



Seminarians' summer was full of many experiences

LAKE CHARLES – The seven men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles are all deep into their respective fall terms at four different seminaries – three in the United States and one in Rome. While continuing their studies during this school year, they will have many memories of their summer internships in the local church of Southwest Louisiana.

Each of the seminarians was assigned to a different parish for the summer. Deacon Bryan Thompson, now back at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus Ohio, served at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lake Charles. He was ordained to the Diacon-

ate on Aug. 6. Ruben Villarreal, now studying at the North American College in Rome, spent the summer at St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

Matthew Cormier, who returned to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, worked with the faithful at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder. Cristian Gonzalez, in his third year at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, was at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

The three newest seminarians are all studying at St. Joseph Seminary College. Trey Ange interned at St. Paul Catholic Church in Elton, Joseph Ferrer was at Immaculate Conception Church in Maplewood, and John Souder served his summer at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry.

In addition to their work in the various parishes, the seminarians assisted each Friday at Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana. During those months, they participated in different types of services with the purpose of assisting those who were most in need. As an added benefit, the seminarians were given opportunities to experience the various ministries of the Church. One of those jobs was working with Rebuilding Together Calcasieu in painting a Moss Bluff man's home. Their work ethic was exceptional, according to staff, in that what previously took two groups of volunteers two days to complete, the seven seminarians were able to finish in 3.5 hours.

The group also assisted Catholic Charities in June and July with food distribution at the 1225 Second Street location. The seminarians visited with and carried food to the clients' cars. Other jobs included painting and yard work at St. Joseph Church in Vinton and two weeks of rotating between Christus St. Patrick Hospital and

the Seafarers Center at the Port of Lake Charles. John Souder, Joseph Ferrer, Matthew Cormier, and Trey Ange shadowed Father Charles Okorougo and Father Brian King at St. Patrick, visiting patients with the priests and praying with the families. Bryan Thompson, Matthew Cormier and Cristian Gonzalez shadowed Deacon Patrick Lapoint, director of the Seafarers Center and the experience allowed them to understand the life of sailors and how difficult it is to be away from their families for such long periods.

At the end of July, the men spent a morning assisting a therapeutic riding program at The Stables at LeBocage. This program uses horses as a tool for physical therapy for riders with autism, brain injuries, Down Syndrome, and other cognitive and/or emotional disabilities. Each seminarian assisted clients by helping them mount their horse and by leading the horse and rider around the ring.

Hanh Vu, Associate Director of Catholic Charities, monitored the seminarians work with Catholic Charities. "It is important to note that in all of these experiences the sole purpose was not to get their hands dirty, although their hands became dirty plenty of times, but, rather it served as an opportunity for the seminarians to understand the life of others," Vu said.

"I am incredibly proud of each seminarian for their hard work and willingness to serve others," he continued. "It is inspiring to see such a talented and compassionate group of young men who will become the future leaders of our church. I am forever grateful for the experience of working with the seminarians. They are incredible witnesses to the brilliance of God's light."



Ruben Villarreal works, alongside his fellow seminarians, on a painting project at a house in Moss Bluff during their summer internship. The seminarians were assisting Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana's work with Rebuilding Calcasieu Together.



Seminarians studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles take part in a therapeutic riding program at The Stables at LeBocage, at the end of their summer work. Pictured with workers at LeBocage are, helping the rider John Souder, left in baseball cap, and right Trey Ange, orange shirt. Waiting their turn to assist, at right, are Joseph Ferrer, Cristian Gonzalez, and Matthew Cormier.

Three St. Louis Catholic seniors earn National Merit recognition

LAKE CHARLES -- Three seniors at St. Louis Catholic High School have received recognition in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC). Matthew Jester has been named a National Merit Semifinalist while Sarah Lungaro and Joseph Vanchiere have been named Commended Students.

Jester was identified as an academically talented high school senior who will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,400 Merit Scholarship awards, worth more than \$36 million to be offered next spring. To be considered for

a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must advance to the Finalist level of the competition by fulfilling several requirements. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will be selected as Merit Scholarship winners, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Lungaro and Vanchiere were selected among 34,000 high performers on the basis of their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2012 competition for National Merit Scholarships, the pair placed among the top five

percent of the more than 1.5 million students who took the PSAT last year.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Program. Scholarships awarded through the program are underwritten by NMSC's own funds and by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.



