

CATHOLIC CALENDAR



The Diocese of Lake Charles
ladiocese.org



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Vol. 41, No. 6

April 17, 2015

Two to be honored at Catholic Charities Jazz Brunch

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Catholic Charities Jazz Brunch, the only fundraising event of the organization as well as a way to honor volunteers for outstanding service especially to the poor, is Sunday, May 17, in the Lake Charles Country Club.

Grammy-nominated music educator and saxophonist Mickey Smith will provide entertainment for the event, set for 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Awards given this year are the St. Peter Claver Award to be given to Catholic school student Annie Hatchel and

the Caritas Award given posthumously to the late Debbie Warshaw.

Hatchel is a nine-year-old, third grader who brings hope to all who may be discouraged by what seems to be a prevalent attitude of apathy among the youth of today. She brings assurance that the mission of Christ will continue. Annie took it upon herself to collect blankets for the poor and homeless this past winter season. It was strictly her idea. Her initiative caught on among her neighbors and friends.

She surprised Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, Director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, with a huge box filled with warm blankets right at the time they were most needed.

Warshaw was a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Her generosity of spirit, time, and talent show what stewardship as a disciple of Christ is meant to look like. She went about assisting Catholic Charities with her humble, kind and cheerful manner

and brought others along to join her. Those others were drawn into the mission of Christ because of her enthusiasm, good nature and Christ-like magnetism. She died earlier this year after a valiant battle against cancer.

The award is given to one who leaves us a legacy of love. The word “caritas” is a Latin word meaning “love” – a love beyond self, beyond family, beyond friends, beyond country. It is a compassion for all humanity, a commitment to the well-being of

others. The award winners will be recognized for their support of Catholic Charities’ mission to assist the poor with their most urgent needs.

Though tickets for the event are sold out, Sr. Mary Vianney asks anyone wishing to support Catholic Charities to consider making a special gift, becoming a regular contributor, or volunteering to honor the awardees and help foster the mission of the organization to aid those most in need in Southwest Louisi-

ana. Additionally, those interested in becoming a volunteer with Catholic Charities can contact Sr. Mary Vianney at 439-7436, for more information.

All of the proceeds from the Jazz Brunch and donations make it possible to assist the poor anywhere in the Diocese of Lake Charles with whatever emergency need arises - be it food, medicine, shelter, utilities, rent or other needs that would otherwise go unfulfilled.

Teen leadership training May 23-29

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) and Advanced Christian Leadership Institute (ACLI) are set for Saturday, May 23 through Friday, May 29, at Camp Bethany, located at 9766 U.S. Highway 79 in Bethany, La, near Shreveport.

CLI and ACLI are weeklong training experiences sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles focusing on developing and sharpening leadership skills in a Christian manner that can be used in every aspect of their lives. The focus of the training includes the following:

- Effective communication skills
- Facilitation skills
- Decision making skills
- Consensus seeking skills
- Temperament and leadership styles
- Male/female leadership styles
- Living the Catholic Faith
- Call to ministry

The training involves experiential learning and is re-enforced by hands-on activities and small group challenges. The young people themselves play a part in shaping the routine activities of each day from waking up in the morning, to setting the environment and planning prayer for meals, morning and evening prayer, the evening liturgy and the evening socials. ACLI takes the skills learned at CLI and continues to sharpen the skills and planning process on a larger scale. It is an exciting and transforming experience!

This year there will be a 100 teen limit set on the camp and registration is on a first come first serve basis, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, director of Youth Ministry.

“To guarantee a spot, a completed registration form and the \$150 deposit must be turned into the diocesan office at 411 Iris Street by Friday, May 1, “ Thibodeaux said. “Cost of the camp is \$450, which includes meals, lodging, leadership materials, transportation to/from the camp, ropes course fees and t-shirt.”

Teens will be placed on a waiting list after the 100 spots are filled.

Attendees may make the first of the two final payments of \$150 by Thursday, May 14 and the final payment of \$150 by Thursday, May 28.

For other information, contact the Youth Ministry Office at 337-439-7400, Ext. 301.

The campers will be dropped off and picked up at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 607 Fourth Avenue, Kinder. Teens will be transported to and from Camp Bethany on buses.

The “Christian” in Christian Leadership is not just a portion of what the event is about.

Catholic Christian values are woven into every fiber of the week! Since CLI is Catholic-Christian based, it is rooted in faith tradition and Christ as the model for the kind of “servant” leadership we strive to emulate.

One of the main goals for the week is to learn how to really live as a Christian community. The camp offers a balanced existence of hard work in learning, planning and implementation; prayer, downtime (relaxation); as well as fellowship and social activity. It is truly a faith-filled experience in which young people are challenged to grow in their faith and truly experience what love of neighbor is all about.

In addition to the leadership skills offered at CLI there is a ministry component to the week, including, everything liturgy, music ministry, prayer and spirituality, “sacred scripture” study, service in ministry and the church, church teachings including a look at the Youcat, witnessing and defending the faith, living pro-life vocation and discerning the students’ call after high school.

Christian Leadership Institute is for high school students from entering freshmen to graduating seniors. A teen attending CLI for the second time and is in ninth through eleventh grade will be placed in the “RCLI” program, which includes a ropes course as well as additional challenges and presentations throughout the week.

ACLI is for students who have participated in both CLI and RCLI, though graduating seniors can attend with only one year of CLI. In the advanced program teens spend time reviewing content and skills learned during CLI and at the same time participate in a challenging training experience with real life lessons included in all aspects of the program. They also go off campus for an advanced ropes course training day.



Various activities assist in developing and sharpening leadership skills at the annual Christian Leadership and Advance Christian Leadership Institutes sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The weeklong event is held at Camp Bethany near Shreveport, LA.

Holy See grants Papal Honors to diocesan laity, Bishop Announces

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, M.A., D.D., Bishop of Lake Charles has announced the bestowal of Papal honors to nine members of the laity of the Diocese of Lake Charles by the Holy See. The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Carlos Maria Viganò, notified the Bishop on Monday, March 30.

