

PRESBYTERAL GOLDEN JUBILEE

Bishop Provost celebrates 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles
LAKE CHARLES — Bishop Glen John Provost was ordained a priest by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on June 29 during the Jubilee Year of 1975. Fifty years later, he celebrates his Golden Jubilee to the Priesthood during the Jubilee Year of 2025. His ordination took place at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

On the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (June 29), the Diocese of Lake Charles recognized this significant milestone during the 11:15 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The congregation included relatives, friends, Religious Sisters, Papal Knights and Dames, laity from around the diocese and the State of Louisiana. Among family members present was the bishop’s 94-year-old brother Cyrus Provost Jr., of Morgan City; and niece Annette Guillory who also attended his ordination and First Mass in Rome.

Concelebrating with Bishop Provost were Bishop Emeritus Sam G. Jacobs from the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Very Rev. Ruben J. Buller V.G., Pastor of the Cathedral; Rev. Michael Beverung, Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral; Rev. Michael Caraway, Vocations Director; and Rev. Bryce Sibley, Notre Dame Seminary Professor, and Rev. Cyprian O. Eze, both from the Diocese of Lafayette. Also assisting were Deacon Brian Soileau, Deacon Hunter LaRocca, and seminarians from the Diocese of Lake Charles, with Very Rev. Joseph Caraway serving as Master of Ceremonies.

As he expressed gratitude to family and friends who traveled from various cities to celebrate with him, as well as those locally, Bishop Provost said, “It has been a great 50 years. I give thanks to God every day for the gift of the priesthood. I pray we all continue to benefit from the gift of God’s grace.”

His Excellency extended a special thank you to the musicians from BonaVox who provided music for the Mass. “Music has always been a special part of my life,” he said. “The music this morning was superb. Thank you very much!”

After being ordained a priest for the Diocese of Lafayette, Bishop Provost’s assignments over the past 50 years have included:

- Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish for the Summer of 1975
- St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Abbeville, Parochial Vicar, September 1975 to March 1983
- St. Leo IV Parish in Roberts Cove, Pastor, March 1983 to January 1985
- Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Lafayette, Pastor, January 1985 to February 1998
- Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Lafayette, Pastor, February 1998 to March 2007
- Third Bishop of Lake Charles, March 2007 to present

Ordination in Rome
In 1975 it was considered exceptional for the Holy Father to ordain bishops or priests. Because 1975 was



A special Clergy Mass, honoring Bishop Glen John Provost (second from left) for his 50th Ordination Anniversary to the Priesthood, was held in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on Monday, June 30. Bishop Provost was ordained on June 29, 1975, in Rome, and celebrated his first Mass of Thanksgiving on June 30, 1975.

a Holy Year, Pope Paul VI invited all eligible seminarians throughout the world to be ordained by him on June 29, the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. At the age of 25, then-Deacon Glen John Provost was among 359 ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Pope Paul VI.

Reflecting on his ordination, Bishop Provost shares a special memory that has remained with him all these years.

“My father, Cyrus Provost, along with my sister and her two children, were present for my ordination; my mother having passed away a few years earlier,” he recalled. “Each ordinand had been given one ‘pass’ which permitted only one member from his family to receive Holy Communion from the Pope. My father was the obvious choice to receive.”

Bishop Provost went on to explain that the night before the ordination, a classmate and friend, who was also being ordained, knocked on his door explaining that because his parents were non-Catholics, no one in his family would be receiving the Eucharist.

“My friend, who was a convert to Roman Catholicism, offered me his ‘pass’ allowing both my father and my sister to receive Holy Communion from Pope Paul VI. This, they considered a great privilege, and I was very grateful to my friend.”

Joys of Priesthood
“When our Lord asked the disciples ‘But who do you say that I am?’ (Matthew 16:15), He was asking them who they believed Him to be,” Bishop Provost remarked in his golden jubilee homily. “Simon Peter answered with faith, ‘You

ABOVE: His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Third Bishop of Lake Charles, celebrates the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Holy Priesthood on Sunday, June 29, 2025, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He is joined by local clergy for the Diocese of Lake Charles and visiting priests from Louisiana.

AT LEFT: Pope Paul VI ordains a younger Glen John Provost to the Holy Priesthood on June 29, 1975, in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. He was among 359 priests ordained during the Jubilee Year of 1975 on the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

have unfolded over the past 50 years. But now with a half-decade of experience, he offers these words of wisdom for young priests in the early years of their vocation.

“The young priest must stay near to Jesus Christ. He must celebrate Mass every day, spend an hour in prayer every day before the Blessed Sacrament, and be faithful to praying the Divine Office, or what is now called the Liturgy of the Hours. These are non-negotiable.”

Bishop Provost has no doubt that Pope St. Paul VI believed himself to be the successor of Peter and the Vicar of Christ, an office Christ himself had given to Peter.

