



Some of the wonderful work accomplished by the missionaries of Abrazando Cristo to Nicaragua this summer is pictured in the following pictures. This was the 15th year of the mission program, led by Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, V.G. In photo 1, missionaries worked to dig a septic tank by hand at the priest's house in Matagalpa and then, in photo 2, laid the field lines. Medical experts always are among the missionaries and, in photo 3, await one of the over 500 patients seen during the weeklong mission. In photo 4, missionaries provided to some 100 children knowledge of Jesus Christ during Vacation Bible School. Several of the seminarians of the Diocese were part of the mission and, in photo 5, blew up balloons to make hats and other shapes for the expectant children. The celebration of the liturgy was a daily occurrence with Msgr. Torres and Father Nathan Long concelebrating one of those Masses in photo 6.

A Reflection on the Mission in Nicaragua

By Monsignor Daniel A. Torres

Nestled in the barrio (neighborhood) on a slope of a mountain in the heart of Matagalpa, the second largest city in Nicaragua, stands Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church, surrounded by the homes and shacks of the poorest of the poor.

As the 48 missionaries of Abrazando Cristo emerged on their doorsteps, the joy and laughter of the people in seeing familiar faces was evident. Everyone was embracing with love and happiness as the life of Jesus Christ was beginning to be shared.

For the next seven days in Matagalpa, work was done at the home of the priest, as a septic tank was dug six feet into the ground by hand – there are no backhoes to rent. Many rocks had to be cracked and removed by a sledgehammer and by hands. It was warm during the daytime hours and there was hardly any breeze. The pipes were laid and the septic tank project was completed. Hopefully, the priest will be living in the house by the springtime.

The medical team saw over 550 patients in their work. There were many wounds that were healed – diarrhea, malnutrition, lack of vitamins, and flu-like symptoms addressed. Along with

all of this, people had major leg, arm, neck and back pain that were addressed through the skills of a chiropractor. The joy of experiencing freedom from pain was evident as they left the makeshift clinic.

Nearly 100 children learned about Jesus in the Vacation Bible School. They learned to pray the Rosary, sing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and about the lives of the saints. These children were fed each day. They laughed and spread through their beauty and innocence the joy of Christ to the missionaries.

The painting crew continued to paint the “Sistine Chapel of Nicaragua” with colors to bring brightness to the surroundings as the people gathered to give praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God in their beautiful church, built through the generosity of the benefactors of the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program.

Mass was celebrated daily, the Rosary prayed daily, and the Chaplet prayed as well. Prayer was offered as a community in the morning and evening as well as in silence. The Lord was truly present.

There was a flu epidemic in Nicaragua as their usually is during the cold months here in Louisiana and the rest of the country. Right now, in the area of Nicaragua they are experiencing their rainy season. They only have two seasons – the rainy season and the dry season. The rainy season is considered their wintertime because it is colder. The rainy season coincides with the hurricane season of Louisiana. Their actual summer vacation is December 8 to January 1. This is when the children are off for their summer vacation from school.

The beautiful thing about the trip was how the relationships established continue to grow and how we are able to journey year after year in sharing Christ, remembering names, and the stories of each other. This is what I believe being a missionary is all about – sharing Christ with each other and sharing his Love. Next year's mission (the 16th) is July 1-10, 2016.

St. Peter Claver celebration on Sunday Sept. 6 at St. Henry

LAKE CHARLES – The Solemnity of Saint Peter Claver, the diocesan patron, will be celebrated on Sunday, September 6, at 10:30 a.m. at the parish of St. Henry, V.G., pastor of St. Henry.

Bishop Glen John Provost has called upon the parishes of the Diocese to honor St. Peter Claver at parish masses during that weekend.

All Knights in Papal Orders as well as Knights of Peter Claver and Knights of Columbus should come in full regalia. Priests and Deacons free from parish duties that day are invited to attend. Representatives of organizations from all parishes in the Diocese are also invited to attend the celebration.

A reception in the St. Henry Community Center will follow the Mass. All are invited.

Bishop's Golf Classic slated for October 2

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 personal scramble tournament will feature 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. Prizes will also be given for the longest drive and closest to the hole with a \$5,000 cash prize going to the first golfer to score a hole in one.

Tee 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. In June, two men were ordained to the priesthood. The Diocese currently has nine retired priests and expends more than \$300,000 to maintain their health and welfare. Several others are nearing retirement or could retire due to health issues during the next several years.

