



## Deacon Thompson to be ordained to priesthood May 26

(Read more at [lcdiocese.org](http://lcdiocese.org) - Deacon Thompson to be ordained)

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will ordain Deacon Bryan Thompson to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles at a 10 a.m. Liturgy on Saturday, May 26 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets in downtown Lake Charles.

Deacon Thompson will celebrate his first Mass at 4 p.m. Saturday in the Cathedral and a reception will follow in Ave Maria Hall.

A native of Baton Rouge, Deacon Thompson's par-

ents are Dean B. Thompson and Deborah Brown. He was received into the Catholic Church and graduated from Baton Rouge Magnet High School in 1999. From 1999 to 2001, he attended Louisiana State University and then entered religious life with the Legionaries of Christ from 2001 to 2004. In 2005, he began discernment and studies for diocesan priesthood for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, graduating from Saint Joseph Seminary College with a Bachelors degree in Philosophy and Theological Studies. He continued his vocational discernment away from seminary in 2007 and 2008, coming to Lake Charles where he began discernment and contin-

ued studies for the Diocese of Lake Charles in late 2008.

He has attended the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, graduating with a Master of Divinity (MDiv) and will obtain summa cum laude a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree, awarded through the Pontifical College Josephinum by the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome, and a Master of Arts in Theology.

He was ordained to the Diaconate as a Transitional Deacon in August 2011.

Deacon Thompson noted that he has had moments of great joy but also times of difficulty, contradictions and crosses along his path to ordination.

"It is hard to imagine, but almost eleven years have passed since I began, in a formal way, to discern and to pursue a priestly vocation, he said. "There are times in which I was not sure that I was following the right path, or that I did not have the generosity to say "Yes" to persevere in following it, though in my heart I continued to hear the peaceful voice of the Lord saying, "Come, follow me".

"Now, so close to the beginning of that life that has, at turns, inspired and frightened, attracted and repulsed, my first feeling is one of awe," Deacon Thompson continued. "At the beginning, I could never have imagined the road over which the Lord

has brought me, and I am glad of it, because I may not have had the courage to follow Him. Thus, I can only stand or, better, kneel, in awe and in thanksgiving before the loving Providence of God. I can see here an invitation to trust, an invitation to grow in faith, hope, and love, confident that He will fulfill His promise to send "power from on High" in order to equip me for the task I now take up in union with Him, in His Person."

A reception for the newly ordained priest will follow the ordination in St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street.



Deacon Bryan Thompson



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, stands with Rev. Jason Scott Conner, left, the newly appointed chaplain for the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, and Rev. Nathan Long, the previous chaplain.

## Fifty-eight Scouts and adults honored

LAKE CHARLES -- The Bishop's Dinner for Religious Emblems Recognition was held recently at the Knights of Columbus Hall of Council 4562 of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Various medals earned through Religious Emblem programs went to 38 youth, while 20 adults were honored for services rendered on behalf of Scouting.

Youth awards included the Family of God, Light of Christ, *Parvuli Dei*, *Ad Altare Dei* and the Pope Pius XII while adult recognition came in the form of the Bronze Pelican, and the St. George Award. Bishop Glen John Provost, aided by Father Nathan Long, outgoing Chaplain for the Catholic Committee on Scouting, presented the awards. The Bishop announced at the conclusion of the banquet that Father Long would be stepping down as Chaplain and that Father Jason Scott Conner, parochial vicar of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church and chaplain at St. Louis Catholic High School, was appointed to that position.

Kassie Piatt was awarded the Family of God emblem. This program is the official religious recognition program of the Catholic Church in the United States, for children ages seven to nine who are enrolled in the Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire, Inc., Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Recipients of the Light of Christ emblem were Michel Bourgeois, Holden Fontenot, Joshua France, Eric Jackson, Stephen Russell Kershaw, Jacob LaBouve, Steven LaBouve, Jr., Andrew Landry, Nathaniel McNally, David Nonette III, John Reina, Rory Richard, Zachary Rizzuto, Cody Simon, Dylan Simon, Jadon Smith, Darnell Taylor, John "Jack" Thomson, and Dustin Tobias. The Light of Christ program was developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting under the auspices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In order to receive the Light of Christ emblem, he must complete all requirements before he starts the third grade.

*Parvuli Dei* recipients were John-Patrick Broussard, Mat-

thew Burnham, James Christy, Gabriel Davis, David Paul Duhon II, Kaleb Foreman, Kyle Holland, Eric Jackson, Julian Jones, Christopher Landry, John David Monlezun, Colby Piatt, Jonah Paul Reggie, Joseph Smith, and Alex Yokubaitis. *Parvuli Dei* (Children of God) emblem is a recognition that the Catholic Church presents to Cub and Webelo Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation.

Brandon Tobias was awarded the *Ad Altare Dei*, which is designed to equip the Scout to take his place in the world as a maturing Catholic and a maturing American.

