



Special Diocesan Lenten Events

As we enter more fully into the Season of Lent, drawing closer to Holy Week, the Diocese of Lake Charles announces several special events over the next couple of weeks leading up to the Triduum in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

PENANCE NIGHTS

Penance Nights have been scheduled throughout each of the four Deaneries Monday-Thursday, April 7-10, in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The following church parishes will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on each designated day:

Monday, April 7

West Deanery — Immaculate Conception, Maplewood; Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Our Lady of LaSalette, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, and St. Francis de Sales Oratory, all in Sulphur; St. John Bosco, Westlake; St. Joseph, DeRidder; St. Joseph, Vinton; St. Peter the Apostle, Hackberry; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Carlyss; and St. Pius X, Ragley.

Tuesday, April 8

South Central Deanery — Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Martin de Porres, and Christ the King, all in Lake Charles; St. Mary of the Lake, Big Lake; St. John Vianney, Bell City; and Sacred Heart of Jesus, East Cameron.

Wednesday, April 9

North Central Deanery — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Henry, and St. Margaret of Scotland, all in Lake Charles; St. Raphael, Iowa; and St. Theodore, Moss Bluff.

Thursday, April 10

East Deanery — Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Immaculate Conception, all in Jennings; Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Welsh; Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Arthur; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale;

St. Charles Borromeo, Fenton; St. Joan of Arc, Oberlin; St. Joseph and St. Paul, both in Elton; St. Joseph, Welsh; St. Lawrence, Raymond; and St. Philip Neri, Kinder.

For an examination of conscience, visit <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience>

CHORAL CONCERT

LAKE CHARLES — The Cathedral Chorale will present a Choral Concert for the Year of Hope at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 6, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street. All are invited. A love offering will be collected.

CHRISM MASS

LAKE CHARLES — Everyone is invited to attend the Chrism Mass at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street.

Bishop Glen John Provost will gather with all of the priests of the diocese to bless the Sacred Oils to be used in the coming year. There is also a renewal of priestly promises during the Chrism Mass.

This annual Mass has been celebrated in the Catholic Church for more than 1,000 years and is marked by the ceremonial blessing of the Oil of Catechumens (used during the Sacrament of Baptism), the Oil of the Sick (used during the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick), and the consecration of the Oil of Chrism (a mixture of oil and balsam), which are all used throughout the year. After Mass, the oils are distributed to representatives of each parish. The oils are taken back to the parishes and used for the Sacraments.

Bishop Provost requests that the laity of the diocese pray for him and the priests of the diocese.

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATIONS

MOSS BLUFF — Come spend the morning hours of Our Lord's Passion at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff from 7:00 a.m. to noon on

Good Friday, April 18. Several short meditations will be given by Deacon Brian Soileau periodically throughout the morning. Participants will be allowed to use the entire grounds for quiet contemplation.

This is an annual event that has become a tradition at Saint Charles Center. If you have never experienced this event before, it is a truly a peaceful and respectful way to begin Good Friday. It is the perfect preparation before attending the Good Friday Liturgy at your church parish in the afternoon.

There is no charge for the event, however, registration is required by calling 337-855-1232 before April 17. Saint Charles Center is located at 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway.

SEVEN CHURCH WALK

LAKE CHARLES — The fifth annual Seven Church Walk is one pilgrimage you do not want to miss. The Religious Sisters of Mercy will host the walk on Good Friday beginning at 8:15 a.m. April 18 at their convent, 1414 Martha Street.

Based off a Holy Week tradition begun in Rome in the 16th century, the nine-mile walk will include stops at:

- Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- St. Henry Catholic Church
- St. Margaret Catholic Church
- St. Louis Catholic High School chapel
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

The walk will conclude at approximately 1:00 p.m., with bus transportation available from the Cathedral back to the convent at the conclusion of the pilgrimage.

- What to bring/wear: a rosary, walking shoes, and comfortable clothing for walking.
- Water will be provided at various stops along the way, but you are welcome to bring your own water bottles, too.

• Coffee and breakfast will be provided before the walk begins, and a Good Friday lunch will be offered at the convent at the conclusion of the walk.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Religious Sisters of Mercy at 337-564-0030 or email lakecharles@almamercy.org

VIA CRUCIS 2025

LAKE CHARLES — The Saint Henry Catholic Church Community will present the fourth annual "Via Crucis 2025," a live performance of the Luminous and Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary at 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, April 6. Your one chance to watch this powerful play, with more than 200 International actors from 10 countries will take place behind the Community Center. Chairs will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. The length of the play is approximately 90 minutes.