“There we were young men, at Peter’s tomb, on the slope of the Vatican hill, stunned by the magnificence of it all, perhaps struck by our unworthiness, beginning a powerful journey of faith. How would we have answered the question, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ With a fledgling faith, as Peter did, an early faith that would grow in time and with God’s grace.”

Apostolic Blessing
At the conclusion of the Mass, Father Buller read a letter, written in Latin, from Pope Leo XIV congratulating Bishop Provost on the 50th anniversary of his presbyteral ordination. The papal letter expressed the bishop’s “long-standing zeal, exercised with a devoted heart, for the growth in faith of the Christian faithful of the community of Lake Charles, which he leads with a concern for the eternal salvation of their souls.”

Celebration with Clergy
Priests for the Diocese of Lake Charles along with visiting clergy, concelebrated Mass with Bishop Provost at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on Monday, June 30. On the same date in 1975, the bishop celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Mary Major Basilica before the revered icon, *Salus Populi Romani* (Protectress of the Roman People).

Among the guests at OLQH was Bishop Emeritus Michael Jarrell from the Diocese of Lafayette, Bishop Provost’s diocese of origin. Bishop Jarrell’s presence was significant since he served as then-Monsignor Provost’s bishop when he was appointed as the Third Bishop of Lake Charles in 2007. It was a privilege to have Bishop Jarrell and many priest friends of Bishop Provost present for such a joyous occasion.

“You honor me by taking the time to join this celebration of my golden jubilee,” Bishop Provost said in expressing his gratitude. “I am so grateful for the privilege that God has extended to me in serving Him as priest and as a bishop. I am overwhelmed when I consider the marvelous people I have known, both clerical and laity.”

The exceptional music for the Mass was under the direction of Colette Bulber Tanner, to whom Bishop Provost acknowledged her “wonderful expertise” in directing the choir and their special effort.



A translation of the original Latin text above, sent by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, is as follows:

To Our Venerable Brother Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles,

We warmly congratulate him as he celebrates the golden anniversary of his presbyteral ordination, as well as for his long-standing zeal, exercised with a devoted heart, for the growth in faith of the Christian faithful of the community of Lake Charles, which he leads with a concern for the eternal salvation of their souls. And while we expect for him every good thing, we gladly impart to him, to his relatives, and most especially to all the Lord’s disciples in the community of Lake Charles, Our Apostolic Blessing.

Given from the Halls of the Vatican, on the 11th day of June, in the Holy Year 2025.

Leo PP. XIV

are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

His Excellency said, “The life of a priest is one ‘You are Messiah’ after another. One act of faith, followed by yet another.”

In living out his own priesthood, Bishop Provost said that one of the greatest joys has been to be present at the death of a person while bringing the Sacraments to the dying.

“I have been called out late at night and at other

unpredictable moments to anoint and offer Viaticum to the dying,” he said. “Sometimes the person is dying alone. At other times they are reaching the last moments of life on earth surrounded by family and friends. Regardless, the Sacraments to the dying are a great consolation.”

Words of Advice
There is no way Bishop Provost could have anticipated how his priesthood would

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

July 18, 2025

Monsignor Dubois remembered for his presence to others

The Reverend Monsignor Charles Dubois, 85, a longtime priest for the Diocese of Lake Charles, died on Monday, June 23, 2025, at Harbor Hospice. He had been a priest for 60 years following his ordination in 1964.

The Very Reverend Aubrey Guilbeau was celebrant and homilist for the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday July 2, in the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception. Interment services followed at 4:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery in Erath, La.

In his homily, Father Guilbeau remarked that Monsignor Dubois never allowed his physical limitations to distract his love for Christ, his love for people, and his priestly ministry.

