



Gina Camalo, left, helps her son Andrew fill a holiday food basket for the needy at the Catholic Service Center recently. The pair was part of a group of catechists and confirmation candidates from Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church who volunteered to help the Center fill and distribute 102 food baskets, according to Jettie Greene, Director of the Center. The food baskets were given out to those in need in Calcasieu and Jefferson Davis parishes.

Companions of Honor elect new officers

LAKE CHARLES - Clifford Myers of Jennings was elected to serve as president of The Companions of Honor of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Myers and three others were named at the recent Annual Meeting of the group held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office building. The annual Memorial Mass celebrated for the deceased members of the group was held in the Cathedral following the business meeting.

Chosen to serve with Myers were Elizabeth Gayle of Jennings, vice president; Bernard Beaco of Lake Charles, secretary, and Robert Chiasson, of Welsh, treasurer. The four will serve in their respective posts for two years.

The Companions of Honor is an organization of Catholic clergy, including Monsignori, religious and lay people who have been decorated by the Holy See or the Diocese of Lake Charles, plus those Catholic members of internationally recognized Orders of Chivalry residing in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Forty-nine members of the group were remembered during the celebration of Mass, including Mrs. Elsie Brodrick, November 5, 2004; Mrs. Edith Benoit, November 11, 2004; Mr. Hayes Picou, Sr., November 22, 2004; Mrs. Rose Johnson, December 4, 2004; Mrs. Rose Mae Harrington, December 4, 2004;

Mr. A.L. Miller, December 12, 2004; Mrs. Neva Groth, January 14, 2005; Mr. Jack W. Denson, January 18, 2005; Mr. Lester Andrew Armand, January 28, 2005; and Sir Stephen A. Broussard, February 9, 2005.

Also, Lady Margaret Schindler, February 24, 2005; Mrs. Elaine Hebert, March 7, 2005; Mr. Alvin Buller, March 21, 2005; Mr. Philip

Robert Lynch, March 30, 2005; Mr. Robert E. Schmitt, June 1, 2005; Mrs. Vernie Hardy, June 21, 2005; Mrs. Peggy Sue Corley, June 27, 2005; Msgr. Amos J. Vincent, July 18, 2005; Mrs. Lillie Latour, July 24, 2005; Mrs. Cassie Leigh Cradure, July 27, 2005; Mr. Robert Vincent Forest, July 27, 2005; and Sir Ellis R. Guillory, September 18, 2005.

Also, Sir Robert W. Kline, September 19, 2005; Mrs. Elaine Claire Bodin, November 8, 2005; Mrs. Grady Mae Dugas, December 20, 2005; Mrs. Margaret Elise Haymark, January 3, 2006; Rev. Oris Broussard, January 8, 2006;

Mr. Richard Dennis Guthrie, January 10, 2006; Sir David L. Garrison, January 25, 2006; Mr. Clarence Lee Cormier, February 5, 2006; Mr. Charles Fred Groth, February 5, 2006; Ms. Christenia Pete, February 5, 2006; Mrs. Taimer Pizanie, February 19, 2006; Lady Leona Foley, March 11, 2006; Judge John Allen Patin, March 25, 2006; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Piraro, March 29, 2006; Mrs. Lucy Collins, April 3, 2006; Mrs. Mary Venable, April 6, 2006; Mrs. Elaine Rita Terranova, April 26, 2006; Dr. Thomas Hugh DeLaureal, Sr., May 5, 2006; Mrs. Myrtle Marie Monroe, May 8, 2006; Mrs. Ethel Marie Mancuso, May 28, 2006; Mr. Melvin Joseph Cormier, Sr., June 13, 2006; Mrs. Adenise Marie Trosclair, June 19, 2006; Mr. Peter Joseph Manena, June 26, 2006; Mr. Francis Joseph Hidalgo, July 9, 2006; Mr. Ryan Joseph Artigue, July 14, 2006; Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc, July 16, 2006; Mrs. Helen Marie Zaunbrecher, August 1, 2006; Mrs. Lovica Bourque Hebert, October 25, 2006.



Jacob Scott Conner, left, a seminarian studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles at Notre Dame Seminary was recently instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte by The Most Reverend Roger Morin, right, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, during ceremonies at St. Rita Church in New Orleans. Conner was among 29 seminarians instituted into the ministries of Reader and Acolyte. Acolytes are exhorted to serve the priest at the Eucharist as an auxiliary minister and to give Communion to the faithful at the liturgy and to the sick.

Liturgy Formation Day, Jan. 13

LAKE CHARLES - The Rev. Edward Foley, Cap. will be the keynote speaker at the fifth annual Liturgy Formation Day on to be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007. The day will begin at 8:45 a.m. and continue until 12 noon at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, 3939 Lake Street. This year's program is entitled, "Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi" - "We Pray As We Believe."

Fr. Foley is Professor of Liturgy and Music and the founding Director of the Ecumenical Doctor of Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. A member of the Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order since 1966, he was ordained a priest in 1975. He has authored more than 300 scholarly and pastoral articles and sits on a number of editorial boards.

His unique presentations incorporate music and storytelling into sharing knowledge and understanding of liturgy in a challenging yet inviting way.

The Liturgy Formation Day is held annually to provide ongoing formation of liturgical ministers including the clergy, extraordinary ministers of communion, lectors, music ministers, ministers of hospitality, and ushers, even though all persons are invited to attend. There is no fee, but to be able to prepare efficiently, registration is required. Call Mary Beth Conner at 337-439-4585 for more information.

