

CATHOLIC CALENDAR



The Diocese of Lake Charles
lodiocese.org



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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Catholic Charities awards *Caritas*, St. Peter Claver honors at brunch

LAKE CHARLES – Two very special individuals, Debbie Warshaw and Annie Hachtel, were honored as individuals who gave of themselves for the betterment of those in need at the annual Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana Jazz Brunch, held at the Lake Charles Country Club, The *Caritas* Award, which is given to someone who exemplifies a life of selfless giving, was awarded posthumously to Debbie Warshaw, a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church whose generosity of spirit, time, talent and treasure exemplified 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. Others were drawn into the mission of Christ because of her enthusiasm, good nature and Christ-like magnetism. She died last December on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 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.

Nine-year old Hachtel, who was honored with the St. Peter Claver Award which is given to an individual who demonstrates particular concern for the poor, took it upon herself to collect blankets for the poor and homeless of the community last winter. Her initiative caught on among neighbors and friends. She surprised Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, Director of Catholic Charities, with a huge box filled with warm blankets right at a time they were most needed.

Always looking for another way to serve, Annie raised \$708 at her Haiti table the day of brunch by offering her paintings, vases, and artwork

for sale. The money will pay one year’s tuition for five students attending a school in Begin, Haiti, sponsored by her uncle Phillip Conner. He got involved with the school, St. Matthew’s, several years ago along with a number of others. They traveled there perhaps a year ago to see the facility, meet with the staff, and develop a plan to go forward. A fundraiser was held last November and that is when Annie got involved.

Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, R.S.M., the director of Catholic Charities, gave her annual report to the overflowing crowd of supporters and introduced the award winners.

During the year 2014, Catholic Charities provided rental and mortgage assistance through the homeless prevention program of \$132,667; utility assistance of \$38,237; \$15,842 through the Beat the Heat air conditioning program; distributed 3,461 boxes of food; gave \$12,170 for funerals; provided prescription assistance of \$6,864 and helped with employment and identification expenses with \$9,230.

The “Beat the Heat” program is done in conjunction with the Vernon W. Joseph Assembly #22 Fourth Degree Knights of Peter Claver and Stine Lumber.

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Debbie Warshaw



Debbie Warshaw was the posthumous recipient of the *Caritas* Award, represented by a large framed image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Annie Hachtel was honored with the St. Peter Claver Award at this year’s Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana Jazz Brunch. Presenting the awards was Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, R.S.M., director of Catholic Charities. Pictured above are members of the Warshaw family as well as Annie and her parents along with Sr. Mary Vianney. From left, they are Jennifer Dees, Allyson Barbry, Jamie Warshaw, Joseph, Dees, Christopher Warshaw, and Michael Warshaw. At right of the Our Lady of Guadalupe image are Annie (holding her award plaque), Sr. Mary Vianney, and parents Candace and Rudy Hachtel.

Ordination of two to priesthood, June 27

LAKE CHARLES – Deacons Ruben Villarreal and Jay Alexius, M.D. will be ordained to the priesthood of the Catholic Church for the Diocese of Lake Charles by Bishop Glen John Provost on Saturday, June 27, during a 10 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Deacon Alexius completed his theological studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. while Deacon Villarreal earned his theological degree from the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, assignments for the newly ordained will be made known and a reception follows in St. Louis Catholic High School.

Villarreal is a native of Hathaway and a parishioner of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Raymond while Alexius, a native of Houma, is a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

The long journey to priesthood and the continuation of their vocation journey draws

ever closer.

Deacon Villarreal said, “When I applied to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Lake Charles, I never could have imagined the journey that lay ahead of me: two years at St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College in Covington, Louisiana, three years at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and then another four years at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

What a journey it has been!

“When first thinking about going to seminary, I thought that I would be leaving so many opportunities behind, but everything I thought I would have to forgo has been returned to me one hundred fold and then some,” he continued. “These past nine years have truly been an adventure and a joy. To be sure, there were challenging mo-

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Daltin Babineaux and Maris Nixon received the St. Louis Awards at the May 12 commencement ceremony of the Class of 2015 held May 12 in Burton Coliseum. The award, made possible each year by the Lake Charles Serra Club, goes to the graduating male and female senior voted the outstanding Christian student by their peers and approved by members of the faculty. Pictured above are Very Rev. Marcus Johnson, rector of St. Louis; Daltin Babineaux; Bishop Glen John Provost; Maris Nixon; and Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich, chaplain of St. Louis. See story on page 2.

Catholic Calendar changes coming in July

LAKE CHARLES – The format of the *Catholic Calendar* will once again change on July 17, going back to two facing pages published, generally, on the first and third Friday of each month in the main sections of the American Press, though there will only be one publication this July.

Since Nov. 11, 2013, the *Catholic Calendar* has been a six-page insert in the newspaper, printed on bright white paper to offer an easily identifiable section, different from the advertising inserts, on the third Friday of each month.

The *Catholic Calendar* has been a staple of the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Lake Charles in providing Catholic news to the people of Southwest Louisiana; outreach in matters of the Faith to the Catholic faithful as well as to men and women of other faith traditions.

The new schedule for the *Catholic Calendar* in the American Press for the remainder of the year are July 17; August 7; August 21; September 4; September 18; October 2; October 16; November 6; November 20; De-

ember 4; and December 18.

In January 2016, a single *Catholic Calendar* will be published on Jan. 22. The remainder of the year’s publication dates are February 5; February 19; March 4;

March 25 (Good Friday); April 8 (Second Friday); April 22 (Fourth Friday); May 6; May 20; June 3; June 17; July 1; July 15; August 5; August 19; September 2; September 16; October 7; October 21; November 4; November 18; December 2; and December 16

The original *Catholic Calendar* was published in the early years of the 20th Century by Father Cornelius van de Ven, pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lake Charles and later Bishop of the Diocese of Natchitoches before it was renamed the Diocese of Alexandria.

After the 1980 establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Bishop Jude Speyrer decided to use the print media to bring Catholic news to a general audience with the publication of a “new” *Catholic Calendar* on Sept. 18, 1982. The name was chosen by Bishop Speyrer to suggest continuity with Father Van de Ven’s *Catholic Calendar*. A

single page was purchased in the Lake Charles American Press and printed 18 times yearly until 2005. Following Hurricane Rita that year, Msgr. Harry Greig, Administrator of the Diocese in the absence of a bishop, saw the *Catholic Calendar* as a way to provide news of renewal and aid to all those devastated by the storm in the Diocese.

The printing schedule was changed from twice a month to every two weeks in four regional newspapers – the American Press, Lake Charles; Cameron Pilot, Cameron; Jennings Daily News, Jennings; and Beauregard Daily News, DeRidder. Bishop Provost, appointed our third Bishop in 2007, made the decision to continue using this method of providing Catholic news to the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

This timing continued until July 3, 2009 when the *Catholic Calendar* became two facing pages in the American Press on the first and third Fridays while remaining a single page in the four newspapers, with the addition of the Southwest Daily News in Sulphur.



Deacon Jay Alexius, M.D.



Deacon Ruben Villarreal



*The Vicar General of the Diocese of Lake Charles
cordially invites you and your family*

to the

Mass of Thanksgiving

for the

40th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

of

*The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles*

on the

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

June 29, 2015

at

10:00 am

at the

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

PLANTING THE SEED

A Useless Servant

A wise and older bishop would often say in paraphrase of the Gospel of St. Luke, "I am a useless servant; I have done only what I had to do" (Luke 17:10). Those words return to me now as I prepare this month to celebrate forty years as a priest and think back on the experiences I have had in ministry. Feeling like a "useless servant" makes two admissions: more could have been done and what little was done was only with God's help.

My spiritual director in Rome as a seminarian was a saintly old Dominican priest. On my last visit with him before ordination he gave me some words of advice. One of these was that I should see my ordination as an opportunity to commit myself permanently and in so doing to repeat frequently the prayer that echoed St. Peter and the apostles in the Gospel, "Lord, save me lest I perish" (cf. Matthew 14:30; Mark 4:38). That prayer is an act of total trust in God's ability to see you through any difficulty.