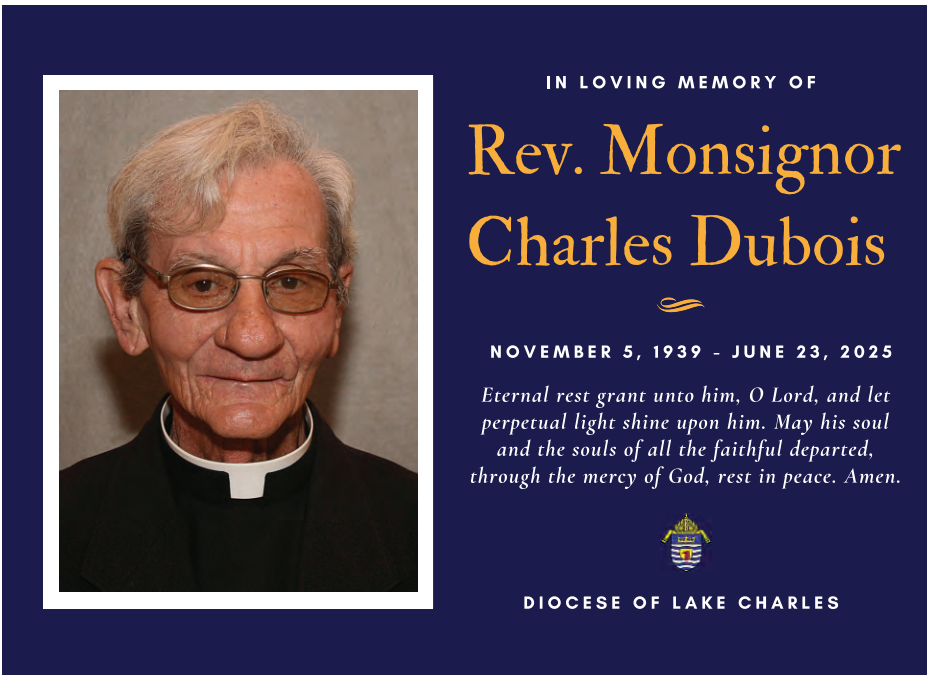
“If I had to sum up Monsignor’s life in one word, it would be presence,” said Father Guilbeau, recalling that his first assignment as a priest was under the guidance of Monsignor Dubois at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church. “He told me that just as the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is live-giving for the people, so, too, must my presence be among the people.”

“Monsignor not only gave those words of advice to me as a young priest, but he also lived them,” continued Father Guilbeau. “How many times did he unexpectedly show up to a baptism, a wedding, or a funeral? Wherever people were, he was there, and he gave his full attention. He brought the presence of Christ.”

Monsignor Dubois was born November 5, 1939, the youngest of three sons to Andre “Simon” Dubois, Sr. and Regina Brown Dubois in Erath, where he was raised, educated, and proud of his family, their roots, and the culture of their hometown. He was affectionately known as “Charlie” by his community and is remembered for his grin that often told an unsaid story of his “humorous, playful and mildly mischievous ventures.”

Monsignor Dubois is survived by a sister-in-law, Eldine “Deanie” Sonnier Dubois, ten nieces and nephews, 18 great-nieces and nephews and 20 great-great-nieces and nephews. Numerous cousins are also left to cherish his memory. Preceding him in death are his parents; two brothers, Andre Simon Dubois, Jr. and Richard Camille Dubois, Sr. and sister-in-law, Dolores Bolner Dubois.

A graduate of Immaculata Seminary of Lafayette and Notre Dame Seminary School of Theology in New Orleans, Monsignor Dubois was ordained to the



Priesthood on December 19, 1964, in St. John The Evangelist Cathedral in Lafayette. He began his first assignment on January 5, 1965, as Associate Pastor for St. Michael Catholic Church in Crowley and Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Dissemination of Information for Desegregation of Acadia Parish Schools. In January of 1971, Monsignor Dubois was transferred as an Associate Pastor to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

He was assigned as Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in February of 1974 where he served until being assigned in 1983 as Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Arthur. In 1997, he was transferred to St. Theodore Catholic Church

in Moss Bluff and named Administrator of St. Pius X Chapel in Ragley, where he served until his retirement on June 30, 2014. Monsignor Dubois organized and oversaw over 30 ministries that served these two churches. He continued to serve parishioners well into his eighties until his decline in health no longer allowed him.

Several of his honors include: Chaplain to the United States Senate, Chaplain for the Calcasieu Parish Jail, member of Third Degree Lake Arthur Council of Knights of Columbus, Faithful Friar, Monsignor Peters Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Citizen of the Year by St. Theodore Knights of Columbus and Clergyman of the Year by the Fourth Degree District of Louisiana and The Times

of Southwest Louisiana. He served on the Executive Committee for the Papal visit of John Paul II to New Orleans. Monsignor also devoted much time and service to many local and national alcohol, drug and rehabilitation center Boards of Directors.

He will be most remembered for his immeasurable wealth of knowledge, wisdom, kind yet comical personality, and his unwavering commitment to his ministry.

The family is honoring Monsignor’s heartfelt devotion to Matthew 25 in kindly requesting that Memorial donations be made to Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana at www.catholiccharitiesswla.com/donate or Abraham’s Tent at 2424 Fruge Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

Local Priest to enter Vatican Diplomatic Service

In a memo addressed to Clergy of the Diocese of Lake Charles on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, Bishop Glen John Provost announced the appointment of Father Ruben Villarreal to the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in the Holy See.

The memo reads: Effective September of 2025, Father Villarreal will leave his position at the Dicastery for Evangelization. Following a request for my permission, he has been invited and has accepted an appointment to the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy to prepare for entry into the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See. When he takes up this new position, he will move from the Villa Stritch and reside at the Academy located on the Piazza Sopra Minerva in Rome. He remains a priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles in service to the Holy See.



