaps that young man will be an example of the “joy of the Gospel” to his parents.

Much more could be said, but I think we need to remember these three: The Scriptures, the Church, and conversion to Jesus Christ. They are essential to the joy that we bring to the proclamation of the Gospel. May we grow in this grace during this Lent. Think about it. Pray about it. Act on it.

Assyrian Christians released; concern for those still held

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) -- East welcomed in the Middle East nearly 20 Assyrian Christians abducted by Islamic State militants in northeastern Syria, but expressed concern that more than 200 others remained in captivity.

“I can confirm the release of 19 persons (17 men and 2 women) who were captured by the Islamic State in the Khabur region,” said Father Emanuel Youkhana, who heads the Christian Aid Program Northern Iraq.

Bashir Saedi, a senior official in the Assyrian Democratic Organization, said all those released were around 50 years of age or older, suggesting that age might have been a factor.

Vatican Radio reported that Osama Edward, who heads the Assyrian Human Rights Network, said the Christians were released because jizya, an Islamic protection tax levied on non-Muslims, had been paid.

They are now “in the church of the city of Hassakeh,” Edward said. The network published photographs on its Facebook page that appeared to show people in Hassakeh greeting the returnees.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported that an Islamic court had ruled the captives be freed, but it said the reasoning behind the decision was unknown.

On Feb. 23, Islamic State militants raided a cluster of villages along the Khabur River near Syria’s northeastern province of Hassakeh and abducted Assyrian Christian residents and other minorities.

Reports have been conflicting about the actual number of the captives still held by the extremists, and their fate remains unclear. The Observatory said there were 220. Other activists said the figure was higher than 260.



Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the Sunday, March 1, Mass for the 270 youth, young adults, adult staff, parents, and chaperones at the annual Diocesan Youth Conference held over the weekend of Feb. 27-March 1 in Dry Creek. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry sponsors the event. Following the liturgy, Bishop Provost answered a variety of questions from the conference attendees.

Pope plans to canonize St. Therese’s parents during family synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis is expected to announce the canonization of Blessed Louis and Zelie Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, during the world Synod of Bishops on the family in October.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, leading a conference Feb. 27 on the role of saints in the life of the church, announced that “thanks be to God, in October two spouses, parents of Saint Therese of Lisieux, will be canonized.”

Blessed Louis and Marie Zelig Guerin Martin were married in 1858. The couple had nine children, but four of them died in infancy. The five who survived - including St. Therese - all entered religious life. Zelig died of cancer in 1877, at age 45; her husband died in 1894, age 70.

The couple was beatified in 2008. They are believed to be the first parents of a saint to be beatified, highlighting the important role parents play in their children’s human and spiritual upbringing.

Following normal Vatican procedures, before their canonization the pope would have to recognize a miracle that occurred after prayer for the couple’s intercession before God. The decree is expected to be signed before Easter.

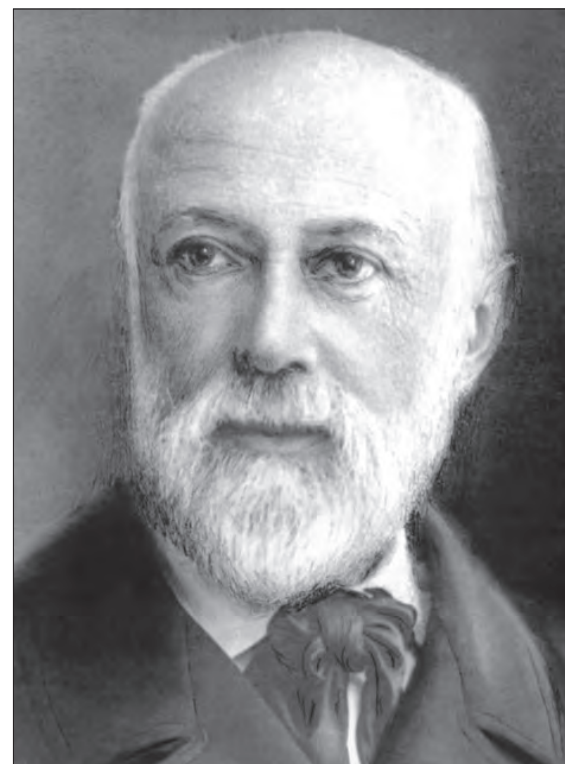
The next step would be for the pope to consult with the church’s cardinals and hold a consistory with cardinals present in Rome

to announce the decision to proceed with the ceremony during the world Synod of Bishops on the family Oct. 4-25. A Vatican official said that meeting probably would take place in June.

According to the Lisieux shrine’s website, a miracle being studied for the couple’s canonization involves a little girl in the Diocese of Valencia, Spain. Born prematurely and with multiple life-threatening complications, Carmen suffered a major brain hemorrhage, which could have caused irreversible damage. Her parents prayed for the couple’s intercession. The little girl survived and is healthy.

Pope Francis has a special devotion to St. Therese. The pope used to keep a photo of the 19th-century French Carmelite nun on his library shelf when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires. He has said that when he has a problem, he asks St. Therese “not to solve it, but to take it in her hands and help me accept it.” As a sign that she’s heard his request, he said, “I almost always receive a white rose.”

Before opening the October 2014 meeting of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, Pope Francis venerated the relics of St. Therese, her parents and another couple, Blessed Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchio.



Blessed Louis and Marie Zelig Guerin Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, are pictured in a combination photo created from images provided by the Sanctuary of Lisieux in France. Pope Francis is expected to canonize the couple during the world Synod of Bishops on the family in October. (CNS photo/courtesy of Sanctuary of Lisieux)

Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated a Mass for Individuals with Special Needs and their Families on Sunday, Feb. 8, at St. Louis Catholic High School and confirmed four members of the Transitions Class of the school. In the photo above, Bishop Provost anoints Victoria Lynne Mead (a parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church) with the Sacred Oil of Chrism. Deacon Chris Fontenot, principal of St. Louis, and Father Ruben Buller, right, assisted the Bishop. Other students confirmed were William Grant Malone (Our Lady of Good Counsel); Hernando Simon Moran (St. Henry); and Harrison Dean Veuleman (Our Lady Queen of Heaven).