“The Papal Nuncio has informed me that the Holy See has granted my request for these Papal honors to be granted to individuals in the Diocese of Lake Charles who have selflessly given of

themselves in service to their neighbor and the Church,” Bishop Provost said. “We congratulate them and offer them our prayers and blessings.”

Grady Conner, John Robichaux and Dr. Jon Yokubaitis, all parishioners of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Lake Charles; were named Knights of the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great.

Mrs. Kathy Conner, Mrs. Mandy Robichaux, and Mrs. Alyson Yokubaitis, all Cathedral parishioners were named Dames of the Pontifi-

cal Order of Saint Gregory the Great.

Awarded the Papal Cross *Pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice* were Mrs. Pamela Seal, a parishioner of the Cathedral and Ms. Cheryl Riley, a parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Lake Charles. Mrs. Marjorie Long, a parishioner of St. Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa, was honored with the Papal Medal *Benemerenti*.

Bishop Provost will bestow the Papal Honors at the 9:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, April 19, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

See PAPAL HONORS, Page 6

Special photo layout inside acknowledges 35 years as a diocese

LAKE CHARLES – The Diocese of Lake Charles was established on April 25, 1980 and will celebrate the 35 years of its existence at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 26, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. April 23 will be the eighth anniversary of the consecration and installation of Bishop Glen John Provost as the third bishop of the diocese

Also on that day, the winners of the 2015 Vocation Drawing contest will be presented with their prizes, prayer cards of the first place winners entry will be handed out, and a collage of

all the art submitted will be shown following the Mass in Ave Maria Hall.

On page 4 and 5 of the Catholic Calendar, you will find photographs that represent many of the events that have occurred in the 35 years of the diocese’s existence.

In addition, a list of the priests and deacons who have served the diocese that have died in that time can be found on page 4. Please pray for those who have completed their journey of service as well as those who continue to serve the faithful of the local church in Southwest Louisiana.



Bishop Glen John Provost
Happy 8th Anniversary

Bishop Comments on Completion of Sixth Cycle of Parish Visitations

By Bishop Glen John Provost

In my sixth cycle of parish visitations (September 2014 through March 2015), I had the pleasure of joining parishioners at Our Lady of LaSalette in DeQuincy, St. Lawrence in Raymond, St. Raphael in Iowa and Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur. The visit offered us the opportunity to get to know each other, hear of their concerns, learn of the many good things going on in the parishes, answer questions, and acquaint them with the ministries of the Diocese.

One of the aspects of parish life in our diocese that continues to impress me is the communal enthusiasm that one witnesses. This is particularly evident in the parish meal held either on Saturday evening or follow-

ing Masses on Sunday. At these gatherings, it is obvious that the parishioners appreciate the fellowship and the occasion to meet and share common goals, the most important being their Catholic faith.

It is good to note the concern for the family that repeatedly manifests itself in conversation and in the questions raised. The onslaught of the drug culture is devastating to the unity of family life. The parishioners are gravely concerned over the unraveling of the family in this continually secularized society. We cannot ignore the silent but catastrophic plague of pornography, a multi-billion dollar industry that has no regard for the harm it does to individuals and families.

See BISHOP, Page 6

Let's proclaim the beauty and truth about marriage

In September, up to two million people are expected to gather in Philadelphia to celebrate the traditional family together with Pope Francis. Just a couple of months prior to this, the Supreme Court might determine "same-sex marriage" a constitutional right. These major events give us an indication of the broad spectrum of radically different views that exist on what marriage is and ought to be. How are we to understand marriage and family today with so many contradictory perspectives?

First we have to understand how we got here. Almost everything that marriage once brought together has been split apart as a result of the Sexual Revolution. Let's look at some of the consequences.

1. Sex has been divorced from children

The invention and proliferation of the contraceptive pill in the 1950s and 1960s made it possible to spread the lie that sex could be conducted for pleasure alone, without any unwanted consequences—like babies. As described by Saint John Paul The Great, the danger with contraception is how it puts personal fulfillment at the center of life's meaning and fosters a self-centered concept of freedom, a freedom divorced from truth.

Freedom is not the ability to do whatever you want to do, but to do what one ought to do. This is the difference between a freedom that will make you a slave under your sins or a freedom that will set you free through discipline and self mastery. When pretending that sex is sterile we are no longer living according to the truth of the human person, and that puts us on a path to self-destruction. The fact that about 60 million children have been aborted since 1973 should be evidence enough.

2. Sex has been divorced from love

In his book *Three to Get Married*, Fulton Sheen makes the following distinction: "In sex the male adores the female. In love the man and woman together adore God. Sex seeks the part; love the totality." In the hook-up culture, ubiquitous on college campuses today, sex is seen as just another recre-

ational activity with no deeper meaning. It essentially favors male sexual desires while leaving females feeling disconnected and jaded. This has led to more STDs and unintended pregnancies, increased sexual violence as well as introduced a range of emotional and psychological problems that become barriers to authentic love.

3. Love has been divorced from commitment

Love is not seen as an action, a promise and commitment anchored and sustained in the will. It's rather based on a hedonistic mindset that sees love as an emotion, an intangible sentiment constructed in the mind and backed up by some butterflies in the stomach and physical attraction. With the introduction of "no-fault" divorce in the late 1970s and early 1980s, couples could split up for any reason, like "falling out of love", or no reason at all. This legislative policy is erroneously based on the idea that marriage is primarily about adult romance.

4. Marriage has been divorced from children

Almost half of all "first babies" in the U.S. are now being born to unwed mothers. For Millennials, out-of-wedlock childbirth is the norm. With more cohabitation comes less family stability which in turn creates more single parents. Single parent families are more prone to poverty and children who grow up without their fathers are much more likely to use drugs, commit crimes, become teen parents and spend time in jail.