Anyone who commits himself to a life-long vocation plunges into the unknown. There is no way that one can foresee each and every challenge that life will present. This leap into the unknown is and should be an act of faith in God. If it is not, then it is an act of folly. However, if one sees the commitment in the context of God's will, then one sees not only the joys but also, and most especially, the sorrows as an opportunity to grow in an understanding of God's love and will. This has been my experience throughout my priesthood.

Trust in God transforms and informs the commitment. With trust in God, the commitment deepens and matures. "Lord, save me lest I perish" is the prayer of a "useless servant" who realizes that enough is never enough and that God tests us not merely to endure but to embrace the unknown dimension of God's mysterious Will.

I am thankful for the numerous good and faithful Catholic parishioners who have helped me realize this abandonment. They were "saintly" people. I think of the older widow who served as parish secretary in my first assignment. She lived a simple life, attended Mass each day, prayed a daily holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, and was a woman of infinite wisdom and solid common sense. Her advice was often what you did not want to hear, but it was what you needed to hear. I recall those countless shut-ins and homebound whom I visited, prayed with, and anointed. They too were "saintly" people, who spent their day in prayer, looked forward with enthusiasm to a visit from the priest, and shared with me rich reminiscences on their own varied lives. I remember



**Bishop
Glen John
Provost**

the couples I married. They had their own struggles. The ones who persevered were always an encouragement to me and an affirmation of my own commitment. For the couples whose marriages suffered, I suffered with them and prayed that they would find the courage to continue trusting in God. Both of them, in whatever the world considered failure or success, prayed in their own way, "Lord, save me lest I perish." In these life experiences I learned always to beware of how the world judges our shortcomings or accomplishments. God sees in ways that we do not. When one lives for eternity, what the world thinks is inconsequential.

For all of these good people, one thing and one thing alone was necessary—their faith in and love for Jesus Christ and His Church. In many ways, the life of a priest is found in those whom he served. Some are like Martha and Mary, welcoming and faithful friends. Others are like Zachaeus, an unlikely host who made himself known by climbing a tree. Still others are like the couple at Cana, unsuspecting but surprised by a miracle, or like Nicodemus, coming with only questions. I thank God for all of them and consider myself a "useless servant" who, I am afraid, received far more than he gave. There is nothing quite like the life of a priest, in its challenges, its opportunities, and its blessings, which remain hidden until one prays, "Lord, save me lest I perish."

St. Louis Catholic High School graduates 123

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost was the featured speaker of the 2015 commencement ceremonies of St. Louis Catholic High School at which 123 seniors of the school graduated May 12 in Burton Coliseum.

Bishop Provost, assisted by Very Reverend Marcus Johnson, school rector, and Deacon Stephen Starr, and Ms. Josephine Hawkins presented the St. Louis Award to Maris Nixon and Daltin Babineaux. The St. Louis Award goes to the male and female senior student voted as the outstanding Christian student at the school by their peers and approved by members of the faculty.

The awards, made possible the Lake Charles Serra Club, go to the students who have shown Love of God and Neighbor, Strong Moral Character, Desire to Serve Community, Courage to stand up for Christian Principles, a Daily Christian Lifestyle, and Proper Use of God-Given gifts.

Also speaking to the class were valedictorian Zachary Shoult and co-salutatorians Shannon Dalton and Raleigh Goodwin.

The total value of scholar-

ships offered to 2015 seniors of St. Louis Catholic High School was \$3,084,314 (as of May 12, 2015), not including any TOPS scholarships, which were to be awarded in June.

Members of the 2015 Senior Class to attend the following colleges and institutions following graduation; Baylor University, Johnson County Community College, Louisiana Tech, LSU, LSU-Eunice, McNeese State University, Northwestern State University, SOWELA, Stage One, Texas A&M College Station, Texas A&M Galveston, University of Louisiana-Lafayette; University of Louisiana-Monroe, University of Alabama, University of Memphis, University of St. Thomas, University of Texas, Dallas, and Xavier University of the South, New Orleans.

Graduates of the 2015 Senior class included:

Jasmine Noell Abel, Abigail Audra Abraham, George Emmett Abraham, Brandon Parker Amiot, Jennifer Rose Arabie, Daltin Wade Babineaux, Mallory Jean Baca, Adrian Felipe Beltran, Naomi Alannah Bertrand, Carley Ann Billedeaux, Zachary Paul Boullt, Isabella Rose Brame,

Ann Catherine Breaux, Sydney Elizabeth Brown, Michael Joseph Buisson, Gabrielle Elene Burnham, Camille Elizabeth Bushnell, Kari Alayne Bushnell, Bailey Elizabeth Caples, John Bryan Chaisson, Jordan Wesley Coe, Haisley Noelle Cooley, Mackenzie Alise Cooley, Camille Elizabeth Cunningham, Shannon Rochelle Dalton, Chad Quinn Davis, Emily Rose Deters, Landon Zachary Dore, David Madison Duplechin, Brennan Peter Eisen, Michel Etienne Elliot, Kari Nicole Elliott, Brianna Genevieve Facenda, Evan Paul Falgoust, Brooke Lynn Ferguson, Jessica Riley Flaherty, DeKeinen Todd Francois-Stewart, Mackenzie Jamal Frank, Ethan Baden Freehling, Christopher Thomas Gayle, Jamie Leigh Gilmore, Skylar Elise Gilmore, Gabrielle Elizabeth Gonzales, Raleigh Elizabeth Goodwin, Victoria Anne Greenlee, Dylan Andrew Greenman, Alyssa Esther Grueber, Anna Marie Guidry, Dustin James Guidry, Mary Cassidy Guillot, and Ethan James Guillot.

Also, Lauren Jane Hammond, Haley Marie Harless, See GRADUATION Page 6



JoAnn Niles, the director of Villa Maria Retirement Center, was recently feted on the occasion of her retirement party from the position. Niles served the center, first as its bookkeeper and then as director, for the past 18½ years. Pictured above, from left, are Robin Richard, board member; Niles; Msgr. James Gaddy, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church; Elaine Trahan, secretary of the board of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Villa Maria; Richard Aitchison, president of the Villa Maria residents organization; and Carmel Fazzio, the new director of Villa Maria.

St. John Vianney 75th Anniversary



St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Bell City celebrated its 75th anniversary of establishment on Sunday, May 31, with Bishop Glen John Provost celebrating the Mass of Thanksgiving. In the top photo Bishop Provost, is seen with two former pastors and the current pastor. From left, is previous pastor Father Wayne LeBleu; current pastor Father Emanuel Tanu, SVD; former pastor Father Augustine Mulanjanay; Bishop Provost; and Deacon Jay Alexis, master of ceremonies. In the bottom photo; Father Tanu and Bishop Provost are joined by Louisiana State Senator (District 25) Dan "Blade" Morrish, center, with the Louisiana Senate proclamation honoring the parish for its milestone anniversary. Sen. Morrish introduced the Senate Resolution 148, which passed the Senate.



Caroline Obluda captured first place in the recent Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Lady of the Lake #695 Education Contest, sponsored by the Louisiana State CDA Court, according to Karen Fills, Court Regent. Pictured above, from left, are the four who took the top spots, Obluda; Sara Mixon, second; Elle leyoub, third; and Jodi DeRoual, Honorable Mention. The winners are students of Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Catholic School (ICCS). Prizes to the winners were a certificate and a check from the Court presented at the ICCS Awards Program - first place, \$25.00; second place, \$20.00; third place, \$15.00; and Honorable Mention, \$10.00. Obluda's winning entry moved on to judging by the State Office for possible advancement to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Office. The theme this year was "Love Your Neighbor as Your Self - Be A Good Neighbor." Overseeing the Court #695 contest were Kim leyoub, Chairman, and Geri Landry, co-chairs.

Monks record sacred music that is 'part of air we breathe,' says one

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Once again the hills are filled with the sound of music, only this time the music soars from Benedictine monks rather than the Von Trapp Family.

In Norcia, Italy, about 70 miles northeast of Rome, there is an international community of monks who operate a craft brewery and spend hours a day chanting the Mass and the Divine Office.

"It's part of the air we breathe," said Father Cassian Folsom, who founded the community. "There's a lot of pollution in our world, and so the pure oxygen of Gregorian chant is like a breath of fresh air."

Sacred music had not been sung by monks in Norcia in nearly 200 years, until 1998 when the community was brought back by Father Cassian. Norcia is the birthplace of

St. Benedict, the founder of the Benedictine Order.

