



The 150th anniversary of the founding of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Penn., has turned out to be a boon to the faith community of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron and the repair of their church after the devastation of Hurricane Rita. In the top picture, workers unload a 53 foot van containing 102 pews, 58 lights (28 large, 30 small) and five large ceiling fans to refurbish the devastated Church donated by the community of religious sisters and place them in storage (shown below). According to Kathy Linse, the director of communications for the community, the cost to replace the items sent is between \$65,000 and \$75,000. The Erie sisters became interested in the badly damaged Cameron church after seeing the church resembled their own chapel, according to a story in the Erie Times News. One of the ways the sisters were celebrating their 150 years of existence was beginning a renovation of their own chapel, at Mount St. Benedict Monastery. An Erie moving and storage company gave the sisters a reduced rate to pack and ship the furnishings, which the sisters didn't want to sell or toss away. All of the donated items will be stored during the lengthy process of repairing the church.



## New principal at OLS not new to education

SULPHUR - Our Lady's School is located on Cypress Street, right next door to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, and the school's new principal, Mrs. Carol Fetters, sees a certain notability to the school, the only Catholic school on the west side of the Calcasieu River. "The uniqueness of this particular school is that even though we are located here in Sulphur we are owned by six parishes," Fetters said. "With that uniqueness in mind and such a diversified alumni there is continuous support of the community for the school. That support is not only continuous but stable. If I need something all I have to do is pick up the phone and that support is here."



Mrs. Carol Fetters

As she begins her first year Fetters will be seeking more parent involvement in the school

"The component that needs to be strengthened is parent involvement and the issues that go with that," she said. "That goes for getting volunteers for service as well."

"Another goal I have set is to integrate technology with the classroom tools so as to increase parental involvement with the education of the children as well. Those two together should do a lot to enable our students to be ready for the high schools they are going to enter - especially St. Louis."

Several other changes, along with a sprucing up of the school and repairs to the damage wrought by Hurricane Rita, for the 2006-2007 school term have a new uniform for students and a new school logo.

"We have gone from a red polo shirt to a traditional navy blue with khaki pants, navy blue shirt, white logo and khaki pants," Fetters said. "We have a new logo. It was designed with the tradition as well as some minor

changes to the existing logo." With the renovations come other temporary changes at Our Lady's School.

"As a result of the refurbishment we have changed our after care program and we are offering after care alternatives to provide services to our families," Fetters said. "We are networking with licensed day care facilities for the same price that we were offering our aftercare until the renovations are complete. We are referring people with those needs to agencies in Sulphur and providing transportation through the Calcasieu Parish School Board as a partner in helping us meet some of those needs."

A Catholic school principal has to be an educator, an administrator and a fundraiser.

"The need for financial knowledge is also a prerequisite for a Catholic school principal and having administrator experience as well as grant writing expertise will enable me to be open minded and flexible, which are needed in the financial knowledge base of a Catholic school principal" Fetters said.

A Catholic school education is seen by many as superior to that of a public school education. Fetters sees one component of the Catholic school education as a key.

"Self-discipline is part of the key, the uniform thing, all of those things come together to provide the students with more self-discipline," Fetters said.

## Catholic schools begin August 16; spaces open

LAKE CHARLES - The end of summer is fast approaching for thousands of children in Southwest Louisiana and with it the beginning of the new school year for students attending the eight Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Wednesday, August 16, will mark the first day of school in the Diocese and the principals of all eight schools want everyone to know that there is still time to register students in the Catholic schools and there are spaces available at most of the schools. The first day is a half-day with students leaving at noon.

Students in the Catholic schools of the Diocese have historically scored higher than students in the public system on standardized tests. Catholic schools opened last August with 2,636 students, slightly down from the 2004-2005 first day numbers.

