

## St. Louis graduates 125 students

LAKE CHARLES — The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton was the celebrant of the St. Louis High Catholic School graduation Liturgy on Wednesday, May 18 in the Francis G. Bulber Auditorium on the McNeese State University campus. The pastors of the 15 owner-parishes of the school were concelebrants, as well as the Rev. Whitney Miller, rector of the school.

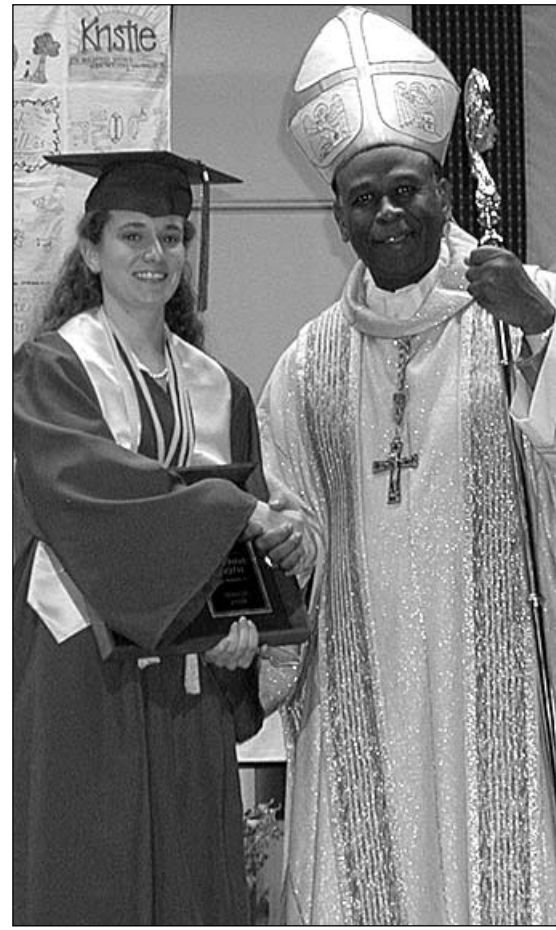
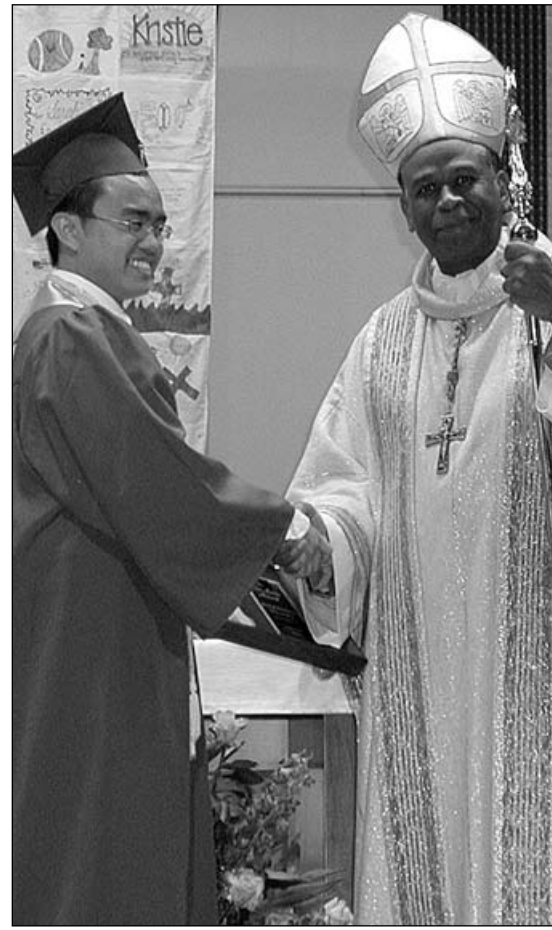
In his homily to the 125 graduating seniors and a packed auditorium, the Bishop said, "This graduation celebration tonight takes place on what would have been the 85th birthday of our beloved Pope John Paul II, the only pontiff you have ever known. During the final months of your senior year, you have witnessed a era of momentous change in the life of the Catholic Church."

The Bishop noted that the students had watched the death, burial, nine-day period of mourning for Pope John Paul II, the opening of the conclave, and the announcement of the new pope, Benedict XVI, the 264th successor of St. Peter.

"Why was the world captivated by the life and death of someone who could have been your elderly grandfather, what relevance could his life possibly have for you as you leave St. Louis Catholic High School to face the larger world with your whole life in front of you," Bishop Braxton said. "Certainly an old man who died has nothing to say to you. But from his earliest years as a young priest as the Bishop in Krakow and the Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow, in Poland Karol Josef Wojtyla was committed to making the good news of Jesus Christ relevant, interesting and worthwhile to teenagers like yourself. Pope John Paul II wanted to encourage students like yourselves to taste deeply of life and to think long and hard about the meaning and purpose of our very, very brief time here on earth."