Matthew Jester



Sarah Lungaro



Joseph Vanchiere

Catholic Schools Notes

Our Lady's Catholic School

Our Lady's School honored St. Francis with the Annual Blessing of the Pets on Wednesday, Oct. 5. Community members brought a wide variety of pets and livestock to be blessed in a special ceremony lead by Fr. Joe Aquino of St. Theresa Catholic Church. OLS celebrated Homecoming on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at W.W. Lewis Middle School's football field. The annual auction on Saturday, Oct. 15 saw a huge turnout and a great time.

wheels were planted at the roadside of the school to promote awareness of peacemaking.

Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School

October has been a busy time at school! A successful United Way Campaign was conducted by faculty and staff and these contributions will help fund many worthwhile community organizations. Five teachers attended the Technology and Learning Conference on Oct. 15 to gain new and exciting strategies in technology integration in their classrooms. Red Ribbon Week was celebrated the week of Oct. 17-21 with a variety of activities and a program sponsored by the Student Council.

Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School

The Annual Immaculate Conception Cathedral School Greenery Fundraiser sale continues through October 27. ICCS will be offering online sales again this year, so please visit the website at www.shop.iccschool.org.

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School

OLI's All Saints Day program begins at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26 in the gym. See the Saints come alive as the Third Graders teach about their chosen saint and dress the part. The annual Halloween Carnival is Thursday, Oct. 27 and begins with a Costume Contest and safe trick-or-treating from 6 to 8 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the annual Halloween Carnival on Thursday, Oct. 27th on the school campus. Call 824-1743 for more information.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School

The 4th Annual Taste N Tell Celebrity/Amateur Chef Showcase, featuring Celebrity Chef and Emcee John Folse is Monday, Dec. 12 in Family Life Center Gym. Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are on sale for \$40 now or \$50 at the door. Reserved tables of eight to 10 are available as well as sponsorships. All chefs are invited to participate and a new junior division has been added this year, including the school's Culinary Club. Last year's chef winners were: Appetizer, Sister Camille Martinez; Entrée, Brock Brame; and Dessert, Keith Duplechin. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call the School at 477-7349 or email ljakel@olqhs.org. There will be limited seating available.

Sacred Heart of Jesus/

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School

The students of Sacred Heart/SKD were able to attend the Creole for Kids event at the Civic Center. This was a unique experience, which celebrated the History of Zydeco. The Grammy Award winning singer Terrance Simien was featured at the event in the Rosa Hart Theatre. Bishop John Glen Provost visited the school on Wednesday, Oct. 12. He presided over a Blessing Ceremony of a mosaic of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a portrait of the founding women - Eleanor Figaro and Mary Ryan, first teachers, and St. Katharine Drexel, a great patroness and benefactor of the school. The junior high department gave a brief history of the link between the Sacred Heart of Jesus mosaic and the three founding women. The Bishop toured the campus, visited various classrooms, and had lively exchanges with the students and faculty.

St. Louis Catholic High School

Grandparents' Day is Friday, Nov. 4 and grandparents of all St. Louis students are invited to the program, which begins at 10 a.m. in the Kimberly K. Krajicek Gym. Parking will be in the Seventh Street parking lot in front of the gym. For handicapped parking and wheelchair assistance, please use the Bank Street entrance. All prospective students and families are invited to the annual Open House, held the evening of Monday, Nov. 14.

St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School

Holy Family Catholic School participated in the United Nation's 30th International Peace Day on September 21. To symbolize the school's commitment to promote world peace and living the Beatitudes, each student and teacher made a Peace Pinwheel, committing to a peace action within their homes, their school, their parishes and their world. Pin-

Veneration of relics set at St. Peter the Apostle

HACKBERRY – St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church will host the relics of over 25 Catholic Saints for public veneration on Tuesday, Nov. 1, All Saints Day, in the church.