Registration forms are available at area golf courses and the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Payment of registration and fees using a credit card is available on the Diocese of Lake Charles website – lcdioocese.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.

Caraway accepted to candidacy for Holy Orders



Bishop Glen John Provost, left, accepted diocesan seminarian Michael Caraway, right, to candidacy for Holy Orders during Mass held in Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings – Caraway's home parish. Assisting the Bishop is Very Reverend Derek Covert, master of ceremonies, with seminarian Olin Chester holding the Book of Rites, from which the Bishop is reading. The Admission to Candidacy offers the candidates for ordination the opportunity to publicly express their intention to receive ordination as a Deacon and perhaps later as a Priest. The aspirant composes beforehand and then signs and dates before the start of the rite in the presence of the Bishop a declaration in one's own hand stating his conscious intention to serve others in the Spirit of Compassionate Presence as an ordained cleric and is making this intention freely on his own accord. The Bishop also signs and dates this declaration, attesting acknowledgement of receipt thereof in the name of the Church.

Marriage Preparation classes

LAKE CHARLES – Space remains available for the Marriage Preparation Class offered by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles set for 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The one-day class is held in the Chancery, 414 Iris Street, and taught by Rickard Newman, Director of the office.

Registration is \$100 per couple, which includes the Prepare/Enrich online assessment, lunch, and materials. Registration and payment is available on the website of the Diocese – live.lcdioocese.org – by clicking the Support the Diocese button, clicking on the Marriage Preparation link, and following the easy instructions.

Call 337-439-7400, Extension 307, for more information or to register.

A registration form is also available to print from the website under the Main Menu listed under Forms link.

Space also is open for the final two dates of 2015 - October 10 and November 21.

Together for Life dates in 2016 have been announced and include: January 9, February 20, March 19, April 16, May 14, June 18, August 20, September 17, October 15, and November 12.

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



Veritas Conference set Sept. 12 at St. Louis

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Veritas Conference, sponsored by the Office of Adult Education of the Diocese of Lake Charles, is Saturday, Sept. 12, with guest speaker Rose Sweet, a Catholic author, teacher, and conference speaker.

The event will take place in St. Louis Catholic High School from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and there is a registration deadline of Aug. 28. Fees are \$25, including lunch if paid by Aug. 21; \$30, including lunch if paid by Aug. 28; and \$35 with no lunch from Aug. 29 until the day of the event.

Register and pay online at the diocesan website – live.lcdioocese.org – by clicking the Support the Diocese button, using the Veritas link, and following the easy instructions. A registration form is available at the Bishop Harold Pery Building, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, or can be printed out from the Veritas Conference article on the website. Call 337-439-7400, Ext. 308, for more information.

Sweet has been on Catholic radio and EWTN and brings heart and humor to all her presentations. Her passion is helping people live their faith in the daily details by "Putting RELIGION into RELATIONSHIPS".

She has authored 10 books on relationship issues that include being single, dating and courtship, marriage and parenting, divorce, annulments, and how to get along with almost anyone. Her work is deeply rooted in St. John

Paul's "Theology of the Body" and she has been speaker at the annual Theology of the Body Congress and in 2015 at the World Meeting of Families.

Conference Schedule: 7:30 a.m.–8:25 a.m., Registration & Exhibits; 8:30 a.m.– 9:30 a.m., Holy Mass and Welcome; 9:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m., Break (Exhib-



Rose Sweet

its & Confession Available); 9:55 a.m. – 11:15 a.m., Keynote; 11:20 a.m.–12:05 p.m.; Lunch (Exhibits and Confession Available); 12:10 p.m.–1:40 p.m., Breakouts Round 1, 1:40 p.m. – 1:55 p.m., Break (Exhibits and Confession Available); 1:55 p.m.– 3:20 p.m., Breakouts Round 2; 3:25 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Benediction. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available after Mass and throughout the remainder of the day.

Sweet, Crossroads Bookstore and many other publishers will have resources available for purchase during breaks.

Breakout session leaders will include: Msgr. Ronald

Groth, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Arthur; Denise and Blaine Wyninger, members of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur where they are lectors, Catechism teachers, and mentor couple for marriage preparation; Fr. Bryce Sibley, the pastor and chaplain of the Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Church and Student Center in Lafayette; and Fr. Charles McMillin, pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings; Paula Hunter, a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Sulphur, a Catechist of more than 25 years and has conducted numerous classes and retreats; and Rose Sweet.

