



Thousands trained annually by Office of Child and Youth Protection

(See additional story this page.)

LAKE CHARLES – More than 11,000 people, including clergy, religious, and lay volunteers such as educators, coaches and others, were trained through the Office of Child and Youth Protection during 2009, according to Mrs. Bernell Ezell, Director of the Office.

Attendance at a Safe Environment Initial Training Session and the subsequent screening process is mandated by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the U.S. Bishops in 2002 and is the policy of the Diocese of Lake Charles. The annual update lessons that are required of “all adults who have ongoing unsupervised contact with minors in any diocesan, parish or school program” is diocesan policy.

“This system has been ongoing in the Diocese since 2003,” Mrs. Ezell said. The initial training sessions are two-hour programs, of which about 40 per year are held, either at the Diocesan Chancery or “on the road” out in the Diocese.

The screening process includes reference checks, criminal background checks, the initial training session and the annual update lessons. “These annual updates are a policy requirement of the Diocese,” she continued. “In some dioceses it is done every three or five years, but here it was considered much too important to not maintain an annual renewal.”

The annual training updates are prepared and placed on the Diocese of

Lake Charles website.

The initial training sessions provide a wealth of information including defining the types of abuse one might come across and show behavioral indicators that everyone can watch for to indicate whether a child may be suffering abuse.

“We talk about not just sexual abuse but also physical and emotion abuse in addition to neglect of the child,” Mrs. Ezell said. “Making sure everyone understands the importance of reporting, whether it is the knowledge that abuse is taking place but also the suspicion of such abuse, particu-

larly if some of the signs are evident. We also provide the procedures for reporting to both civil and diocesan authorities as well as the code of professional conduct and dealing with boundary issues.



“We also go over things to say and do, as well as things not to say or do, if a child has divulged to someone that they have been abused,” she continued. “Throughout there is always the reminder of the importance of prayer for the safety of children and also prayer for their parents as well would-be perpetrators.”

Some of topics included in the annual updates are e-safety, e-mail, and social networks as well as cyber-bullying. “In addition, we address real life bullying as well as

initial training and do the yearly updates. They also prepare and maintain files for each person in their particular parish or school.

“We have been very fortunate that all of those people who are safe environment coordinators in our Diocese have other jobs as well, but because of their commitment to the safety of our children, they have worked with great dedication,” said Ezell. “It is because of such dedication that we have had successful results in all of our audits.”

In fact, the Diocese was informed in December of its compliance with the Charter following the 2009 audit.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has contracted with a professional group to do the audits

(the Gavin Group) and with an independent agency to conduct studies (John Jay College).

According to these reports and studies the number of cases of abuse in the U.S. took place during much earlier time periods. In the most recent audits, there have been relatively small numbers of reported cases.

“This makes sense, because back when those cases occurred, neither the psychological nor the medical communities had today’s information about child sexual abuse and those who perpetrate such abuse,” Mrs. Ezell said. “As we have become more informed as a society we have also determined how to better prevent such things from happening to our children.”

The Office of Child and Youth Protection also provides training for children as well as their parents.

“The program used by the Diocese to educate the children is called “Circle of Grace” with lesson plans available to all of the Catholic schools as well as religious Education programs in the parishes,” Mrs. Ezell said. “It teaches that every person has his or her own “circle of grace” to be loved and respected in the same way God loves and respect us. One thing to point out here is that the program is not sex education, which is better left to the parents.

“With all of these processes in place, Catholic Church activities may be the safest place for children in the United States today,” she concluded.

Let Us Pray

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2010 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 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**

Special Mass to Begin Hurricane Season

CAMERON – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate a “Mass to Avert Storms” on Tuesday, June 1, the first day of hurricane season, in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church beginning at 5 p.m.

“This ‘Mass to Avert Storms’ is an opportunity for us, as a diocese, to pray for good weather,” Bishop Provost commented. “We bring to this prayer a genuine heart of repentance. Every time we approach God in prayer, we should do so in true humility. This requires of us an acknowledgement of the sins of the past. At the same time, we acknowledge Mary, Star of the Sea, as our mother and ask her powerful intercession for us in this time of need. As we begin the hurricane season, our ‘Mass to Avert Storms’ is a profession of faith in our

Heavenly Father’s will to protect His children.”

