



An important message from Bishop Glen John Provost

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

These are troubling days. The violence in the streets, the re-definition of marriage, cruelty to the unborn, so-called "end of life" legislation, the slaughter of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East, the plight of immigrants, racial tensions, human trafficking, and, not to mention, drug abuse and increased crime in our own community - people of good will have to every reason to be troubled.

I call to mind the words of the Prophet Isaiah when he is speaking to the land of Judah warning them of "those who call evil good, and good evil... Those who are wise in their own eyes..." (Isaiah 5: 20a, 21a). Are we not living in that day today? Are these words not spoken to us in the midst of the horrors of abortion, the proliferation of capital punishment, a national fight for the "right to die," and the "recognition" of same-sex unions as equal and the same as natural marriage between a man and a woman? In addition, Pope Francis speaks of the consequences of such attitudes in *Laudato Si* when he calls even the lack of consideration and responsibility for the environment a symptom of the "throwaway" culture (cf. 22). How can we be truly concerned with the future and even our own children when we are so quick to take what we want, when we want it, and how we want it?

Fridays have always held a special place in the religious practice of Catholics. Friday is, of course, associated with the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ. And since liturgical cycles, such as the liturgical year, invite us to enter more fully into the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Church in her wisdom sets aside Friday as a day for penance. From the earliest days of the Church (cf. *Didache*, 8), the Church developed the custom of acknowledging this day of the week when our Lord sacrificed Himself for our salvation. As time went on, the custom of abstaining from meat developed as a sign of acknowledging our Lord's Passion. As a child, I remember my parents encouraging me to offer specific prayers through my own small sacrifice of abstaining from meat on Fridays as a means to join my sacrifice with the Great Sacrifice of Christ. To this day, the Church encourages all the faithful to keep the custom of abstaining from meat (*Code of Canon Law*, 1251). In the United States, the Conference of Bishops has granted a permission to replace abstaining from meat with another penitential act on Fridays other than the Fridays during the Season of Lent when all the faithful of age are to abstain. The idea of sacrificing something is countercultural to the "throwaway" mentality that plagues us today and of which Pope Francis has time and again warned us.

Some would argue that penance and fasting have dropped from the proverbial map over the last fifty years. When the laws of fasting were modified following the Second Vatican Council, especially in this country, the unintended message was sent, I am afraid, that the Church was "doing away" with penitential practices. The days of meatless Fridays and penitential

fasting for 40 days were significant signs to others of the seriousness with which Catholics regarded identifying with the Lord Jesus and doing penance for their sins.

In fact, the Church has only modified its penitential practices. Friday remains a penitential day. The Code of Canon Law states: "The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent" (c. 1250). The Second Vatican Council in its documents also makes clear that penitential practices are to be not only internal and personal but also external and public (SC 109). Therefore, since in the United States, one may replace abstaining from meat on Fridays, except in Lent, with some other penitential practice, the obligation remains to do penance on Friday. Penance is many things but it is a response, a response that appeals to God, expresses confidence in His mercy, and recognizes human tribulations.

In light of this and in response to many of the lay faithful requesting a public acknowledgment of the evils abounding today, I am asking that a renewal of the sense of Fridays be observed and maintained in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Fridays should remain a day of penance either by the traditional abstinence from meat or another suitable substantial form of penance. Friday is often devoted to the Sacred Heart of our Lord wounded by the sins of humankind. Thus, by our committing to these various forms of penance, we comfort our Lord's wounded Heart, and join with Christ by joining our small sacrifice to His Great Sacrifice as my parents often remind me (cf. Colossians 1:24). Lastly, our penance, great and small, help us to be aware of the needs of those who are without and counters the "throwaway" mentality by reminding us that we cannot get everything that we want, when we want it, and how we want it. God established order, and our fasting, prayer, and abstinence helps put our senses and passions correctly back in this divinely established order.

We do not lose hope, but are reminded of Christ's words to remain vigilant, to knock, to seek, and to pray with earnest hearts in recognition of the Kingdom of God. With prayers and my own sacrifices offered for you, I remain

Devotedly yours in our Lord,

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Solemnity of St. Peter Claver Sept. 6

LAKE CHARLES - The Solemnity of Saint Peter Claver, the diocesan patron, will be celebrated on Sunday, September 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Henry Catholic Church with Mass celebrated by Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, 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 of 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.

