



Day of Reflection for Black Catholics set March 17

(Read more at <http://live.lcdioocese.org/news/1041-day-of-reflection-for-attendees-to-national-black-congress-xi.html>)

LAKE CHARLES - A Diocesan Day of Reflection for Black Catholics preparing to participate in Black Catholic Congress XI is Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. until noon at St. Louis Catholic High School.

Bishop Glen John Provost will lead the opening prayer and then speak to the participants, particularly the youth, on the topic of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life from the African American community.

The morning of reflection will, in addition to preparing participants for the Congress, continue to motivate African American Catholics to take more of a role in the ministries of their own individual parishes.

Deacon Edward Lavine, who is heading a committee preparing for the event, said, "Anyone planning to attend Congress XI needs to

attend the Day of Reflection to properly prepare for the experience." Contact Deacon Lavine at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 337-439-2646.

Congress XI is scheduled for July 19-21 in Indianapolis, Ind. For more information on Congress XI, visit <http://www.nbccongress.org/events/>.

The National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) is an organization of African American Catholics founded in 1889 by Daniel Rudd. Its mission is to improve and enrich the lives of African American Catholics. The NBCC operates in close cooperation and coordination with the African American Bishops of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and has received funding support from the Black and Indian mission collection since 1988.

In 1987, over 1,500 Catholic Christians gathered at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. to revive the National Black Catholic Congress Movement that began in 1889 and con-

tinued annually until 1894. In the 25 years since that renewal, thousands have gathered every five years. Congress XI is a time to reflect on these accomplishments.

The keynote speaker will be Immaculée Ilibagiza, the brave survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Immaculée is a living example of faith put into action. Her life was transformed dramatically when she and seven other women spent 91 days huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor's house, saving their lives.

In 1998, Immaculée immigrated to the United States and eventually shared her story with co-workers and friends, who were so impacted they insisted she write it down in book form. Three days after finishing her manuscript, she met best selling author, Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, who, within minutes of meeting her, offered to publish her book.



Pictured with Bishop Glen John Provost, center, are members of the committee working with Deacon Edward Lavine on the Day of Reflection for Black Catholics scheduled for Saturday, March 17. The Day is in preparation for Black Catholic Congress XI, to be held in Indianapolis, Ind. on July 19-21. Pictured, from bottom left, are Alexis Stokes, Shirley Green, Jean Boutte, Ronald Boutte, Deacon Lavine, Bishop Provost, Terrell Biagas, Sandra Jones, Jacque Matthews, and Ella Dartz Williams. Jennifer Bellow is also a member of the committee.



Msgr. Cramers Award winners pictured with Jack O'Reilly, third from left, former Supreme Treasurer of the Knights of Columbus and current Assembly Faithful Navigator, were Peter Sniatic; Nila Halloran; Skip Gentle; Bill Marcantel; and Sam Battaglia.

Msgr. Cramers Assembly annual Awards Banquet

LAKE CHARLES -- The 67th Annual Msgr. Cramers Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Awards Banquet was recently held at the Msgr. DeBlanc Council 4562 Hall.

The 2011 Charles Jaubert Memorial Award was presented to Vernon "Skip" Gentle. Other presentations included the 2012 Isola Jaubert Memorial Award to Nila Halloran; the 2010-2011 Howard Jaubert Memorial Award to

Bill Marcantel; the 2010-2011 Sir Knight of the Year Award to Sam Battaglia; and the 2012 Jack O'Reilly, Sr. Memorial Award to Peter Sniatic.

Honored guests joining the festivities were Gentle, Alabama Past State Deputy, Alabama District Former Master and current Bienville Province Vice Supreme Master and his wife Claudette; Steve Thomas, Louisiana Past State Deputy and his wife Cheryl; Russell J. Ruh,

current Louisiana District Master and his wife Tammy; and Fred B. Fluitt, Jr., Louisiana District Former Master and his wife Lauretta. The Master of Ceremonies was Jack W. O'Reilly, Jr., Former Supreme Treasurer, Louisiana Past State Deputy, Louisiana District Former Master and current Assembly Faithful Navigator and his wife Betty. The banquet was dedicated to Steve Thomas.

Bishop Provost will preside at Sacred Triduum in Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil - on April 5-7 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. On Palm Sunday, April 1, the Bishop will bless the palms in the Courtyard of the Cathedral.