Father Theodore Hesburgh buried

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) -- Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh frequently told friends and colleagues that his greatest ambition was to be a humble servant to God.

When those same friends and colleagues joined thousands of admirers from across the U.S. at the University of Notre Dame to pay tribute to the longest-serving president of the nation’s most recognized Catholic school during two days of funeral and memorial services ending March 4, they recalled a man whose impact on the world was as

great as that of a world leader. A former U.S. secretary of state, politicians, cardinals, bishops and clergy joined Notre Dame officials, students and faculty in campus-wide tributes, processions and liturgical services as the world-renowned priest was laid to rest. Before Father Ted, as he was affectionately called, died Feb. 26 at the age of 97, he requested a simple funeral that would be characteristic for priests in his religious community, said Dennis K. Brown, spokesman for Notre Dame.

Good Friday Collection supports ministries and works in Holy Land

LAKE CHARLES – The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be taken up on Friday, April 3, Good Friday, in every parish of the Diocese of Lake Charles as well as across the U.S. in support of ministries and works, largely under the direction of the Franciscans, in the Holy Land.

The Good Friday Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. A gift to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region. The collection offers a direct link for individual parishioners to be witnesses of peace. Their financial support is a sign of Christian unity, which helps protect the Holy Places, uniting all Christians with the Holy Land.

During Holy Week, the Gospel readings come to life in a special way as we gather to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The readings remind us of our special connection to the land where this great story unfolded.

Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith.

Christians in the Holy Land face special challenges – many of which we hear about in the daily news. Many now find themselves victims of war and persecution. Many have been forced to leave their homes. Yet, it is important that Chris-

tians continue to live, work and pray in the Holy Land.

There are hopeful signs as well. The Catholic Church, and in particular the Franciscans, provides Christian formation and education, conducts parish ministry, offers housing and food for the poor and welcome pilgrims to the shrines in the Holy Land.

Since the time of St. Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked.

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 100 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 for Christians.
- Preserved 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets.

Abrazando Cristo fundraisers set in June

LAKE CHARLES – Once again in 2015, Msgr. Daniel Torres, director of the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program, will lead a group of missionaries for work and prayer in the mountains of northeast Nicaragua. Thirty-two Catholic men and women will make the journey, beginning on July 10.

Two fundraisers have been scheduled to help the group with the money needed for construction work, purchase of medicine for the poor, educating 15 catechists in religious studies, conducting vacation bible school for

the children and feeding those most in need.

The Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf Tournament is set for Saturday, June 6 at Mallard Cove Golf Course. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. with registration starting at 11:30 a.m. The shotgun start for the two-person scramble is 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$250 per team and a hole-sponsorship is \$125.

Call Johnnie and Susan Thibodeaux at 337-478-4095 or email svthib732@yahoo.com or call Will and Norma Fruge at 337-540-0410 or email wlfruge@yahoo.com.

The annual Big Cash Giveaway is Sunday, June 21, at the St. Henry Catholic Church Community Center. Only 500 tickets, at \$100 each, will be sold by the missionaries. First prize is \$5,000; second prize is \$1,000; and third prize is \$500.

All proceeds from the Giveaway benefit the work of the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program.

Tickets will be available from Sally Abate, Sam Bond, Steven Caraway, Joseph Caraway, Dr. Philip Conner, Joyce Dippery, Chelsey Dubroc, Randall Edwards,

Brad Foreman, Taylor Frost, Anna Katherine Gaspard, Joan Gatte, Bethany Hebert, Dr. Edward Hebert, Kelsey Hebert, Deborah LaFargue, Kenneth Long, Fr. Nathan Long, Bernard Marcantel, Heath McCarty, Anna Beth McConnaughay, Debra Richard, Mallory Robicheaux, Peggy Smith, Geovannie Soto, Susan Thibodeaux, Monsignor Torres, Sharon Torres, Quinton Touchette, Melody Trahan, and Carol Walsh. Call Msgr. Torres at 337-439-7400 for more information.

Catholic Student Center to host marriage talk

LAKE CHARLES – A Tuesday, April 14, talk by Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D. is in the Catholic Student Center at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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 Sherif 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. He was born in Baltimore, Md. and currently resides in Washington, D.C.

In a recent telephone interview, Ryan spoke about the most important reasons why we must defend marriage as a union between a man and a woman?

"Children have a right to be raised by their mom and dad wherever this is feasible," he said. "Marriage is the institution that pro-

motes this right by channeling adult desire into a stable unit. Marriage unites a man and woman, as husband and wife, so that any children they may produce will be raised by their father and mother."

Concerning any Supreme Court decision making gay marriage a constitutional right, Anderson said. "The Supreme Court has gotten important cases wrong before. Just consider Roe v. Wade. And, 42 years later more and more Americans recognize just how bad that case was and just how important it is to protect unborn children. If the Court gets marriage wrong, we'll have to do the same work that pro-lifers did - bearing witness to the truth about life and now about marriage. We'll need to start where they started - protecting religious liberty from government coercion."

As to what he expects in his visit to Lake Charles and what those attending the talk might expect from him, Anderson said, "I'm looking forward to warmer weather and friendlier faces (it's been below freezing for the past 2 weeks in DC, and DC isn't known for it's friendly residents). And, I hope Lake Charles can look forward to a good conversation about what marriage is, why marriage matters, and why we shouldn't redefine such a vital institution."