Included are relics from the 12 Apostles, with St. Matthias replacing Judas; St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles; St. Joseph; St. John the Baptist; St. Mary Magdalene and a host of other Virgins, Martyrs, Religious and Confessors.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated in the Ordinary Form at 8:30

a.m. and in the Extraordinary Form at 6 p.m. followed by *Compline* or night prayer – the last of the daily Offices of worship.

"Don't miss this wonderful opportunity not only to honor the saints on the very day the Church dedicates to them, but also to be honored by their holy and venerable presence," said Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Church.

Read more about saintly relics at <http://live.lcdioocese.org/news/947-veneration-of-relics-on-all-saints-day.html>



Forty Hours Devotion schedule

LAKE CHARLES – Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the Diocese of Lake Charles, continues today, Friday, Oct. 21, in St. Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The final site of the month

will be Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church on Monday, Oct. 24, through Thursday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

In November, the sites will be in the Eastern Deanery at Our Lady of LaSalette in Sulphur from Monday, Oct. 31 through Friday, Nov. 4;

Our Lady of LaSalette in DeQuincy from Monday, Nov. 7 through Friday, Nov. 11; St. Joseph in DeRidder from Monday, Nov. 14 through Friday, Nov. 18; and St. John Bosco in Westlake from Monday, Nov. 21 through Friday, Nov. 25-25.

Youth ministry garage sale Oct. 21; 28-29

LAKE CHARLES – A fund-raising garage sale, sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be close out its initial three-day run on Friday, Oct. 21. The site is 422 Kirby Street, the former Andrus Printing building.

Proceeds from the garage sale will assist youth from the Diocese attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis on Nov. 17-19 as well as attendees to next year's Diocesan Youth Conference in Lafayette.

Hours on Friday, Oct. 21 are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. On

the following weekend, garage sale hours are Friday, Oct. 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Many items are available including men's and women's clothing and shoes, knick-knacks, bicycles, furniture, books, purses, exercise equipment, and much more.

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Catholic Charismatic Conference Nov. 4-5

LAKE CHARLES – The 40th Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference – “Come and Receive” – will be held at St. Henry Catholic Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4-5, featuring author and speaker Peter Herbeck.

Herbeck is the Vice-President and Director of Missions for Renewal Ministries. He has been actively involved in evangelization and Catholic renewal throughout the U.S., Canada, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe for the past twenty five years. Peter is a cohost on The Choices We Face, a member of the new television program Crossing the Goal, the author of two recent books, *When the Spirit Comes in Power*, and, *When*

the Spirit Speaks, a Board Member of the National Fellowship of Catholic Men, a frequent conference speaker and author of other books and CD's on various aspects of discipleship, evangelization and the spiritual journey. Herbeck and his wife Debbie have four children, they live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Thursday pre-conference activity will begin at 5:30 p.m. in St. Henry Church and will include Mass, a prayer march, candlelight vigil, a bonfire, thanksgiving and a concert.

Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 4, in the St. Henry Community Center, with the first general session and opening Mass slated for 5:45 p.m. in St. Henry. Prayer teams will be available at all the general ses-

sions in the meeting room of the Community Center.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, with coffee and pastries available in the Community Center.

A teen (12-19) workshop and youth (8-11) ministry event, the former in the Charismatic Renewal Center (2409 Second Street) and the latter in the old St. Henry Parish Hall, will begin at 9 a.m. Annette Thompson and Cyrus Sterling will lead the teen session while Ruby and Naomi Kinlelaar will lead the youth ministry session.

The first general session of the day also gets underway at 9 a.m. From 10:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. confessions will be available in

the church and prayer teams will be available in the Community Center meeting room until 11:30 a.m.

A free lunch will be served beginning at 11 a.m. in the Community Center.

The second general session gets underway at 12:30 p.m. and the third kicks off at 1:40 p.m.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate the 4 p.m. Mass. A free supper will begin serving at 5 p.m. in the Community Center.

The closing general session starts at 7 p.m.

The registration brochure can be downloaded as a PDF at <http://live.lcdioocese.org/news/942-40th-charismatic-conference.html>.