Saint Peter Claver was chosen as the Patron Saint of the Diocese by the late Bishop Jude Speyrer, founding Bishop.

He was born near Barcelona in modern day Spain in 1580; he joined the Society of Jesus, commonly called the Jesuits. After being influenced by Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez, Peter decided he wanted to be a missionary to what was then known as "The New World".

To that end, he continued his studies and was sent to, the then called, "New Granada" or modern day Colombia and was

ordained at Cartagena in 1615. Cartagena was the principal center of the African slave trade and Peter Claver spent his life trying to alleviate the horrible conditions of the slaves. He worked among the slaves in the yards where they were penned and ministered to them with food and medicine. He was able to baptize some three thousand persons in the course of his forty years of ministry. However, his ministry did not just concern the souls of these unfortunates.

Peter Claver would visit the plantations and plead with owners of these slaves to improve their conditions of life and work. During these visits, he actually lodged with the slaves. In addition to his ministry to the slaves, Peter Claver visited the imprisoned and the lepers. He was known as a great preacher and led a very austere life; he is reputed to have possessed supernatural gifts including that of prophecy, miracles and the ability to read the hearts and minds of people.

In 1650, he was stricken with a plague that beset Cartagena but he did not neglect his duties even when mortally ill. He died on September 8 and was canonized in 1888. Pope Leo XIII named him the patron of all missionary activities to African-Americans.



St. Peter Claver

October dates for breakfast, luncheon with Bishop Provost

LAKE CHARLES - The first of Bishop Glen John Provost's new session of the Men's Prayer Breakfast and Ladies Prayer Luncheon are Friday, Oct. 2 and Wednesday, Oct. 7, in Ave Maria Hall of the office complex of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The scriptural topic for the year's programs is the Letter to the Hebrews.

Men should call 337-439-7400 to register while women should send a check in the amount of \$15, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Gaynell Carrier, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, to register. A stamped self-addressed envelope should be included with payment.

Breakfasts begin at 7 a.m. and are preceded by the celebration of the Mass at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral. The luncheons begin at noon.

Possible topics for Pope's visit

ROME - Kenneth Hackett, the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, says that he expects Pope Francis to speak on immigration, the environment, and family issues during his September visit to the U.S.

Hackett said that the Pope is likely to remind Americans of their country's history of welcoming immigrants. He said that the Pope might also speak about economic inequalities.

The American ambassador said that he is not concerned about possible controversial statements from the Pontiff.



Deacon Michael Tramel of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Raymond reads the General Intercessions during the Mass of Aug. 10 while his fellow permanent Deacons of the Diocese stand as they celebrated the Feast Day of their patron saint - St. Lawrence. Father William Miller, in background, is pastor of St. Lawrence and was the celebrant of the Mass.



Jim Schellman, the former executive director of the North American Forum for the Catechumenate, was the guest speaker for "The Gift of Baptism," a program offered by the Office of Religious Education. Clergy, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults teams, adult formation teams, and parish evangelization teams took part in the day-long presentation. It was a day of learning about RCIA and its role in bringing people into the Church.

LABOR DAY WEEK OFFICE HOURS

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. 8-11 - will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Marriage preparation class space remains

LAKE CHARLES -- Spaces are still available for the marriage preparation class offered by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese, Together for Life, on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Chancery, 414 Iris Street.

Registration for the single day class is \$100 per couple, which covers the Prepare/Enrich online assessment, lunch, and materials. Registration and payment is available online at the website of the diocese - live.lcdiocese.org - by clicking the Support the Diocese button, then the Marriage

preparation link, and following the easy instructions.

Call 337-439-7400, Ext. 307 for more information or to register. A registration form can be printed by looking for marriage preparation under the Forms link on the website. Spaces also remain for the final date of 2015 - November 21.

Together For Life dates in 2016, all on Saturdays, are January 9, February 20, March 19, April 16, May 14, June 18, August 20, September 17, October 15, and November 12.

Catholic Schools office hours have changed

LAKE CHARLES -- The hours of operation of the Office of Catholic Schools have changed to better serve the faithful, parishes, and Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles, according to the Very Reverend Ruben J. Buller, Moderator of the Curia. The new office hours, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, took effect Monday, August 24.