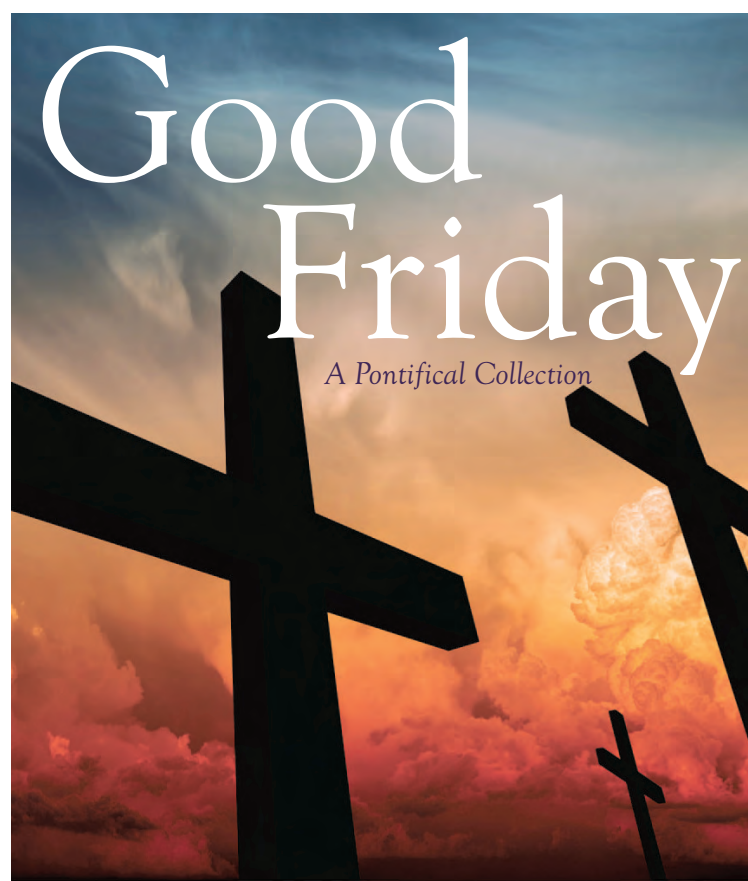
Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D.

Summer course offering at Center for Catholic Studies

LAKE CHARLES – One class will be offered during the summer semester through the Center for Catholic Studies of the Diocese of Lake Charles in conjunction with Our Lady of Holy Cross College – Theology 101: Fundamentals of Catholicism.

The three-credit hour course is a study of the doctrine, liturgy, morals and prayer of the Catholic faith drawn from the Catechism of the Catholic Church taught by Deacon Glenn Viau, M.Ed., M.P.S. Classes are 9 a.m. to Noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday on June 9, 10, 11; June 16, 17, 18; June 23, 24, 25; and June 30, July 1, 2 in the Catholic Student Center, 221 Aqua Drive. Call the Student Center at 477-1434 for more information.

Three pages of registration forms, one diocesan and two Holy Cross, are available through the Newman Center; the Diocese of Lake Charles - Office of Religious Education, and on the diocesan



Pope Francis asks you to be generous.

Support Christians in the Holy Land

An annual collection uniting Christians around the World.

For more information about the Good Friday Collection or the work of the Holy Land Franciscans, visit: MyFranciscan.org/good-friday.

FRANCISCAN MONASTERY OF THE HOLY LAND

1400 Quincy Street NE, Washington, DC 20017
MyFranciscan.org | 202-526-6800

Penance Services slated next week

LAKE CHARLES – Parishes throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles will offer Penance Services next week – March 24-26 – from 5 to 7 p.m. each day in preparation for the coming of Easter.

The Sacrament of Penance will be available in the churches of the East Deanery on Tuesday, March 24; Central and South Deanery on Wednesday, March 25; and West Deanery on Thursday, March 26.

These Penance Nights provide greater availability for people to take advantage

of the Sacrament of Penance, according to Bishop Glen John Provost.

Additionally, Saint Charles Center will offer a Penance Night with Fr. Whitney Miller and Fr. Don Piraro on Thursday, March 26, from 5 to 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel of the Assumption of Tabor Retreat House.

Even though the general time mentioned has been set aside, some parishes may have the need to adjust those times. Please call your parish church to check on the correct time there.



Very Reverend Aubrey Guilbeau, pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Maplewood and past State Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chaplain, was the guest speaker at the 20th anniversary dinner of CDA Court #2388 recently. The Court was instituted on April 17, 1994

Catholic Daughters Court #2388 celebrates 20th anniversary

WESTLAKE – Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2388 celebrated the 20th anniversary of its formation with a dinner in Dolan Hall of St. John Bosco Catholic Church.

The Very Rev. Aubrey Guilbeau, pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Maplewood and a past

State CDA Chaplain, was the guest speaker. Also addressing the group were Barbara Michael, State Regent, and Ruth Guidry, a National CDA Director, also spoke to the assembled group. Current state chaplain, Rev. Charles McMillin, pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings, was un-

able to attend but sent a message.

Members with five years, 10 years, and 15 years of service were honored.

The installation of the court took place on April 17, 1994, in St. John Bosco Church with then State Regent Ruth Guidry, presiding. The late Msgr. Joseph

Bourque, then-pastor of St. John Bosco, was the first chaplain of the Court, which had 69 charter members.

Awards for Catholic Daughter of the Year went to Peggy Strubb and Dimples Veillon.

Twenty-year pins were given to charter members,

including Carolyn Campbell, Denise Caraway, Jean Klevlen, Rose Luttrell, Judy Reed, Beatrice Senegal, Mary Still, and Annette Trahan. The late Ethel Roth, also a charter member, was honored as her daughter Sheila received her mother's pin.

The invocation was given

by Rev. Albert Borel, pastor of St. John Bosco, while the closing prayer was intoned by Rev. Michael Barras, chaplain at Calcasieu-Cameron Hospital in Sulphur and in residence at St. John Bosco.

Daughter Mary Still presented to all members a hand-crocheted rosary bag.

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

Behold, God's Son: The Cross of the Lord reveals His deepest identity

This year's reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday will be marked by a unique occurrence: the confession of a Roman centurion—a non-believer—that Jesus is God at the most unlikely moment—His Crucifixion. When Jesus had healed the leper (Mark 1:40-45), the paralytic (2:1-12), the deaf-mute (7:31-37), and the blind man (8:22-26), when He cast out powerful demons effortlessly (1:21-28, 5:1-13), and when He had calmed the violent squall at sea (4:35-41), nobody acknowledged His Divinity (though the demons came the closest). Yet, now, at His most powerful, the truth of His identity can be seen clearly. "Truly, this man was the Son of God" (Mark 15:39). We are standing here before a mystery, into which angels long to look (cf. 1 Peter 1:12).