Two-thirds of the monks are from the United States. Others come from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Indonesia and Italy. The community currently has inquiries from men in Denmark and Poland. International communities provide beneficial growth and formation to its members and are becoming more common because of globalization.



Nearly three decades of service comes to close

LAKE CHARLES – A chance good deed for a friend turned into almost three decades of service to the Diocese of Lake Charles for Sandra Jones, who worked for each of the three bishops of this local church.

Mrs. Jones retires at the end of the month for a life of “being a cookie-making grandmother” for her grandson Julian.

“For about a week I hope to get up and not put makeup on,” she said. “I have a lot to do to my house, things to rearrange, gardening. I want to volunteer more at my parish and possibly at St. Margaret school, where Julian attends. I would like to travel, perhaps arrange for tickets to an audience with the Holy Father, as I have done for years for others.

“There is nothing long range,” she continued. “Just take it easy for a while and hope not to be bored.”

It was early in August 1985 when Jones brought a friend of hers (who had been a Catholic school teacher) to the diocesan offices (then in the Weber Building on Ryan Street) to meet with Sr. Gloria Cain, the then superintendent of schools.

“While we were there, my friend told me that there was a job opening,” Jones said. “I was between jobs, so I asked ‘for what?’ and she said replied, ‘all I know it is working with a nun.’”

“I immediately thought ‘no thank you,’ I didn’t think that would be a good fit for me,” she continued. “My friend talked me into it though. I found out it was for a secretarial position in the Office of Worship with Sister Camille Martinez.”

She talked for a while with Sr. Camille, who asked her to type a letter. “She looked at it and said I had gotten the job and I could start Monday,” Jones said. “Yay! I took the job, went home and told my husband the story (about the good deed for the friend) and, by the way, I’d gotten a job. ‘Great news’, he said. What would you be doing? I explained it to him and then he asked ‘what is your salary?’ It was then that I realized that I had not asked what I would be making.”

She went to work four of the five days for Sr. Camille and would pinch-hit in the Office of Vocations, headed at that time by Father Sam Jacobs (now retired Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux). She was there for 11 months before Sr. Camille decided to go into parish work.

“I thought I might be out of work again but was told by the Vicar for Christian Formation, at the time Deacon George Stearns, that that was not to be case,” Jones said. “I was moved to the Chancery and went to work as support staff for Fiscal Administration – Deacon Bud Wagner – and pinch-hit for the downstairs receptionist desk. I did that until 1988.

“Then, Msgr. (Harry) Greig, the vicar general and chancellor, received an appointment to Rome and would be moving and Bishop Speyrer’s secretary – Irene McGee – was also leav-

ing to begin a nursery business with her husband.

“I will never forget the day Monsignor Greig came in and said ‘he wanted to talk with me,’” Jones continued. “We visited and then he said that I would be moving again. ‘He told me that Bishop Speyrer had requested that I become his secretary and the first thing I thought was, once again, no way, I was probably going to be going home. But, he convinced me that it wasn’t a bad idea and that I could do it.’”

Msgr. Greig’s clincher? “That he (Bishop Speyrer) had asked for me.”

She and Bishop Speyrer went back a long way, to her high school days at St. Maria Goretti High School in Lake Arthur.

“He was the pastor at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church there and also my glee club instructor.”

Jones worked with Bishop Speyrer until his retirement in 2000, one of only three who had served as secretaries for the Bishop and she had the longest tenure.

She continued in her role under the second Bishop of Lake Charles, Bishop Edward K. Braxton.

She recalled Bishop Speyrer telling her of his retirement.

“Bishop Speyrer called me in and let me know that he would be retiring,” she said. “He broke my heart because I knew that I would miss him but he spoke to me and said one thing that made me forget what I was feeling and reminded me where he was coming from, he said he was tired and I realized that he needed his retirement.”

She met her new boss on Dec. 12, 2000, when Bishop Speyrer introduced Bishop Braxton to the Chancery staff and numerous clergy during a press conference.

“My life changed,” she said. “I had worked those many years for a man I knew so well and Bishop Braxton being African-American was different. His age was different, close to my age and he was a very, very brilliant man. His focus was on education, Catholic education.

“Confirmation was very important to him and most so that the students understood what they were going through,” she said.

“Those nearly five years saw a lot of changes,” Jones said. “Then one Sunday afternoon Father Charles McMillin, (Vicar for Clergy) called me and asked that I stop by the residence on my way to work the next day. It was not an unusual request, something that was done often.

“When I got the house, there was a weird vibe that I could feel and I knew it wouldn’t be a normal morning of taking dictation or getting information before coming into the office. I went into the sitting room and when the Bishop came in, I knew by the look on his face that something was going on. He was not one to mince words and not one to not have anything

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Bishop Glen John Provost, center, shows Sandra Jones, right, his administrative assistant and a nearly 30 year employee of the Diocese of Lake Charles, the Order of St. Charles Award, in the Companion Class, he is presenting to her for her long-time service to the local church, including all three of its bishops. Rev. Msgr. Daniel Torres, left, waits to give Jones a large bouquet of roses.

Rena Gayle, Elaine Heape honored at 65th Serra Club banquet

LAKE CHARLES – Rena Gayle received the Serran of the Year Award and Elaine Heape given the Distinguished Service Cross Award at the 65th Anniversary Banquet of the Serra Club of Lake Charles. The banquet was dedicated to four deceased members of the club – Dr. Harold Edwards, Dr. Patrick Crawford, Alverdy Veron, and Nettie Fontenot.

Mrs. Gayle and Mrs. Heape are well known for their active and long-time participation in the Serra Club, the former for sewing the stoles given to those men who ordained to the priesthood and the latter for her years of service to assisting the diocesan seminarians in many and varied ways.

Officers for the 2015-2016 term are president, John Halloran (who received the Presidential Commendation

Award from outgoing president Jack Wheeler); president-elect John Day; and trustees, Luvertha August, George Kuffel, and Wheeler. Monti Lloyd was installed as treasurer and Joseph Newby will serve as secretary. Communications vice president is Phyllis Wilson; membership vice presidents are Marie Davidson and Mandy Robichaux; vocations vice presidents are Valerie Unkel and Dorothy McDaniel; and program vice presidents are Robert McCall, Frank Tartamella, Mary Frances Bordlee and Cassie Price. Monsignor Daniel Torres will serve as chaplain. Gladwin Ball, District 13 Governor, installed the officers.

Awards were also presented for long-time membership in the organization to Don Sigur and Frank Tartamella (25 years) and Msgr. Torres

(10 years). Mrs. Veron was posthumously honored for her 25 years of membership as well.

Roses were presented to family members of the four deceased honorees. Dr. Edwards (1924-2015) was a 53-year member of the club, Dr. Crawford (1944-2015) as 29-year Serran, Mrs. Veron (1929-2014), 25 years, and Mrs. Fontenot (1928-2014), a 15-year member.

Monsignor Torres also installed a number of new members to the Serra Club.

Bishop Glen John Provost spoke to the group about the importance of their work in vocations and also reported to them on the effectiveness of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana.

The mission of the Serra Club is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life.



Jack Wheeler, immediate past-president of the Serra Club of Lake Charles, left, stands with Elaine Heape, middle, who was recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross Award, which can be given every five years; and Rena Gayle, right, who was named Serran of the Year at the 65th Anniversary Banquet of the club.

2015 Bishop’s Golf Classic slated for October 2 at The National

WESTLAKE -- The 2015 Bishop’s Golf Classic will be played on Friday, Oct. 2, at the National Golf Club of Louisiana, 2801 Louisiana Way. The four-person scramble tournament will feature only an afternoon round beginning with a 1 p.m. shotgun start following lunch.

Presenting sponsors for the tournament are City Savings Bank of DeRidder and Alfred Palma LLC of Lake Charles as well as Bubba Oustalet Automotive Group of Jennings.

Fees are \$500 per four-person team, with prizes for first, second and tenth low gross in both morning and afternoon rounds. Prizes will also be given for the longest drive and closest to the hole for

each round and a \$5,000 cash prize goes to the first golfer to score a hole in one.

Tea box sponsorships are \$150, green sponsorships are \$300 and banner sponsorships are \$1,000.