The Bishop will be the celebrant of the Chrism Mass at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4 in the Cathedral. This annual Mass has been celebrated in

the Catholic Church for over 1,000 years and is marked by the ceremonial blessing of the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and the consecration of the Oil of Chrism.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7 p.m. on Holy Thursday, April 5. The Bishop will wash the feet of 12 members of the laity in commemoration of Christ washing the feet of His Apostles.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place at 3 p.m. on Good Friday,

April 6. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross with the faithful recognizing the Cross of Christ as our only hope of salvation. The celebration concludes with Holy Communion and the congregation leaves the Cathedral in silence.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 7, begins at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral. On Easter Sunday, Bishop Provost will celebrate the 9 a.m. Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.



Megan Lavergne, left and Morgan Herpin



Jonathan Vogel

Three named Non-Public School Students of the Year

(Read more at <http://live.lcdioocese.org/news/1042-non-public-school-students-of-the-year.htm>)

LAKE CHARLES - Two students from Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings and one from St. Louis Catholic High School are the 2011-2012 Non-Public School Students of the Year in the Southwest District of Louisiana, according to Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Our Lady Immaculate's Morgan Herpin is the fifth grade winner while Megan Lavergne was named the eighth grade winner. Jonathan Vogel of St. Louis Catholic High School was the twelfth grade district winner. Each was their respective school's student of the year. All three participated in the regional round of the competition in Baton Rouge in early March.

Morgan Herpin's parents are Shawn and Cardi Herpin of Jennings. Her favorite subject is social studies because, "I love to learn about other people's history and religion," she said. Her activities at OLI include 4-H, Student Council Representative, and class favorite. In the community, she is active in the

Junior Catholic Daughters, as an altar server at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, and in the church bell choir.

Megan Lavergne's parents are Brad and Kimberly Lavergne of Roanoke. Her favorite subject is English because, "The rules of English always stay the same."

Lavergne has many hobbies including showing cattle at livestock shows, cheerleading and volleyball at OLI and drawing. She is the secretary and treasurer of the Beta Club, serves as vice president of the Student Council, and is a member of 4-H.

Active in the community, Lavergne is a member of Junior Leaders, the Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church Youth Group, the Louisiana Junior and the American Junior Brahman Associations.

Vogel is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Vogel, and has served as student council senator of St. Louis for four years. He is a member of the National Honor Society and was president of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. He has been captain of the swim team and on the school's baseball team.

He served as a St. Louis ambassador this year and has

been a member of the Key Club and Quiz Bowl team. Vogel is active in Boy Scouts of America and is an Eagle Scout. His volunteer efforts include work for Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, and Special Olympics.

Students of the Year chosen at non-public schools in the Southwest Louisiana District in the Fifth grade were Lani Martin, Our Lady's School, Sulphur; Candice Stevens, Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School, Lake Charles; Mikayla Matte, St. Theodore's Holy Family School, Moss Bluff; Carmen LeJeune, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Lake Charles; and Madalyn Howard, St. Margaret of Scotland School, Lake Charles. Eighth grade honorees by school were Evan Soileau, St. Margaret of Scotland; Shayla Stevens, Sacred Heart/St. Katharine Drexel; Claire Heinen, Our Lady's School; Miah Valenti, St. Theodore's Holy Family; Arthur Odenheimer, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School; and Ethan Daniel, Hamilton Christian School, Lake Charles.



Bishop Glen John Provost stands with young people representing each of the eight Catholic Schools in the Diocese. Pictured with the Bishop in the St. Joseph Chapel of the Cathedral are from left, Madison Blackwell, St. Louis Catholic High School; Timothy Montet, St. Louis; Devin Clark, Sacred Heart St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School; Meredith Guidroz, St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School; Benjamin Manneille, Our Lady's School; Owen Connor, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School; Abigail Martin, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Gretchen Hanley, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School; and Brice Foreman, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

March 16, 2012

Diocesan Youth Conference drew nearly 300

LAKE CHARLES – The Diocesan Youth Conference, held on the weekend prior to the beginning of Lent, is a long-standing annual event that brings youth of the Diocese of Lake Charles together for three days of spiritual enlightenment. Bishop Glen John Provost celebrates the closing Mass on Sunday and then invites the youth to ask questions with almost any topic fair game.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry under the direction of Milissa Thibodeaux provides the coordination for the event which this year had nearly 300 teens, young adults and adults in attendance. The conference theme for DYC this year was “Nothing is Impossible – Ask...Trust...Receive!”

The weekend was full of live music, keynote addresses, concurrent sessions and workshops on key topics, fellowship, games, prayer experiences such as Adoration and Liturgy and more. This year’s event host speaker was Jackie Francois, a nationally known speaker and musician. Other speakers included Katie Prejean, Bob Perron, David Dawson, John Souder, Fr. Nathan Long, Fr. Jeff Starkovich, Bernie Gauthier, Chip Gauthier, Stephanie Clouatre-Davis, Kenny Lantier, Laura Adams, and Jessie Taylor. In addition, the conference was blessed to have a group of talented music ministers and this year the DYC House Band included Nichole Lanthier, Robby Alleman, Kenny Lantier, Chris Ebersole, Paul Rogers, Ted Nelson and Matt Didier.