The eight schools of the Diocese are:

**Immaculate Conception Cathedral School**, 1536 Ryan Street, features SAT scores consistently higher than the national average, an excellent teacher/student ratio, before and after school care and a summer day camp. Interested parents can reach Principal Dinah Bradford at [dbradford@icc-school.org](mailto:dbradford@icc-school.org) or by phone at 337-433-3497. The school's web site is [www.icc-school.org](http://www.icc-school.org).

**Our Lady Immaculate School** provides classes from three years of age through eighth grade at its 600 Roberts Avenue location in Jennings. The school has an up to date computer lab and offers an exclusive and outstanding athletic program. Joann Wallwork, the principal, can be reached at 337-

824-1743 or at [jwallwork@olischool.org](mailto:jwallwork@olischool.org). The school's web site is [www.olischool.org](http://www.olischool.org)

**Our Lady Queen of Heaven School**, located at 3908 Creole Street, has an award-winning fine arts department as well as a challenging curriculum including a number of advanced classes. The school provides an atmosphere that encourages academic success while nurturing and developing the faith-lives of the students and faculty. Principal Mary Ann Hipp can be reached at 337-477-7349 or by e-mail at [olqhs@olqhs.org](mailto:olqhs@olqhs.org). The school's web site address is [www.olqhs.org](http://www.olqhs.org).

**Our Lady's School**, located at 1111 Cypress Street in Sulphur, offers classes a challenging curriculum for Pre-K through eighth grade students and is the only Catholic school on the west side of the Calcasieu River. Carol Fetters, an educator with 26 years experience, is the principal and she can be reached at [cfetters@ourladysschool.org](mailto:cfetters@ourladysschool.org) or 337-527-7828. The school web site is [www.olcs.org](http://www.olcs.org).

**Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel School** offers 98 years of ministry in Catholic Christian education from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade integrating culture and faith. Due to damages to the school buildings by Hurricane Rita, the Pre-K through fifth grade is located at 301 N. Cherry Street while the sixth through eighth grades are at 1100 Mill Street. Contact Principal Kathleen Dorsey Bellow at 337-436-3588 or at [dorseybellow@sh-sktd.org](mailto:dorseybellow@sh-sktd.org). The school's web site is [www.sacredheartkd.org](http://www.sacredheartkd.org)

**St. Louis Catholic High School**, the only Catholic

High School in the Diocese of Lake Charles, is the consolidation of three Catholic schools, Landry Memorial High School, St. Charles Academy and Sacred Heart High School. The school located at 1620 Bank Street has an award-winning choir and offers French, Spanish, and Latin courses. The students' ACT scores are consistently above local, state, and national averages. The school offers 13 interscholastic sports, including defending district and state championship teams. The principal, William Simon, can be reached at 337-436-7275. The school's web site is [www.stlouishighschool.org](http://www.stlouishighschool.org).

**St. Margaret of Scotland School**, located at 2510 Enterprise Boulevard, offers a quality Pre-Kindergarten to eighth grade curriculum as well as extended day care supervised by St. Margaret faculty. The school also offers a full range of enrichment and athletic programs. Principal Brenda Dufrene can be reached at 337-436-7959 and the school's web site is [www.stmcs.com](http://www.stmcs.com)

**St. Theodore Holy Family School**, located at 785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway, offers a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade curriculum including a computer lab for all grades and a middle school laptop program. Principal Trish Trejo can be reached at 337-855-9465 or via e-mail at [trejo@sthfcs.com](mailto:trejo@sthfcs.com). The school's web site is [www.sthfcs.com](http://www.sthfcs.com).

The Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles is located at 411 Iris Street and can be reached at 337-439-7418, Ext. 18.

## Covert doing internship at Sacred Heart of Jesus

LAKE CHARLES - For men studying for the priesthood at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, the fourth year takes them out of the classroom and into parish life. It is at that time that the students are assigned to a church within their own diocese to fulfill a seven-month Diaconate Internship. Some two months ago, Derek Covert, one of five men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles, began this tutelage at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lake Charles under the supervision of the Rev. Henry Mancuso.