The 203-foot stage will include scenes of the Holy Land, Jordan River, The Last Supper, Sanhedrin, Pontius Pilate's Palace, Jerusalem's Market, Mount Tabor, and more. Take a trip back in time and experience in the most real way possible a bilingual theatrical performance (Spanish and English) about the Life and Death of Jesus Christ.

Some of the scenes you will witness include Jesus being baptized in the Jordan River, Jesus calling his Apostles, the Wedding at Cana, the multiplication of the loaves, the Transfiguration, an exorcism, the Triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the betrayal of Judas, the flagellation and crowning with thorns, the Way of the Cross, the Crucifixion and death of Jesus.

St. Henry Catholic Church is located at 1021 Eighth Avenue, Lake Charles. The live performance is free; however, donations are welcome. For more information, contact Ricardo Ruvalcaba, Spanish Pastoral Assistant, at 337-370-0973.

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP DAY
at the Louisiana State Capitol
APRIL 30, 2025
8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Hall
412 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

You are cordially invited to our 4th annual Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day at the Capitol in Baton Rouge on April 30, 2025. The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops is sponsoring the program and it is an opportunity to learn of the work that the Catholic bishops do on behalf of the Catholic Church with the Legislature.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR EMAIL SWOLF@LACCB.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

FORMING CONSCIENCES OF FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

Third Annual Venerable Father Augustus Tolton Essay Contest
2025 Essay Winners

Kamryn Carter
High School Division

Nathan Wang
Middle School Division

Lincoln Crookshank
Elementary Division

Bishop Provost will preside at Sacred Triduum Services

LAKE CHARLES — The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate Palm Sunday, the Chrism Mass, and the Sacred Triduum — Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil — April 17-19 — in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street.

On **Palm Sunday**, April 13, Bishop Provost will bless the palms before the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral. Other Mass times are 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (April 12), 7:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., both on Sunday, and 12:45 p.m. (Sunday) in the Latin Rite.

On Wednesday, April 16, the Bishop will celebrate the **Chrism Mass** at 10:00 a.m. with the priests of the Diocese as concelebrants. This annual Mass has been celebrated in the Catholic Church for more than

1,000 years and is marked by the ceremonial blessing of the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the consecration of the Oil of Chrism, which are all used throughout the year.

The **Mass of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on Holy Thursday, April 17. It is at this Mass that the commemoration of Christ's washing the feet of His Apostles occurs. Following the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be available for Eucharistic Adoration in St. Bernadette Oratory until midnight.

The **Commemoration of the Lord's Passion** will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday, April 18. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross with the faithful recognizing the Cross of Christ as our only hope of

salvation. The service concludes with Holy Communion and the congregation leaves the Cathedral in silence.

Earlier on Good Friday, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Cathedral with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Confessions will also be available on Holy Saturday, April 19, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The **Easter Vigil** on Saturday, April 19, begins at 8:00 p.m. in the Cathedral with the Service of Light outside the church. Cathedral Mass times for **Easter Sunday**, April 20, are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m., with the Latin Mass at 12:45 p.m. Bishop Provost is scheduled to celebrate the 9:30 a.m. Solemn Mass on Easter.

Venerable Father Augustus Tolton Essay Contest Winners

Tolton Ambassadors-Louisiana and Associates recently held the third annual Venerable Father Augustus Tolton Essay Contest. An awards ceremony on Sunday, March 16, honored 38 students participating from Oak Park Middle School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, all in Lake Charles, and Westgate High School in New Iberia.

The contest offered young writers in three divisions — Elementary, Middle and High School — an opportunity to explore the inspiring life of Venerable Tolton, the first recognized Black Catholic priest in the United States and reflect on his enduring legacy.

• **The Elementary Division:** Grades 4-5 reflected on Father Tolton's Christian journey and described in great detail how his devotion to Christ enabled him to live a spiritual life in spite of the adversities he faced.

The first-place winner is Lincoln Crookshank, a fifth-grade student at

Immaculate Conception Cathedral School. He was awarded a Tablet and \$50.00.