5. Children have been divorced from sex

The inverse of contraception and abortion is children as entitlements. With reproductive technologies practices such as egg and sperm donation, IVF and surrogacy, it is no longer sex that makes babies but doctors and fertility agencies.



Rickard Newman

Parenthood today is becoming a commercial enterprise, not determined by the biological union that created the child, but rather legally assigned according to adult intentions and desires.

This is the world we live in. The engaged couples I meet to prepare for marriage are not immune from this reality. Many of them cohabitate and only 3-5 percent of Catholics in general practice Natural Family Planning.

It is now up to us to glue back what has been shattered. This starts with being able to answer the question "What is marriage?" Marriage has always existed to unite a man and a woman as husband and wife to be mother and father to any children that that union might produce. It's based on the anthropological truth that men and women are distinct and complementary. It's based on the biological fact that reproduction requires a man and a woman. It's based on the sociological reality that children desire a mother and a father and do best when raised by their biological parents. For us Catholics, marriage has also been elevated to a sacrament making it theological truth.

Marriage is a covenant, a sign of Christ's love for his bride, the Church. The grace of the Holy Spirit empowers us to give ourselves to each other the way Christ gives himself to the Church—freely, faithfully, fruitfully and totally. With Lent just behind us, we have once been reminded of what that self-sacrifice looks like. So let us in the spirit of Easter, with renewed hope, leave all fear behind and make 2015 a year where we proudly stand up for the beauty and truth of marriage. The mountain played its role, but I'm not certain it was necessary. Man cannot live without love and it's only when he encounters it and starts participating deeply in it that things start to make sense. It is the discovery of another person—the promise of intimacy—that takes us to higher places.

Rickard Newman is the Director of Family Life and Pro-Life in the Diocese of Lake Charles since July 2014. He and his wife, Alana, are the parents of two small children.

ANSWERING THE CALL

The story of the Divine Word Missionaries and St. Augustine Seminary

(Reprinted from *IN A WORD*, with permission of the **Divine Word Missionaries, Southern Province**)
First part of a series

The establishment of the Society of the Divine Word African American Catholic men in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi is historically important for African American Catholics. Yet, little is known about the factors that set such an historical event into motion.

What were the forces that shaped the opening of the seminary in Greenville, Mississippi in 1920 and the subsequent move to Bay Saint Louis in 1923?

First of all we must remember that the Bay Saint Louis success happened because of the efforts of many people. There were earlier efforts even in the 1890's to begin a seminary for the ordination of African American men.

Cyprian Davis in his monumental work *THE HISTORY OF BLACK CATHOLICISM* points to the Healy brothers and of course Augustus Tolton. The Josephites ordained Father Charles Uncles, John Dorsey and a few other men but in the end for various reasons that are best discussed in a longer article

efforts failed in the establishment of a seminary.

After the Civil War there were various priests and lay people who advocated that the American Bishops take seriously the evangelization of African Americans and that Black men be ordained in the Church. John Slattery, Albert Bell, SSJ, John Burke and lay people such as Thomas Wyatt Turner and the Association for Federated Catholics raised the issue often in public forums and correspondence.

However a strong group of American Bishops were loathe to change the established social order. There was prejudice and outright racism amongst a few and outright indifference from the majority. Interestingly, it was the Vatican that kept the pressure on the American Bishops to do more for African Americans.

Rome kept asking why there was little being done in regards the evangelization of African Americans. Rome was concerned about the Blacks who left the Church because they felt so little care. "Why", Rome asked, "when native clergy are found in other countries it is not being done in America".



St. Arnold Janssen
Founder of Society of Divine Word

The Bishops response can be summed up in the phrase "you, in Rome, do not understand America...we are different."

Yet, the Vatican continued to push. All the correspondence between Rome and the Bishops in regards to evangelization for Blacks is best discovered in the previously mentioned book by Cyprian Davis. Also noteworthy is the Stephen Ochs book "DESEGREGATING THE ALTAR". To read the stories are fascinating but sad.

Archbishop J.E. Quigley of Chicago gave the first suggestion for the members of the

Society of the Divine Word to work with Blacks. He made this suggestion to

Father John Peil, SVD who at that time was the superior of the new foundation in North America. The Society of the Divine Word (popularly known as the Divine Word Missionaries) was founded by St. Arnold Janssen in Steyl, Holland in 1875.

After training and sending numerous missionaries to Argentina, Africa, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and India to spread the Word of God, Saint Arnold, sent the first missionary to the United States. He sent Brother Wendelin Meyer SVD in 1895 to seek financial support for the Society through sales of Divine Word publications. Brother Wendelin was an able person and met many people among whom was St. Katharine Drexel. Already in 1896 he wrote Janssen to call his attention to work among Negroes by Divine Word Missionaries in America.

In the Fall of 1903, Father Superior Peil, presented to Archbishop Quigley, two confres' who had recently arrived from Europe. The Archbishop used this as an opportunity to mention the sad and difficult situation of



Fr. John Peil, SVD

Blacks in North America... their number of nine million could be deceptive and no one really took care of them.

In the Spring of 1904, the invitation was given in a more concrete fashion, when a prominent Catholic gentleman by the name of Mr. Bremner, owner of a business in Chicago, had acquired extensive holdings in Merigold, Mississippi. When he saw the unfortunate situation of his Black workers who had no educational possibilities and who Father John Peil, SVD Brother Wendelin Meyer, SVD were neglected socially and religiously, he presented a proposal to the Chicago Archbishop to have mem-

bers of a religious community take care of the religious and cultural development of Blacks on his own property and those in the neighboring area. Upon hearing this, the Archbishop remembered the Society of the Divine Word.