The special intention for the Mass will be “for protection from all storms and safety during this hurricane season,” according to the Bishop. The Mass will conclude with a procession to the Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea, which was erected following the devastation and terrible loss of life from Hurricane Audrey in 1957.

Father Richard Adiukwu, pastor of St. Eugene Parish in Grand Chenier and Administrator for Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron and Sacred Heart of Jesus in Creole, as well as Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Hackberry, will assist the Bishop. Other clergy of the diocese are also expected. All are welcome to attend.

Diocese receives excellent mark

LAKE CHARLES -- The Diocese of Lake Charles received an excellent mark in its recent audit of the Safe Environment Program. The Gavin Group, an independent agency, located in Massachusetts and contracted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has been responsible for audits of the dioceses of the United States to review procedures and to ensure the protection of children and young people each fiscal year.

The Diocese is in compliance and has been promoting safeguards by having in-service meetings on a regular basis for employees, catechists, students, and new employees. Clergy, religious, and seminarians are in compliance and continue to be updated annually in their knowledge of promoting a safe environment for all children. These annual updates are available on the Diocese of Lake Charles website – lcdioocese.org. The Diocese also requires those working with children to undergo a mandatory criminal background check through the local city and parish police agencies.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People requires dioceses to provide “safe environment” training each year to those employees and volunteers who have “regular” contact with children. In addition, dioceses were asked to establish a victims’ assistance office that could provide a point of contact for persons who may have been sexually abused by someone working under diocesan auspices. Mr. Scott Riviere, a licensed youth counselor and Catholic layperson, has been appointed by Bishop Glen John Provost to be the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese, taking over the post on July 1. Father Whitney Miller will continue to serve as Victims’ Assistance Coordinator until then. The Diocese also had implemented on its website information on how to contact officials of the Diocese to report child sexual abuse.

Mrs. Bernell Ezell, Director of Child and Youth Protection for the Diocese, has been instrumental in working with church parishes and Catholic Schools to have everyone in compliance with the safe environment guidelines. Mrs. Ezell provides training for all adults who have regular contact with children through Safe Environment Initial Training Sessions, which are held in the diocesan Chancery and in the churches of the diocese.

For more information on initial training sessions please contact Bernell Ezell at the Diocese at 337-439-7400, Ext. 305.

Two invested in Order of the Holy Sepulchre

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The Investiture of two new members into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and the promotions of four others from the Diocese of Lake Charles highlighted the recent meeting of the Southern Lieutenancy.

Sir Edward Mason and Lady Sandra Mason, both of St. Henry Church in Lake Charles, were invested into the Order. New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond was the investing prelate.

Sir Erwin Engert, M.D., was promoted to Knight Grand Cross while Lady Julie Engert was promoted to Lady Grand Cross. Sir Robert McCall was promoted to Knight Commander with Star. All three are from Lake Charles. Lady Geneva Prudhomme of Jennings was promoted to Lady Commander with Star.

Sir Bernard Beaco of Lake Charles, who serves as the Section Representative for the Diocese, led the 10-member delegation at the annual meeting which included more than 400 members from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.



Sandra Mason, at left, and her husband, Edward were invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre recently.



Members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre from the Diocese of Lake Charles honored at the recent investiture in Jacksonville, Fla., were Lady Sandra Mason, Sir Edward Mason, Sir Robert McCall, Lady Geneva Prudhomme, Lady Julie Engert and Sir Erwin Engert, M.D.

Did you know...

Only five men have served as pastor of St. Philip Neri Church in Kinder, led in number of years by its second pastor, Rev. Msgr. A. J. Robichaud, who was pastor for 43 years (1942-1985).

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception has a great many Viennese stained glass windows. Do you know the theme of the windows? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

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Jazz Brunch for Catholic Charities slated June 6

LAKE CHARLES – The 2010 Jazz Brunch for the benefit of Southwest Louisiana Catholic Charities is being held Sunday, June 6, from noon to 3 p.m. at Treasures of Marilyn's, located at 3510 Fifth Avenue.

Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased through the Catholic Charities office, located at 612 Louisiana Avenue or by calling 439-7436.

Catholic Charities is a face of compassion, a hand of support, a place of hope, and a way to bring the love of God to

others in need throughout Southwest Louisiana.

The Brunch will feature a live auction and local entertainment.