Also, Fr. Derek Covert, the Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Lake Charles; Robin Suiere, a director of religious education of more than 15 years experience at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church; Cay Gibson, a published author of four educational resources and one children's book as well as long time parishioner and Parish Catechetical Leader at Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in Sulphur; Jenifer and Jared Watson, parishioners of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, married for 14 years with five children; Ina F. Delahousaye, Ph.D., a gifted educator and scholar who has given her life to educating our young people and in leadership positions overseeing public education in Louisiana.



Bishop Glen John Provost recently received the annual Excellence in Religious Education contribution from the Fourth Degree Assemblies, Knights of Columbus, domiciled in the Diocese of Lake Charles from the Diocesan Coordinator for the Fourth Degree I. J. Tarou, who also represented Father Veillard Assembly #2087 of Sulphur, standing next to Bishop Provost. Representing three of the four Assemblies at the presentation were, far left, Peter Snatic, Msgr. Hubert Cramers Assembly #320 of Lake Charles and Donald Laurent, Father James J. Shahrigan Assembly #2182 of DeRidder. At far right, is Robert Istre, Msgr. Joseph Peeters Assembly #332 of Jennings.



The East Deanery Serra Club presented a \$6,000.00 contribution to Bishop Glen John Provost for the Seminary Fund of the Diocese of Lake Charles. The gift came from proceeds of the club's second annual golf tournament. The donation will assist in paying the educational expenses of 16 men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese at three seminaries. Pictured are, from left, Dee Savoy, trustee; Charles Savoy, golf tournament coordinator; Bishop Provost; Lou Marcantel, president; Phil Watson, president-elect; and Russell Touchet, treasurer.

Nelson Riddle Orchestra featured at Bishop's Gala

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

The Orchestra, 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, will feature vocalist Bryan Anthony for a Centennial Celebration of the musical collaboration of Sinatra and Riddle. The Orchestra is currently directed by Nelson's son Christopher.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for a VIP social with general admittance at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 each and a table for 10 is available for \$1,250 and are available in the parishes of the Diocese, at the Chancery (414 Iris Street) and online at live.lcdioocese.org.

To buy tickets online, using your credit card or e-check, click on the "Support the Diocese" button on the front page., then click the "Bishop's Gala Tickets" link and follow the easy instructions. The patron of this year's event, on whose feast day the Gala is celebrated, is Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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 pro-

gram 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 – live.lcdioocese.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.



Bishop Glen John Provost, left, and Father Nathan Long, right, were two of a large number of religious and political representatives speaking at the annual Rally for Religious Freedom held in Sulphur at the Heritage Square Pavilion. There was also a program of Christian music. The rally is sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles, the City of Sulphur, and area churches and ministers.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Labor Day week office hours

LAKE CHARLES – The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day. Office hours for the remainder of the week – Sept. 8-12 – will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Catholic Charities report

LAKE CHARLES – The most recent report from Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana found 71 clients served with a total expenditure of \$15,451.72, according to Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, Director and Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services.

Of that number, 35 were assisted with rent payments, five with TWIC/state IDs, six with medication, five with utility payments, one with funeral expenses, and two with transportation.

The monthly food distribution had 301 boxes of food provided through the United States Department of Agriculture and 56 provided through local contributions to Catholic Charities.

St. Joseph Mission fundraiser

LEBLEU SETTLEMENT – The St. Joseph Mission's ladies fundraiser is Saturday, Sept. 12, at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel, 2110 Claude Hebert Road.

Father Matthew Cormier, parochial vicar of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$15 and there will be door prizes.

For more information or tickets contact Audrey Marcantel

582-1483 or Faye Humphery 582-6882. Deadline to purchase tickets for this St. Joseph Mission Chapel Building Fund event is Sept. 5.

"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.maclean@lcdioocese.org to RSVP.

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."

Donate 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 at 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.

Mass for Special Needs Individuals

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Mass for Individuals with Special Needs and their Families at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4, in St. Louis Catholic High School.

All denominations are invited to attend the celebration, offered as an opportunity for all to worship despite difficulty, embarrassment, or frustration. Family members and friends are welcome. Call Karen Duhon at 478-0243 or Shari Cormier at 478-0043 for more information.

Future dates for the celebration of masses for special needs are: Jan. 31, 2016; April 24, 2016; July 24, 2016; and October 16, 2016. Bishop Provost will be the celebrant at that Mass.