



Bishop's Services Appeal begins this weekend

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Bishop's Services Appeal, the fundraising campaign to aid in the operation of various ministries and programs of the Diocese of Lake Charles, begins this weekend, Sept. 19-20, in the 39 church parishes of the Diocese.

The 2014-2015 campaign raised \$805,195.85 from contributions of the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese, or 100.6 percent of the \$800,000 overall goal. This year's goal remains the same and the Appeal continues through the remainder of the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2016.

The Appeal theme for this year's appeal 2015-2016 is *Strengthening the Family* and uses the scriptural reference from Joshua 24:15 – "As for Me and My House, We will Serve the Lord."

Bishop Glenn John Provost, in his message to the people of the Diocese about the Appeal, noted, "We are grateful for the many gifts that God has blessed us with to serve Him and one another. We have grown in many ways, especially in the love we have for one another."

He also thanked everyone for the many sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure that animate the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

"You are building the vessel that will harbor the many who are weary and need a place to find rest," Bishop Provost said. "I especially thank all of the priests of the Diocese that have made their own sacrifices for those entrusted to their pastoral care. The greatest characteristic of our priests is their commitment. My gratitude extends to them for fidelity to their vows

and hard work to bring Jesus Christ to others."

He pointed out that, while the work of Christ is accomplished mainly through the 39 parishes, "there are many ministries and services required of the diocesan Church and that these ministries and services are best done collectively rather than by individual parishes.

"The Bishop's Services Appeal provides for a critical portion of the annual funding needed to support the ministries and services administered by the diocesan offices," he said.

In speaking about the theme of this year's appeal, Bishop Provost continued, "The theme is 'Strengthening the Family' this year and we support it with the biblical verse from Joshua 24:15, which says, 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.' Joshua had made a decision for his family as the head of his household. As a parent, he is nurturing his children by developing an environment of righteousness in his home. By this pledge, he instructs his family in godly obedience and to follow a narrow pathway to salvation. We should all follow this model of right teaching. The same is true for our own individual families. We are living in an age in which the traditional family, as a 'domestic church,' is being attacked and is on the brink of destruction. We are confronted by 'same sex' marriages, cohabitation outside of marriage, abortion, illicit drugs, attacks on religious freedoms, unemployment and homelessness, lack of access to good education, and many other issues.

Parents are challenged in many ways to properly instruct their children on the truth regarding marriage and related issues. Where do they go to get the right answers to these questions? We believe that God has given us the answers in the teachings of the Church. We are here to help them 'Strengthen the Family.'"

The Bishop's Services Appeal funds many ministries and services that are designed to "Strengthen the Family." Evangelization of the people is supported by our Catholic Calendar, television, and Internet communications, fellowship and learning for our young people through Youth Ministry; ministry to families and family life through marriage preparation, family life programs, and diocesan counseling; and for those who find themselves with various physical and financial needs there is Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana. The education expenses of the 16 men studying for the priesthood are also supplemented through gifts to the Appeal.

"I thank you for your past support and ask that you continue to make the Bishop's Services Appeal a part of your 'first fruit' offering every month," Bishop Provost said, "I ask that you join with us in 'Strengthening the Family' by preparing for an abundant harvest. Please be assured of my gratitude and know that I will keep you and your family in my prayers and I ask that you continue to pray for me."

Contact your parish church to make a contribution to Bishop's Services Appeal or call Deacon Glen Bertrand, Director of the Office of Development at 337-439-7400.

Abortion absolutism clarification

On September 1, 2015, His Holiness, Pope Francis announced that all priests during the upcoming Year of Mercy will have the faculty to forgive the sin of abortion. The Diocese of Lake Charles wants to assure the faithful that all priests serving in the Diocese of Lake Charles have had for many years the faculty to forgive the sin of abortion and to lift the canonical penalty if incurred. It is common practice in the United States for Ordinaries to grant this faculty.

Therefore, the faithful who have procured abortions and have obtained forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation do not need to confess their sin.

Let us pray that all people who have suffered from abortion may know the healing mercy of Jesus Christ.

Red Mass on October 23

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant and homilist for the annual Red Mass set for 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Judges, attorneys, and government officials from the five civil parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles – Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis – are invited to attend. The local St. Thomas Society, Judge Henry Yelverton Chapter, and the Diocese sponsor the event.

November prayer breakfast, lunch dates

LAKE CHARLES – The Men's Prayer Breakfast is Friday, Nov. 6 and the Women's Prayer Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 11, both in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex.