NOTE:
*This article can only highlight important facts about the early beginnings of St. Augustine Seminary. Much of our information comes from a doctoral dissertation, *Divine Word Missionaries' Black Apostolate in the Southern USA*, by Michael Meier, SVD published in 1961 in German. We have an English translation. Also of value was a collection of letters written by Saint Arnold to *Divine Word Missionaries in North America*. Other information is found in a book by Ernest Brandewie. Brandewie's informative book on the *Society of the Divine Word and its beginnings in North America* provides much more detail specifically about Father Peil and the beginnings of the African American Apostolate. Titled *IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORD: DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES OF NORTH AMERICA*. The book was published by Orbis Press on May 1, 2000. It can be found on Amazon Books.*



The February Day of Reflection, sponsored by the Fleur de Lis Theresians of South Louisiana, drew an overflow crowd of 168 women to the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church Family Life Community Center. Fr. Whitney Miller, Gwin Miller-Cronin, and Vicki Schmidt, Executive Director of Theresians International presented the program "The Woman Within." The Theresians, Women in Support of Women - Reaching Out with Gospel Values, is an international organization of women of faith who meet in small Christian communities to pray, to be enlightened and challenged, and to support each other striving to follow the example of the missionary heart of their patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux. Call Rose Viau for information, (337) 802-2487.

Staff member retiring; applicants sought

LAKE CHARLES - The Diocese of Lake Charles seeks applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant for the Office of the Bishop beginning immediately. Ms. Sandra Jones, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, will retire this summer after 30 years of employment with the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The successful applicant must have a working knowledge of the history, hierarchical structure, and reli-

gion of the Roman Catholic Church; be knowledgeable with the programs of Excel, Microsoft Word, and Power Point; transcribe recorded minutes; competently file records and documents; possess creative writing skills; be able to work with other personnel on large projects; coordinating receptions and events; working with the switchboard program in answering and routing phone calls for the entire diocesan

structure; and be willing to work Monday-Friday 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Though a knowledge of Spanish, along with French, Italian, and Latin is not required, the applicant must be comfortable with the intellectual challenges of working with another language as the Church is an international body and the Bishop's office handles at one time or another correspondence or documents in these languages. They must

be an initiator, a team player, a hard worker, and respectful of confidentiality.

Interested applicants should contact Deacon George Stearns at 439-7400 for an appointment to complete an application. A resume of job experience (i.e., a curriculum vitae) and three letters of reference will be required at the time of application. The deadline for applications will be Monday, April 27, 2015.

A Quick Journey Through the Bible series offered

LAKE CHARLES - A *Quick Journey Through the Bible* will help attendees gain a better understanding of the Faith and find a deeper relationship with God and will be offered in a number of parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles over the next few months.

"By being a part of this study, you will not only benefit personally, but you will also help to bring about a profound renewal in our Diocese as we all grow closer to Christ," said Sr. Miriam MacLean, Director of Religious Education.

"A *Quick Journey Through the Bible* provides the clearest, easiest, and most accessible way to understand Scripture," Sr. Miriam continued. "This study is suitable for both beginners and for those who are experienced at Bible

study, because it simplifies the complexity of the Bible through an easy-to-follow narrative approach, and an ingenious color-coded *Bible Timeline*.

"It is a great way for you to get the 'big picture' of Salvation History from the Catholic perspective, and to see how the Bible reveals God's loving plan for your life."

The study includes a series of eight, Jeff-Hav videos presented by half-hour videos and each video is followed by a group discussion.

A *Quick Journey through the Bible* is being offered throughout the Diocese this summer as part of the continuing education/certification of our Catechists, RCIA teams, Youth Ministers and teachers, but the sessions are any adult interested in learning more about our Salvation History.

Please contact one of the parishes below to register or for more information:

• Saturday, June 13, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, Sulphur, 337-527-9964.

• Saturday, June 13, St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Lake Charles, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., call 337-478-3845.

• Saturday, July 11 (10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Saturday, July 18 (10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church, Carlyss, call 337-583-4000.

• Saturday, July 25, 2015 (10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Saturday, August 1 (10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.), St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Carlyss, call 337-583-4000.

• Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, Lake Charles, call 337-477-1236.

• Saturday, August 22, St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Lake Charles, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., call 337-478-3845.

Did you know...

St. Leo the Great, who had kept his given name when he was elected to the papacy, was the first pope to be called "great." He served as pontiff from 440 to 461 and is also a doctor of the Church. St. Gregory the Great was the second to be thus known (serving as pope from 590 to 604) and St. Nicholas the Great, pope from 858 to 867 was the third.

St. Gregory the Great has an interesting family tree. What makes it so unusual. Do you know? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar, published on May 15.



April 17, 2015
Friday

My dear People of God,

Exhorting us to be better servants and stewards of God's gifts, Jesus teaches us in the Gospel, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more" (Luke 12:48).

We have all been entrusted with a great deal, much treasure and many graces. For this reason and in a spirit of openness, we present to you the accompanying financial statements of the Diocese of Lake Charles for your review.

An independent accounting firm conducted an audit of our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. If you would desire greater detail or have any questions, please feel free to contact our diocesan Office of Administration (439-7400).

Please note that, in keeping with established practice, this financial statement does not include the financial reports of individual parishes within the Diocese. Each pastor is responsible for reporting publicly the financial statement of his parish in the parish bulletin.

I offer my heartfelt thanks for your continued support, especially to the Bishop's Services Appeal. Those whom we serve rely on your generosity. Without your assistance we could not address their needs.