During March, Catholic Charities assisted clients with \$795 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for homelessness prevention in the City of Lake Charles, \$4,525 in rent payments, over \$5,600 in utility payments, over \$260 in prescription drug assistance, and over \$920 in ID/employment expense assistance. With the exception

of the CDBG funding, all of this assistance was provided by church subsidy and private donations.

In February Catholic Charities assisted clients with \$93 in the first month of the CDBG homelessness prevention grant, \$3,319 in rent payments, over \$5,300 in utility payments, \$200 in funeral expense assistance, over \$350 in prescription drug assistance, and almost \$400 in ID/employment expense assistance.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is the policy of Catholic Charities to ensure equal opportunity in all aspects of its programs and services without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs or disability.

Those generous benefactors in the community who may not be able to attend the function, which is the major outside fundraiser for the organization, are urged to consider making an outright contribution to aid Catholic Charities in its important ministry to those most in need in our area. Anyone interested in helping in this way should contact Trish Trejo, Director of Catholic Charities, at 439-7436.



Last year's Jazz Brunch drew a large crowd of supporters and benefactors for Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana and the 2010 event, set for Sunday June 6, will be held at Treasures of Marilyn's. The Jazz Brunch is the major fundraiser for Catholic Charities.

Summer seminarian assignments announced

LAKE CHARLES – The nine men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles have been given their summer assignments, eight within the Diocese and one outside.

John Huckaby will be assisting at St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles while Jeff Starkovich will be at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings.

Bryan Thompson will be doing his Clinical Pastoral Education program at Christus/Santa Rosa Hospital in

San Antonio, Texas.

Other assignments have David Hardey at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder, Matthew Cormier at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton, Brandon Jones at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa, Korey LaVergne at Christ the King Catholic Church in Lake Charles, Cristian Gonzalez at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Lake Charles, and Ruben Villarreal at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lake Charles.

Magazine poll shows top "priest" movies

CINCINNATI—When Pope Benedict XVI announced the Year for Priests last June, he wanted it "to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a stronger and more incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world." His announcement inspired lists of favorite priest films or priest characters posted on various blogs. An informal poll sent out via the Internet by Sister Rose Pacatte, F.S.P., film reviewer for *St. Anthony Messenger*, revealed that people have strong opinions about their favorite movie priests.

Sister Rose's analysis of priests in films is the subject

of an article entitled "The Best Movie Priests" for the June issue of *St. Anthony Messenger*. Among those who responded to her poll, the representation of the priest they most admire is one who is realistic and down-to-earth, self-sacrificing and prayerful. The film that was named most often as a favorite priest film is 1981's *True Confessions*, starring Robert De Niro and Robert Duvall, about loving but sparring brothers—one a detective and the other a priest.

On the Waterfront, a 1954 classic, is a favorite on almost every list of cinema priests. Others include Sav-

ing Grace (1981) in which Tom Conti plays a youthful Pope Leo XIV who finds himself locked outside of the Vatican. Disguised by a beard, he takes a holiday in a remote village, where he helps the community build an aqueduct and stave off local crooks.

Another popular film is 1986's *The Mission*, directed by Roland Joffé, about Jesuit missionaries who try and protect a band of Indians from enslavement and destruction. Others include *Keeping the Faith*, *The Keys of the Kingdom* and *The Third Miracle*.



Bishop Glen John Provost continued his teachings on the Book of Revelation during May at the Women's Luncheon, at right, and at the Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast at left. The next Men's Prayer Breakfast is June 4 and the Women's Luncheon will be June 1.



Diocesan Briefs.....

Deacon's Council officers named

LAKE CHARLES – Deacon Glen Viau of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church has been elected chairman of the Deacon's Council of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Re-elected to two-year terms were Deacon Ray Menard of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Lake Charles, vice-chairman, and Deacon Mike Tramel of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Raymond, secretary.

The deacon community will celebrate the Feast Day of its patron, St. Lawrence, on Tuesday, August 12, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Raymond.

Feast of Corpus Christi procession set

HACKBERRY – On Sunday, June 6, the Feast of Corpus Christi, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry and Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in Johnson Bayou will hold a Eucharistic Procession immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass in Hackberry.