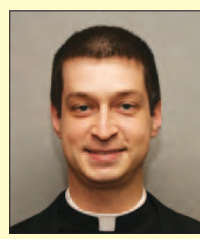
Mark's unassuming literary genius has always intrigued me. At every turning, his impressions on His disciples the need to keep silent about His miracles (5:43, 7:36, 8:26, 8:30, 9:9). Scholars call this "the messianic secret." While many explanations are offered for this, perhaps the most convincing concerns the need to keep the Paschal mystery intact. That is, Jesus does not want anyone to confess His glory without also confessing His Cross. As St. Paul says, "Far be it from me to boast, except in the Cross of the Lord" (Gal 6:14).

The most striking example of this occurs at the Transfiguration. After disclosing His glory on the mountain, and after His humanity glows with dazzling brilliance and the Father's voice booms to affirm His identity, Jesus silences His disciples. He tells them not to tell anyone that "until the Son of Man should have risen from the dead" (9:9). If I were one of the three on the mountain, this would be the height (no pun intended) of frustration! "After all that, we're supposed to be silent? Why Lord?" The Cross provides the key. There is to be

no preaching of glory apart from the Cross. This is no "cheap grace."

Too often today, there is preached a Christianity without the Cross. The Christ without wounds cannot save anyone. Because we'd rather avoid the reality of suffering and death, we prefer to hear sermons that tickle the ear with thoughts of comfort. As suggested at the end of Mark's gospel, however, if we see Jesus without His Cross, we miss out on Jesus' true identity. Instead of seeing Him as He truly is—the "Son of God," instead all we see is a merely human Jesus—the philosopher, the self-help guru, the merely good example. To apply the words of author Flannery O'Connor—if that's all there is to Christianity, then "to hell with it!"

As we prepare to enter into the mystery of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, let us keep this "paschal mystery" intact. Let St. Mark's clever account of Jesus' life and death save us from trading the real Lord Jesus for a cheap caricature who cannot save.



Rev. Nathan Long

Father Nathan Long, a priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles, serves in a number of administrative capacities, including as director of the Vianney Formation, Director of Religious Education, director of the Center for Catholic Studies, and director of Ongoing Formation of Clergy. He is also Co-Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation.



Bishop Glen John Provost, left, stands with Father Roger Landry, who preached at the 2014 priests retreat for the Diocese of Lake Charles, held at Saint Charles Center.

John Souder instituted as Acolyte

ROME — John Souder, a seminarian of the Diocese of Lake Charles, was instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte on Sunday, March 1, by His Excellency, Bishop Paul Loverde of the Diocese of Arlington, during Mass in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the Pontifical North American College (PNAC). Fifty-four men studying at the PNAC were thus instituted as acolytes.

An alumnus of the College, Bishop Loverde was the main celebrant of the Mass of the Second Sunday of Lent. During his homily, Bishop Loverde declared those being installed as acolytes as well as all the members of the faithful to be willing, in contemplating the Transfiguration of Christ as proclaimed in the Gospel, to be transformed in mind, heart, and will, into living reminders of Christ for the whole world to see.

The seminarians, currently in their second year of formation for the priesthood, would have two additional years of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

As part of the rite, the Bishop placed the paten, which contains the hosts for the celebration of Mass, in the hands of each candidate and said, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church."

The Ministry of Acolyte is one of the important steps



John Souder, a seminarian of the Diocese of Lake Charles, holds the paten containing the hosts for the celebration of Mass, as Bishop Paul Loverde of the Diocese of Arlington, Va., instituted him into the Ministry of Acolyte. Souder was one of 54 men studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome instituted into the Ministry on Sunday, March 1. (PNAC Photo Service)

to Priesthood ordination. An Acolyte is appointed to aid the deacon and to minister to the priest at the altar and as a special minister to give Holy Communion to the faithful at Mass and to the sick. Acolytes may also expose the Eucharist for adoration in the absence of a priest or deacon.

The PNAC serves as the American seminary in

Rome. Founded in 1859 by Blessed Pius IX, the college has formed over 5,000 priests near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses around the United States, Canada, and Australia. The College strengthens the bonds between Rome and local Churches worldwide, and it allows its students to study the Church's rich religious and cultural heritage at close

range.

Souder is one of two Lake Charles seminarians studying at the PNAC, the other Deacon Villarreal. Deacon Villarreal is slated to be ordained to the priesthood in June along with Deacon Jay Alexius, M.D., who is completing his theological studies at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Massachusetts priest assigned to Vatican's observer mission at U.N.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Father Landry preached the October 2014 priests retreat of the Diocese of Lake Charles)

FALL RIVER, Mass. (CNS) -- Father Roger Landry, former pastor of St. Bernadette's Parish in Fall River, has been given a new assignment: working for the Vatican's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations.

The 44-year-old priest -- a dynamic teacher, retreat leader, preacher and writer -- began the four-year commitment at the United Nations March 3.

When Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha of Fall River met with Father Landry about the assignment in December, the priest said he expected some type of job change, but "never anticipated being asked to go to the United Nations."

He said he will be assisting Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Vatican nuncio to the U.N. and working on committees focused on defense of human rights; poverty and racism; globalization; the environment; care for refugees, the elderly and people with disabilities; and crime prevention and international drug control.

"I think I'm going to be busy!" he told The Anchor, Fall River's diocesan newspaper.

Father Landry, a native of Lowell and 1992 graduate of Harvard College, was ordained a priest of the Fall River Diocese June 26, 1999.

During his nearly 14 years as a diocesan priest, he served as a parochial vicar at SS. Peter and Paul Parish at Holy Cross Church and Espirito Santo parish in Fall River. He was parochial administrator at St. Anthony's Parish in New Bedford before he was named pastor of St. Bernadette's Parish. He also was the executive editor of The Anchor from 2005 to 2012.

