

## Bishop provides Recommended Bible Study Resource List

LAKE CHARLES – In a letter to the Clergy and Religious Educators of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Bishop Glen John Provost has provided a Diocesan Recommended Bible Study Resource List to aid in the observance of this Year of St. Paul. The celebration of the Pauline Year, which continues until June 29, 2009, was directed by Pope Benedict XVI and began on June 28.

Bishop Provost has 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," Bishop Provost said. "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*

*figures for us as Catholics in the life of the Church,"* the Bishop said. "Our thoughts also turn to the essential work of evange-

lization. All, but especially our Catholics, need to hear the Sacred Scriptures preached, taught, and interpreted 'from the heart of the Church.' They deserve a faithful communication of what the Word of God teaches from the context of the Catholic Church."

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– Bishop Glen John Provost

of the Bible are always in the present."

In observing the Year of St. Paul, Bishop Provost is also preparing for the October Bishops' Synod in Rome, whose theme will be the "Word of God."

"Both of these important events emphasize the importance of the Sacred Scrip-

ture for us as Catholics in the life of the Church," the Bishop said. "Our thoughts also turn to the essential work of evange-

lization. All, but especially our Catholics, need to hear the Sacred Scriptures preached, taught, and interpreted 'from the heart of the Church.' They deserve a faithful communication of what the Word of God teaches from the context of the Catholic Church."

"They were aware, as was I, that sometimes texts were chosen for adult Scripture study that were neither Catholic nor specifically biblical in nature," he said. "They wanted good, solid programs that would fit the diverse needs of our parishes and communicate faithfully the intimate connection between the Sacred Scriptures and what we believe as Catholics."

"Toward that goal, the Diocesan Recommended Bible Study Resource List is presented," the Bishop concluded. "You may find the list on the website of the Diocese of Lake Charles ([www.lcdioocese.org](http://www.lcdioocese.org)) or by contacting the priests, deacons or religious educators in your parish."

## Diocesan group attends "One Bread, One Cup"

Eleven local young people, members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Core Team, along with their adult leaders, represented the Diocese of Lake Charles at "One Bread, One Cup," a youth liturgical leadership conference, held recently on the campus of Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana.

During the weeklong conference, the youth learned about their Catholic faith through sessions of catechesis, liturgical, and spiritual formation, and participation in liturgies. They also trained in liturgical ministries, such as lecturing, extraordinary ministry of communion and cantoring, learning skills that they can use in their parish and high school.

The youth spent their time not only learning about

their faith, but also experiencing the different cultures around the U.S., as well as from South America and Europe. The participants representing the various places shared stories and explained the lifestyles of the communities in their state or country. A new respect and understanding of culture diversity was instilled in the teenagers. The Louisiana participants shared stories of Mardi Gras and the Cajun culture. Mardi Gras beads and Tony Chachere's seasoning was a taste of home that was shared in Indiana.

Youth attending the conference represented eight church parishes, Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Welsh; St. Lawrence Church, Raymond; Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Lake Charles; St. Philip Neri, Kinder; Cathedral of Immaculate Concep-

tion, Lake Charles; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale; St. Margaret of Scotland, Lake Charles. Attendees were Alyssa Watkins, Haydee Courville, Jordan Pickle, Jacob France, Jared France, Laura Adams, Laura Prejean, Vanessa Landry, Blake Bruchhaus, Amy Arnold, and Leslie Guillory. Adult leaders included Milissa Thibodeaux, director of youth ministry for the diocese, along with Corrine Granger and Marie Prejean.

The "One Bread, One Cup" conference is held three times each summer as a program of Saint Meinrad School of Theology. The school is operated by the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and offers initial and continuing education for priests, deacons, and lay ministers.



Members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Core Team and adult leaders who attended "One Bread, One Cup" included, top row, from left, Laura Adams, Jared France, Vanessa Landry, Blake Bruchhaus; middle row, Marie Prejean, Jacob France, Jordan Pickle, Amy Arnold, Leslie Guillory; bottom row, Corrine Granger, Laura Prejean, Milissa Thibodeaux, Haydee Courville, and Alyssa Watkins.



The Rev. Rommel Tolentino, left, stands before the altar after praying the Collect prior to the reading of the Epistle at the celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Liturgy in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Father Nathan Long and Deacon Scott Conner stand in line behind Father Tolentino. At right in the pew is Bishop Glen John Provost, center, with Rev. Joseph McGrath, left, and Rev. Douglas Courville, right, serving as Chaplains to the bishop. The Extraordinary Form of the Liturgy is celebrated each Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Cathedral. Check the Diocese of Lake Charles website – [lcdioocese.org](http://lcdioocese.org) – for a complete schedule of the celebration of the Extraordinary Form.

## Voucher program will aid students in failing schools

By Laura Deavers  
Editor

### The Catholic Commentator Diocese of Baton Rouge

Through a bill passed in the recent legislative session, students who are trapped in failing schools in Orleans Parish can receive vouchers to attend non-public schools giving them an opportunity to get a solid education, said Danny Loar, executive director of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops (LCCB) and one of the lobbyists for the Louisiana bishops.