With gratitude and blessings to you, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

**THE SOCIETY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES**

**Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2014
(With comparative totals as of June 30, 2013)**

	2014	2013
Assets:		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 8,073,024	\$ 7,679,795
Investments and securities	964,268	924,498
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$0	144,271	112,078
Grants and contributions receivable in less than one year, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$0	169,311	453,410
Loans receivable	89,595	97,753
Cash value of life insurance policies	600,168	648,140
Prepaid insurance and other expenses	388,976	323,237
Property, equipment, net	8,599,504	7,985,095
Investments pledged as collateral	100,000	100,000
Beneficial interest in securities held in trust	2,000,239	1,906,490
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 21,129,356	\$ 20,230,496
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 686,021	\$ 473,488
National collections and other payables	150,396	116,503
Reserve for insurance claims	158,961	252,803
Contributions payable	117,090	88,389
Deferred Revenue	34,125	26,000
Contingent Liability	400,000	200,000
Total liabilities	\$ 1,546,593	\$ 1,157,183
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$ 8,395,749	\$ 7,945,960
Designated for specific purposes	7,750,239	7,354,910
Total unrestricted net assets	16,145,988	15,300,870
Temporarily restricted	1,895,822	2,285,651
Permanently restricted	1,540,953	1,486,792
Total net assets	\$ 19,582,763	\$ 19,073,313
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 21,129,356	\$ 20,230,496

Statement of Activities

**Year Ended June 30, 2014
(With comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2013)**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2014 Totals	2013 Totals
Support and Revenue:					
Parochial tithes	\$ 2,446,705	-	-	2,446,705	2,509,484
Diocesan assessments	6,134,353	137,000	-	6,271,353	5,738,650
Diocesan appeals	65,664	174,160	-	239,824	251,192
Contributions and bequests	324,626	632,432	-	957,058	1,110,903
Grants	63,100	528,712	-	591,812	712,715
Investment income, gains and losses	125,507	104,350	54,161	284,018	214,203
Loss from disposal or impairment of property	(3,447)	-	-	(3,447)	(5,205)
Special programs and other revenues	1,039,637	-	-	1,039,637	873,728
Less: cost of direct benefits to donors	(50,558)	-	-	(50,558)	(44,917)
Net assets released from restrictions	1,966,483	(1,966,483)	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 12,112,070	\$ (389,829)	\$ 54,161	\$ 11,776,402	\$ 11,360,753
Expenses:					
Program expenses					
Clergy life	920,579	-	-	920,579	878,091
Christian formation	2,454,869	-	-	2,454,869	2,038,750
Pastoral services	1,381,877	-	-	1,381,877	1,444,204
Health care and casualty insurance	5,267,986	-	-	5,267,986	5,016,596
Supporting Services					
General administration	1,107,645	-	-	1,107,645	925,092
Fund raising	133,996	-	-	133,996	110,471
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,266,952	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,266,952	\$ 10,413,204
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 845,118	\$ (389,829)	\$ 54,161	\$ 509,450	\$ 947,549
Net assets beginning of year	15,300,870	2,285,651	1,486,792	19,073,313	18,125,764
Net assets, end of year	\$ 16,145,988	\$ 1,895,822	\$ 1,540,953	\$ 19,582,763	\$ 19,073,313



The Feast of St. Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster father of Jesus, was Thursday, March 19. The day always falls during Lent, and traditionally it is a day of abstinence, thus the custom of St. Joseph tables covered with meatless dishes. In the photo at left, Bishop Glen John Provost sprinkles the St. Joseph Table at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on the feast day. Above, at right, the Reverend Archimandrite Herbert May, pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole blesses the St. Joseph Table at St. Joseph Catholic Church in LeBleu Settlement. Father May, for a number of years, has provided a narrative about the history of the feast, particularly as it relates to its origins and backgrounds in Sicily.

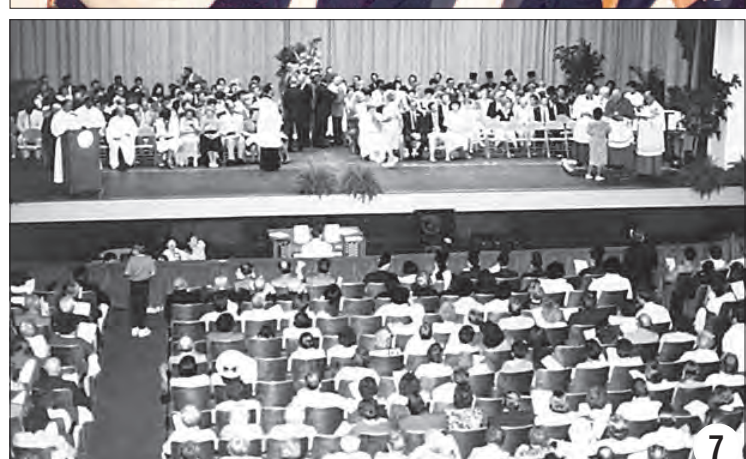
Thirty-five years of spreading the

Priests Serving the Diocese of Lake Charles Who Have Died Since 1980

- Reverend Justin A. Dolan, M.S. 3/20/1982
- Monsignor Aloysius Van Buijtenen 11/26/1983
- Reverend George Betzenhauser, SSSJ 1/24/1986
- Monsignor Charles Levasseur, 10/25/1988
- Reverend Anthony Gobeil 9/24/1989
- Reverend Raymond Genna 4/25/1991
- Reverend Oscar Vasquez-Munoz 6/18/1991
- Reverend Michael J. Carr, C.S.Sp. 1/13/1992
- Reverend Paul Perrin 1/19/1993
- Monsignor Bede Becnel 2/5/1993
- Reverend Howard Coleman 10/31/1994
- Reverend A. J. Robichaud 11/15/1994
- Reverend Don Olson 1/30/1996
- Reverend Jerry Hayden, SJ 2/19/1996
- Reverend Robert Shreve 2/24/1996
- Reverend Theodore Brandley, M.S. 3/10/1996
- Reverend James Droney, M.S. 3/28/1996
- Reverend Raymond Isabelle, M.S. 5/7/1996
- Monsignor Jules O. Daigle 1/1/1998
- Reverend George Repchick, M.S. 6/11/1998
- Reverend Henry F. McKay, M.S. 4/21/1999
- Reverend Eugene McKenna, M.S. 2/27/2000
- Reverend Roland Bernier, M.S. 8/5/2000
- Monsignor Murphy Bernard 9/4/2000
- Monsignor Curtiss Vidrine 10/24/2000
- Reverend William O'Brien, M.S. 8/2/2002
- Reverend Al Volpe 3/26/2003
- Reverend Joseph Decoteau, M.S. 9/29/2003
- Reverend Francis Fitzsimmons, M.S. 1/23/2004
- Monsignor A. J. Vincent 7/18/2005
- Reverend Oris Broussard 1/8/2006
- Monsignor Irving A. DeBlanc 7/16/2006
- Reverend John Giles 8/4/2006
- Reverend Maurice Martineau 12/21/2006
- Reverend Henry Lenz, M.S. 2/18/2007
- Reverend James F. Burke, C.S.Sp. 5/5/2008
- Reverend John L. Blumm, M.S. 1/16/2009
- Reverend William Hogan, SSSJ 6/14/2009
- Reverend Peter Revel 2/27/2011
- Reverend Juan Alers 2/1/2011
- Reverend Charles Soileau 6/6/2011
- Reverend Maxwell D. Okolie 10/3/2011
- Reverend James Doyle 11/30/2012
- Reverend T. L. Herlong 1/18/2013
- Monsignor Joseph A. Bourque 07/9/2013
- Most Reverend Jude Speyler 7/21/2013
- Reverend James C. Miles 11/6/2014