Proceeds from the event provide financial assistance to the Seminarian Education Fund and the Priest Retirement Fund.

Sixteen men are studying for the priesthood for the Diocese this year in four different seminaries and the cost of educational expenses will exceed \$600,000. On June 27, two men will be ordained to the priesthood. The Diocese currently has nine retired priests and expends more than \$300,000 to maintain their health and welfare. Sev-

eral others are nearing retirement or could retire due to health issues during the next several years.

Registration forms will be available at area golf courses and the Diocese of Lake Charles after August 1.

Payment of fees and registration using a credit card will soon be available on the Diocese of Lake Charles website – www.live/lcdiocese.org. Just click on the “Support the Diocese” button, then “Bishop’s Golf Classic” and follow the easy steps to register your team or become a sponsor.

Contact Larry DeRoussel at 337-794-8339 or at lderoussel@laia.com for more information.



Students of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles took part in individual fundraising efforts during Lent to aid the work of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana among those most in need in the diocese. Representatives from the eight schools recently presented Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, Catholic Charities director, with a “big” check for \$1,941.41. Pictured, along with Sr. Mary Vianney, are students Jake Wing, Marigrace Young, and Victoria Mead, all of St. Margaret School, Lake Charles; Simon Moran and Will Malone, St. Louis Catholic High School; Luke Benoit and Leah Richert, Our Lady’s School, Sulphur; Jude Monic and Sarah Monic, Our Lady Immaculate School, Jennings; Jonah Austin and Asha Austin, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Lake Charles; Avery A.J. Williams and Abigail Stillwell, Holy Family School, Moss Bluff.

Rosary Rally



Following the celebration of Mass on Wednesday, May 13 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, members of the Newman Club, parishioners and visitors took part in a procession along Good Counsel to the McNeese State University campus where they prayed the Rosary. Shown above, at left, a statue of Our Lady of Fatima is carried in procession east from the church on Aqua Drive to Ryan Street with Father Nathan Long, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel and chaplain of the Catholic Student Center. The large group of participants crossed Ryan and trekked down Beauregard Drive before turning north and on to the Quad, where the group recited the Rosary.

Summer assignments for seminarians

LAKE CHARLES - There will be 16 men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles when seminary classes recommence in the fall, including three new seminarians. This summer though most are residing and working in parishes of the diocese.

The seminarians are attending four different schools - St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La.; Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans; Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.; and the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Seminarians, their class year, school, summer assignment, and home parish are as follows:

Trey Ange will be entering third year Theology at Notre Dame Seminary. He is assigned to the hospital chaplaincy (CPI) at Christus/St. Patrick's Hospital in Lake Charles and residing at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Ange is from Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church.

John Souder will be entering third year Theology at the Pontifical North American College and his summer internship from June 24 to September 9 at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings. Souder is from Our Lady Queen of Heaven

Catholic Church.

Samuel Orsot will enter second year Theology at Notre Dame Seminary and is doing his summer internship at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley. Orsot is a parishioner of St. Henry Catholic Church.

Michael Caraway will enter first year Theology at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and is doing his summer internship until July 5 at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings, his home parish.

Samuel Bond will be entering second year Pre-Theology at Notre Dame Seminary and is interning this summer at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Arthur. Bond is from Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in DeQuincy.

Joseph Caraway will be entering second year Pre-Theology at Notre Dame Seminary and doing his summer internship at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton. Caraway is from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Lacassine.

Racassine Edwards, from Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, will enter second year Pre-Theology at Notre Dame Seminary and doing his summer internship at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Lake Charles.

Andy Derouen will enter as a fourth year College

Seminarian at Saint Joseph Seminary College, and is doing his summer internship at St. Paul Catholic Church in Elton. He is a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Levi Thompson, from St. Theodore Catholic Church in Moss Bluff, will be entering as a fourth year College Seminarian at Saint Joseph Seminary and is doing his summer internship at Christ the King Catholic Church.

Addison Pitre will enter as a fourth year College Seminarian at Saint Joseph Seminary College and is doing his summer internship at St. Theodore Catholic Church. Pitre is from St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Oberlin.

Michael Beverung will be a third year College Seminarian at Saint Joseph Seminary College and is doing his summer internship at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, his home parish.

Eric Gruspier will be entering as a second year College Seminarian at Saint Joseph Seminary College and is doing his summer internship at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Fenton. He is from the Cathedral Parish.

Olin Chester, a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton, will be entering as a second year College Seminarian at Saint Joseph Semi-

nary College and is doing his summer internship at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jennings.

New Seminarians include: Josh Page, from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, will be entering as a second year College Seminarian at Saint Joseph Seminary College and is working this summer before entering the seminary.

Alec January will be entering as a first year College Seminarian at Saint Joseph Seminary College and is working this summer before entering the seminary. January is from St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder.

Adam Blake Richard, a parishioner of Christ the King Catholic Church in Lake Charles, will be entering as a first year College Seminarian at Saint Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La., and is working this summer before entering the seminary.

Ryan Baca, a seminarian for the past several years for the Diocese, will be entering as a Postulant in the Benedictine Religious Order at Our Lady of the Annunciation Abbey in Clear Creek, Oklahoma. He will be reporting there to enter on Sunday, July 5. Baca is from St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

DRAWING NEAR

You Are Needed

Every year, for six days, a group of high school students from the Diocese of Lake Charles gather together in Shreveport for a six day intensive leadership training that focuses on the formation of the mind, body, and spirit. We put the teens through a series of workshops on leadership styles, communication and facilitation skills, group dynamics, conflict resolution, and decision-making. We make them work through team building challenges and have them participate in the small group planning process.

Most importantly, we give the teens time to pray with Mass each morning and evening prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each night. I myself participated in CLI three times in high school and have staffed and taught workshops for the past eight summers. It's my favorite week of the year because it helped form me into the person that I am today, and I've watched it change the lives of countless teenagers over the years.

One of the best parts of CLI is the fact that the teens actually plan their week. Beginning the second night, each small group is responsible for planning and implementing a portion of the programming. From the morning wake up jingle to the closing "lights out" gathering in the evening, every meal, icebreaker, and prayer experience is planned and played out by the support groups made up of teens and staffed by former CLI participants who come back each year, without fail. They own CLI: it is theirs to both experience and plan, a program that is different each year because of the teens that gather together to grow and be trained as leaders. The entire purpose of CLI, and Diocesan ministry as a result, is to empower young people to be the hands and feet of Christ, working as servant leaders among their youth groups, sports teams, student councils, and friends.

On the final night of CLI, the teens are "commissioned" to go out and implement the numerous skills they learned. Each Core staff member usually offers a few words of encouragement as we pray for and send the teens out to serve. Below are the words I said to the CLI participants this past May.

I saw someone standing in the supply room on Tuesday evening, waiting for someone else. So I asked them, "What are you doing?" They replied, "Just waiting to be needed." In a matter of seconds, someone came in with a pile of stuff that needed to be organized and they were put to work... But that line, "I'm just waiting to be needed..." It stuck with me. Those of you here at CLI, our wait is over. Each and every one of you is desperately needed in this world, right now.

You are needed in your schools, amongst your family, with your friends, in the midst of your enemies. You are needed now more than ever to be a light in a world shrouded in darkness. You are needed to serve, to give, to speak, and to listen. Your witness is needed. Your time is needed. Your gifts are needed. Your energy is needed. You are needed. Don't ever think that you are not, because you most certainly are.

At the end of the Last Supper, after He washed the Apostles' feet and showed them His servant's heart, Jesus turns to them and says, "In the world you will have trouble." It was a sorrowful moment, I imagine...Jesus is telling them they will struggle, they will have to fight, they will have a difficult go of it. In my translation, "Sometimes life sucks." But then Jesus pauses and pulls perhaps the greatest punch line in the Gospels. He says, "But take heart, for I have conquered the world."

Jesus has won and you are being called to go out and be His hands and feet and spread His triumphant victory. So, take heart. You are needed.

Katie Prejean is the ninth grade Theology teacher at St. Louis Catholic High School. Her first book, *Lessons from Room 24*, is being released by Ave Maria Press in the spring of 2016.



Katie Prejean

Diocese launches campaign study

LAKE CHARLES - The Diocese of Lake Charles is launching a feasibility study to determine the level of support for a possible diocesan-wide capital campaign.