Bishop Braxton also noted similarities between the students' graduation and his own departure from the Diocese of Lake Charles to become the Bishop of Belleville, Ill.

"By a strange turn of Providence, in a certain sense the Class of 2005 and I are graduating together. You are leaving St. Louis Catholic High School after your four years of study. I am leaving this Local Church of the Diocese of Lake Charles after four and one half years of service as the Bishop and chief shepherd of this Diocese," the Bishop said. "It is indeed a strange turn of events that separates me from this Local Church as if out of season. As you graduate dear seniors, whether you believe it or not, you will learn in time that many of you will never see one another again. And certainly, I will never see many of you, most of you again, Let us follow



Bishop Braxton presented the St. Louis Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a graduating St. Louis student, to Alex Villamil, left, and Suzanne Booth at the Graduation Liturgy.

the example of John Paul II, whom history will call John Paul the Great, for the way he bestrode the world like a moral giant, proclaiming the Gospel of Life, Peace, and Justice. He taught us to live our lives to the fullest by caring for others and by loving God.

"Jesus of Nazareth is our guide as we go our separate ways. Jesus is speaking to each of you graduating seniors, your family members and friends and to me and your faculty when he says, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. Have faith in God. Have faith in me. In my father's house there are many mansions. Were it not so, I would not have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you. He is speaking to you and he is speaking to me, especially when he says to Thomas, who doubts, I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life, No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Suzanne Booth and Alex Villamil were the recipients of the St. Louis Award during the ceremonies. The St. Louis Award honors the outstanding young woman and man who excel in the areas of community service, outstanding morality, and overall Christian lifestyle.

Valedictorians of the class of 2005 are Danielle Schwartzburg and Kristie Vail and the Salutatorian is Amanda Schram.

The 2005 graduates of St. Louis Catholic High School are:

Jonathan Paul Abraham, James Austin Aguirre, Kristine Davo Alcantara, Michaella Marie Ange, Britany Michelle Begnaud, Jacob Matthew Belaire, Julia Angelle Bent, Kathryn Marie

Bercier, Theresa Anne Bercier, Suzanne Marie Booth, Lee Patrick Boudreaux, Margaret Leigh Boyer, Kristin Michelle Brade, Scott Anthony Breaux, Catherine Renee' Broussard, Justin Dallas Broussard, Jessica Nealy Brown;

Joelle Elizabeth Brown, Sara Beth Brown, Andrew Emile Buller, Kristen Adriane Bushnell, Ross Martin Buryley, Audrey Marie Caraway, Kristen Renee' Chafin, Joseph Berkley Chretien, James Robert Coco, Andrew Patrick Connell, Zackary Mark Conner, Jade Rochelle Covington, John Lepick Dampf, Victoria Janae' Dixon, Laura Alane Dumesnil, Ryan Joseph Duplechain, Jalin Michelle Durosseau, Alexandra Rose Eagle, Kelli Michelle Eason;

Thomas Wade Ebersole, Edward Moreland Ellington Iii, Jennifer Leigh Anne Eliott, Jenna Marie Fazende, Benjamin Joseph Ferguson, Michael Brady Flavin, Joshua Michael Fontenot, Mark Logan Fontenot;

Matthew J Fontenot, Nadia Grace Foreman, Courtney Danielle Galloway, Desiree' Jamillie George, Andrew Thomas Green, Erin Elizabeth Guillory, Hubert Guillory;

Sarah Elizabeth Hall, Matthew Wayne Hanudel, Kelly Danielle Hardy, Courtney Elizabeth Harper, Timothy Paul Harper, Daniel Taylor Hennigan, James Ross Hudson, Melissa Diane Jackson, Garrett Colby Judice, Tara Lee Kaimal, Anne Michelle Kaufman, Shauna Marie Keating, Kellie Elizabeth Kolde, Matthew Philip Kravchuk, Marrisra An-

toinette Lafanette, Sloan Joseph Lamotte, Datha Genevieve Landry, Justin Paul Landry, Timothy Glenn Landry, Stephen Patrick Lanza, Amanda Christine Liggio, Lindsay Beth Hargrave Loftin, Ashley Nicole Malveaux, Sarah Marie Matz, Andrew Newlin McCall, Katie Michelle McDaniel, Matthew Baer Mcglathery, Kash Matthew Mcmahon, Margaret Ellen Monk, Sarah Marie Morein, Devin Ray Morgan;

Roger Alan Nelson, Randall West Nichols, Holly Brianna Owens, Matthew Khoury Parham, Elizabeth Ann Primeaux, Justin Glen Priola, Daniel Thomas Pruitt, Whitney Naomi Richard, James Britt Richey, Jessica Marie Rings, Mallory Jeanette Robertson, Lisa Marie Robinson, Jared Lyle Rogers, Sara Nicole Schindler, Amanda Nicole Schram, Sarah Elizabeth Schram, Danielle Fay Schwartzburg, William Devin Seale, Paul Joseph Simon, Johanna Lyn Skinner;