Comments from those attending showed the depth of many young people’s experience. “DYC brings in the youth from our chaotic world and focuses them on the truth of God and the hope and fulfillment that comes from

a relationship with Him,” said Jessie Taylor, a member of the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church Life Teen Core Team and a music minister. “They are gathered in to hear good news of grace and life to the full through powerful testimonies, music, and most importantly, an experience of the living God through the blessing of the sacraments. Every single time I’ve been to DYC, whether as a participant or help, I have had a powerful and prayerful experience. The Holy Spirit always shows up and never fails.”

Hailie Dugas, a high school senior from Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings, said, “DYC was a life changing experience. It made me a better person for God. Between confession and adoration, the talks and speakers, it opened my eyes as to whose I am. And to let go and let God.”

Calling the Diocesan Youth Conference the foundation for youth to develop a personal relationship with God, Chris Ebersole, also a OLVH Life Teen Core Team member and music minister, said, “It takes them out of their busy lives and their busy worlds to feed them who Christ really is.

“It allows them to see other youth their age on fire for Christ and reinforces that loving God and living a Christian life is nothing to be ashamed about,” Ebersole continued. “DYC has literally changed lives and been a ‘wake up call’ for the youth of our parish. It has produced youth ministers, music ministers, and even priests! It is quite evident that God is making Himself known during that weekend.”

Jobi Arceneux, a high school senior from St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder

though the conference was “one of the best diocesan events that I have ever attended. Although not as many went to the conference this year, the power felt within the room was no less than it had ever been. The energy was almost tangible anywhere you went.

“There was downtime to meet or catch up

with others, there were ballroom music sessions, and there were quiet prayer and adoration chapel times,” she continued. “Coming from a small town and having the largest group to attend the conference this year made me proud to be a Catholic in my parish, in my diocese, and in my everyday life.”



Bishop Glen John Provost speaks to those attending the annual Diocesan Youth Conference held the weekend before the start of Lent. The Bishop provides time following the closing Mass to answer questions.



Work continues on the new Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in Johnson Bayou. The chapel, a mission of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry, survived Hurricane Rita in 2005 with minimal damage but was destroyed by Hurricane Ike’s storm surge in 2008. The Johnson Bayou Community Center, a multi-purpose building, has been the site of Mass since they resumed in January 2009, according to Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle. “People tell me it feels very different when we worship in a church building rather than in a multi-purpose hall, even though it is the same Mass,” Father Tolentino said. “The people have been very patient and persevering. Now that the church is quickly taking shape before their eyes, there is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. It has brought the community together.” The new church will contain 3,612 square feet and stands 17 feet above sea level. Construction began in 2011.

Cause for Dr. Lejeune advances

PARIS - This spring, the Archdiocese of Paris will officially conclude the diocesan phase of the cause of canonization for Dr. Jérôme Lejeune.

The April 11 ceremony will include a Mass for life in the Notre Dame Cathedral.

Jérôme Lejeune (1926-1994) was a doctor and researcher. The father of modern genetics, he was awarded the Kennedy Prize in 1962 for the discovery of the chromosomal cause of Trisomy 21-Down Syndrome. Known for having treated and supported numerous patients affected by intellectual disabilities and for his commitment to human life, he was a member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences and recognized with numerous international titles.

In 1997, Pope John Paul II went to pray at Dr. Lejeune’s tomb. The Polish Pontiff had appointed the doctor the first president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Four and a half years after the opening of the cause of canonization of Dr. Lejeune

(June 28, 2007), and 18 years after his death, the diocesan process has ended.

“It is an important first step as it marks the end of the informative process. At this stage, there is no conclusion on the part of the Church because the qualitative study of the life and virtues will be carried out in the framework of the Roman process, which will begin after the close of the diocesan process,” specified Father Jean-Charles Nault, postulator of

the cause.

“Numerous testimonies of prayer for the beatification of Jérôme Lejeune come to us from all over the world, sent by families who knew him, as well as by a new generation of young people involved in the Service of Life and of wise men happy to manifest that there is no contradiction between faith and science,” explained Mayté Varaut, president of the Association of Friends of Professor Jérôme Lejeune.

Did you know...

Archbishop Henry Mansell of Hartford, Conn., will celebrate his 75th birthday in October of this year and is required to send his letter requesting retirement to the Holy Father. Six other Diocesan ordinaries will also celebrate

the 75th anniversary of their birth this year.