Representatives from the Steier Group, a Catholic development and fundraising firm, are here in the diocese conducting interviews and seeking feedback on several proposed needs including: strengthening the priest retirement fund and seminarian education fund, expanding services for Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, restoring the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and renovations to the St. Katharine Drexel Center at Saint Charles Center to make it more functional for larger youth events.

"We are very excited about the study and hope people will take the time to give us their opinions," said Bishop Glen John Provost. "We are one Catholic family and need to make this decision together as we look to the future of the local church."

During the eight-week study, parishioners will have a variety of ways to give their

opinions. While some people will be personally interviewed, others will have the option to mail in a survey, go online to answer questions, or attend a town hall meeting.

"Details about how to participate online or through regional town halls will be in parish bulletins in late June and early July," said Deacon Bertrand, Director of Development for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Participants will receive a fact sheet that outlines each of the needs and how the diocese would like to address them. Right now the cost to address all of the goals is estimated around \$25 million.

"We want to hear from as many people as possible so we can gauge their interest in addressing these needs and the direction our parishioners want to see our diocese head in the future," said Deacon Bertrand.

The results will be used to recommend if the diocese should proceed with a major fundraising effort and what it could expect to accomplish if it did move forward.

Keeping our Children and Youth Safe

The Office of Child and Youth Protection informs all diocesan and parish personnel, including volunteers, who have on-going, unsupervised contact with minors that their Safe Environment training will soon need to be updated. The new training will be available from July 1st on the diocesan website and we require personnel to be updated by August 10th.

An updated brochure explaining how to make a complaint of abuse of a minor will soon be distributed to all parishes and schools.

We also encourage everyone to read the updated diocesan policy "A Safe Environment for the protection of children and young people" and the guideline "Code of Professional Conduct for all who have contact with minors". These can be obtained at the Office of Child and Youth Protection or through your local Safe Environment coordinator.



Bishop Glen John Provost intenses the Historic Shrine of the Mother of the Sea, Catholic Church in Cameron following the celebration of Votive Mass to Avert Storms on Wednesday, June 3. A large crowd was present for the annual Mass, - Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May (Our Lady Star of the Sea and Sacred Heart of Jesus); Rev. Richard Adiuoku (St. Eugene); and Rev. Gijo Ikkaramattom (H.G.N.), and Very Rev. Anthony Fontenot, Dean of the South Deanery. The votive mass is celebrated annually.

Provost from Lafayette. He introduced him to me and I later would find out that he



Sandra Jones earlier in her career

would be my bishop, the third bishop of Lake Charles.

He would be her third bishop.

Bishop Provost was installed in April 2007 and that is where she has been until now.

In December 2014, Jones' husband decided that after over 40 years at his job, he would retire. "I started to think I was not ready for retirement and I would give it a few months," she said. "I began praying and discerning and shortly after the first of this year I began to think that I could be retired, it might be good."

"My health was good, my grandson was not getting any younger and I wanted to spend a lot of time with him, so after much prayer I decided it was time, that I would try to make 30 years, almost did. It was time for me to re-

tire." "I wrote a letter to the Bishop and we talked," she continued. "I don't think he was too surprised, after speaking to me. After he knew that Tony had retired, he knew I wouldn't be too far behind."

Earlier this year, at the day of the celebration of the Chrism Mass during Holy Week, Jones received the Order of St. Charles in the Companion Class from Bishop Provost. This is the highest diocesan honor one can receive. There can be only 12 living recipients in the Companion Class.

Bishop Speyrer created the Order of St. Charles as a personal award for recognition that may be presented to members of the clergy and laity of the diocese, and others, for services to the Church and the Bishop.



Sandra Jones serving as a lector during one of the parish pilgrimage stops during the preparation for the Jubilee Year 2000

SERVICE

Continued from Page 3

to say. I remember looking at him and saying 'what is it, just let me know.' He said, 'I don't know how to say this but just to say it.' I thought 'I'm losing my job. I'm going to be between jobs again.'

"So he said, 'I'm being moved,' that he had heard from the Holy Father that he would be moved - this was in March - and would be installed in a new diocese in June.

"That all came to pass and on the day following his installation, the Diocesan College of Consultors named Monsignor Greig as administrator of the diocese to serve until the Holy Father appointed a new Bishop and he was installed here."

She remained in her po-

Bishop's Gala set Dec. 12

LAKE CHARLES – The Nelson Riddle Orchestra will provide the entertainment for the Fourth Annual Bishop's Gala on Saturday, Dec. 12, in the Lake Charles Civic Center.

The Nelson Riddle Orchestra is generally considered the "World's Most Recorded Orchestra" having recorded with Frank Sinatra, Nat "King" Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, Peggy Lee, Judy Garland, Dean Martin, Barbra Streisand, Linda Ronstadt and many others. The Orchestra is currently directed by Nelson's son Christopher and will be joined by vocalist Bryan Anthony for a Centennial Celebration of the musical collaboration of Sinatra and Riddle.

Last year's Bishop's Gala raised \$57,000.00 to support the ministries of the diocesan Office of Communications.

Tickets, which will be available July 15, are \$125 each and a table for 10 is \$1,250. They can be purchased in the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles, at the Chancery at 414 Iris Street, Crossroads Bookstore, 701 W. Prien Lake Road, and on the website of the Diocese. To buy tickets on the website, using your credit card or e-check, go to lcdiocese.org and click on the "Support the Diocese" button on the front page. Then, click on "Bishop's Gala Tickets" and follow the easy instructions.

Special sponsorship opportunities include one Bishop's Table for a contribution of \$30,000. For the donation, eight individuals receive dinner with Bishop Glen John Provost at the Gala with Concierge Service; special individual gifts; and special mention in the Gala Program and from the bandstand that evening; and attendance at the VIP social from 6 to 6:30 p.m. before the Gala opens to the public and includes a photograph with the Bishop. In addition, they will be honored at a special Thank You dinner on a to-be-determined date at *L'Évêché*, the Bishop's Residence.

Several other levels of sponsorship are also available – Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Crystal. Multiple numbers of these sponsorships will be offered.

Platinum Sponsors will receive two tables for 10, special individual gifts, special mention in the Gala program and from the bandstand the night that night, and VIP social from 6 to 6:30 p.m. before the Gala opens to the public and includes a photograph with Bishop Provost. Each of the platinum sponsorships is \$20,000.

Gold Sponsors receive a table for 10 with special seating, recognition in the Gala program and from the bandstand that night, and a VIP social from 6 to 6:30 p.m. before the Gala opens to the public and includes a photograph with Bishop Provost for a \$10,000 donation.

For \$5,000, Silver Sponsors receive a table for 10 with special seating and recognition in the Gala program while Crystal sponsorships get a table for 10 and recognition in the Gala program for a \$3,000 donation.

Call Msgr. Torres at 337-439-7400 for additional information on these special sponsorships.

Participation in this wonderful event provides for the continuation of the production and airing of the *Glad Tidings* television program each Sunday morning on KPLC-TV. The preparation and publication of the *Catholic Calendar* in five regional newspapers is made possible by attendance at the Gala. The website of the Diocese – lcdiocese.org – is maintained as well as continually upgraded through the purchase of a Gala ticket or table. The broadcast of the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on two local radio stations is also made possible, in part, by participation in this gala evening.



Entertainment for the 2015 Bishop's Gala, set for Saturday, December 12, in the Lake Charles Civic Center, is The Nelson Riddle Orchestra, seen above, which this year celebrates the centennial of the musical collaboration of Frank Sinatra and Riddle. The band performs *The Great American Songbook* with songs of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Hoagy Carmichael, Sammy Cahn and other great composers of the 20th Century. Songs that Sinatra made into worldwide classics with the Nelson Riddle Orchestra: *I've Got The World On A String*, *All The Way*, *Chicago*, *The Way You Look Tonight*, *I've Got You Under My Skin*, *Summer wind*, *Night and Day*, *My Kind of Town* (Chicago) and many more.

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained

LAKE CHARLES -- "Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained" will be offered at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the Wednesdays of July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 beginning at 6 p.m. each day in Ave Maria Hall. It is open to everyone in the diocese, according to Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of the Cathedral.

Cost is \$25 for the participant guide. Contact the Cathedral at 935 Bilbo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 or call 337-436-7251.