Christopher David Snyder, Kimberly Anne Sonnier, Dru Lynnette Starkovich, James Edward Sudduth Iii, Erene Rose Tan, Whitney Nicole Tate, Alexandra Gail Taylor, Rebekah Ann Thierry, Tramaine H Thomas, Gregory James Trahan, Kristie Marie Vail, Sarah Elise Veazey, Morgan Rae Verrette, Alexandre Molina Villamil;

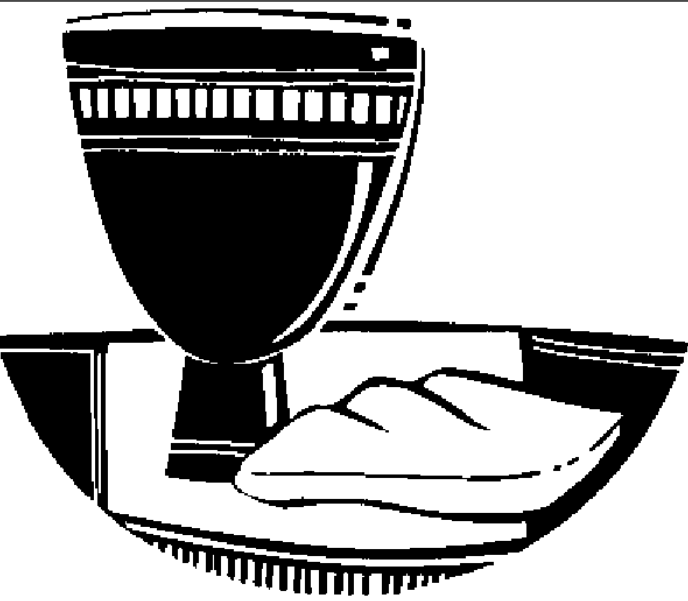
Dena Ann Vital Stephanie Ann Walter, Courtney Paige Williams, Jared Dante Williams, Jessica Taylor Williams, Thomas Mark Williams, Stephen Nicholas Winkles, James Fenner Yarbrough Jr., Sarah Elizabeth Yokubaitis.



Moses said to the people: "Remember how for forty years now the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD. LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.

"Do not forget the Lord, who guided you through the vast and terrible desert with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers."

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a



Brothers and sisters: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

1 Corinthians 1:16-17



Jesus said to the Jewish crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

John 6:51-58

## Americans strongly oppose cloning human embryos

WASHINGTON — Over three-quarters of Americans oppose allowing researchers to clone human embryos for any purpose, either to provide children to infertile couples or to create embryos to be destroyed in medical research. This is among the findings of a new poll commissioned by the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The United Nations in March approved a declaration urging nations to ban all forms of human cloning. A complete ban has been approved twice by the U.S. House of

Representatives, and endorsed by President Bush, but the Senate has taken no action. The new poll shows widespread support for such a ban, cutting across all demographic categories.

Public sentiment against cloning human embryos to be destroyed in medical research remains strong, despite exaggerated and widely publicized claims by supporters that such cloning is essential to medical "progress." Americans oppose this practice 77 percent to 15 percent. They also oppose cloning to produce children for infertile couples, 84 percent to 10 percent.



Bishop Edward K. Braxton, right, stands with the newly ordained Father Rommel Tolentino on the steps of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception following the ordination Liturgy.

## Father Rommel Tolentino ordained

LAKE CHARLES — The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton ordained Rommel Pasion Tolentino to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles on Saturday, May 14 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. A large crowd, including many members of the ordinand's family were present, coming from his home in the Philippines as well as many other countries.

The Bishop, in his homily, told the newly ordained Father Tolentino, "You will begin your pastoral service in this Local Church at a time of *sede vacante*, when the See is vacant, and, after an *interregnum* of an unpredictable period of time the third Bishop of Lake Charles will be appointed and your priesthood will unfold under the guidance of one who is unknown to you, unknown to us all at this hour.

"I am deeply aware that this is a time of great uncertainty and, at the same time, a source of hope as you go forward into the future," Bishop Braxton continued. "I am also aware that for all of our brother priests and deacons this time of transition is not without significance, since this diocese, having known only one Bishop for so long, has not known the experience of changing from one bishop to another or the experience of an *interregnum*. But, we know that even in this time of transition we have every reason to be serene and hopeful. Nevertheless, as you present yourself to the church of Lake Charles for ordination, you like me, you like all of us, are putting out into the deep in faith. We put out into the deep in faith."

Father Tolentino celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, May 15, the Feast of Pentecost in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church

(This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles.)