



## THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

# Bishop Provost Announces Year of St. Paul for the Diocese

June 11, 2008  
The Feast of St. Barnabas

My dear People of God,

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has named this the Year of St. Paul, to begin on the evening of Saturday, June 28, 2008 and to end on the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul, June 29, 2009. His Holiness wishes us to focus our attention on the life and writings of this great "Apostle to the Gentiles." In so doing we can learn a great deal about Christ, His Church, and the mission to spread the Gospel, commonly called evangelization. To assist us all in this Pauline Year, I am announcing for the Diocese of Lake Charles a number of observances.

First, I have requested that all parishes offer to their parishioners Bible Classes in Advent and Lent during the Year of St. Paul. The topic of these Bible Classes will be the teaching of St. Paul as found particularly in his letters and the Acts of the Apostles. I will also teach the same in my monthly Bible Classes. We anticipate that this will open up for us as Catholics a new appreciation for reading the Sacred Scripture in context. As Pope Benedict XVI so eloquently describes it in his book Jesus of Nazareth, "The People of God—the Church—is the living subject of Scripture; it is in the Church that the words of the Bible are always in the present."

Second, in keeping with the spiritual treasures entrusted to the Church by Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, Pope Benedict XVI is granting a Plenary Indulgence to those who participate in this Year of St. Paul. A Plenary Indulgence is a celebration of the abundant Grace of Jesus Christ in His Church. In the words of the official decree from Rome, an indulgence renews and reinforces the "intentions of supernatural salvation" in the "faithful for their sanctification." The Plenary Indulgence is first granted to those who make pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Paul in Rome. It is also extended to the local Church.

In the Diocese of Lake Charles, I have designated the Church of St. Paul in Elton as our pilgrimage site. Founded in 1913, this Church is the only parish in our diocese named for the great apostle. The Plenary Indulgence from temporal punishment due to sin is granted to all who visit there and who are truly repentant and have received absolution in the Sacrament of Penance and participated in Holy Communion, as well as have offered prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father. The days of pilgrimage to the Church of St.

Paul in Elton are the following: June 29 of both 2008 and 2009; the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul, November 18, 2008; the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, January 25, 2009; the feast day of St. Timothy and St. Titus, January 26, 2009; the anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles, April 25, 2009; the feast day of St. Barnabas, June 11, 2009. This same indulgence is extended to our sick and homebound or those who for some important reason cannot make pilgrimage and have fulfilled the same conditions of sacramental absolution, Eucharistic participation, and prayers for the Holy Father.

Third, I also encourage on these days parish pilgrimages, days of recollection, and Eucharistic devotion in our own parishes. In this way, may the honor we give St. Paul assist us in the spiritual life and encourage us to greater charity and good works.

I pray that this Year of St. Paul bears much fruit. Three important subjects come to mind: Sacred Scripture, the Church, and the Eucharist. May it help increase our knowledge and love of the Sacred Scripture. May we come to love more deeply the Body of Christ to which we belong, that St. Paul taught was the Church (Ephesians 1:15-23, Colossians 1:18, Romans 12:4-8) and that we celebrate in the Eucharist (1 Corinthians 11:23-29). May true blessings flow from our prayer, reflection and charitable works.

With every best wish and beseeching the intercession of St. Paul, I remain

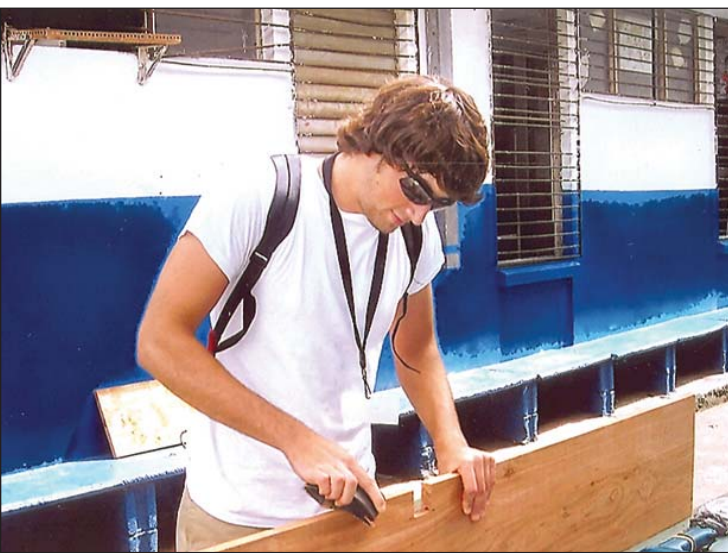
Devotedly yours in our Lord,

+Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

### Office of the Bishop

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## Missionaries blessed before journey



LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, commissioned 24 missionaries from the Diocese of Lake Charles at the 9:30 a.m. Liturgy in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception last Sunday, June 29 - the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, at the inauguration of the Pauline Year (June 29, 2008 to June 29, 2009) here in the diocese.