The priest said he will miss the opportunities and special graces he had as pastor and he will also miss the contact with "so many people within the diocese" -- priests, parishioners, members of the Team of Our Lady, young people seeking a vocation and families who have welcomed him into their homes.

But he also said he was excited about the rewards and challenges of his new assignment.

"I'm looking forward to the work and the way that it will draw together four different phases of my life: my study, my experience in politics in Washington, D.C., my languages, and my priestly pastoral work focused on serving people with ideas."

The priest, who speaks six languages, said that even though most of the work at the U.N. is in English, he will be happy to use his language skills for "many of the important, informal conversations that take place."



District non-public school winners of Student of the Year honors in the Diocese of Lake Charles have been announced by the Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese and Superintendent Kimberlee Gazzolo. Top choices were St. Louis Catholic High School 12th grader Zachary Boullt, left; eighth grader Grace Richert of Our Lady's School in Sulphur, center; and fifth grader Joshua France, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, right. Each advanced to regional competition. Nominees from non-public schools in Southwest Louisiana included, fifth grade - Emily Dupuis, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School; Sophia Lormand, First Baptist Christian Academy; Baylie Boudoin, Our Lady's Catholic School; Joshua France, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Kaegan Dupuis, Bethel Christian School; Emma Freeman, Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School; eighth grade - Grace Richert, Our Lady's Catholic School; Cate O'Byrne, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Jillian Primeaux, Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School; Avery Teal, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School; Olivia Shepherd, First Baptist Christian Academy; Twelfth Grade - Zachary Boullt, Saint Louis Catholic High School; Wallace Myers, Bethel Christian School.

Vatican security always on high alert, chief says after IS threats

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The head of Vatican security said Islamic State militants have threatened the Vatican, but there are no indications of any planned attack.

The Vatican gendarmes, Swiss Guards and the Italian state police that patrol the perimeter of Vatican City are always on high alert, said Domenico Giani, the commander of the gendarme and the pope's bodyguard.

"There are not only the threats of the Islamic State, but also the risk of action by individuals, which is more dangerous because it is unpredictable," he said in an interview for the March edition of Polizia Moderna, the monthly magazine of the Italian state police.

For months, there have been rumors of threats against the Vatican or Pope Francis by the Islamic State militants who are attacking

Christians, other religious minorities and Muslims they do not agree with in Syria and Iraq. Concern heightened in February when militants claiming to be allied with the Islamic State group murdered 21 Christians in Libya, which is less than 300 miles from the Italian mainland.

"The threat exists," Giani said. "That is what has emerged in meetings with my Italian and foreign colleagues. But the existence of a threat is one thing and planning an attack is another. At this time, we have not been informed of any plans to attack the Vatican or the Holy Father."

Giani, who worked in the Italian secret service before moving to the Vatican, said he is in frequent contact with Italian and other government intelligence services, including some from predominantly Muslim countries. "I can say

that today the pontiff is seen and respected by Muslims as the most influential moral authority in the world -- and that is on the part of both religious and civil leaders."

Asked how Pope Francis is living with the threat, Giani responded: "The Holy Father does not intend to abandon the style of his pontificate, which is based on proximity, that is, on a direct encounter with the greatest number of people possible. Even as pontiff, he has remained a priest who does not want to lose contact with his flock."

"Those of us entrusted with his security must adapt to his style and not the other way around," he said. "We must do everything possible so that he can continue to carry out his ministry as he wants and believes is best."

Giani said Pope Francis "is well aware of the threats" against him, "but his only concern is for the faithful."

CATHOLIC CALENDAR PUBLISHING DATES

The next Catholic Calendar will be a special one-page edition published on Good Friday, April 3. It will contain an Easter message from Bishop Glen John Provost as well as information from the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The regular April edition of the Catholic Calendar will be published during the third week of the month on its normal schedule.

Shroud shows pain Jesus endured

PITTSBURGH (CNS) -- Donald Nohs, who is an expert on the Shroud of Turin, widely believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus, talked to a Pittsburgh audience about the evidence of authenticity for the shroud.

Jesus' passion, Nohs noted, was much more than a physical suffering. It was the humiliation and embarrassment of being scourged in the nude in front of his mother and friends. The suffering Mary endured, he said, is why she is our greatest intercessory in heaven.

Nohs presented "Discovering Jesus in His Holy Shroud" at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery on Pittsburgh's South Side to a capacity audience of about 550 people.

Nohs, director general of the Confraternity of the Passion International and president of the Holy Face of Jesus, is one of the world's leading authorities on the Shroud of Turin. He has studied the shroud for more than 50 years.

The shroud's existence has been documented for centuries, but the invention of photography in the 19th century revealed that the image of a crucified man was actually a negative image.

Nohs' presentation included authentic replicas of the shroud that present it in both positive and negative images. It is believed to be the largest mobile shroud display in the U.S.

The negative image of the shroud provided a much more detailed image of the crucified Christ. Nohs said it spoke of a man between 5-foot-10 to 5-foot-11 and approximately 175 pounds. He was lean and very well built, and was in good physical condition.

A dorsal image of the shroud, he noted, revealed a long pony tail that extended to the center of the back.

Nohs used members of the audience to demonstrate how the shroud conformed to the human body. He showed how a cloth folded around the head wounds, and how it picked up blood and matched the shroud image.

He noted that the burial shroud influenced the cloths that are used on the altar.

The presentation included authentic replicas of instruments used in the crucifixion,

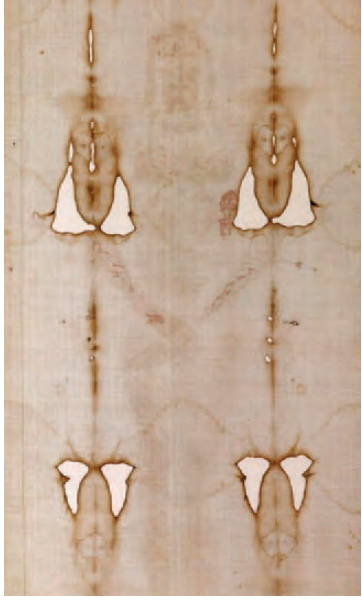
such as a Roman flagrum, or whip, as well as nails, a detailed crown of thorns, a spear and a cross beam from the cross Christ carried.