It is a vibrant, relevant

and complete program to re-evangelize and reinvigorate our parishioners. The 20 compelling sessions of this bold series guide parishioners through the breadth and richness of their Catholic faith. Presented by some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world, this unique video and discussion experience will transform the lives of our parishioners. It is open to everyone in the diocese, so please spread the word.

Symbolon opens up the "big picture" of the Catholic

faith in a way that helps us know it, live it and articulate it to others. Through beautifully crafted teaching and state-of-the-art video, author, speaker and theologian Dr. Edward Sri leads a team of dynamic teachers who provide a clear and comprehensive explanation of the Catholic faith.

Filmed on location in Rome, the Holy Land, Calcutta and in the Augustine Institute studios in Denver, Symbolon— Part I: Knowing the Faith journeys through the core teachings of the Catholic

Church and Symbolon—Part II: Living the Faith focuses on our encounter with God in the sacraments and moral life.

Symbolon features dozens of nationally-known teachers such as Johnette Benkovic, Patrick Coffin, Jason and Crystalina Evert, Tim Gray, Curtis Martin, Edward Sri, Chris Stefanick, Teresa Tomeo and many others who unpack the Catholic faith and call people to live it more deeply.

Summer events at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF – The summer schedule of events at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center continue Private Directed Retreats, from Sunday, June 21 to Tuesday June 30, will be directed by Fr. Whitney Miller, Fr. Don Piraro, Judy Savoie, and Gloria Villegas.

Registration for these retreats, which can be of three, five or days in duration and are based on the spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola focusing on the personal prayer of the individual. For more information or to register in person, call the Center at (337) 855-1232. Scholarship assistance available upon request.

The same group of four will also provide an Introduction to the Directed Retreat from Thursday, June 25 to Sunday, June 28. The directed retreat is prayerful silence and tailored to the individual needs of the retreatant and the extended weekend intro-

duction helps the retreatant learn the prayer technique and prepares the person for a longer retreat. Call the Center to register at (337) 855-1232. Scholarship assistance available upon request. No online registration is available for the Private Directed Retreats or the Introduction to the Directed Retreats.

A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing After Abortion, led by Fr. Nathan Long, Margie Long and the Diocesan Team is Friday, July 3 to Sunday, July 5. The weekend will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. The cost is \$210.00 for meals, private room with private bath and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance

is available. For more information or registration contact: Rachel's Vineyard of Southwest Louisiana at (337) 439-7400 ext. 317 or e-mail rachel.vineyard@lcdiocese.org

An Evening of Reflection - "Prayer 201: Encountering God in the Movements and Moments of Everyday Life" with Fr. Miller is Tuesday, July 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. The suggested donation is \$20 with a deadline to register of Friday, July 3 6:00 – 9:00pm

Sr. Diane Depwe's "Learning to Control Your Feelings" is Tuesday, July 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. The suggested donation is \$20 and the deadline to register is Friday, July 10.

The Spiritual Book Club selection for July is "Oscar Romero, Love Must Win Out" by Kevin Clarke and the group will meet with Fr. Piraro on Tuesday July 14 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. A suggested donation is \$20 with a Friday, July 10 registration deadline.

August events include

"How Not to Lose It with Your Kids" with Sr. Diane on Tuesday, Aug. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m.; the Spiritual Book Club with Fr. Piraro on Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.; and a Morning of Reflection - "Cultivating the Qualities and Virtues of Marian Wisdom through Art, Literature, Film and Music" with Fr. Miller on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The suggested donation for each of these programs is \$20 with respective registration deadlines of Friday, Aug. 7 for the first two and Wednesday, Aug. 19, for the third.

For information on any of these events call the Center at (337) 855-1232 or visit st-charlescenter.com.

Saint Charles Center stands as a place apart, offering an atmosphere of serenity and peace, where one can achieve spiritual renewal and growth – rediscovering life's meaning in quiet reflection.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2015 the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed in 1957 by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey:

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of the land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, and overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

**The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder
Second Bishop of Lafayette**

Religious Freedom rally slated tomorrow

SULPHUR -- The annual Rally for Religious Freedom is set for tomorrow, June 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Heritage Square Pavilion.

The speakers' program will conclude at 1 p.m. with a program of Christian music to follow. The Rally is sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles, the City of Sulphur, and area churches and ministers.

Featured speakers will include Bishop Glen John Provost, area ministers, area judges and other civil officials. A special area will be set aside for children's' entertainment during the day.

Father Edward Richard, M.S., pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church will celebrate Mass in observance of the nationwide Fortnight of Freedom at 5 p.m. in Our Lady of Prompt Succor with Father Derek Covert, the Judicial Vicar of the diocese, as the homilist. Everyone is invited to the Rally and the liturgy.



Bishop Glen John Provost completed the year's confirmation ceremonies on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, at Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Bishop began his journey across the diocese on Sunday, April 12, completing 16 stops at various parishes. Above, he questions students, as he did before every confirmation liturgy, from the parishes of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Maplewood and St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Westlake before the liturgy at St. John Bosco.

Did you know...

Cardinal Albino Luciani became the first pope to take a double name, John Paul I, in 1978 to honor his two immediate predecessors. He was also the first pope in almost 1,100 years, since Lando in 913, to adopt a papal name not previously used.

The Top 10 names of Popes. Can you name them and how many Popes have used each? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar, published on July 17.

Ordination Class of 2015 shows increase

WASHINGTON - The 2015 class of men ordained to the priesthood report that they were, on average, about 17 when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood and encouraged to consider a vocation by an average of four people. Seven in 10 (71 percent) say they were encouraged by a parish priest, as well as friends (46 percent), parishioners (45 percent), and mothers (40 percent). On average, they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 15 years before entering seminary. Religious ordinands knew the members of their religious institute an average of six years before entering.

The total number of potential ordinands for the class of 2015, 595, is up from 477 in 2014 and 497 in 2013.

The Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) gathered the data for "The Class of 2015: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood." CARA

collects the data annually for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. Approximately 69 percent of the 595 potential ordinands reported to CARA. These 411 respondents include 317 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood, from 120 different dioceses and archdioceses, and 94 ordinands to the religious priesthood.

The full report can be found online: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/index.cfm

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, found that the data gave reason for hope but also provide areas for further growth. "It is encouraging to see the slight increase in the number of ordinations this year in the United States," Bishop Burbidge said.

"When asked about the positive influences they encountered while discerning the call, those to be ordained respon-

ded that the support from their family, parish priest, and Catholic schools ranked very high."

Father W. Shawn McKnight, executive director of the Secretariat, cited educational debt as a growing concern. "Over 26 percent of those ordained carried educational debt at the time they entered the seminary, averaging a little over \$22,500 in educational debt at entrance to the seminary. Considering the high percentage of the men ordained already having earned an undergraduate degree, it will be important to find ways to assist in debt reduction in the future."

Among the survey's major findings:

- The average age for the Class of 2015 is 34. The median age (midpoint of the distribution) is 31. Eight in 10 respondents are between 25 and 39. This distribution is slightly younger than in 2014, but follows the pattern in recent years of average age at ordination in the mid-thirties.
- Two-thirds (69 percent) report their primary race or ethnicity as Caucasian/European American/white. Compared to the adult Catholic population of the United States, they are more likely to be of Asian or Pacific Islander background (10 percent of responding ordinands), but less likely to be Hispanic/Latino (14 percent of responding ordinands). Compared to diocesan ordinands, religious ordinands are less likely to report their race or ethnicity as Caucasian/European American/white.
- One-quarter (25 percent) were born outside the United States, with the largest numbers coming from Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines, Nigeria, Poland and Vietnam.

Bas-relief of 'Stella Maris' dedicated

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A newly dedicated bas-relief sculpture at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington portrays Mary calming the troubled sea, with the North Star above her head.

The image of Our Lady Star of the Sea "will become a point of spiritual pilgrimage for the people of the sea" when they visit the shrine, said a news release announcing the sculpture, installed in the narthex of the shrine's Upper Church.

It also "will help draw attention to the important ser-

vices that our mariners, fishermen and sea forces have done for our country and the world," the release said.