The change came through collaboration with Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, and consultation with the practices of varying diocesan offices of Catholic Schools, according to Father Buller.

The previously published calendar for the Office of Catholic Schools will remain the same.



Blessed Junipero Serra canonization set for Sept. 23

By Col. John Halloran, USA (Retired)

On September 23, Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Junipero (hoo-Ni-peh-roh) Serra, O.F.M. in Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, the first person canonized on U.S. soil. Saint Pope John Paul II beatified Blessed Serra on September 25, 1988. The Church considers him a great evangelizer.

Juniper Serra was born in Majorca, Spain, on November 24, 1713. When he joined the Franciscan order in 1730, he changed his first name to Junipero. He spent over 10 years teaching before going to Mexico City in 1749. From there, he went on foot to California and established his first mission, San Diego de Alcalá in 1769 at the age of 55. Over the next 13 years, he built eight more missions, mostly traveling on foot while suffering greatly from leg pain. His travels covered more miles than Christopher Columbus and Marco Polo combined. He worked tirelessly to maintain those missions and is credited with helping Spain establish their presence in California. Serra died August 28, 1784, at the age of 70, at Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo, located in present day Carmel, California. Serra International adopted his motto "Always Forward, Never Back".

In the winter of 1934, in Seattle, Washington, a handful of Catholic men gathered and formed an association with its mission to advance the cause of Catholicism while promoting continuing education in their Catholic faith. They named this organization Serra, as a living memorial to the spirit of Fr. Junipero Serra. On February 27, 1935, they became the first Club formed. It had the encouragement and support of their bishop, The Most Reverend Gerald Shaughnessy. Serra International came into being on July 2, 1938, because of the number of clubs already organized. As Serra grew in the U.S. and other countries, the decision was made to form the Serra International Foundation on May 6, 1951, to support vocations work. Today Serra International encompasses 35 countries. Serra USA Council, chartered in 2000, has approximately 300 of the 900

Clubs and approximately 9,000 of the 20,000 members worldwide.

On January 6, 1950, the Serra Club of Lake Charles joined this group of dedicated Catholics to promote vocations in their local diocese. This year the club celebrated its 65th Anniversary. It has supported vocations with many of its programs. In addition to the numerous hours of support over the years, many thousands of dollars have been given to support the Seminarians, the Vianney House, mission trips, Seminarian continuing education, the Diocesan Seminarian Burse Fund and the needs of the Diocesan Vocations Committee. The Club is the largest club, member wise, in Region 5, which covers Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, part of Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee. It is one of the largest clubs in Serra U.S.A. Council.

In preparation for the canonization of Serra, the Club has provided a poster and a book by Mark Brunelle entitled Fray Junipero Serra, to all the Catholic Schools in the Diocese and a copy of the book to each public Library in the Lake Charles area. Some of the Club's members will be attending the canonization in Washington. For those not going to, the Club will attend the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Henry Catholic Church on Sept. 23, with Fr. Jenesh Joseph, H.G.N. as the celebrant. After mass, there will be a Dutch treat supper at Seafood Palace.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Serran, please contact our Membership Co-Chairs: Marie Davidson at 474-9985, Mandy Robichaux at 794-3619, or Club President Col Halloran at 802-5304.

The Serra Club of Lake Charles usually meets the first Friday of each month at the Pioneer Club in Lake Charles. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting, contact Col. Halloran. There is a guest speaker at each meeting, from one of the seminarians to Bishop Glen John Provost as well as other dedicated Catholics working in the community.



In celebration of the canonization of Saint Junipero Serra, the first saint to be canonized on American soil, the Serra Club of Lake Charles is donating a book and a poster about the saint to each Catholic School. Pope Francis will declare the canonization in Washington, D.C. on September 23, 2015. Col. John Halloran, USA, (Retired); Lake Charles Serra Club President; Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent Catholic Schools; and Sister Miriam MacLean, RSM, Director of Religious Education.

September events at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF -- September events at Saint Charles Center will open with "Centering Prayer and the Welcoming Prayer" An Evening of Reflection on Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. presented by Charlotte Hine and Barbara Tomme.