Nohs demonstrated how the whip marks were reflected in the shroud, and he noted scourge marks on the body. He also spoke of the deep lacerations, which were believed to be the result of Jesus being forced to sit on shards of glass.

In addition, he noted the 50 to 75 puncture wounds around the scalp that were caused by the crown of thorns, as well as a swollen lower lip punctured by a thorn.

Nohs strapped a cross beam across his back to demonstrate Christ's 650-yard journey to Golgotha. He pointed out that Christ carried a rough-cut timber cross beam that weighed between 110-120 pounds. The shroud, he said, reflected splinters in the back of the neck and gouges in the shoulders from the cross.

He used the first-century Roman roofing nails to demonstrate how they placed one through each wrist, and added two more through the feet. In order to line up pilot holes for the cross, he noted, they pulled on Christ's arm so hard with a rope that they popped his right shoulder right out of its joint.



The Shroud of Turin is displayed in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy, in this April 27, 2010, file photo. Pope Francis will visit the shroud June 21, 2015. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Consolata Live Stations of the Cross



LAKE CHARLES -- Consolata Cemetery presents Live Stations of the Cross on the cemetery grounds at 3 p.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29.

Everyone is invited out to join in making a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer while reflection on the chief scenes of Christ's suffering and death.

Four national Catholic publications call for end of the death penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Four nationally circulated Catholic publications called for abolishing the death penalty in the United States in a jointly published editorial.

America, National Catholic Register, National Catholic Reporter and Our Sunday Visitor urged their readers, the U.S. Catholic community and people of faith to "stand with us and say, 'Capital punishment must end,'" the editorial stated.

The editorial was published online March 5 by each publication and was to appear in the printed versions of each journal in the coming weeks.

Dennis Coday, editor of National Catholic Reporter, said the effort evolved after the U.S. Supreme Court agreed in January to hear

arguments in an Oklahoma death penalty case.

The case, *Glossip v. Gross*, involves the use of a lethal-injection protocol widely used across the country that resulted in three botched executions in 2014.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide the constitutionality of lethal-injection executions in Oklahoma by the end of its term in June.

"Our hope is that (the court) will hasten the end of the death penalty in the United States," the editorial said.

"There's been a growing consensus among the public and especially among Catholics of the need to bring an abolition, or at least a moratorium, to the death penalty in the country," Coday told Catholic News Service. "I think that's perfectly clear



Above are two of the 14 Stations of Cross from previous live presentations of the sponsored by St. Theodore Catholic Church on Good Friday. At left, is the sixth station - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus - and, at right, the 12th station - Jesus dies on the cross. This year's event is Friday, April 3, beginning at 1 p.m. on the church grounds, with the 14 stations included in a walk around the perimeter of the church property. The cast for this production consists of about 45 members from various parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles. The stations begin at the front entrance of the church moving by procession around the church for stations two through 10, arriving alongside the activity center for Christ's crucifixion and Christ carried into the tomb. There is no admission for this event and all are welcome to attend the Good Friday Service in the church at 3 p.m. In the event of rain, the stations will be held in the church.



Diocese receives endowment challenge to increase seminarian education funding

LAKE CHARLES -- The Diocese of Lake Charles is working with Catholic Extension on a seminarian endowment challenge to help increase the amount of money invested to assist defraying the costs of formation of seminarians studying for the priesthood for the Diocese.

The Diocese is seeking to raise an additional \$50,000 in new qualifying seminary burses, then receiving an additional \$25,000 from Catholic Extension. New or increased seminary burses of \$1,000 or more qualify during the calendar year of 2015 for the challenge grant.

The Diocese is already well on its way to the goal with \$18,000 in qualifying burses, two so far in 2015. A list of seminary burses can be found on the website of the Diocese at <http://live.lcdioocese.org/vocations/444-seminary-burses.html>.

There are currently 16 men in formation, studying in four different seminaries, at a cost of more than \$500,000.00. For the next school term, that number could rise to 18 and perhaps more, with educational expenses of nearly \$650,000.

There are currently 86 seminary burses with a total of \$1,651,456.03 perpetually invested with only the interest used for seminarian expenses.

"One of the greatest blessings that the Diocese is experiencing right now is our seminarian enrollment," said Deacon Glen Bertrand, Director of Development. "Some of God's finest men have responded to His call to serve as priests for our people. With this blessing comes the challenge of funding their education and formation. We find it exciting that support of seminarians has touched the hearts of many of our parishioners. Those who can be contributing to the Seminary Burse at a dramatic pace. With the Catholic Extension Seminarian Endowment Challenge now is the best time to memorialize a loved one by starting a burse in their name and getting additional funds partially matched by Catholic Extension Society."

For more information about creating a new seminary burse that qualifies for the matching funding or making a qualifying contribution to an existing burse, contact Msgr. Daniel Torres, Director of Vocations and Seminarians or Deacon Bertrand, P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA or at 337-439-7400. Msgr. Torres can also be reached via e-mail - daniel.torres@lcdioocese.org while Deacon Bertrand is available at glen.bertrand@lcdioocese.org.

March, April at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF -- 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.

In this special week of Lenten prayer and preparation, the Sacrament of Penance will be offered throughout the Diocese on various days as a gesture of our communal repentance and in union with God's divine mercy.

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 who choose to participate. Suggested donation for this retreat 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.

Father Miller will facilitate "Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of Faith" Friday,

April 10 to Sunday, April 12. Father Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series is the basis for the experience. There will be a blending of time in group activity, as well as opportunities for quiet and silence, communal prayer as well as individual meditation, companionship as well as contemplation. This is one of the recommended adult education series being made available throughout the Diocese for those catechists working toward certification. Suggested donation is \$170.00 for a private room and \$150.00 each for shared accommodations. Scholarship assistance available upon request. Proverbs 21:23 says: "He

who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from trouble." This scripture is the basis for "How to Control My Tongue" (So I Don't Get into Trouble) moderated by Sr. Diane Depwe from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28. The retreat reveals practical ways based on enduring principles from Scripture that will help you communicate more effectively as well as living in harmony with others and God. Bring your bible. The suggested donation is \$20.00 per person and includes supper. Registration deadline is Friday, April 24.