Three Bishops have shepherded the Diocese of Lake Charles since its establishment on April 25, 1980. They are pictured together in the top photo, following the consecration and installation in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Bishop Glen John Provost, center, on April 23, 2007 as the third. At left is founding Bishop Jude Speyler (1980-2000) and, right, Bishop Edward K. Braxton (2001-2005). Pictured above are the coats of arms of the Diocese and the three bishops. At left, the diocesan crest followed by the crest of Bishop Speyler, then Bishop Braxton and at right, the diocesan crest followed by the crest of Bishop Provost.



The Lake Charles Civic Center Coliseum, photo 1, was the site of the auspicious beginning of the Diocese on April 25, 1980 as Bishop Jude Speyler was consecrated and installed as the first bishop. The Calcasieu Center for Catholic Studies at St. Louis Catholic High School, photo 2, was the first diocesan wide effort under Bishop Speyler to provide better educational opportunities for religious education instructors and the laity in general. Early on, provisions on such feasts as Christ the King were commonplace. In photo 3, Bishop Speyler leads such a well-attended event down Broad Street toward St. Henry Catholic Church. In 1985, the Diocese celebrated its fifth anniversary of establishment with the dedication of the Chancery, photo 4. Knights of Columbus Council 1207 and the Cathedral Catholic Daughters of the Americas donated the building to the diocese. In photo 5, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio Archbishop Pio Laghi helped bless the new home of a number of offices – the Bishop, Fiscal, Vicar General, and Tribunal. The diocese honored many laity and clergy, photo 6, who had given their time, talent, and treasure in the first 10 years of its formation at a special Honors Convocation in 1990 in an event held in the Francis G. Bulber Auditorium (photo 7) on the McNeese State University campus. On several occasions, the diocese held special events near the Feast of Pentecost where Bishop Speyler and his priest-designees held mass confirmations. In photo 8, Rediscover '92, held in the Lake Charles Civic Center was a multi-day event that culminated with Confirmation. In photo 9, Burton Coliseum was the site of another such event. Racial diversity has always been very important in the local church of Southwest Louisiana, with Bishop Speyler establishing an Office of Black Catholics early in his episcopacy. In photo 10, the Bishop and members of the African American community look over plans for their attendance at the National Black Catholic Congress.

Deacons of the Diocese of Lake Charles Who Have Died:

- Deacon Dudley LeBert 12/14/1984
- Deacon Herman Sensat 10/20/1985
- Deacon Barry Bordelon 12/12/1987
- Deacon Armand Perrault 3/28/1988
- Deacon Clarence LeBlanc 9/12/1992
- Deacon John Segura 5/15/1999
- Deacon Harry St. Mary 6/16/1999
- Deacon Mark Benoit 10/5/2004
- Deacon Paul Thompson 4/8/2006
- Deacon A. Malone Hebert 7/24/2009
- Deacon Frederick LaPoint 11/14/2010
- Deacon Gordon Broussard 9/10/2011
- Deacon Jack Reynolds 9/18/2013
- Deacon James Ray Granger 6/28/2014

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Gospel in Southwest Louisiana



In 1995, a project dear to the heart of Bishop Speyer and the presbyterate of the Diocese was completed – the dedication of Saint Charles Center (photo 1). Disasters befell a number of parishes of the Diocese in the early part of the 21st Century – St. John Mission in Lacassine, destroyed by fire in 2003, (photo 2) was rebuilt; Hurricane Rita (the first major hurricane to hit SW Louisiana since 1957’s Audrey) severely damaged the churches of the coastal parishes in 2005: Sacred Heart (photo 3), Our Lady Star of the Sea (photo 4); at St. Eugene, in addition to damages to structures, tombs were unearched (photo 5). Such damages to the final resting places of many of the faithful occurred throughout lower Cameron Parish. Work began to rebuild, but three years later, the second devastating hit came with Hurricane Ike. In photo 6, floodwaters surrounded St Peter the Apostle in Hackberry. The almost ready to open Sacred Heart in Creole suffered storm surge damage as did others (photo 7). It would not be until 2014 that the damaged churches were fully restored. In 2007, Bishop Provost was ordained and installed as the third Bishop of the diocese (photo 8) and under his leadership many successful initiatives were undertaken. Bishop Provost celebrated a special mass for the 50th anniversary of the Seafarers ministry in the diocese (photo 9). In 2011, the Bishop dedicated the opening of the Vianney House of Discernment (photo 10) where men of the diocese could serve a year of prayer and discernment on their possible vocation journey. A fountain was the centerpiece of the memorial courtyard dedicated in the center of Tabor Retreat House at Saint Charles Center (photo 11) and an articulation agreement between McNeese State University and Our Lady of Holy Cross College allowed for the opening of the Center for Catholic Studies at the Newman Center of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Student Center. Various courses are taught that may, depending upon the students’ curriculum, count as electives (photo 12). Bishop Provost established St. Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley (photo 13) as the 39th parish of the diocese in 2014. Seventeen men were ordained to the permanent diaconate during Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven in 2014 (photo 14). In October 2014, Bishop Provost was in Rome for the diaconate ordination of seminarian Ruben Villarreal and had the opportunity for an audience with Pope Francis (photo 15). The death of Bishop Jude Speyer was a sad time for the diocese with hundreds of people paying their respects as the body was carried in procession from the front of Saint Charles Center to its place of interment in New Bethany Cemetery on the grounds (photo 16). A Eucharistic Procession from St. Louis Catholic High School (photo 17) travels down Broad Street on the way the Cathedral for Mass and a teaching by Father Thomas Pacwa on the Feast of Christ the King. The diocese received a very special honor from the Pope with the crowning of the statue of Mary in the Cathedral (photo 18). Papal Nuncio Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò accepted Bishop Provost’s invitation to join the celebration of the crowning, in the name and by the authority of Pope Francis.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal slated April 25-26

