



Frank Thompson, left, and his son, Levi, install one of the 14 Stations of the Cross in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron. Here they put the finishing touches on the 13th Station - Jesus is taken down from the Cross.

## Stained glass installed at Our Lady Star of the Sea

CAMERON -- More than two years after it was devastated by the winds and water of Hurricane Rita, the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea will soon be in better shape than it was before. The recent installation of stained glass Stations of the Cross has brought the church that much closer to completion. The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will bless the Church on Sunday, Nov. 18, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Even though Masses have been held in the Church since the June 27 liturgy remembering the hundreds lost in Hurricane Audrey in 1957, there were still details remaining. The Rev. Joseph

McGrath, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole, will also shepherd the faith community of Our Lady Star of the Sea. Masses at the Church are celebrated Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and weekday masses are at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday and at 7 a.m. on Wednesday.

The 14 Stations were cut, built, and installed by Frank Thompson of Moss Bluff. Thompson is a well-known stained glass artist, having done work in a number of churches in the Diocese of Lake Charles, including St. Peter the Apostle in Hackberry, St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake, and St. Theodore

in Moss Bluff.

At Our Lady Star of the Sea, 30 windows lent the church to a symmetrical placing of the stations.

"The extra spaces seemed almost intentional," Thompson said. "You know, I feel very honored to be able to do this work."

Thompson is the son of the late Deacon Paul Thompson.

The contract for the Our Lady Star of the Sea Stations of the Cross took about six weeks, according to Thompson.

"The Cameron Church is a testament to what has happened in our area as far as recovery from the hurricane," Thompson said.

## Comments on a *Time Magazine* Article

By The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

In the September 3rd issue of *Time Magazine* there appeared an article entitled "Her Agony", in part a review of the recently published book *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light* (Doubleday). The book documents the letters of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta to her spiritual directors over a period of 66 years. It is thus an intimate look at this great and holy woman and her spiritual journey.

I only met Blessed Teresa of Calcutta once almost twenty years ago. She had come to Lafayette to open a convent for her sisters. Before a congregation of 13,000 people in the Cajundome, the largest crowd yet to have been accommodated in that sports arena, she spoke. Her message was simple and in perfect consistency with everything she lived. She extolled the value of human life, decried the evil of abortion, and restated the goal of her Missionaries of Charity to cherish the lives of those society discards.

Following this event and the retirement for reasons of health of Msgr. Alexander Sigrur, I became the confessor and chaplain to the Missionaries of Charity in Lafayette for almost twenty years. I consider it one of the blessings of my life to have given them their weekly conferences. We frequently read and discussed the Constitution of the society, written by Blessed Teresa herself.

I must confess I do not read popular news magazines, but what prompted me to read this one was the comment of a friend of mine. He said, "What does it mean for *Time Magazine* to say that Mother Teresa had doubts about the existence of God?" While I do not consider myself by any means an expert on the life of Blessed Teresa or on the spirituality of saints, I am not unaware of the issues presented in the article. Upon reading the article, I was also satisfied that the denial of God by a Blessed of the Church was not what this article was about. To understand one must make a distinction.

There is a big difference between doubting the existence of God and the dryness that a spiritual person eventually senses in prayer. A skeptic doubts. An agnostic doubts. A person who has lost faith or is coming close to doing so can doubt. Usually when someone doubts, he looks for answers to questions at an intellectual level. When we speak of someone who has devoted herself to Christ dramatically, totally, and prayerfully, with as much conviction as is humanly possible, then we are speaking of something different indeed. We enter into a spiritual world, where the experiences and the vocabulary that describes them are different.

What we find in Blessed Teresa of Calcutta is a woman of serious prayer. I do not wish to oversimplify, but anyone dedicated to a life of prayer will eventually experience a spiritual dryness. All of the spiritual guides and saints of our Church speak of this. The classic one and the one alluded to in the article is St. John of the Cross. He describes this dryness as the "dark night". It is a period that begins a purging of the senses. In effect, God is inviting the soul into a deeper union, and since God is totally other, the person in prayer must be cleansed or divested of the "sensory." Allow me to quote St. John of the Cross himself:

Souls begin to enter this dark night when God, gradually drawing them out of the state of beginners ..., begins to place them in the state of proficients ... so that by passing through this state they might reach that of the perfect, which is the divine union of the soul with God (*The Dark Night*, 1,1).



Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

In her devotion to conversation with God, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta had reached a point of communion with Him that was experiencing profound purification. As the postulator of her cause, the Rev. Brian Kolodiejchuk, points out in the article, "She was a very strong personality, and a strong personality needs stronger purification."

The result of this purification was the opposite of despair. As Blessed Teresa writes in one of her letters to her spiritual director at the time, "... for the first time in ... years—I have come to love the darkness—for I believe now that it is part of a very, very small part of Jesus' darkness and pain on earth." Thus, she concludes, "Today really I felt a deep joy—that Jesus can't go anymore through the agony, but that He wants to go through it in me." She wrote this in 1961. The experience she describes reminds me a great deal of St. Paul's words. "In my own flesh I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of his body, the church" (Colossians 1:24). Such is the language of mysticism.

Perhaps the deficiency of the *Time Magazine* article, as well as my humble attempt to address it, is the magnitude of the topic. How can such a deeply spiritual subject receive adequate coverage in popular print? The author of the magazine article says that Blessed Teresa's struggles can be an encouragement to other less saintly people. Words have meaning, however. Words like "absence", "agony", "emptiness", and "darkness" for the worldly person and the spiritual one mean two very different things. In the world, we try to avoid them. In the spiritual, we embrace them. For the skeptic or non-believer, they are bitter realities. For the one who loves God, they are sweet. For the one who loves not the self but the other, they are the beginning not the end.

