

Fr. Derek Covert ordained

LAKE CHARLES - Derek Scott Covert was ordained to the priesthood of the Catholic Church on Saturday, May 25, by The Most Reverend Glen John Provost at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. A large crowd of family and friends, including the clergy of the Diocese as well as religious and attended.

Father Covert, who celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, May 26, at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, was assigned to St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, effective July 1, for a period of three years.

In his homily, Bishop Provost said that "the priesthood is embedded in the Eucharist. As sign and sacrament it springs forth from the Eucharistic moment of institution at the Last Supper. Jesus takes the bread in His hands and, while He says "This is my body", quickly adds, "Do this in memory of me." In those few words, for with Christ a few can have great significance, all the hopes of the Messianic people are fulfilled."



Bishop Glen John Provost, left, greets Father Derek Scott Covert, right, outside the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Saturday following the May 25 ordination of Fr. Covert.

St. Louis Catholic High graduates 129 students

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the keynote speaker at the 2007 Commencement Exercises of 129 St. Louis Catholic High School seniors on Wednesday, May 16 at Burton Coliseum.

Bishop Provost, who assisted in the distribution of diplomas, also presented the St. Louis Awards to graduates Ty Todd and Brooksie Bonvillain. The St. Louis Award is given each year at graduation to the male and female senior student voted outstanding Christian student by their peers and approved by members of the faculty.

The awards, made possible through the auspices of the Lake Charles Serra Club, are presented to students who have shown the following characteristics: Love of God and Neighbor, Strong Moral Character, Desire to Serve Community, Courage to Stand up for Christian Principles, a Daily Christian Lifestyle, and Proper Use of God-Given gifts.

There were 36 Honor Graduates in the Class of 2007, including valedictorian Layla Abdel Raouf Abu-Shamat and salutatorian Jeanne-Claire Alyse White, both of whom gave short addresses.

Earlier in the week at special ceremonies, other awards were presented to members of the graduating class.

Honor Graduates: Layla Abu-Shamat, Elizabeth Anderson, Michael Authement, Brooksie Bonvillain, Marjorie Breda, Joshua Gidlow, Lauren Hinton, Kelsey Jones, Joseph Kohatsu, Kara Leger, Keagan Leger, Mary Grace

Lemon, Melanie Lupo, Megan McCay, Lauren McGlathery, Dominique Monlezun, Chantal Nunez-Schuster, Kailtyn O'Donnell, Austin Price, Garrett Price, William Shaddock, Jeri Sills, Herman Stevens, Louise Thompson, Jeanne-Claire White.

Monsignor Irving DeBlanc Service Award: Chantal Nunez-Schuster.

Louisiana House of Representative Commendations: Layla Abu-Shamat, Jeanne-Claire White, Joshua Gidlow.

National Merit Awards: Herman Stevens, Lucie Monk, Joshua Gidlow

Board of Regents Scholars: Layla Abu-Shamat, Elizabeth Anderson, Mary Beth Ange, Michael Authement, Brooksie Bonvillain, Marc Breaux, Marjorie Breda, Abigail Cauvin, Amy Chaisson, Matthew Ferguson, Kristin Fox, Joshua Gidlow, Brittany Green, Lauren Hinton, Kelsey Jones, Joseph Kohatsu, Kara Leger, Keagan Leger, Mary Grace Lemon, Melanie Lupo, Megan McCay, Lauren McGlathery, Devon Miguez, Mary Lucille Monk, Dominique Monlezun, Stephen Moore, Chantal Nunez-Schuster, Kailtyn O'Donnell, Austin Price, Garrett Price, William Shaddock, Jeri Sills, Herman Stevens, Louise Thompson, Jade Tran, Jeanne-Claire White, Caroline Yokubaitis.

Student of the Year: Brooksie Bonvillain.

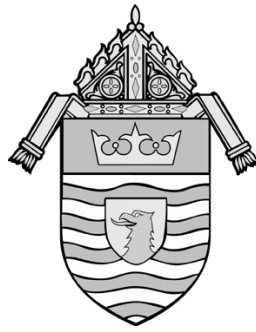
Louisiana Music Awards: Eric Lancon, Beth Anderson. **Wendy's Heisman Award:** Jeanne-Claire White, Ty Todd. **Scottish Rite Patriotism:** Katie Prejean, Darren Mouton. **American Legion:** Chantal Nunez-Schuster, Cory Wanamaker. **7 Jeanne-Claire White.**

Catholic Youth Leadership-St. Margaret Parish: Sarah Lyons, William Shaddock. **Catholic Youth Leadership-Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish:** Katie Prejean, Joshua Gidlow. **Catholic Youth Leadership-St. Joseph Parish:** Jerri Sills. **Black Heritage Scholarship:** Ryan Clemons. **Alpha Kappa Omega:** Ryan Clemons. **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority:** Brittany Sterling, Marjorie Breda. **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority:** Kendrick Thomas, Royce Charles, Darren Mouton. **Health Systems 2000:** Kenny Thomas.