Mass is celebrated at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral before the breakfast. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register. Women should send a check for \$10, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Mrs. Gaynell Carrier, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 at least a week prior to the luncheon. A stamped,

self-addressed envelope should be included.

Vocaré on First Saturday at Vianney House

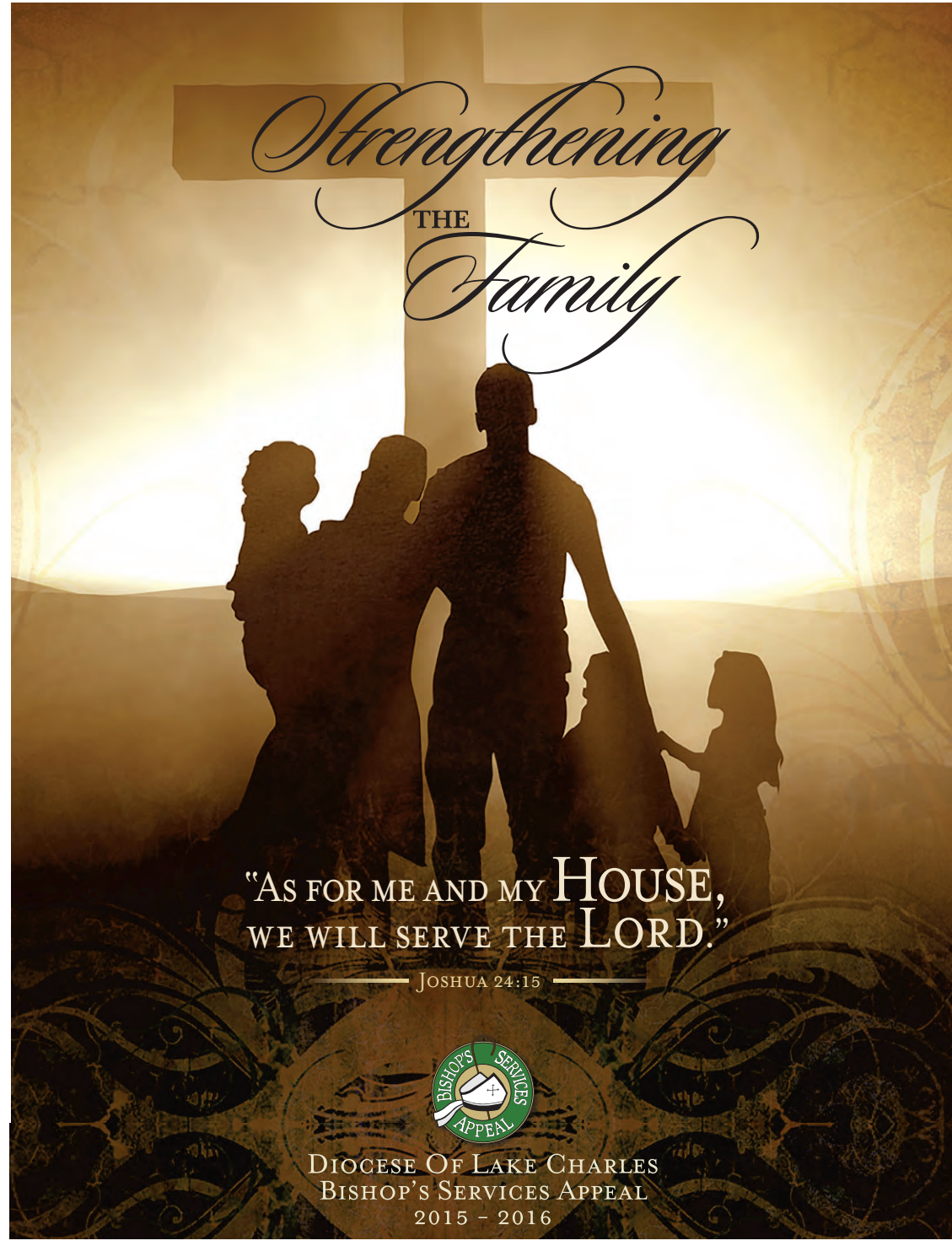
LAKE CHARLES – Young men ages 16 to 25, seeking to know God's will in their lives, are invited to attend Vocaré, a ministry of the Office of Vocations, held the first Saturday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Vianney House, 1624 Bank Street.

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

"Lumen Fidei" on Second Saturdays

LAKE CHARLES – Women – juniors in high school and older – are 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.macleon@lcdioocese.org to RSVP.