The Vocations Committee of Christ the King Catholic Church recently held its annual luncheon recognizing religious women of the Diocese of Lake Charles and those living a consecrated life. Attending were Sr. Mary Patricia Driscoll, C.C.V.I.; Sr. Mary Charles Chidou, DMMM; Sr. Shirley Robert, SEC; Sr. Claire Pellerin, SE; Sr. Catherine Leroux, SE; Sr. Camille Martinez, SEC; Sr. Diane Depwe, Sr. Osondu, D.M.M.M.; Sr. Raphaela Ikeazota, D.M.M.M.; Sr. Pamela Thiaine, C.C.V.I.; Sr. Justina Mutiso, C.C.V.I.; and Sr. Ann Margaret Savant, C.C.V.I.

Lenten Homily Series in all churches of the Diocese

LAKE CHARLES – During this Lenten Season, all who have attended Mass at any of the 39 church parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles, are hearing - generally - the same homily. Bishop Glen John Provost provided a "Homily Series" to the priests and deacons of the diocese, requesting that they use it in preaching on each of the Sundays of Lent.

In the letter to the clergy, the Bishop wrote, "Our people whether indirectly or directly have expressed a desire to receive ongoing catechesis and exhortation in the area of the virtues and living the virtues in daily life. Many have suggested the importance of all of the faithful receiving the same teachings throughout the year so the People of God, the Body of Christ, may be of one mind and heart."

The idea came as a joint effort that began with discussions by the Diocesan Pastoral

Council and the active initiative of the Presbyteral Council and a committee led by Very Reverend Anthony Fontenot. The series is entitled "Hope in Tribulation, Strength in Temptation" and each homily is crafted so that it builds upon the admonitions of *Dei Verbum* 24 of the Second Vatican Council regarding homilies and reflects the meaning and continuity of the Readings, proper Antiphons, and Collects of the liturgy.

"The 'Homily Series' centers upon virtue and how virtue is lived out in the daily life of the Christian, as necessary for authentic human freedom, human flourishing and happiness," Bishop Provost said.

The homilies are in a format that allows each homilist to adapt to his own preaching style and the needs of the particular congregation. "In other words, the 'Homily Series' will provide sequence and content and the

homilist provides style and form," Bishop Provost said.

Bishop Provost's Lenten Pastoral Letter was read in each of the parishes on the First Sunday of Lent (February 22) and remaining Sundays along with Palm Sunday (March 29), the homily will come from the "Series." The homilies concentrate on the virtues of Religion, Prudence, Temperance, and Fortitude.

The fact that many parishes have Lenten Missions planned was taken into consideration, which allowed that one of the homilies could be omitted without compromising the whole.

Father Fontenot, pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church and chairman of the Presbyteral Council, also sent a letter to the clergy introducing the "Series."

In the missive, he wrote, "the Diocesan Pastoral Council brought up the idea of hav-

ing the same homily preached in all of the churches of the Diocese so that the faithful would hear the same message. The Diocesan Pastoral Council's idea was inspired by the Bishop's message each year for the Bishop's Services Appeal. The Council surfaced a number of topics that could be covered by this homily series and suggested that the homilies be preached during Advent and/or Lent. The proposal of the homily series was then brought to the Presbyteral Council. The Presbyteral Council accepted the proposal and with the help of a committee prepared the homilies. The Homily Series was born."

Father Fontenot also noted that while the request to the priests and deacons was to preach the main points of the homilies, "the homilies are constructed to give the homilist freedom to craft his own words and tailor it to his congregation."

Governor says pro-life measures can 'change America by changing states'

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (CNS) -- The life debate is not just a "Catholic thing," but rather a natural law and human rights issue, Republican Gov. Sam Brownback of Kansas told Catholic News Service.

Brownback sat down with CNS while at a political conference near Fort Washington to discuss his state's current efforts at pro-life legislation and his natural law approach to the pro-life movement.

"The pain-capable child is the biggest one that's moving right now," Brownback said when asked about his efforts on pro-life legislation. "We've done it in Kansas, where at 21 weeks ... that the child feels pain and we limit abortions then."

"We've also got a really good bill coming up on the dismemberment procedure," he continued, "saying that you can no longer perform an abortion using this procedure of dismembering a child before you remove it."

Brownback is optimistic about the bill, S.B. 95, which was drafted with help from the National Right to Life Committee, based on the

precedent set by the partial-birth abortion debate.

"It passed the Kansas Senate 31-9; it's going to pass the House. I will sign it. We think it has a good chance," he said, explaining that "partial-birth abortion was about banning a procedure and likewise this is about banning a procedure."

The federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, upheld by the Supreme Court in 2007, outlaws a procedure is used in late-term abortions.

Brownback called the reality of the dismemberment procedure, often used in second-trimester abortions, "a graphic reminder about how horrific abortion is. There are actually abortions performed in the U.S. today where you actually dismember an unborn child to pull it out. ... You wouldn't do that to a dog, yet it's legal in the United States."

In response to the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act's failure to come to a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives Jan. 22, the governor said that he "didn't like it, but it also reminds me that the way you move this

forward typically is that you pass it in a bunch of states ... you change America by changing states."

As an example, he cited the several states that currently have pain-capable legislation, which limits abortions to around 20 weeks after conception, where studies have shown that unborn children can respond to painful stimuli.

When asked whether his Catholic beliefs influenced his efforts in regard to pro-life legislation, Brownback said that "they do, but I also think it's a natural law thing. Should you really be killing people, whether you have a Catholic faith or not? It just doesn't seem right."

"You have to approach this (the life debate) from a natural law argument that people agree with," he explained.

Natural law reasoning and approaches have proven helpful in passing legislation and showing a lack of political consequences in doing so, according to Brownback. "People don't like killing children; they just agree with it!"