Olive Tupper Foundation Scholarship: Kristin Fox. **PPG Industries Foundation Scholarship:** Garrett Rock. **Firestone/Bridgestone Scholarship:** Kara Leger, Keagan Leger. **National Honor Society:** Lauren Hinton, Jeanne-Claire White. **Propeller Club Scholarship:** Kara and Keagan Leger. **Best Buy Scholarship:** Brooksie Bonvillain, Katie Prejean. **AmeriCorps Scholarships:** Natalie Lemelle, Audianna Jean, David Weckerly. **US Marine Corps Scholarship:** Layla Abu-Shamat. **US Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award:** Louise Thompson, Joey Kohatsu. **US Army Scholar Athlete Award:** Jeanne-Claire White, Herman Stevens.

Tulane University Scholarships: Megan McCay, Dominique Monlezun, Mary Grace Lemon. **Loyola University Scholarship:** Danny Garrett, Kelsey Jones. **University of New Orleans Scholarship:** Cory Duplechain. **Centenary Scholarship:** Holt Perry, Austin Price, Rennie Walker. **Northwestern State University Scholarship:** Steven Casanave, Lauren McGlathery. **McNeese State University Scholarships:** Michael Authement, Amy Chaisson, Matthew Ferguson, Alex Hamilton, Melanie Lupo, Stephen Moore, Jerri Sills, Jade Tran, Nick Shattuck.

Louisiana State University Scholarships: Brooksie Bonvillain, Lucy Monk, Garrett Rock, Herman Stevens, Kristin Fox, Louise Thompson, William Shaddock. **Louisiana Tech University Scholarship:** Josh Gidlow, Eric Lancon, Jeffrey Manns, Devon Miguez. **Louisiana College Scholarship:** Kendrick Thomas. **Southwestern College, Kansas Scholarship:** Rachel Muth. **University of Dallas Scholarship:** Katie Prejean, Hannah Piper. **North Carolina A&M Scholarship:** Jason Valmont. **Central Arkansas Scholar-**



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June 1, 2007

My dear People,

June 1st marks the beginning of hurricane season, and our thoughts cannot help but return not only to the events of 2005 but also to those of 1957. June 27 will mark the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Audrey and the beginning of its devastation.

I recall those days in 1957, as the people of our diocese, then the Diocese of Lafayette, learned of the catastrophe. The response of our beloved Bishop Maurice Schexnayder, the shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea, the sufferings of countless victims, the loss of so many, the unconquerable spirit of the people and their deep faith in God — all this I remember as a young boy. Bishop Schexnayder composed and issued a prayer that we still pray in our church parishes and that I have asked once again be prayed throughout the coming months of hurricane season.

I am reminded of the lines from Gerard Manley Hopkins: "I have desired to go/ Where springs not fail/ To fields where flies no sharp and sided hail/ And a few lilies blow/ And I have asked to be/ Where no storms come." That is our hope. That is our prayer. Such a peaceable kingdom on the coast of the Gulf, however, is out of our control. Yet, this is the land we have come to love, and we would live nowhere else. With such an act of faith, we must place ourselves in the hands of God and be prepared.

During the month of June, the month of the anniversary of Hurricane Audrey, I think it is appropriate that we rededicate the Church of St. Eugene in Grand Chenier on Saturday, June 16, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is our act of faith, as we once again bless that sacred space for the worship of God.

We cannot forget those who died, not only in Audrey but also Rita. On July 1 and July 2, I am told, are the days when many of the burials from Audrey took place. Therefore, I will visit three of these sacred burial sites to bless them and pray for the victims on that Sunday, July 1. These three hallowed places are located at Highland Memory Gardens and Combre Memorial Park, both in Lake Charles, and St. Rose of Lima in Creole. All of the deceased remain in my prayers and the living memory and intentions of every Catholic in our diocese.