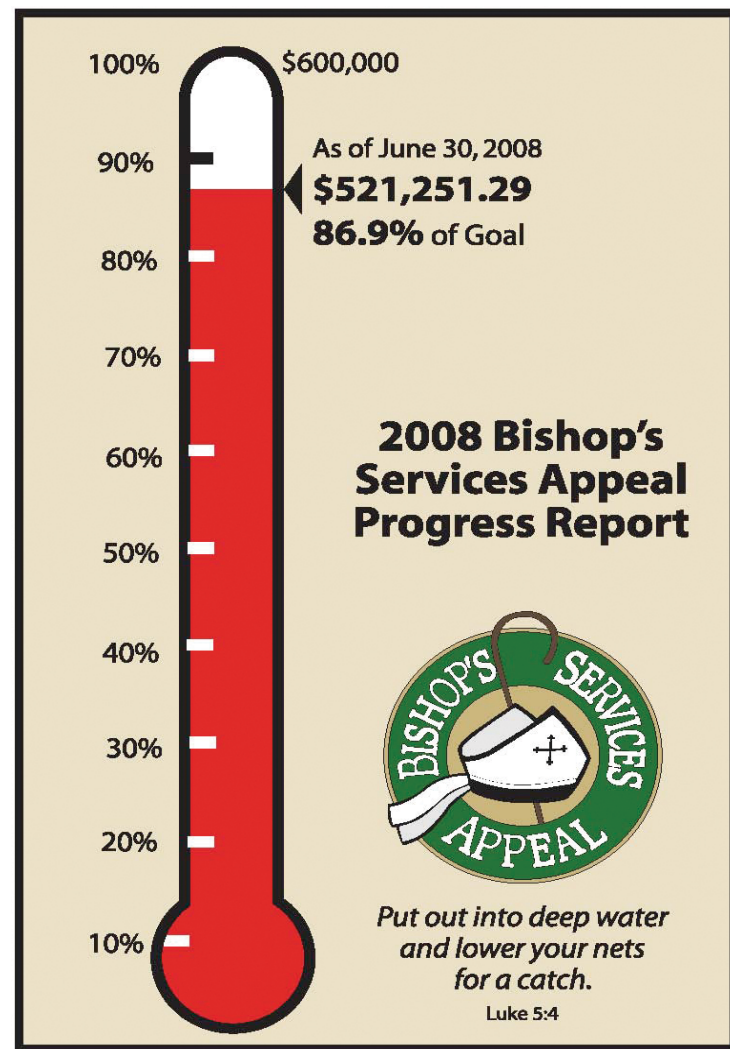
The two dozen missionaries from various parts of the diocese will begin their journey to the Archdiocese of Managua in Nicaragua to spread the Good News of Salvation by being "ambassadors of Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20). The Abrazando Cristo Mission Program, which is under the auspices of the Diocese of Lake Charles and the spiritual direction of Rev. Daniel Torres, Vicar General of the diocese and Pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church, was formed when Hurricane Mitch devastated the Central American countries of Nicaragua, Honduras, and parts of El Salvador and has led 10 mission trips to Nicaragua.

The weeklong mission/retreat (July 5 through 13) will entail communal prayer, daily Mass, daily recitation of the Rosary, working at different sites for six to eight hours, praying for the intentions of the Diocese, working side-by-side with people native to Nicaragua, doing construction work, evangelizing the Catholic Faith to all who are encountered, providing a medical clinic, feeding the poor, and simply sharing the love of Christ.

For information on next year's trip as well as ways of making a tax deductible contribution to the mission program, please contact Fr. Torres at 337-439-7400, or write to the Diocese of Lake Charles, Attn: Fr. Torres, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.



In the top photo, at left, missionary Nick Maskas helps build a cabinet for the Pan Amor School in Mercado Central of Managua while in the bottom picture Benjamin and Noel prepare to read at the Mass that was celebrated overlooking the Pacific Ocean.



## LCCB Board hires Associate Director

BATON ROUGE -- The Board of Directors of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops has named Robert M. Tasman to the new position of Associate Director. The appointment took effect May 5, 2008.

Tasman has an undergraduate degree with majors in Communications and Theology from Boston College as well as a Masters Degree in Theology from Boston College. He earned a Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Civil Law from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in May of 2008.

Tasman has taught courses at Boston College High School, Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, and for the Diocese of Baton Rouge before joining the Louisiana



Robert M. Tasman

Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He is married to Katie Dietz Tasman and they have a son Mack Virga Tasman.

## July schedule for Extraordinary Form of Liturgy

LAKE CHARLES - The Extraordinary Form of the Liturgy is celebrated each Sunday here in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The following is the schedule for the month of July.

July 6, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 2 p.m., Father Joseph McGrath, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.

July 13, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 2 p.m., Father Rommel Tolentino, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost.

July 20, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 2 p.m., Father Tolentino, 10th Sunday after Pentecost.

July 27, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 2 p.m., Father Roland Vaughn, 11th Sunday after Pentecost.

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

### Did you know...

The Rev. Theophilus Herlong was honored on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at a special liturgy celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church on June 14. Father Herlong is currently in residence at Villa Maria and, though retired, continues to work diligently among the People of God. Three other priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles have achieved 50 or more years of priesthood. The longest serving is the Rev. Gerard Smit, who retired outside the diocese, with 58 years; while Msgr. Joseph A. Bourque celebrates 53 years of priesthood this year and the Rev. Charles Soileau has been a priest for 51 years.

Two parishes of the Diocese celebrated their Golden Jubilees of establishment this year. Do you know which ones? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles are closed today, July 4, in honor of the national holiday. The offices will reopen Monday, July 7, at 8:30 a.m. God Bless America!



The annual Bookkeepers Workshop for staff at parishes and schools, sponsored by the Office of Fiscal Administration, was recently held at Saint Katharine Drexel Conference Center at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. Bishop Glen John Provost opened the gathering with prayer and then spoke to the group of 52, the largest number to ever attend the yearly workshop, about the importance of good fiscal management.