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, center, is surrounded by retreat participants as well as priests, women of various religious orders and clergy from the Dioceses of Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette. The Bishop celebrated Mass in the Chapel of the Assumption at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center at the close of the second annual Life Awareness Retreat held recently. Seminarians from each of the three dioceses also participated in the weekend retreat, which is designed as a vocation discernment program for men and women ages 17-45 who are considering a possible vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

Life Awareness Retreat held for those in discernment

(Read more at <http://live.lcdioocese.org/news/946-life-awareness-retreat.html>)

By Wynard Boutte

LAKE CHARLES –The second annual Life Awareness Retreat sponsored by the Dioceses of Lafayette, Baton Rouge and Lake Charles was held September 16 - 18 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. The theme selected for the retreat was the scripture passage from John 15:16: “It was not you who choose me, but I who chose you.” Life Awareness is a vocation discernment program aimed towards single males and females ages 17-45 who are discerning a possible vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

The weekend began with a Mass for the staff, volunteers, and religious to pre-

pare for the arriving participants and religious. Each participant was assigned a prayer partner, a priest or religious, prior to their arrival to pray for them throughout the entire weekend. Shortly after arrival and dinner, an inspirational keynote address was given by Fr. Michael Champagne, Religious Superior of Community of Jesus Crucified and Director of the Aquinas Institute for Theology and Catholic Studies. Fr. Champagne spoke about the call to Religious life and Priesthood, tying it to scripture and answering the call. Other presentations and panel discussions that focused on the various stages of discernment and formation were also given.

Other speakers throughout the weekend were Sr.

Lucy Silvio, CSJ, Fr. Jude Israel, OSB, Sr. Shirley Gobert, SEC, Sr. Clarice Suchy, STJ, Fr. Susil Fernando, PMS, Bro. Michael Migacz, SC, Fr. Kevin Bordelon, Sr. Katherine Stakelum, MSC, Josh Johnson, and Keri Burke, MSC, to name a few. Sr. Gloria Anne Fiedler, Sister of Divine Providence from San Antonio, Texas, was present and facilitated a question and answer session on the “Religious-in-Formation Panel” as well as “Expectations for the Weekend.”

Participants were given the opportunity to take part in group discussions, prayer lead by Priests, Sisters, Brothers, and seminarians, consultation and an Emmaus Walk lead by Sr. Barbara Bacak, S.S.N.D. The Sunday Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend Glen Provost, Bishop of the Diocese of

Lake Charles. The weekend concluded with a presentation given by a Sister Marianites of Holy Cross Sr. Judy Gomila entitled, “Is It For Me? The Next Step.”

At the end of the retreat, each participant was given a gift bag containing a beautiful personal card hand designed by Sr. Mildred Leonards, Sister of the Divine Providence, a personal note from their prayer partner, prayer cards and other vocational material. There were overall 34 participants as well as over 40 Religious brothers, sisters, seminarians and priests who participated and assisted in facilitating the retreat. At no point were the participants asked to make a decision – it was a time for them to ask questions and learn about the options available for the possibility of their vocation.

At least 20 different Religious Communities were present, including, Sisters of Mount Carmel, Order of

Saint Benedict, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, Marianites of Holy Cross, Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, Sisters for Christian Community, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Divine Providence, Religious of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of the Eucharistic Covenant, Sisters of the Holy Family, Society of Jesus-Jesuits, Sisters of Emmanuel, Somascan Regular Clerics, Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, Sisters of Charity of the Incar-

nate Word, Missionaries of Charity, Discalced Carmelite Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph, Society of St. Teresa of Jesus, Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Sisters of the Most Blessed Sacrament and diocesan priests and seminarians of Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Lake Charles. What a powerful witness it was to have so many religious sisters, brothers and priests taking time out of their schedules to be present and give witness to the joy of priestly/religious life.

Did you know.

St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Bell City celebrated its 72nd anniversary of establishment on October 12. The parish was formed on that date in 1939, the only parish established in what is now the Diocese of Lake Charles that year.

The founding pastor of St. John Vianney was Father Mathias J. Cramers. The next three pastors each hold special places in the hearts of parishioners in other churches as well. Do you know the names of the priests and the other parishes they served? Find out in the next Catholic Calendar

Diocesan Briefs.....