• **The Middle School Division:** Grades 6-8 reflected on Father Tolton's spiritual life and how his love for the Church inspired him to see Christ in others, rather their race.

The first-place winner in Middle School is Nathan Wang, a sixth-grade student at Immaculate Conception Cathedral School. He was awarded a Tablet and \$100.00.

• **The High School Division:** Grades 9-12 reflected on the Christian values exhibited by Father Tolton's life of Virtue and how these relate to personal struggles to overcome the challenges you face in living a devoted Christian life.

The first-place winner in High School is Kamryn Carter, a sophomore at Westgate High School. She was awarded a Tablet and \$200.00.

All essays were anonymously (without knowledge of students' names) read by the following judges: Phyllis Kittling, Bonnie LeDay, Barbara LeDay, and Ivy Mouton.

Bishop Provost issues statement on death penalty decision

Bishop Glen John Provost has issued the following statement regarding the death penalty:

In light of the State of Louisiana's decision to resume executions, we must keep the victims of crime and their families in our prayers, and we

remain faithful to the church's teaching on the death penalty.

According to the Catechism, the State is responsible for safeguarding the common good and has the right and duty to impose proportionate punishment for crimes (CCC 2266).

However, the use of capital punishment is limited and can be applied only when it is not possible to defend society otherwise. Adding emphasis to this equation, both Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis reminded us of the dignity of all human life and the need

for social recognition of the hope of redemption. Today, the penal system allows for adequate punishment and defense of public order without the imposition of capital punishment, which, in these circumstances, cannot be considered proportionate.

As we continue to pray for the victims and their families, we also pray that the State will not promote a culture of death. Let us continue to pray for true repentance of all sins against human life and for a society that is more in conformity with the dignity of

the human person.

The full statement released by the bishops of Louisiana can be found on the diocesan website at <http://www.lodiocese.org/3-news/3915-oppose-executions-and-a-culture-of-death-and-promote-a-culture-of-life>



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST Canon Moreau leaves legacy behind at Oratory

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

SULPHUR — “Five years in God’s country is like five days,” Rev. Canon Jean-Marie Moreau remarked as he bid farewell to the faithful community of St. Francis de Sales Oratory on Sunday, March 16, during a reception in his honor. He has been reassigned to Reno, Nevada.

A priest for the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, Canon Moreau arrived in the Diocese of Lake Charles in January 2020 to serve as Rector of the first (and still the only) apostolate of the Institute in the southern region of the United States.

At the invitation of The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, the Institute established the Oratory in Sulphur, breathing new life into the original structure for Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church.

After extensive renovations under the guidance of Canon Moreau, the former church, later repurposed as the Sulphur Judicial Center, became home for the Traditional Latin Mass.

“We know that Louisiana is known for its hospitality. It is with a heavy heart that I have to say goodbye,” Canon Moreau expressed with a tremble in his voice. “It is humbling to see your witness of gratitude, humbling because we know our weaknesses. But God can do great things with humble instruments.”

Expressing his sincere gratitude, Bishop Provost commented on how God worked through Canon Moreau doing great things through his ministry at the Oratory.

“So much has happened here in Sulphur and in the Diocese of Lake Charles since Canon Moreau arrived,” His Excellency said. “He took a building, which had once been a church, then a courthouse, and rehabilitated the structure, returning it not as it had been, but giving it a new lease on life. The building became a church again, and what a church it is, all for the greater glory of God.”

Noting that this is only part of Canon Moreau’s legacy, Bishop Provost shared a few examples of his gift of service in Christ to the Church.

“One such area is that of educating children in our



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, is joined by Rev. Canon Olivier Meney, left, the incoming Rector of St. Francis de Sales Oratory; and Rev. Canon Jean-Marie Moreau, who served as Rector since January 2020.

Catholic faith. I saw this at Confirmation which I had the privilege of officiating more than once in the Oratory,” the bishop said.

“I always question those who are to be confirmed. For me, it is also an opportunity to visit with the confirmands. They were always well prepared, inquisitive, calm, poised, sure of themselves in the faith. This a bishop likes. Thank you, Canon Moreau, for what you did,” Bishop Provost expressed.