The method of Centering Prayer is an effort to renew the teaching of the Christian tradition on contemplative prayer. The Welcoming Prayer is a powerful companion to Centering Prayer. Both forms of prayer help us to consent to God's presence and action in our physical and emotional reactions to events and situations in daily life. Today, Sept. 4 is the deadline to register so that adequate arrangements can be made for supper. The suggested donation is \$20.00 per person.

Sr. Diane Depwe will present "Negaholics" on Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. When people recognize negativity, they can pull themselves out of it and have a happier

life. Some ways people are negative to themselves or others are: never feeling good enough, procrastinating, faultfinding, being critical or negative, constant complaining, being a perfectionist or full of gloom-and-doom. Come and be free from the negative type. The suggested donation is \$20.00 per person. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 11th so that adequate arrangements can be made for supper.

An Evening of Reflection - St. Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light" will be presented by Fr. Whitney Miller on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. St. Hildegard was a writer, musician, healer, abbess, prophet, preacher, and now, a saint. September 17 has been set as her feast day by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to honor this exceptional leader of the 12th Century. There will be Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. that will include some of Hildegard's own musical selections of the psalms, then a meal with a special Hildegardian recipe

treat for our dessert, and conclude the evening watching a movie together based on her life of devotion and the "living light" which she brought to our world. Deadline to register is Monday, Sept. 14 so that adequate arrangements can be made for supper.

"Mercy Me: Preparing for the Upcoming Year of Mercy by Making Peace with One's Own Self" - An Evening of Reflection for Men - is Tuesday, Sept. 29, presented by Keith Faul with Fr. Miller, from 6 to 9 p.m. Pope Francis has announced an extraordinary holy year, A Jubilee of Mercy, that will extend from December 8 to November 20, 2016, and will involve the Catholic Church throughout the world. The suggested donation is \$20.00 per person. Please register by Friday, Sept. 25 so that adequate arrangements can be made for supper.

Call 337-855-1232 to register or visit stcharlescenter.com to register on line for any of the above events.

Set for the Saint Katharine Drexel Conference Center, the Come Alive High School Retreat begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25, and continues until 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27. Check with the youth minister in your parish church or call the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles at 337-439-7400, Ext. 301 for registration information.

Jubilee anniversaries to be honored Sept. 29

LAKE CHARLES -- The Knights of Columbus and the St. Henry Catholic Church Parish family will honor priests, deacons, and religious celebrating significant anniversary years of a multiple of five in 2015 on Tuesday, September 29, with the Liturgy of the Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. in the church.

A luncheon will follow in the St. Henry Community Center, located behind the church, 1021 Eighth Avenue.

Father Egidio Vecchio, M.S., celebrated his 60th anniversary of priestly ordination earlier this year. Others to be feted include: Msgr. James Gaddy, 50 years; Bishop Glen John Provost, 40 years; Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May, 40 years; Rev. Whitney Miller 35 years; Rev. Andrews Kollanoor, M.S., 30 years;

Rev. Jose Vattakunnel, 25 years; Rev. V. Wayne LeBeau, 20 years; Rev. Celsius Oforo, 20 years; Rev. Benignus Wego, SVD, 20 years; Rev. Andreas Kedati, SVD, 15 years; Rev. Rommel Tolentino, 10 years; and Rev. J. Scott Conner 12/18/2010 5 years.

Permanent Deacons to be honored include Deacon John Eaves, 35 years;

Deacon Dan Landry, 35

years; Deacon George Stearns, 35 years; Deacon Milton White 35, years; Deacon Edward Lavine, 30 years; Deacon Richard Hinchee, 15 years; and Deacon Glenn Viau, 15 years.

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

THE NEXT CATHOLIC CALENDAR WILL BE PUBLISHED FRIDAY, SEPT. 18



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In photo 1, Father D.B. Thompson, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, greets newly arriving students at Our Lady's Catholic School on Monday, Aug. 17. In photo 2, Louis Catholic High School opened its fall session with an all-day retreat/rally with music by Out of Darkness in the gym. Father Jeffrey Starkovich celebrated Mass to begin the day. Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated Mass on the feast day of St. Louis, May 25. In photo 3, the Bishop preaches his homily, which included historical facts about Saint Louis (King Louis IX). Opening day enrollment in the Catholic schools in the Diocese was 2,578, up from the previous year's first day.