Saint Charles Center October events slated

MOSS BLUFF – Father Whitney Miller will present a Morning of Reflection: "Meditating on the Furious Mysteries in the Life of Christ" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10, kicking off a number of October events at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

In addition to the Glorious, Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Luminous Mysteries were introduced by Saint Pope John Paul II for our spiritual meditation. Fr. Miller, in this Morning of Reflection, will present yet another series of events in the life of Jesus for our prayerful consideration; namely, the "furious" mysteries. The number of times Jesus gets angry in the Gospels is considerable. Many believers struggle with this emotion of anger and look for models

of appropriate expression and righteous justification. Register by calling (337) 855-1232 or at stcharlescenter.com. Suggested donation is \$20.00 per person. Registration deadline is Tuesday, October 6, so that adequate arrangements can be made for lunch.

"Saving America", presented by Sr. Diane Depwe, is Tuesday, October 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. Jesus teaches us how to stand-up to the leaders of our society regarding the morals and values as Christians and as an "American." Today we are called as Christians to be informed and equipped to stand in the "Gap." Register by calling (337) 855-1232 or at stcharlescenter.com. Suggested donation is \$20.00 per person. Deadline to register is Friday, October 9, so that adequate arrangements can be made for supper.

Patricia Fox with Fr. Miller present a Women's Day of Reflection - Prepare Your Heart for the Year of Mercy: Walk Humbly with Your God - from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 24.

With Pope Francis' announcement of an extraordinary holy year, A Jubilee of Mercy, beginning December 8, 2015 until November 20, 2016, the Center invites the women of the Diocese to this Day of Reflection on this spiritual theme of mercy and the call to "walk humbly with God" from the book of Micah in the Old Testament. Register by calling (337) 855-1232 or at stcharlescenter.com. Suggested donation is \$25.00 per person. Deadline to register is Tuesday, October 20, so that adequate arrangements can be made for lunch.

Spring class offerings announced at Center for Catholic Studies

LAKE CHARLES – Spring 2016 classes offered by the Center for Catholic Studies of the Diocese of Lake Charles and held at the Catholic Student Center of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church include Theology 201: Christology and Theology 209: The Catholic Novel.

Father D.B. Thompson, M. Div., is teaching Christology on Mondays and Thursdays, beginning January 21, from 4:50 to 6:10 p.m. while Deacon Glen Viau is the instructor for

The Catholic Novel from 4 to 6 p.m. on Mondays, beginning January 25.

Students receive college credit through these courses through Our Lady of Holy Cross College of New Orleans. The courses may qualify as electives in many McNeese degree programs. Students should speak with their faculty advisors about this possibility.

Registration forms are available through the Office of Religious Education of the

Diocese of Lake Charles, the Newman Center, and at www.live.lcdioocese.org. On the web click on Forms, then scroll down to Center for Catholic Studies to access the registration and the application form. For more information, contact Susan Borgman at the Diocese of Lake Charles, Office of Religious Education, 337-439-7400, Ext. 309.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, December 23.

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

Diocesan Briefs.....

Companions of Honor Memorial Mass

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Memorial Mass for deceased members of the Companions of Honor, those clergy, religious and laity honored by the Holy See or the Diocese of Lake Charles for their work for the Church, will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant.

Those Companions who have died in the past year are remembered during the Prayer of the Faithful.

A luncheon for members follows the liturgy in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral office complex at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets.

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.

Red Mass on October 23

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant and homilist for the annual Red Mass set for 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Judges, attorneys, and government officials from the five civil parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles – Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis – are invited to attend. The local St. Thomas Society, Judge Henry Yelverton Chapter, and the Diocese sponsor the event.

November prayer breakfast, lunch dates

LAKE CHARLES – The Men's Prayer Breakfast is Friday, Nov. 6 and the Women's Prayer Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 11, both in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex.

Mass is celebrated at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral before the breakfast. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register. Women should send a check for \$10, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Mrs. Gaynell Carrier, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 at least a week prior to the luncheon. A stamped,

self-addressed envelope should be included.

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.

"Lumen Fidei" on Second Saturdays

LAKE CHARLES – Women – juniors in high school and older – are 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.macleon@lcdioocese.org to RSVP.