Rev. Ruben Villarreal

Reed joins Diocese as Supervisor of Child Nutrition

The Office of Catholic Schools announces Ms. Caroline Reed as its Child Nutrition Supervisor, effective July 1, 2025.



Caroline Reed

A resident of Lake Charles and a parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Ms. Reed shares a little bit about her background: “As a registered dietician, I’m excited to bring my experience and passion for wellness to my role as Child Nutrition Supervisor for the Diocese of Lake Charles. With a strong foundation in nutritional science and hands-on experience across Southwest Louisiana, I am dedicated to prioritizing the health, wellness, and nutrition status of students. I hold a master’s degree in Nutritional Sciences from McNeese State University, building on the strong academic foundation I gained at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Ville Platte and during my undergraduate studies at McNeese State University. “During my dietetic internship, I completed over 1,300 hours of supervised practice across various hospitals, clinics, community programs, and the school board office of Calcasieu Parish, gaining diverse experience in clinical, community, and food service settings. This training, combined with my four years of experience in the food service industry, has provided me with an in-depth understanding of nutritional needs, food safety, and food service operations, which I’m eager to share and apply in my new role!”

Two Seminarians accepted to Candidacy for Holy Orders

Two seminarians for the Diocese of Lake Charles received their call to candidacy on June 11, 2025, the Feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle.

Bishop Glen John Provost accepted Cameron Fontenot and Michael DesOrmeaux to Candidacy for Holy Orders during the 12:05 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

His Excellency remarked, “It is appropriate to have the reception to candidacy on the Feast of St. Barnabas, a great prophet, apostle, teacher. He is an important figure in the early Church and certainly has a great deal to say to us on this occasion.”

Serving as concelebrants were Very Rev. Ruben Buller, V.G., Pastor of the Cathedral; Rev. Michael Caraway, Director of Vocations; and Monsignor Jace Eskind, Pastor of St. Martin de Porres. Also assisting were Deacon Hunter LaRocca, Rev. Levi Thompson, and seminarians. Very Rev. Joseph Caraway served as Master of Ceremonies.

In the Admission to Candidacy rite, the candidate for ordination publicly expresses his intention to receive ordination as a Deacon and



subsequently as a Priest.

The rite includes three components: The call to candidacy, the scrutiny of the candidate, and the blessing of the candidate.

Bishop Provost accepted Cameron and Michael with the words, “The Church receives your declaration with joy. May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment.”

Cameron is the son of Tommy and Kelley Fontenot and is a parishioner of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

in Lake Charles. A 2017 graduate of St. Louis Catholic High School, Cameron began his formation at Notre Dame Seminary in Fall 2022 after discerning the priesthood for a year at the Vianney House in Lake Charles. He received his Master of Philosophy degree on May 8, 2025, and will return to his theological studies at Notre Dame in the fall.

Michael is the son of David and Courtney DesOrmeaux and is a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles. A 2021 graduate of St. Louis Catholic High School, he began his formation in the Fall of 2021 and graduated on May 9, 2025, from St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College with his Bachelor of Philosophy. Michael has been assigned to the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he will begin his theological studies and formation in the fall.

There are currently 12 young men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles. Please keep all our seminarians in your prayers!

Iron Sharpens Iron Men’s Conference set for August 16

SAVE THE DATE! The inaugural “Iron Sharpens Iron Men’s Conference” is planned for Saturday, August 16, at St. Margaret Catholic Church, 2500 Enterprise Boulevard. Conference speakers will be announced soon!

The all-day event — 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — is open to all men, 13 years and older, who want to be inspired, challenged and equipped on their faith journey. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for

check-in with the Rosary beginning at 7:45 a.m.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate Mass at 11:00 a.m., and there will also be time set aside for Eucharistic Adoration.

With the theme, “Be strong and show yourself a man.” — I Kings 2:2 RSV, organizers said the mission of the event is to bring men together to strengthen brotherhood, to enlighten men to assist them in their vocations as head of the

family, husband, or single life, and send them forth with courage to spread the Word.

Tickets are \$50.00 for adults, and \$35.00 for those age 13 to 17 years. Processing fees will apply to payments. Seating is limited.

For general conference and sponsorship questions, please email ironsharpensiron2500@gmail.com or call 603-867-8857.

IRON SHARPENS IRON

2025 MEN'S CONFERENCE

"Be strong, and show yourself a man." — I Kings 2:2 RSV

SATURDAY | 16 AUGUST, 2025 | 8:15 AM TO 3:00 PM

CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 7:00 AM ROSARY BEGINS AT 7:45 AM

BISHOP GLEN JOHN PROVOST
+ CELEBRANT FOR MASS
11:00 AM

St. Margaret Catholic Church • 2500 Enterprise Boulevard

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

For more information, call 603-867-8857