Deceased Companions to be remembered

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Memorial Mass for deceased members of the Companions of Honor - those clergy, religious and laity that have been honored by the Holy See or the Diocese of Lake Charles for their work for the Church - will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant and homilist.

The names of those Companions who have died in the past year will be announced during the Prayer of the Faithful.

A luncheon for members attending the Mass will be held following the liturgy in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral office complex at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets.

Breakfast, luncheon with Bishop Provost

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will speak on the eighth through twelfth chapters of the Gospel of St. Matthew during the November Men's Prayer Breakfast and Women's Prayer Luncheon to be held at Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex. The breakfast is Friday, Nov. 4 while the luncheon is at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Women should send a check for \$10, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 at least a week prior to the luncheon. A stamped, self-addressed envelope should be included.

Men should call 337-439-7400 to register. Bishop Provost's celebration of Mass, beginning at 6:30 a.m., precedes the breakfast at 7 a.m.

Sapphire & Ice, Friday, Nov. 4

LAKE CHARLES – The Second Annual Sapphire and Ice Gala will be Friday, Nov. 4, beginning at 6 p.m. at Treasures

of Marilyn, 3500 Fifth Avenue. Sponsored by the St. Henry Church Knights of Peter Claver Council and Court 168, the event provides financial support for college level seminarians of the Diocese as well as the St. Henry Building Bridges Capital Campaign.

This year's guest speaker is Knights of Peter Claver Supreme Lady GERALYN Shelvin. The Distinguished Catholic of the Year Award will be presented by Bishop Glen John Provost. There will also be a silent auction and an evening of dancing. Cost is \$50 per ticket and no tickets will be available at the door.

Ticket locations include St. Henry Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue, Jones Grocery, 1845 Gerstner Memorial Drive, the Lake Charles Civic Center Box Office, or any Knight or Lady of Knights of Peter Claver Court or Council 168

Programs at Tabor Retreat House

MOSS BLUFF – Several programs are set for October at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

An Engaged Encounter Weekend is set for Friday through Sunday, Oct. 21-23. The suggested donation is \$190 per couple.

A three-day retreat for seniors, *Souls in Full Sail: A Retreat for Body, Mind and Spirit* will be led by Mrs. Emilie Griffin from Friday Oct. 21 through Sunday, Oct. 23. Suggested donation is \$139 per guest for a shared room and \$155 for a private room. Scholarships are available on request.

To register for either event, call Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center at 337-855-1232.

St. Henry Church Bazaar

LAKE CHARLES – St. Henry Catholic Church will hold its annual Bazaar on Sunday, Oct. 23, on the church grounds, 1021 Eighth Avenue, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Highlights of the day

include a sweetshop, snow cones, silent auction as well as the famous St. Henry barbecue chicken or pork steak dinners for \$7 each.

The drawing for the Big Cash Giveaway, with a grand prize of \$10,000, is in the afternoon. Second prize is \$5,000 and third prize is \$1,500. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at the church office. Additional information can be obtained by calling 436-7223.

Middle School Rally, Nov. 5

ELTON – The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will sponsor a middle school rally, Dare to be Fearless, Saturday, Nov. 5, at St. Paul Catholic Church here.

Doors will open at 10:45 a.m. and Mass will conclude the day at 5 p.m.

For more information contact your parish youth minister or call 337-439-7400, Ext. 301.

Holy Cross College schedule

LAKE CHARLES – Six courses will be offered by the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of Lake Charles through Holy Cross College of New Orleans in the spring and summer of 2012. Fees for the classes include a one-time new student fee of \$15, a per course fee of \$75 and, for those auditing the courses and not requiring college credit, a \$30 fee. Registration and fees are due no later than a week before a course begins.

For information, contact Bobbie LeBlanc at 337-439-7400, Ext. 309 or at bobbie.leblanc@lcdioocese.org. A complete listing of courses, descriptions, and other pertinent information can be downloaded at http://live.lcdioocese.org/images/stories/pdfs/2011-12_brochure_general.pdf.