The bas-relief "roundel," as it is called, is a gift of the Confraternity of Our Lady Star of the Sea and the Apostleship of the Sea USA. Both Catholic organizations have a strong devotion to Mary under the title of "Stella Maris," or Star of the Sea. She is the patroness of seafarers and their families.

The two groups commissioned Lou DiCocco and the Liturgical Arts Studio in

Havertown, Pennsylvania, to create the sculpture.

Retired Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Georgia, dedicated it May 24 during a special Mass. The main celebrant and homilist for the Mass, he is the U.S. bishop-promoter of the apostleship, a worldwide Catholic maritime ministry.

Concelebrants were Msgr. Walter Rossi, rector of the national shrine, and Father Sinclair Oubre, diocesan director of the Apostleship of the Sea for the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas. Assisting at Mass was Deacon Patrick LaPost, port chaplain board member of the Apostleship of the Sea USA.

Begun in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1920, the Apostleship of the Sea takes the form of seaside chapels and Catholic welcome centers as well as on-ship clergy and Catholic chaplaincy programs.



'Stella Maris' roundel

ORDINATION

Continued from Page 1

ments, but even these were always leading to something greater.

"After nine years of priestly formation, I am certainly looking forward to the day of ordination, but I am also looking forward to the days and years of priestly ministry following ordination," he said. "This process of journeying toward priesthood was certainly not accomplished alone! In addition to the seminary and university faculties that have accompanied

me over the years, there have been so many back home in Louisiana. I am incredibly grateful for their generous prayers, friendship, encouragement, and example."

The 51-year old Deacon Alexius graduated from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans in 1993 and completed his residency as an emergency medicine physician at Charity Hospital in New Orleans in 1997. He came to the Diocese as a seminarian for the 2012-2013 school term and was assigned by Bishop Provost to attend Mount St. Mary's.

He is looking forward to the ordination and then to get down to work as a priest.

"I am quietly entering ordination and will quietly move to the other side, setting myself to work to unify," he said. "I desire to work hard for the bishop who is the successor to the apostles, so wherever he wants me to labor, then I will do my best."

"I am quite grateful to the Bishop and to the priests who have been kind to me in my move to Lake Charles," he continued. "Also to members of the Serra clubs, as well as the parish secretaries I have worked with every summer."

CHARITIES

Continued from Page 1

In her comments, Sr. Mary Vianney said, "The contributions of food and money made by you have allowed us to offer rice, beans, meat, poultry, fresh vegetables, and fruit. The money helped in stopping light and water shut offs, provided rent money to those families who have been homeless, funeral assistance to those without the means to bury their loved ones, medications for those who are choosing to not take their medications so they can eat, air conditioners for seniors and those disabled, and gasoline those who might to get to work."

"Your contributions as volunteers has offered the hands, face, and heart of Christ to those experiencing hard times due to loss of work, those becoming the responsible to their grandchildren, those who have lost children due to drugs and lifestyle," she continued. "You have helped those with physical and emotional limitations and those who are dissipated from alcohol and abuse."

She also noted what was revealed during the year to the staff of Catholic Charities. "There has been an increase need for food as food stamps have been decreased to the families," she said. "Seniors are particularly vulnerable. A study done showed that a study done showed that more than 70 percent of supporting children and grandparents are having to choose between medications and food."

"More families are homeless because it is difficult to find shelters and government grants on which we depend have become more demanding regarding criteria for qualifying," she continued. "We understand the reality that as a Catholic organization we may at sometime not qualify for grant money because of our beliefs. We need to extend all our Catholic Charities Services to the entire diocese, but we have difficulty due to limitations of grants."

Some of these grants won't allow providing help outside the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles or can only be used within Calcasieu Parish, Sr. Mary Vianney noted.

"This has been a challenge but we applied for a grant this

year for just this need and are awaiting word. We need more reliable and consistent resources but the question, as we embrace the teachings of the Catholic Faith, is will we be able to receive government grants at all because of the beliefs of our Faith."

She also pointed out that many more volunteers came to Catholic Charities last year, including families; youth groups; student groups; ACTS groups; Knights of Columbus; Knights of St. Peter Claver; and those just retiring or retired.

Pre-brunch entertainment was provided by Grammy nominated local saxophonist Mickie Smith. Bishop Glen John Provost played several piano numbers (including old favorites "As Time Goes By" and "April in Paris" for those assembled and Carl Broussard, his wife, Julie, and Terry and Carl Stutes provided post-brunch entertainment in the form of a medley of songs from the 1970s.

Special sponsors of the event included: Bishop Provost; Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, St. Henry Catholic Church, Alfred Palma, LLC, Stockwell, Seivert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, LLP, Livingston Group, CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital; Bubba Oustalet Automotive Family, First Federal Bank of Louisiana, Dr. Eric and Mrs. Sheila Sanders Pediatric Dentistry, Christ The King Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, Johnson Funeral Home, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, J & J Exterminating, Billy Navarre Dealerships - Lake Charles, Billy Navarre Chevrolet Sulphur, Ken Conner's Service Tire Pros, St. Theodore Catholic Church, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish Outreach Ministry, St. Pius X Catholic Church, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church - Lake Charles, Robichaux, Mize, Wadsack & Richardson, LLC, Deepwoods Lawn and Landscaping, Ribbeck Construction, Lonnie G. Harper & Associates, Inc., Dr. Jon & Mrs. Alyson Yokubaitis, Robin and Ann S. Roberts, Mike Terranova, Sean Gordon, Glen Bertrand, Jr. & Mrs. W. J. Lechtenberg, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Landry, Lance and Kelley Mudd.

GRADUATION

Continued from Page 1

John David Henning, Valer Michelle Hogan, John Lloyd Hurley, Austin Ray James, Elizabeth Dianne Joseph, Ayub Bilal Khan, Elaine Brooke Kilpatrick, Michelle Ann Klein, Kennedy Rae Kober, Katlyn LaFosse, Shelby Elyse Landry, Aidan Quaid LaRocca, Katherine Ann LeBeau, Alexis Katelyn Manuel, Jonathan Alexander Martin, Abby Laurence Matte, Megan Elizabeth McGuire, Matthew Quin McNamara, Noah Alexander Meche, Lauren Elizabeth Mere, Olivia Claire Midkiff, Grayson Moore Miller, Breana Leighanne Moreno, Isabelle Elise Moreno, Maris Jayce Nixon, Thomas Joseph O'Dowd, Cailin Clare O'Reilly, Ali Elizabeth Oertling, Daniel Ross Ortego, Ali April Oubre, Isabella Gabrielle Palmer, William Tinsley Petty, Caroline Lee Pierce, Sara Elizabeth Pool, Elizabeth Jordan Portie, Kori Jeannice Portie, Noelle Grace Primeaux, Kathryn Leigh Prunty, Hunter Christian Quarles, Tyler Scott Rasbeary, Dylan Robert Ray, Adam Blake Richard, Elaine Gayle Rider, Morgan Brooke Rosteet, Jacob Neill Rowland, and Sabrina Marie Gabrielle Roy.

Also, Sydney Marie Saltzman, Zachary Philip Schwartzburg, Florence Ann Shearman, James Dunham Shearman, Mary Claire Shearman, Bayleigh Elizabeth Smith, Brianna Nicole Soram, Alex Christopher Stokes, Alexis Nicole Stokes, Alexander Stephen Joseph Stroh, Aaron Owens Tanner, Hannah Gabrielle Theriot, Michael McGauly Thompson, Michael Coleman Torres, Dylan Gage Trahan, Conner Gordon Trent, Allison Dorothy Vincent, Katherine Ann Vincent, Matthew Michael Vincent, Justine Marie Ware, and Daniel Andrew Witherwax.

St. Louis 2015 Senior Awards - President's Honor Awards and Louisiana House of Representative Awards: Valedictorian: Zachary Boullt; Salutatorians: Shannon Dalton, Raleigh Goodwin. Honor Graduates -

Mallory Baca, Zachary Boullt, Sydney Brown, Michael Buisson, Kari Bushnell,

Shannon Dalton, Emily Deters, Michel Elliott, Kari Elliott, Eyan Falgout, Jamie Gilmore, Skylar Gilmore, Raleigh Goodwin, Anna Guidry, Dustin Guidry, Lauren Hammond, Elizabeth Joseph, Michelle Klein, Shelby Landry, Lauren Mere, Breana Moreno, Noelle Primeaux, Hannah Theriot, and Michael Thompson

National Merit Finalist: Laura Hammond, Zachary Boullt; National Merit Commended Student: Raleigh Goodwin; and Student of the Year: Zachary Boullt (District Winner).