Devotedly yours in our Lord,

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Let Us Pray

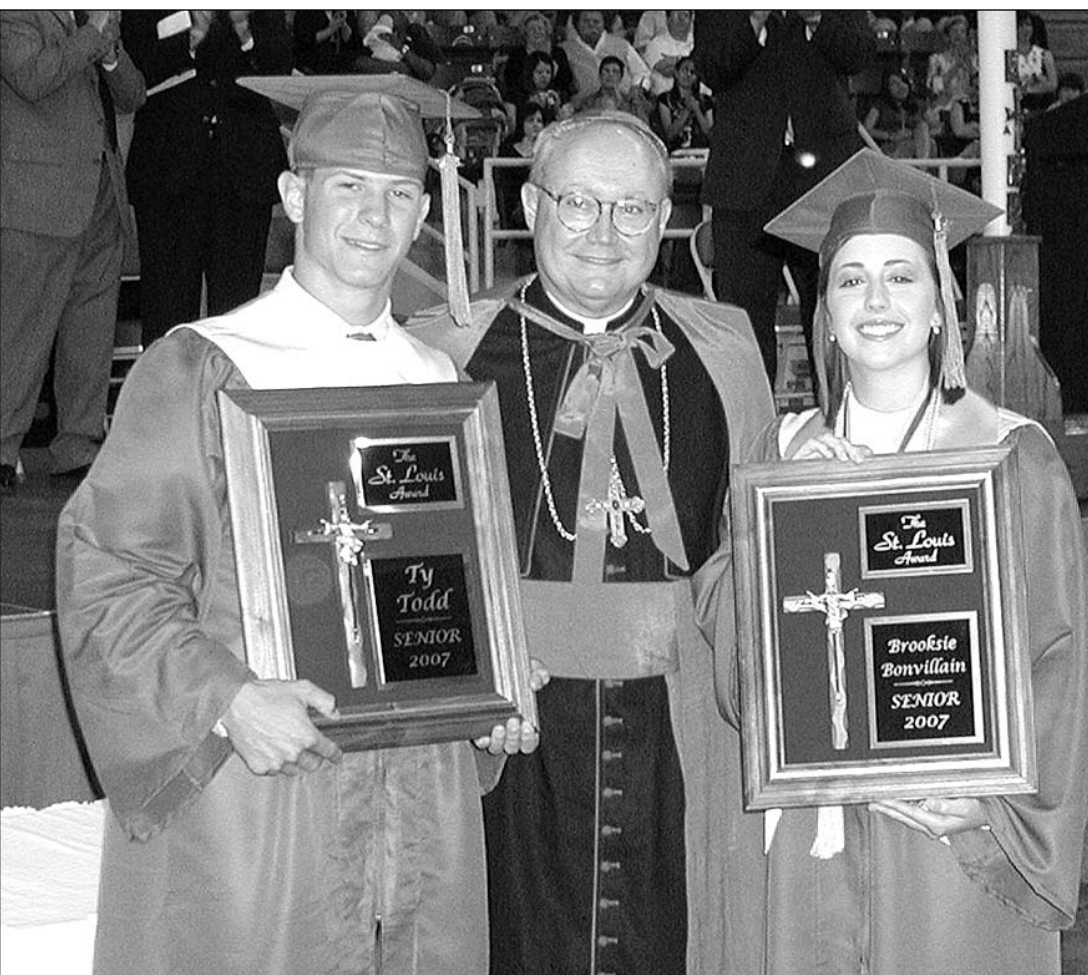
The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey in 1957, during the 2007 hurricane season.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

O God, master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its quietude. You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder
Second Bishop of Lafayette



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, stands between Ty Todd, left, and Brooksie Bonvillain, right, the St. Louis Award winners from the 2007 Senior Class of St. Louis Catholic High School.

ship: Ryan Duhon. **Ap- versity of Mobile Scholar-** **ship:** Shawna Simien, Cesso-
palachian State Scholarship: **ship:** Donte Walker. **Alcorn** **ship:** Tezeno. **Panola Junior**
Jeanne-Claire White. Uni- **State University Scholar-** **College Scholarship:** Ty
Todd.

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

Still Waters Cancer Support Group will meet on June 14

LAKE CHARLES -- The Still Waters Cancer Support Group will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, in the library of the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Center.

The group is a spiritual outreach to those who are battling cancer, their families, and the caregivers who journey with them. Created through an initiative of the Human Concerns Commission of the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Pastoral Council, the group meets on the second Thursday each month and is open to all.

Content for the programs of the group will be based on the book, "Fighting Cancer

with the Help of Your Catholic Faith," as well as topics from the "I Can Cope" series from the American Cancer Society.

Facilitators for the group are Brenda Hollenbeck, a Licensed Professional Counselor from Samaritan Counseling Center, Jean Ann East, and Mary Ann Kohnke-Borel. The Rev. Rommel Tolentino, Associate Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, will serve as chaplain to the group.

For more information please call the office of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, 477-1236.