Social justice important aspect of Religious Ed

(Second of two parts)

LAKE CHARLES - The year Denise Donahoe became an Assistant Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Lake Charles, one of the key issues she began working on was social justice education. Social justice or social teaching can be described as that teaching which deals with the rights and duties of man organized into society, especially with the economic aspects of society.

Now as Director of the Office, which like every program and ministry of the Diocese relies on contributions to the annual Diocesan Services Appeal now ongoing in the parishes, Donahoe sees the need to continue to provide education about Catholic Social Teaching.

"When I came to the Diocese we put together booklets that each of the parishes and the schools would get to help them in making sure that that aspect of the Church is carried out, that quality education is carried out," Donahoe said.

She hearkened back on her experience at Immaculate Conception Cathedral School as well.

"When I first started there, and I looked at their program, I could see that they were teaching the doctrine and I could see that they were having community, building community in their school, but I didn't see a lot of service outside," she said. "It was an insular place. If there was a need within the school, if perhaps someone's house burned down, they'd have a fundraiser but they didn't seem to see the bigger church, the world."

"So when the Task Force was put together and could see we needed to move in that direction, I could see that we needed help within the schools, to do that," Donahoe continued. "Something ended up being mandated. In schools if you have it on the front burner you have to have it mandated. From that has come the social justice paraliturgy in February every year as a celebration of what our students are learning and that is for fourth and fifth graders with all the Catholic schools as well as Episcopal Day School being invited."

The event is held at a different school each year and everyone takes a role, putting together a skit, a song, a poetry reading, according to Donahoe.

An exciting aspect of the Office currently is the arrival of the results of a survey done by the parishes called Information for Growth of Adults (IFG).

"We had a grant from Extension Society two years ago to do the study," Donahoe said. "We were assessing where our adults were who teach our students and where students were so we can evaluate how programs are doing and where we need to put our emphasis on training for our adults."

"We just got the results back a couple of weeks ago and that will be really a key for us to look at in our certification program for what we offer for conferences and so forth," she said. "We are also getting the information to the pastors, giving them a birds eye

view of some of their adults in the parishes, as to where the needs are, perhaps for their homilies, their own adult education, sessions for retreats they may want to get, and so forth. We are very excited about that."

Although some were resistant to do the survey in the beginning, now that the results have been seen minds may have changed.

"They are pleasantly surprised with their results," Donahoe continue. "They are seeing some clear areas where they can focus on where they need to grow. I think this is a good thing. I have already had a couple of parishes ask about whether they can do it again and for other folks. We are really excited about getting this information. It is a view of where we need to focus our efforts in training and adult education all together."

Donahoe notes that in February, the Diocese will do the Assessment for Catholic Religious Education for the fifth, eighth, ninth, and eleventh grades in all the schools.

"We hope that in the years to come we will be doing both of these assessments in all parishes and schools," she said. "Many pastors are not only looking at it for those who teach the children but also for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and those involved with adult education."

In her work with the Office of Catholic schools Donahoe aided in the investigation of religious education textbooks being used in the Diocese.

"We worked on making sure we had textbooks that were doctrinally sound as well as pedagogically sound," she said. "Each year we work on that and have gotten down to five or six publishers with the best of their series and their most current books."

"We also adopted a curriculum guide because we didn't have one of our own," Donahoe continued. "We piggybacked with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. We are paying them for its use and then we are adapting it for our Diocese. It was piloted in 2002 and then mandated in 2003."

"As we adapted it we changed some of the paper work that was used to help us see how we are doing and had to send the changes to Indianapolis," she said. "It happened that they like how we had changed it and they have now implemented some of our changes."

Recently Donahoe held a workshop to provide teachers with information on how to enliven their classes, using multi-sensory efforts and showing them how to use adequate methods that engage all ways of learning.

Gifts made by the many generous Catholics in the Diocese of Lake Charles to the annual Appeal make it possible for the Office of Religious Education as well as other programs of the Local Church to continue and flourish. Please remember the many people who take part in programs and ministries offered by the Diocese and consider your own gift, whether large or small, to the 2006-2007 Diocesan Services Appeal.



Eleven of the 14 men and women honored with the 2006 Maple Leaf Awards were present at the recent ceremonies held at Villa Maria Retirement Center in Lake Charles. The Awards were instituted by the late Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc to honor the work of people in their "Diamond" years.

Fourteen garner Maple Leaf Awards for 2006

LAKE CHARLES - Fourteen men and women of the Diocese of Lake Charles, all living their "Diamond" years were recently honored with the 2006 Maple Leaf Awards during a ceremony held at Villa Maria Retirement Center.

The Maple Leaf Awards, instituted by the late Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc, P.A., are given to honor those who have given many years of their lives to the work of the Church. Msgr. DeBlanc had been quoted as saying, "The maple leaf is a symbol of older people that is never more attractive than in the autumn of its life, just like old-

er people."

The 2006 Class of Maple Leaf winners are Geraldine (Gerri) Armfield, St. Joseph, Vinton; Stella Barkate, Our Lady of LaSalette, Sulphur; Mary Essie Chavis Dartez, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jennings; Allen Deville, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jennings; Emma Frazier, Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Lawrence Hebert, Immaculate Conception, Jennings; Esther Hebert, Immaculate Conception, Jennings; Rev. T.L. Herlong,

Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Lake Charles; Amos Jones, Jr., Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Ramona LaBorde, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Sulphur; Lillian Matthews, St. Joseph, Welsh; Sara Pat Shaheen, Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Marie T. Wilson, Our Lady Help of Christians, Jennings; and Audrey Jacobson, St. Martin DePorres, Lake Charles.

Msgr. Harry D. Greig, Diocesan Administrator, made the presentations.

The next Catholic Calendar will be published on December 22.