One Louisiana Bishop, with a tie to the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be 75 years old in 2013. Can you name him? Find out in the next Catholic Calendar.

Holy Week Office Hours

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week (April 2-4) the Offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will have regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). They will be closed on Holy Thursday, April 5, and Good Friday, April 6, as well as on Easter Monday, April 9. Offices reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 10.

Diocesan Briefs.....

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 will be in the Day Chapel of St. Henry Catholic Church Tuesday, April 10 through Friday, April 13 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church on Tuesday, April 17, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 19, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jazz Brunch set June 10

LAKE CHARLES -- The 2012 Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana Jazz Brunch will be held at the Lake Charles Country Club on Sunday, June 10. Doors open at 12:30 pm. Tickets are \$50 per person. Food, entertainment, and the opportunity to bid on auction items are included with the price of admission. In addition, the 2012 recipients of the “Caritas” and “St. Peter Claver” awards will be announced.

For ticket information, call Catholic Charities of SWLA at 337-439-7436.

St. Joseph Table slated

LEBLEU SETTLEMENT -- The St. Joseph Chapel Altar Society is hosting its annual St. Joseph Table on Sunday, March 18.

Decorative tables are filled with breads, cakes, pies, and other sweets, as well as fruits, candles, and statues.

Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May will speak at noon on the history of the St. Joseph Table, explaining about the various types of foods on the Table.

St. Joseph Chapel is located at 2110 Claude Hebert Road.

Abrazando Cristo Cash Giveaway Fundraiser

LAKE CHARLES -- The Abrazando Cristo Mission Program is holding its annual Big Cash Giveaway Fundraiser. Only 500 tickets are available at \$100 each.

First prize is \$5,000; second prize, \$1,000; and third prize, \$500. Proceeds benefit the ongoing work of the missions in Ni-

caragua. To purchase a ticket, please mail your check payable to Abrazando Cristo Mission Program, Attn: Msgr. Torres, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA, 70601. The drawing is Sunday, June 17 at the St. Henry Community Center.

For more information, call 337-439-7400.

Memorial Golf Tournament June 2

LAKE CHARLES -- The annual Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf Tournament is Saturday, June 2, at Mallard Cove Golf Course.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit the *Pan y Amor* Boys’ Home and School in Managua, Nicaragua, a project of the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program.

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

Lenten Mission at St. Peter the Apostle

HACKBERRY – Sister Wendy and Sister Grace of the Sisters of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will present the message of Divine Mercy at given by Saint Faustina Kowalska on Sunday, March 25, at 5 p.m. in St. Peter the Apostle Church.

Men’s Prayer Breakfast

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost continues with his presentation on the Gospel of St. Matthew at the Women’s Luncheon on Tuesday, April 10, and at the Men’s Prayer Breakfast on Friday, April 13. Both are in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex.

Women are asked to send a check for \$10, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Bishop Provost will celebrate Mass before the breakfast in the Cathedral beginning at 6:30 a.m. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register.

Yom Hashoah observance April 19

LAKE CHARLES – Thursday, April 19, will be the day the community observes Yom Hashoah, a time to remember the

Holocaust and heroism.

Events include art displays, exhibits, and films from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central School on Kirby Street and a civic program from noon to 1 p.m. A candlelight vigil will take place on the Lakefront Promenade from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. followed by a tree-planting ceremony.

IBCS set at Xavier University

NEW ORLEANS – The Institute for Black Catholic Studies, a school of ministry for clergy, religious, and laypersons working in the Black Community and the Catholic Church will convene at Xavier University of Louisiana from June 22 through July 14.

The Master’s program offers a three-week course of Pastoral Theological Studies while certificate and enrichment courses are held in three one-week modules.

Check the website at www.xula.edu/ibcs or call 504-520-7961 for information.

Cathedral Altar Society spring trip set

LAKE CHARLES – The Altar Society of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will take its spring trip to Houston on Wednesday, April 11.

Stops on the journey will include the Treasures of Tunkhamen exhibit at the Houston Museum of Fine Art, lunch at Café Express, and a visit to the Museum of Natural Science.

Cost is \$120 per person with a \$50 non-refundable reservation fee, which applies to the total cost of the trip. Call Rita Stutes at 439-2878, Janet Stoma at 436-0330, or Joanna Viccelio at 474-0203 for more information or to register.

Penance Services slated in March

LAKE CHARLES – Lenten Penance Nights in the Diocese of Lake Charles have been announced.

Reconciliation will begin at 5 p.m. in the churches of the Eastern Deanery on Tuesday, March 27, in the Central Deanery on Wednesday, March 28, and in the Western Deanery on Thursday, March 29.

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