WASHINGTON — The 2015 annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up in many dioceses the weekend of April 25-26. This appeal helps to sustain nearly 45 percent of all dioceses and parishes in rural, struggling areas in the country and in a number of U.S. territories in the Caribbean and Pacific.

Catholic Home Missions (CHM), Strengthening the Church at Home, helps to support evangelization, catechesis, seminarian education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry, and other pastoral programs for dioceses in need. The Appeal is a significant source of support to bolster domestic Catholic pastoral programs. "It can be surprising to hear about the great need of many of our dioceses here in the United States. For those who have never experienced life in a mission diocese it can be

hard to imagine not having access to a priest or basic materials to teach the faith," said Bishop Peter F. Christensen of Boise, Idaho, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions. "This collection supports our neighbors here at home and provides for their spiritual needs."

Here in the Diocese of Lake Charles, the local church was fortunate enough to receive \$140,000 from CHM to be used for a variety of ministries and programs, including financial assistance to seven needy parishes, evangelization, lay ministry formation, youth and young adult ministry, vocations, and communications outreach. Bishop Glen John Provost urges everyone to be generous.



Thirteen students from the fifth, eighth, and twelfth grades of the non-public schools within the five civil parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles were nominated as their schools' Student of the Year and competed in the district round. Three of the school nominees are shown with Bishop Glen John Provost. From left, are Emily Dupuis, the fifth grade Student of the Year at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings, Cate O'Byrne, eighth grade Student of the Year from Immaculate Conception Cathedral School; Bishop Provost; and Joshua France, the fifth grade nominee for Student of the Year from Immaculate Conception Cathedral School. France was chosen as a fifth grade district winner in the Student of the Year competition.

Panel says assisted suicide operates with premise 'some lives unworthy'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Physician-assisted suicide "violates the Hippocratic oath" and operates under the premise that "some lives are unworthy," said participants in a March 30 panel discussion at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

The panel, which consisted of speakers from the areas of public policy, medicine and religion, was titled "Living Life to Its Fullest: Supporting the Sick and Elderly in Their Most Vulnerable Hours" and focused on recent public discussions of physician-assisted suicide. Eighteen states and the

District of Columbia are currently considering legislation that would allow people facing terminal illness to make the decision to, with the help of their doctor, take their own life, according to a research paper released by the Heritage Foundation.

Much of the recent debate has been generated by the story of Brittany Maynard, an American woman who made national news last November when she opted to end her own life after learning that she had terminal brain cancer. She moved from California to Oregon, where physi-

cian-assisted suicide is legal. "Killing is incompatible with healing," Ryan Anderson, the William E. Simon fellow at Heritage, said in his opening statement, arguing that the very practice of assisted suicide is contrary to the nature of the Hippocratic oath and the medical profession as a whole.

In an assisted suicide, a person can kill himself with a lethal prescription he has requested from his physician; voluntary euthanasia is when a medical professional does the actual killing of a patient at the patient's request.

PAPAL HONORS

Continued from Page 1
The Order of Saint Gregory the Great was instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831, as a reward for subjects of the Papal States. In 1905, it was reorganized by Pope Pius X as a worldwide Order, available to those laity that have contributed in an outstanding way to the welfare of the Church and community, and who have displayed indisputable zeal in service to the Holy See. The Order of Saint

Gregory the Great is divided into the ranks of Grand Cross, Commander, with star and without, and Knight or Dame. The class of Knight or Dame is the most frequently bestowed on the diocesan level as a special mark of favor of the Holy See for persons who diligently serve the Church at the local level.

The **Papal Cross Pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice** (for the Church and Pope) is a decoration authorized by the Holy See for men and women who have contributed noteworthy services to the Church. In the

Diocese of Lake Charles, the Cross is presented for services and contributions to the Church at the diocesan level over a period of 10 or more years.

The **Papal Medal Benemerenti** (good merit) is a decoration authorized by the Holy See for men and women who have contributed outstanding services to the Church. In the Diocese of Lake Charles, the medal is presented for services and contributions at the deanery level over a period of 10 or more years.

Pope Francis to visit President on Sept. 23

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama will welcome Pope Francis to the White House Sept. 23.

"During the visit, the president and the pope will continue the dialogue, which they began during the president's visit to the Vatican in March 2014, on their shared values and commitments on a wide range of issues," said a statement released March 26 by the Office of the Press Secretary at the White House.

Those issues, it said, include "caring for the marginalized and the poor; advancing economic opportunity for all; serving as good stewards

of the environment; protecting the religious minorities and promoting religious freedom around the world; and welcoming and integrating immigrants and refugees into our communities."

The statement added, "The president looks forward to continuing this conversation with the Holy Father during his first visit to the United States as pope."

Last year, in their first encounter, Pope Francis received the president at the Vatican for a discussion that touched on several areas of tension between the Catholic Church and the White

House, including religious freedom and medical ethics.

During an unusually long 50-minute meeting, the two leaders discussed "questions of particular relevance for the church in (the U.S.), such as the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection as well as the issue of immigration reform," the Vatican said in a statement afterward.