Loar said the LCCB has tried for 40 years to get the legislature to see the viability of non-public schools, especially Catholic schools, for the education of all children in the state.

The voucher bill was one of several issues Loar and Robert Tasman, the new

LCCB associate director, worked on during the session, which ended June 23.

Eight bills concerning immigration were defeated. Legislation for cloning, funding for required services, mandatory contraception insurance and education were also high priority issues for Loar and Tasman.

The amount of the voucher Orleans Parish students will receive to attend a Catholic school in New Orleans will depend on several factors because of the tuition structure of each school, said Loar. Schools have different tuition for students who are members of the church parish, members of an adjoining church parish, and children who are not Catholic.

With the current education situation in Orleans, Loar said national educators are watching to see what will work to turn around a system that is failing so many of its students.

The Louisiana bishops were told last November that immigration bills would be on the agenda for the 2008 regular session, according to Loar. "This is the first time the issue of immigration came up in the state of Louisiana," Loar said. He added that the bills that were introduced are part of the national climate to ban all illegal immigrants from the United States.

The bishops were concerned about the legislation because of what the laws could do to break down families. Hispanics are a large part of the Catholic population, said Loar, and they were very concerned about the legislation on immigration.

The bills, which were either defeated or withdrawn, would have required a police officer, during booking, to check the status of the individual being arrested; made it a crime to transport an illegal immigrant; would have prohibited harboring an illegal alien; and would have prohibited state agencies from contracting with persons who employ illegal immigrants. It would have

also prohibited renting property to illegal immigrants; would prohibit illegal immigrants from bringing medical malpractice suits; and would have allowed undocumented immigrants to continue to work in Louisiana only if they had obtained a Louisiana government-issued biometrics card.

Immigration is a federal issue, said Tasman, who graduated from LSU Law School in May, and needs to be addressed in Congress, not in state legislatures. He mentioned several states, among them Texas, Arizona and Oklahoma, that have passed immigration legislation. These laws are being challenged and the states are paying millions of dollars in legal fees to defend them, according to Loar.

The laws that other state legislatures have passed are unconstitutional, said Loar. "The church is for enforcement and a path to citizenship," to provide for those wishing to better their lives by coming to this country and for those who are already here, Loar said.

Loar and Tasman said the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is working closely with Congress on the immigration issue.

The issue of embryonic stem cell research was presented again during the session. "The state can't fund embryonic stem cell," said Loar.

A bill will become law, which bans funding for embryonic stem cell with an amendment that "the use of federal funds for research using embryonic stem cell lines approved for federal funding prior to Aug. 9, 2001, shall not be prohibited."

"Not one cure has been derived from this type of research," said Loar, who plans to bring up a ban in 2009. "Science is on our side."

Catholic school superintendents will receive an additional \$1 million to pay for required services, Loar reported.

Information about legislation that the LCCB considered of interest is available at [www.laccb.org](http://www.laccb.org).

### Let Us Pray

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2008 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.

#### 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 the 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 commons 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

## Bishop Provost to host Women's Prayer Luncheon, September 2

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will host a Women's Prayer Luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 2, in Reeves Uptown Catering, 1639 Ryan Street, beginning at noon.

Women who would like to attend should register their intention by calling the Diocese of Lake Charles at 439-7400.

The small fee of \$10 per lunch will be requested.

### Did you know...

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish was established on Dec. 7, 1891 with Rev. Cornelius Van de Ven as the founding pastor. In early 1892 Father Van de Ven was transferred to Immaculate Conception Church in Lake Charles and was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Peeters. It was Father Peeters, a native of Belgium, who left a large imprint on the Catholic Church in Jeff Davis Parish. With his brother's aid, blueprints were made for the new church building, which is constructed of concrete blocks made on the site. Work was begun in 1907 and moved forward as money was raised so the building was not dedicated until Feb. 29, 1916, taking nine years for Father Peeters and workers from within the church community to complete. The design of the structure is based upon the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.

In the area of what is now the Diocese of Lake Charles two parish churches and a chapel have been destroyed by fire over the years, one on two occasions. Do you know which churches they are? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

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

### Proud2BCatholic Family Music Festival slated

SULPHUR – The Third Annual Proud 2B Catholic Family Music Festival of Louisiana will be held Saturday, September 6, from 12:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Sulphur High School freshman campus. The family-oriented, indoor event, whose theme this year is "Witness 2B Hope," is sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles and the Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette.

Doors open at noon and celebration of the Mass will be at 6 p.m. The event will close with Eucharistic Adoration on the main stage.

A variety of Catholic-Christian music will be performed by Steve Angrisano, Matt Maher, Josh Blakesley, Cooper Ray, Kelly Pease, Clay Vessel, Augie Leal and others.

Tickets for the event may be purchased online at [www.proud2bcatholic.com](http://www.proud2bcatholic.com) or by contacting the Diocese of Lake Charles at 337-439-7426, Ext. 301.