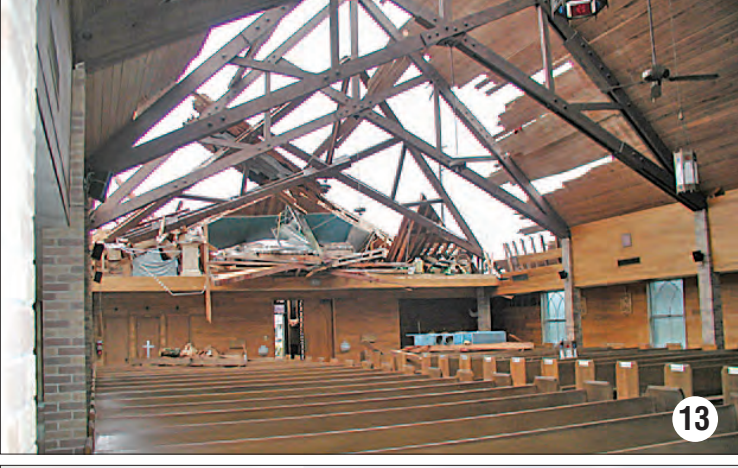
Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

September 18, 2015

Rita • September 24, 2005 • Then and Now



Next Thursday, September 24, marks the 10th anniversary of the landfall of Hurricane Rita on the Louisiana-Texas coast - between Sabine Pass and Holly Beach. Thankfully, no lives were lost because of mandatory evacuations of Southwest Louisiana. The property losses though enormous for the people as well as governmental entities and the churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Storm surge brought great amounts of water into the parishes of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Creole, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron, and St. Eugene in Grand Chenier. One of many tornadoes spawned by the storm severely damaged St. Peter the Apostle in Hackberry along with destroying its rectory and devastating its parish hall and offices. Our Lady of the Assumption mission in Johnson Bayou, located near to the landfall, was seriously damaged by the rising water, as was its parish hall and rectory. It was, though, one of the first church buildings placed back into service - in early 2006. Other mission churches of the coastal parishes - St. Rose of Lima (Sacred Heart); Immaculate Conception (St. Eugene); and Holy Trinity Chapel, Holly Beach (St. Peter the Apostle) - washed away with the waves. While coastal churches were greatly affected, others in the diocese sustained terrible losses and they are not to be forgotten here. In Big Lake, St. Mary of the Lake had several feet of water in the church and in the parish hall and religious education building, along with the rectory. The Sweetlake mission of St. Patrick, spared major damage, served for a long period as "the" worship center of the civil parish of Cameron and the central distribution site for aid to residents. Church buildings in Lake Charles and elsewhere in the diocese sustained varying amounts of damage, ranging from minimal to several million dollars, and the ministries of the diocese itself were hampered by the destruction of the Catholic Service Center on Broad Street and the devastation to the Chancery on Iris Street. Photos here are a reminder of the severity of the damages then and the results of the hard and diligent work of the people of these communities as they returned to a "new normal." Photo 1 shows the damage done at Sacred Heart in Creole when water rushed through the front doors and exploded the side walls washing out pews and anything else in its wake. In photo 2, Sacred Heart as it appears today. The job of rebuilding took more than three years and had to face Hurricane Ike in 2008 before fully reopening. Photo 3 shows the current church exterior and photo 4 provides the view of the Community Center built next to the church. Though not visible here, the parish rectory was also rebuilt and lies to the north. Photo 5 shows the wall of Our Lady Star of the Sea demolished following the storm while photo 6 provides today's view of the wall. In photo 7, the devastation of the rushing water destroyed pews in the church, while photo 8 shows today's interior. Photo 9 provides a view of what was left of the parish rectory and religious education building north of the church. Photo 10 shows a current view of the church looking west. Photo 11 provides a view of what remained of the structure at St. Rose of Lima in Creole several weeks following the storm. St. Eugene in Grand Chenier suffered from storm surge issues as well, damaging the church, parish hall, and rectory. Several years were required to complete the rebuilding and photo 12 shows the complex today. One of the many tornadoes spawned by Rita caused the major damage to St. Peter the Apostle as it tore off the building's roof, shown in photo 13. The inside of today's St. Peter is seen in photo 14. Photo 15 provides a view of the church complex following the storm while photo 16 shows today's exterior view. The damage from winds and high water was severe to the hall at Our Lady of the Assumption in Johnson Bayou, shown in photo 17, while photo 18 provides a view of the current church of Our Lady of the Assumption. Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May will celebrate a commemorative Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church at noon next Thursday. Also on Thursday, several local commemorative events are planned, including Cameron Parish's "View from the Front Line" at 10 a.m. on the Courthouse Square. Speakers, information booths, video interviews and more are to be followed by a community cookout from 11 a.m. to noon.