Rally Awards: District and State Rally Teams, Thirty-three St. Louis students placed at District Rally, with 22 first place winners and nine capturing overall rally titles. Rally places: Boullt, Zachary, 1st Calculus, Overall Winner; 3rd at State rally; Jordan Coe, 2nd Advanced Math II; Shannon Dalton, 1st Physics; Raleigh Goodwin, 1st English IV; Lauren Hammond, 1st World History; Elizabeth Joseph, 1st Psychology, Overall Winner at District and State; Daniel Ortego, 1st Environmental Science; Zachary Schwartzburg, 1st Fine Arts Survey; and Katie Vincent, 1st Business/Financial Math.

Plauche DAR Special Award, Michelle Klein; and Calderara Student Council Award, Noelle Primeaux.

National and Community Awards: American Legion Award: Allison Vincent and Michael Buisson; DAR Good Citizen Award: Zachary Schwartzburg; Scottish Rite Patriotism Award: Cailin O'Reilly and Adam Richard; Knights of Columbus Patriotism Award: Michael Torres; The Catholic Youth Leadership Awards: Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc Council: Aaron Tanner and St. Margaret Parish: Bayleigh Smith and Brandon Amiot; Mayor's Community Commitment Award: Elizabeth Portie and Adam Richard; Service Above Self Award: Kari Bushnell; McNeese State University Regional Math Awards: Individual math medal, 2nd place: Zachary

Boullt; Level 12 Team placing 1st: Adrian Beltran, Zachary Boullt, Raleigh Goodwin; and Level 12 Team placing 3rd: Michel Elliot.

Army Scholar/Athlete Awards: Shannon Dalton and Michael Thompson; Marine Corps Awards: Distinguished Athletes: Mary Guillery and Michael Buisson; Gullor Fidelis Award-Breenan Eisen; Scholastic Excellence: Zachary Boullt.

Keith Jones Award: Michael Buisson; Principal's Scholar/Athlete Award: Shannon Dalton and Zachary Boullt; Wendy's High School Heisman Award: Shannon Dalton (one of 20 state winners); Jamie Gilmore, Daniel Ortego; NAU Award: Book Stipend to: Kari Bushnell; Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship: Delta DREAM Scholarship: Kari Bushnell.

CODIFIL Scholarship: Raleigh Goodwin (studying French Immersion in 5 week summer program at the *Ecole Suisse Internationale* in Paris, France); Louisiana Pigment Scholarship: Lauren Hammond; PPG Scholarship: Shannon Dalton; Axiall William F. Vaughn Scholarship: Zachary Boullt; Zeta Phi Beta Scholarship: Alex Stokes; Jerry Crews Music Scholarship: Aaron Tanner; Promise of Hope Scholarship: Sydney Witherwax; Youth Achievement Scholarship: Jasmine Abel; National Merit Scholarship: Zachary Boullt; Junior League Scholarship: Elizabeth Portie; and Louisiana Banker's Education Council Scholarship: Grayson Miller

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS: Baylor University, Jamie Gilmore-Academic Scholarship; Skylar Gilmore-Academic Scholarship; University of Alabama, Shannon Dalton-Presidential Scholarship, Engineering Leadership Scholarship, Alumni Heritage Scholarship and Alumni Scholar Award. Texas A & M, Lauren Hammond-National Merit Recognition, President's Endowed Scholarship, Waviv of non-resident Tuition, National Merit Sponsorship, National merit Recognition Supplemental, Academic Study Abroad Stipend, Xavier University, New Orleans, Alexis Stokes - Merit-based scholarship. Northwest State University, La., Bayleigh Smith - NSU Opportunity Scholarship, President's Honor Scholarship, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, Mallory Baca - Disting-

guished Freshman Scholarship, Camille Bushnell - Academic Excellence Scholarship, Abby Matte - Distinguished Freshman Scholarship, Olivia Midkiff - Distinguished Freshman Scholarship, Justine Ware - Distinguished Freshman Scholarship. University of Louisiana, Monroe, Michel Elliott - President's Distinguished Award. University of Texas, Dallas, Zachary Boullt- Eugene McDermott Scholar. University of St. Thomas, Houston, Kari Bushnell- UST Achievement Scholarship, Catholicity Scholarship, Hugh R. Goodrich Scholarship. LSU, Chad Davis - Academic Scholars Resident Award; Jessica Flaherty - Tiger Excellence Resident Award; Raleigh Goodwin - Academic Scholars Award; Dylan Greenman - Tiger Excellence Resident Award; Elizabeth Joseph - Academic Scholars Resident Award; Shelby Landry - Tiger Excellence Resident Award; Lauren Mere - Tiger Excellence Resident Award.

McNeese State University, Brandon Amiot - Distinguished Achievement Award; Adrian Beltran - Distinguished Achievement Award; Sydney Brown - Distinguished Achievement Award; Jordan Coe - McNeese Foundation Freshman Award, Choral Service Award, Music Department Award; Emily Deters- Distinguished Achievement Award; Landon Dore - McNeese Foundation Freshman Award; Dustin Guidry - Distinguished Achievement Award; Michelle Klein - Distinguished Achievement Award; Kennedy Kober - Cheerleading Scholarship; Noah Meche - Distinguished Achievement Award; Isabelle Moreno - Distinguished Achievement Award; Isabella Palmer - Distinguished Achievement Award; Morgan Rosteet - Distinguished Achievement Award; Zachary Schwartzburg - Distinguished Achievement Award; Aaron Tanner - Distinguished Achievement Award, Choral Service Award, Band Performance Award; Sydney Witherwax - Lake Charles American Press Scholarship. Louisiana Tech, Hannah Theriot - Presidential Scholar. Athletic Scholarships, McNeese State University - Men's Track Scholarship awarded to Landon Dore. LSU-Eunice - Softball Scholarship to Mary Guillery.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Pontifical Solemn Mass set June 24

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Pontifical Solemn Mass on Wednesday, June 24 - the Nativity of St. John the Baptist - in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 6 p.m.

Position open at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF - Applications are being accepted by Saint Charles Center for a part-time groundskeeper/maintenance position. This person must be available for immediate employment.

If interested contact Michelle at 855-1232.

"Lumen Fidei" on Second Saturdays

LAKE CHARLES - Women - juniors in high school and older - welcome to join the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, on the second Saturday of each month to discuss the Order's vocation to love as attendees discover God's particular and loving plan for their lives.

The meeting begins with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at noon and concludes at 6:20 p.m. Call 337-656-2911 or e-mail miriam.macleand@lcdioocese.org or RSVP.

Matthew Kelly slated at Our Lady Queen of Heaven

LAKE CHARLES - Matthew Kelly and his "Living Every Day with Passion and Purpose" program will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, in the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church Family Life Center from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cost is \$39 and includes all retreat materials.

Visit www.dynamiccatholic.com/Lake Charles or call 859-980-7900 for more information or to purchase a ticket. You can also call the church office at 337-477-1236 for information.

"The Gift of Baptism" program July 25

LAKE CHARLES - The Office of Religious Education of the Diocese will offer "The Gift of Baptism" on Saturday, July 25 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Chancery Assembly Room, 414 Iris Street.

The event is for clergy, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults teams, adult formation teams, and parish evangelization leaders.

It will be a day of learning about the Rite and its role in bringing people into the Church.

Jim Schellman, vice president for mission integration at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette will be the speaker.

At least 30 participants must register by Thursday, July 2, for the event to occur. Contact Nicole Monk at 337-439-7400, Ext. 308 with questions or e-mail your registration information to nicole.monk@lcdioocese.org.

Cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch.

Hospice volunteers 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, enhancing the comfort and quality of life for patients, their families and loved ones, according to April Deshotel, Volunteer Coordinator.

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.

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."

Donated clothes or shop for free for women's business attire on the fourth Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon at 1024 Division Street, across from the former junior high building of Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School.

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

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, held the first Saturday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Vianney House, 1624 Bank Street.

Call Father Nathan Long at 337-477-1434 for more information.