Rickard Newman, the director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life, conducts a Together for Life marriage preparation class in the Chancery of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Remaining dates for 2015 are May 16, June 20, August 1, September 12, October 10, and November 21. For information or to register, please contact the Office of Family Life, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, by phone at 337-439-7400, or register online at 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 Assessment, the one-day seminar, lunch and materials. Classes fill quickly; so couples should not delay in securing and mailing in the registration form for their preferred date.

Prayers asked for Christians beheaded by Islamic State

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis called for prayers for the Egyptian Christians beheaded by Islamic State militants in Libya and asked that God recognize these men killed for their faith.

He offered morning Mass Feb. 17 in the chapel of his residence for the slain Christians he termed "our 21 brother Copts" whose throats had been slit "for the sole reason of being Christians," and he requested people pray for the victims so "that the Lord welcome them as martyrs."

He called on people to pray as well for the victims' families and for Egypt's Orthodox leader, Pope Tawadros II, "who is suffering so much." Pope Francis called Pope Tawadros Feb. 16 to express his sorrow over the deaths.

At the end of his weekly general audience Feb. 18, Pope Francis urged the international community "to find

peaceful solutions to the difficult situation in Libya."

And Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said, "the situation is serious and it demands a united response from the international community -- a rapid response, the quickest possible from the U.N."

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a bilateral summit with Italian government authorities Feb. 17, Cardinal Parolin said they talked about Libya and "the importance of re-launching a diplomatic initiative, and that any kind of armed intervention always be done according to the norms of international law and, therefore, that it be a U.N. initiative."

Egypt, meanwhile, continued to mourn its 21 nationals, who had been working in Libya when the extremist group kidnapped them. Their beheading was depicted in gruesome detail in a video released Feb. 15 on a pro-Islamic State website.

The same evening in a nationally televised speech, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called on his country's government to provide full support to families of the victims and vowed that Egypt maintained the right to retaliate.

Soon afterward, the Egyptian air force began bombing what it said were Islamic State targets in Libya.

In a statement issued Feb. 16 by the Coptic Catholic Church, Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sedrak of Alexandria, Egypt, extended his church's "deepest sympathies" to the families and relatives of the murdered Christians.

In apparent reference to the retaliatory military action his country has since taken, Patriarch Sedrak also extended his church's "deepest gratitude" to al-Sisi and "our country's loyal armed forces, especially the air forces, for the rapid response."

"Egyptian blood is valuable and honorable," he said.



Bishop Glen John Provost recently hosted members of the Southwest Louisiana legislative delegation, staff of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops (LCCB), and clergy and lay members of the diocesan staff at L'Évêché to discuss issues important to the Church in upcoming Regular Session of the Legislature, which begins on Monday, April 13. Pictured, from left, are District 34 Rep. A.B. Franklin, Bishop Provost; District 27 Sen. Ronnie Johns; District 37 Rep. John E. Guinn; District 33 Rep. Michael E. Danahay; Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Fr. Nathan Long, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation; and Rob Tasman, LCCB Executive Director.

Diocesan Briefs.....

April prayer breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES – The next women's luncheon has been set for Wednesday April 8, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex. The next men's prayer breakfast is Friday, April 10.

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, which is preceded by a 6:30 a.m. celebration of the Mass in the Cathedral.

Hospice volunteers being sought

LAKE CHARLES – CHRISTUS HomeCare Hospice and Palliative Care-St. Patrick is seeking individuals to become Christus Hospice Volunteers.

Patient volunteers provide emotional support and practical assistance, which enhances the comfort and quality of life for patients, their families and loved ones, according to April Deshotel, Volunteer Coordinator.

"Volunteers can help extend the Healing Ministry of Jesus Christ," Deshotel said. "They are needed for companionship to a person in the final months and weeks of life, provide support for family members and caregivers, be a comforting and supporting presence, and provide time for caregiver to take care of themselves."

For more information about becoming a Volunteer for Christus Hospice and Palliative Care, contact Deshotel at 4444 Lake Street, Lake Charles, LA, 70605 or call 337-395-5600

Garage Sale at Sacred Heart of Jesus

LAKE CHARLES -- The Saint Joseph Society of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church is holding a big garage sale

on Saturday, April 25, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Rental booths are available for \$25.

Contact Debra Johnson at 474-6372 for information.

Catholic Charities provides assistance

LAKE CHARLES – Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana provided \$10,876.83 in financial assistance to those most in need during the most recent reported period, a total of 47 clients.

Nineteen clients were helped with rental or mortgage assistance, 13 with utilities aid, five were helped in completing paperwork for a TWIC, seven received assistance for the funeral of a loved one and two received help with medications.

Jazz Brunch set for May 17

LAKE CHARLES -- The annual Catholic Charities Jazz Brunch is Sunday, May 17, at the Lake Charles Country Club from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 each and special sponsor levels, Disciple - \$1,500 and Friend - \$1,000, which include a table for eight and recognition at the brunch, are also available. Proceeds benefit the ministries of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana in aiding the most needy in our area.

Come enjoy a lovely meal along with lively entertainment featuring Chester and Jarvis Daigle.

Call 337-436-7436 for information and tickets or stop by Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, 1225 Second Street, Lake Charles.

Spring Fest at Immaculate Conception

LAKE CHARLES -- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Spring Fest and Auction is Saturday, April 18, at the Jeff Davis Parish Fairgrounds Multipurpose on Lake Arthur Avenue.

The steak dinner with all the trimmings will be served at

6:30 p.m. with pick-ups starting at 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$50 per person and includes the raffle drawing.

First prize is \$500, second is \$350 and third is a 250 gift certificate from Parker's Department Store.

Staff position open at Saint Charles Center

LAKE CHARLES – Saint Charles Center is seeking applicants for a part-time housekeeping/kitchen position. The successful applicant must be available for immediate employment and previous work experience in both areas is preferred.

Applicants must be flexible and able to work various hours, including weekends.

The retreat center offers the employee a peaceful environment with a spirit of shared collaboration among cooperative staff members.

Interested individuals should contact Michelle at 337-855-1232.

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 337-477-1434 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.