“On Holy Thursday, when I finish the Mass of the Lord’s Supper at the Cathedral, I have a little exercise of driving to some of the area churches, unannounced, dropping in to pray,” he said. “When I have come to the Oratory, the church is beautifully decorated for Our Lord, and many, including large numbers of children, are at prayer. Thank you, Canon Moreau.”

Bishop Provost also noted how Canon Moreau strived to make the Oratory a center of culture. In this, the bishop noted that Canon Moreau was following the charism of the Institute and the inspiration of its chief patron, St. Francis de Sales.

“In a pedestrian world that wanders aimlessly at times between one idle pursuit to another, this effort to anchor a community in the culture of Catholicism is of, in my opinion, quintessential importance,” said the bishop. “To evangelize through beauty, this was thinking of St. Francis de Sales, the thinking of Pope Benedict XVI, and it is the thinking of Canon Moreau. Thank you, Canon Moreau.”

“Finally, I thank you, Canon Moreau, for your friendship. You were always there to assist me in my tasks as bishop. There is only one Catholic Church. Period. There is only one Diocese of Lake Charles. Period. Authority is necessary, and your cooperation, collaboration, and contribution to the life of the Church in our diocese has been truly invaluable,” His Excellency

remarked. “The priests respect you and were personally affected by your presence, by your teaching, by your amiability. The faithful, especially those you ministered to in the hospital and in our parishes, appreciate all you did for them.”

To show his appreciation, Bishop Provost presented Rev. Canon Jean-Marie Moreau with the Order of St. Charles in the Member class, initiated by The Most Reverend Jude Speyrer, the first bishop of Lake Charles.

Special guests at the reception, held in Fr. Vecchio Hall at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, were Bishop Provost; Very Rev. Canon Matthew Talarico, Provincial Superior of the U.S. Province of the Institute in Chicago; Rev. Canon Olivier Meney, incoming Rector for St. Francis de Sales Oratory; Very Rev. Edward Richard, Pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church; Princess Maria-Anna Galitzine, granddaughter of Blessed Karl, the Emperor of Austria; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Danahay, Mayor of Sulphur; and Senator and Mrs. Jeremy Stine.

In gratitude for Canon Moreau’s dedication to starting an apostolate of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in the Diocese of Lake Charles, Canon Talarico led the faithful in singing the *Te Deum* (Tonus solemnis), an ancient Hymn of Thanksgiving.

Reflecting on his own gratitude, Canon Moreau said, “When I came to Louisiana, I did not know Bishop Provost, and I have really found a friend, I can say. I wish I could say thank you to everyone. Please pray for me. You will always be in my heart and in my prayers. I love you. God bless you all.”

To learn more about the Institute of Jesus Christ Sovereign Priest, visit <https://institute-christ-king.org>.

To learn more about St. Francis de Sales Oratory in Sulphur, visit <https://institute-christ-king.org/sulphur-home>



Bishop Glen John Provost, right, presented Rev. Canon Jean-Marie Moreau with the Order of St. Charles in the Member class for his five years of dedicated service in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Canon Moreau had been serving as Rector of St. Francis de Sales Oratory in Sulphur before being reassigned to Reno, Nevada.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Providing care to Christians in the Holy Land

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them during this special day in the Church and our life of faith.

The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America is the home of a world-wide Commissariat of Friars Minor and monasteries who function as bridges between the Holy Land and Christians all over the world. The Commissariat offices at the Monastery in Washington, D.C. coordinate the vital support for the work of the Franciscans who work in the Holy Land.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. It is vital that we care for the Christians living in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence in a land that is filled with a majority Islamic and Jewish population.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is applied to the following programs:

Faith, Memory & Culture – The Holy Places

Holy Land Franciscans staff and maintain the Holy places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their

faith and their spiritual and cultural connection to Salvation history.

Social & Charitable Activities

In order to assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody builds thousands of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical assistance is provided for the needy.

Educational & Scientific Activities

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for students to prepare them to get jobs and remain in the Holy Land as part of living Catholic communities. Funds are distributed to young men studying to become Franciscan priests or brothers. Finally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Places discovering historical artifacts.

Pastoral Activities

The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 23 parishes in the Holy Land offering Worship, Christian Formation, youth and family programs.

Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs

The Franciscan Media Center tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages.

The friars organize Liturgical Celebrations for the local Christians and Pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing Ecumenical cooperation.