## Forty-Hour Devotions slated for November

LAKE CHARLES - The schedule of Forty-Hour Devotions for the month of November involves the Western Deanery, according to the Rev. Msgr. Vincent A. Sedita, Dean.

Devotions began Nov. 1 at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Hackberry and continue through 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3.

St. Joseph Church in Deridder will be the site of the devotion from Tuesday, Nov. 6 to Friday, Nov. 9 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. On Monday Nov. 12, the 40 hours will begin at St. Joseph Church in Vinton at 9 a.m. and continue through 8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14.

The Forty-Hour Devotion in Cameron Parish will rotate between Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron and St. Eugene in Grand Chenier beginning at Our Lady Star of the Sea on Monday, November 17 at 4 p.m. and continuing until 4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18. It will then move to St. Eugene from 8 a.m. to midnight on Wednesday, Nov. 19 and return to Our Lady Star of the Sea from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20.

The final stop in the month of November is St. John Bosco Church in Westlake on Nov. 26-29 at times to be announced.

### Did you know...

that the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Lake Charles is Saint Peter Claver, a Jesuit priest, who served for 44 years as an Apostle for the slaves brought through the port of Cartagena, Colombia.

The Diocese of Lake Charles has had three bishops, Bishop Jude Speyrer, Bishop Edward K. Braxton and now Bishop Glen John Provost. Do you know the name of the founding Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette? Find out in our November 16 issue.

## 36th Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference begins

LAKE CHARLES - The 36th annual Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Charismatic Conference will be held November 2-4, in St. Louis Catholic High School located at 1620 Bank St in Lake Charles.

The theme for this year's family-oriented conference is "Take Courage! I have Conquered the World!" Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will be the celebrant of the Sunday closing Liturgy.

The conference opens with registration at 5 p.m. on Friday afternoon followed by the first general session, Mass at 6:30 p.m.. Conference speakers are Sister

Nancy Kellar and Michael Cumbie. Msgr Ronald Groth, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Raymond is the celebrant for the Friday night Mass while Father Gayle Nunez will celebrated the Saturday night anticipated Mass.

Msgr Groth's opening session and Mass homily is "Take Courage! I have Conquered the World" based on John 16:33. Msgr Groth was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest in 1969.

Sister Nancy Kellar will be speaking on "Have Peace! The Path to Victory!" based on Proverbs 3:16-18 and Job 38 at the 9:30 a.m. Saturday general session as well as co-ministering with Father Gayle Nunez at the prayer and healing service that will follow the Saturday anticipated Mass. Sister Kellar became a member of the Sisters of Charity in 1960, has been involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1970 and was a member of the first Charismatic House of Prayer in the United States.

Michael Cumbie will be speaking on "Where Your Treasure is, there also your heart will be." based on Matthew 6:19-21 at the 2:00



Bishop Glen John Provost

p.m. Saturday Praise Rally as well as speaking on "God's Love Endures Forever! Take Refuge in the Lord." based on Psalm 118:1-9 at the 9:30 am Sunday general session. During the Saturday afternoon Praise Rally, Cumbie will be giving his witness and testimony. From the Deep South and steeped in the Southern Baptist tradition, Michael served as a Protestant Pastor for 23 years. While in college, he experienced a life-changing, charismatic encounter with the Holy Spirit and was received into the Catholic Church in 2001. His conversion story is entitled "No Crumbs on the Floor." Father Gayle Nunez Sat-



Rev. Msgr. Ronald Groth

urday Mass homily is "Affliction is for your Encouragement and Salvation!" based on 2 Corinthians 1:3. Mass will be followed by Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament being processed through the congregation. Father Nunez grew up in Erath Louisiana and in 1957, after attending USL for two years, entered seminary. Father was ordained on June 6, 1964 and worked as an associate pastor and priest in various church parishes of the Lafayette and Lake Charles Dioceses.

The Most Reverend Glen J. Provost was ordained a Bishop and installed as the Third Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles on April 23. A one-day adult Life-In-

The-Spirit seminar, a teen mini-conference (ages 12-19), the Ministry for Youth (ages 8-11) and the Ministry for Children (ages 3-7) will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Seminar is under the direction of the Lake Charles Charismatic Renewal team. This seminar uses the basic message of Christianity in a step-by-step program for spiritual renewal to bring one into a closer relationship with Jesus.

The teen Mini-Conference will be under the direction and ministry of Kenneth Lantier. Ken has long been involved with the youth as youth minister in St. Theodore Parish and St. Pius X Chapel, in music ministry and has served on many Diocesan and Parish level youth retreat teams.

Ruby Kinkelaar will minister to the children and oversee the youth ministry with the help of her daughter, Naomi. The Kinkelaar family conceived, implemented and staffs the Children's Church at St. Paul Parish in Elton.

All General Sessions and Masses will be preceded by 30 minutes of praise and worship music as well as ministry by the Word Gift Team. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be of-

ferred Saturday at 6 p.m. Prayer teams will be available after each Mass and general session for individual prayer.

Everyone is invited to come to the conference and be replenished and renewed in spirit. Recommended registration donation is \$15 per person, \$30 per family or \$5 per unaccompanied teen. Love offerings will be received during the conference to cover not only conference expenses but also the Charismatic Renewal Center's expenses for the year 2008. For more information or for easy directions from I-10 or I-210, contact the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center at (337) 439-1898.



Sister Nancy Kellar



Michael Cumbie

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