While in Washington, Pope Francis will address a joint meeting of Congress Sept. 24, making him the first pope to do so.

BISHOP

Continued from Page 1
At the same time, movements have arisen in which families can take consolation and strength, for example the Domestic Church and ACTS.

Their children and youth are also a serious concern for them. "How do we reach out to our youth?" is a common question asked. Each parish has some out-reach to the youth, but we could do better. It takes God's grace, a will to

cooperate with it, and, yes, funding. We need to look at this challenge at the diocesan level as well.

Parents particularly want to see an enhanced religious education program. They want it to be decidedly Catholic and this means not only textbooks but also teachers and PCLs who are transformative and on fire to share the faith.

The parishioners want and expect the availability of the sacraments, which includes home visits to the sick

and dying, as well as opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance. They deeply appreciate the pastors who make a real effort to provide for the spiritual ministry that is so essential for the life of the Church. I was so encouraged to learn of the many outreach ministries being fostered in our parishes.

To the pastors and parishioners who welcomed me so warmly, I offer my gratitude and blessings, as I look forward to another cycle of visits beginning in the fall.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Pastor's Appreciation Cruise May 2

MOSS BLUFF -- Monsignor Ronald Groth, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Arthur, will be the 2015 honoree on the Pastor's Appreciation cruise sponsored by Saint Charles Center.

The fundraiser is set for May 2 aboard the yacht, Lady of the Lake. Departure will be from Riverside Catered at 6 p.m. The evening cruise includes exquise foods served by Mazen's Restaurant, delightful wines, lovely music, scenic surroundings and will be capped off by cheers and toasts of a congratulatory nature to Monsignor Groth, the "captain of the celebration."

A contribution of \$200 per person benefits the Saint Charles Center Maintenance Fund. Call 337-855-1232 for information.

April, May at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF -- Events closing out the spring season at Saint Charles Center include Sr. Diane Depwe moderating "How to Control My Tongue" (So I Don't Get into Trouble) from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, in Tabor Retreat House.

The retreat features 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 spiritual warfare. Registration deadline is Friday, April 24.

"Spiritual Warfare," presented by Sr. Diane Depwe is Tuesday, May 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. Journey with Jesus and St. Paul in understanding why we need to know the weapons of spiritual warfare. Register by Friday, May 8. Suggested donation is \$20.00 per person.

Gay Gomez, Ph.D. and Father Whitney Miller present "Creation Meditation: A Nature Evening of Reflection" on Tuesday, May 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. The evening of prayer focuses upon attentiveness to God via the flora and fauna of this holy ground at Saint Charles Center. Witness the goodness of the Creator through a time of contemplative gaze and prayerful adoration. Registration deadline is Friday, May 15 and the suggested donation is \$20.00 a person.

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.

May prayer luncheon, breakfast dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The final women's prayer luncheon and men's prayer breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost for this term is May 13 and 15, respectively.

Held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex, women attending the luncheon 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.

Friday's final breakfast at 7 a.m. in Ave Maria Hall is preceded by a 6:30 a.m. celebration of the Mass in the Cathedral. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register for the breakfast.

Hospice volunteers sought

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

Patient volunteers provide emotional support and practical assistance, enhancing 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 their final months and weeks of life, provide support for family members and caregivers, be a comforting and supporting presence, and provide time for caregivers to take care of themselves."

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

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 \$9,747.58 in financial assistance to those most in need during the most recent reported period, a total of 48 clients.

Twenty-one clients were helped with rental assistance, 15 with utilities aid, three were helped in completing paperwork for a TWIC, one received assistance for the funeral of a loved one and six received help with medications.

February food distribution totaled 321 USDA boxes of food, 23 boxes of food provided by local contributions in addition to 15 non-USDA boxes distributed in Sulphur. In March, 342 USDA boxes and 51 non-USDA boxes of food were distributed.

Sacred Heart clothing outreach

LAKE CHARLES -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Lake Charles has an outreach ministry for women in the area called "Gently Used Business & Dress Attire."

For more information e-mail Deneen at gentlyusedbusinessdressclothes@gmail.com

Vocare 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 *Vocare*, 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.

Spiritual Directors Conference

WOODSWORTH -- Dr. Gray Matthews will be the presenter at the Spiritual Director's Annual Conference at the Wesley Center Friday, May 22, through Sunday, May 24.

His topic will be "Awakening to Wisdom: Thomas Merton and the Long Art of Contemplation." The event is open to all Spiritual Directors.

For more information, to register and/or become a member go to www.louisianaspiritualdirectors.org.

Couple Prayer Series in June, July

LAKE CHARLES -- Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church will present Together with Jesus Couple Prayer Series from June 9 through July 14 on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Family Life Community Center.

Each session, facilitated by Audra and Walter Melton, will begin with a light meal. Deadline to register at www.olqh.org is Friday, May 29.

The focus of the Together with Jesus Couple Prayer Series is simply and solely to help any Christ-centered married or engaged couple learn how to pray together more openly, comfortably, safely, supportively and consistently.

Icon writing workshop July 20-26

MOSS BLUFF -- A beginner/intermediate icon-writing workshop will be held at Saint Charles Center, 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway, July 20-26.

Instruction is in the Byzantine-Russian Tradition by the Protopos School of Iconography. Cost is \$1,098 for the beginner, which includes 36 hours of studio instruction, all art supplies, meals, and room with private bath. The intermediate/advanced students will pay \$938, which provides everything except the art board and supplies. Prior art experience is helpful but not required. A non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$150 is required to reserve a space in the class. Deadline for registration is May 1, 2015. Class size is limited and reservations are on a first come, first served basis. In the case of workshop cancellation, deposits will be refunded. Contact Sylvia Marcantel, 1513 Covey Lane, Lake Charles, LA 70605, call 337-304-2911, or e-mail smarcantel@suddenlink.net for registration forms and more information.