In this situation Covert is learning what it's like to be with the people of God experiencing the ebb and flow of a faith community.

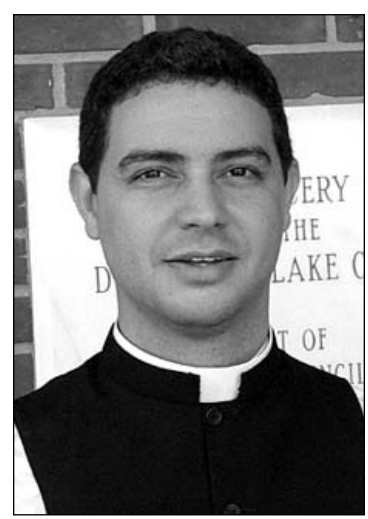
"They want us to experience as much ministry as we can as an unordained man," Covert said. "For me that has included teaching and preaching in areas such as Adoration and Benediction. I also teach various conferences and things of that nature. I am currently doing a teaching presentation on Mary and the Bible and Marian devotion and adoration at Crossroads Bookstore."

"I have also been involved in prison ministry, which I hope to do frequently maybe once a month and twice month with a group of laymen here in the diocese," Covert continued. "I do once a week hospital ministry, taking an afternoon to visit the parishioners of Sacred Heart in various hospitals in the diocese."

As you would expect, Covert is also deeply involved in the parish's liturgical ministry, serving at daily Mass and serving on weekends as acolyte and sometimes a lector, depending upon the need. He is involved with funerals and weddings as well as marriage preparation.

During the internship period Covert has been asked by Father Mancuso to become involved in the parish's youth ministry program.

"The re-establishment of



Derek Covert

the youth program has been difficult since the hurricane," Covert said. "So Father Mancuso asked me to help with restructuring, offering vision and creating enthusiasm for various activities and events and service projects."

"What we are looking at in my last five months will be working with the youth, calling meetings together to hear their ideas and see what it is they would like to see within the program. Also I am doing my own research in youth ministry, talking to youth ministers along with using ideas I have had in previous youth ministry experience to see how we can establish a program that will sustain itself."

Following the internship Covert will serve in a leadership role on a seminary mission trip as one of three fourth year seminarians on the trip.

"I will be doing a mission trip, Accompano, to Nicaragua for two weeks in December as part of the leadership team for seminary," Covert said. "The trip is one that all first year students are required to take. They pick six men to provide leadership and logistics for the trip, allowing everyone in the 40-man group to experience what it's like to be on a mission trip."

During the internship Covert is still responsible for

various seminary functions.

"We have to go back to seminary for two weeks to take classes," he said. "We also have weekly meetings with our supervisors to talk about various events and ministries that we've been involved with to see how we are doing. They have to give us an evaluation and all of that has to be sent to the seminary."

Covert admits to sometimes feeling somewhat overwhelmed, even though his experience has been a positive one.

"At times, I feel unprepared just because of the immensity of the ministry but at the same time I feel very prepared in everything we have done," he said.

The unknowns of working in some ministries have given Covert anxious times.

"I was doing prison ministry and I had a great anxiety because I didn't know what was going to happen," Covert said. "I was very anxious before into the jail but when I walked in, even though I was in a prison for the first time, that anxiety began to part and I felt a deep connection with the inmates."

"There was really no explanation because though I was anxious that anxiety was really removed. The Lord allowed me to experience it and to humble me. When I walked out I was rejuvenated. I had a deep joy of being there."

According to Covert making hospital calls has also provided unique experiences.

"Every time I leave the hospital I am more convinced of the life of simplicity that I am called to live. When I go in to meet with people, I feel I have nothing to offer them, except our Lord. When we talk I feel my faith is deepened just being there with them. I am called to a deeper sense of love because of the pain and the sorrow that many people are going through."