The procession, in honor of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ truly and substantially present in the Blessed Sacrament, will be offered to thank Almighty God for the graces of the Year for Priests, which closes in mid June, and to beseech Him to grant us a peaceful hurricane season this year, according to Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor.

Everyone is invited to participate and there will be a reception in the parish hall at the conclusion of the procession.

St. Thomas More Society elects officers

LAKE CHARLES -- Officers were recently elected for the St. Thomas More Society, Judge Henry L. Yelverton Chapter, to serve from March 2010 to March 2011.

John F. (Jack) Robichaux will serve as president, Sidney J. (Sid) Rosteet was named vice president/president-elect; Jared L. Watson, secretary; and Timothy O'Dowd, treasurer.

Rosteet will also serve as chairman for the annual Red Mass, this year set for October 15 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Safe Environment Training

LAKE CHARLES – The next Safe Environment Initial Training Session will be held on Tuesday, May 25, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Chancery of the Diocese, 414 Iris Street, according to Mrs. Bernell Ezell, Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Christ the King Church Hall, 7680 Gulf Highway, will be the site of the July 6 session beginning at 6 p.m.

Those clergy, religious, and lay adult volunteers who have unsupervised contact with minors in any diocesan, parish, or school program must attend an Initial Training Session.

Contact Mrs. Ezell at 337-439-7400, Ext. 305 to register.

Watch Glad Tidings on Internet

LAKE CHARLES – The Sunday morning television program produced by the Diocese of Lake Charles, *Glad Tidings*, can be seen on the Internet at the website of the Diocese – lcdiocese.org.

If viewers missed last Sunday's, it is available for viewing at the site as well as archived episodes.

To see the program, go to lcdiocese.org and place the cursor on the Resources tab at the top right of the page, move the cursor down the list of items until you get to *Glad Tidings*. Click on *Glad Tidings* and a new page brings up the latest program. Place the cursor on the black screen and click and the program begins.

Any comments or suggestions can be made by e-mail to communications@lcdiocese.org.

Abrazando Cristo Mission raffle tickets available

LAKE CHARLES – The annual fundraising raffle for the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program has now begun with the selling of raffle tickets for the top prize of \$5,000.

Second prize is \$1,000 while third prize is \$500. The drawing for the prizes will be Sunday, June 20 at 2 p.m. in the St. Henry Community Center, 1021 Eighth Avenue.

Tickets are \$100 each and may be purchased by sending a check to Rev. Daniel Torres, Abrazando Cristo Mission Program, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. Your raffle ticket will be mailed back to you. Only 500 tickets will be sold.

Proceeds from the raffle benefit the mission program by purchasing medicines, food, bibles and aid in the completion of construction of the Church of St. John the Baptist in the Diocese of Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

Benefit golf tournament scheduled

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Johnnie Thibodeaux, Jr. golf tournament will be held Saturday, June 5 at the Mallard Cove Golf Course.

The tournament, which benefits the foundation estab-

lished in the name of the late Barbe High School and LSU baseball player who lost his life in an automobile accident in 2005, provides assistance to the San Cristobal Boys Home in Managua, Nicaragua. The home is also a project of the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program.

Call Johnnie or Susan Thibodeaux at 337-478-4095 for more information.

Wedding Anniversary Mass June 13

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will honor couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversaries during 2010 as well as those couples with anniversaries of more than 50 years that divisible by five at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on June 13 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Couples who celebrate anniversaries of more than 50 years that are divisible by five are also invited to attend.

The Bishop will bless the couples in attendance and, following the liturgy, will present special certificates of recognition to those celebrating these significant jubilee anniversaries at a reception in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral office building on the corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets.

Couples must contact their parish of their intention to attend the Mass. The parish will forward those names to Mrs. Kathy Owen, director of the Office of Family Life, which sponsors this annual event. A special invitation will then be sent back to the couple.

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat set

LAKE CHARLES – Rachel's Vineyard, a post-abortion ministry of healing provided through the Office of Pro-Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will hold its first weekend retreat Friday through Sunday, July 30-August 1 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

For more information contact the Office of Pro Life at 337-439-7400, Extension 313 or 317.

Diocesan Altar Society luncheon slated

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Diocesan Altar Society Luncheon for members of Altar Societies of all of the 38 parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be held on Tuesday, August 31 in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Members will meet at 11 a.m. and then attend the 12:05 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral. The luncheon will follow the liturgy.

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