Pope Pius XII emblem recipients were Jonathan Vogel and Thomas Vogel. This program was developed in recognition of the need for Catholic lay leaders in church and community affairs and of the potential of Exploring to develop such leadership.

Four adults were presented with the Bronze Pelican award - Donn Dees, Jeff Fruge, Howard Foreman, and Patrick Stanley. The Bronze Pelican is a Diocesan recognition approved by the Catholic Committee on Scouting and Camp Fire for the Diocese of Lake Charles. It is given to those who have made a significant contribution to Scouting in the field of religious Catholic relationship.

Father Long was presented with the St. George emblem, which is a national recognition presented to any adult who is working in the Scouting program under Catholic auspices, the Catholics in Scout units, not chartered by the church, and who has made a significant contribution to Scouting in the field of Catholic relationships.

Receiving Duty to God certificates were Bishop Provost; Sandra Jones; Rachel Robinson; Alison Fontenot; Sue Long; Lisa Merriam; Sherry Oden; Shawn Chamblee; Kevin McMurry; Scott Willis; Marty Berry; Maria O'Dowd; Morris LeBleu; and Joe Castro.

## Seafarers Center celebrates 50 years of ministry

LAKE CHARLES - Fifty years of ministry by the Seafarers Center of the Diocese of Lake Charles were celebrated recently with a Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and a re-dedication and blessing of the Center at the Port of Lake Charles.

Bishop Glen John Provost was the celebrant of the liturgy with Msgr. Daniel Torres, V.G., Rev. Wayne LeBleu, Rev. Rommel Tolentino, and Rev. Sinclair Oubre as concelebrants. Father LeBleu is the Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services, which oversees the Seafarers Center and Father Tolentino is the current chaplain for the Center. Father Oubre is the president of the Apostleship of the Sea-USA. Deacon Patrick Lapoint, the director of the Center, served Bishop Provost as the Deacon of the Mass.

Present at the Center were many other dignitaries and well-wishers including Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS, the National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea.

Deacon Lapoint welcomed everyone to the celebrating, thanking them for their support and spoke of "how much fun it is to minister to the seafarers. Ten years as director has brought much joy into my life and some sadness. We have been with seafarers who see their newborn children for the first time (via the computer) and celebrate their joy. We have stood with them when they learn of a death of a family member for the first time."

In addition to providing a place of comfort for the seafarers, the Center has also been an advocate for them over the years. In the past 10 years, Deacon Lapoint noted that sailors had received more than \$700,000 wages due to them through the intercession of the Center.

In that same period, over 60,000 were transported within the community, and 10,000 gift bags have been provided to visiting seafarers during the Christmas season. He introduced other staff of the center including Fr. Tolentino, Lou Richard and Joe

Soileau (ship visitors and drivers), and Peter Perna (volunteer). He recognized a number of others in attendance who provides support for the ministry, including Bill Race (Port Director), Dwayne Boudreaux (ITF), Sr. Deacon George Stearns (Chancellor), members of the Diocesan staff, and Lake Charles Mayor Randy Roach. He noted the presence of Pat Broussard (past director of the Center) and his wife, Betty as well as Herman Verkruisen (the son of the Center's first director) and his wife Martha.

Sr. Myrna presented Dea-

con Lapoint with a certificate of recognition for 50 years of dedicated service to seafarers and all people of the sea from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Apostleship of the Sea National Office.

Fr. Oubre expressed his thankfulness for great care that the Center shows to seafarers and presented the Deacon Lapoint with The Maritime Samaritan Award from the Apostleship of the Sea - USA for the Center's 50-year legacy of good work.

Mayor Roach spoke of the honor he felt to have this kind of ministry in the community. Bishop Provost presented

Deacon Lapoint with a commendation letter from The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, congratulating the Center on its 50th anniversary.

Bishop Provost noted his concern for the number of Seafarers Centers that are closing throughout the country through the lack of funding and support. The Bishop pronounced a blessing upon the center and over the food.

Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas from Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church provided refreshments.



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, stands with Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Director of the Seafarers Center of the Diocese of Lake Charles, at the recent blessing and re-dedication of the Center on its 50th anniversary. With them are, from left, Father Rommel Tolentino, Center chaplain, Father Sinclair Oubre, president of the Apostleship of the Sea-USA, and at right Sr. Myrna Tordillo, MSCS, the National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea.

## Catholic Schools Notes

### Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic School

May being the month of Mary, students at St. Margaret participated in the annual May Crowning on May 11. They remembered in the celebration that Mary is our Mother and our Queen. By crowning her in our own way we remember her coronation in heaven, which is the Fifth Glorious mystery.

### Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School

ICCS Kindergarten students will participate in Closing Ceremonies today, May 18h at 6 p.m. in the schools gym. Led by teachers Kim Ieyoub and JoLynn Marcantel, this year's theme is "Oh The Places We Will Go." Eighth grade students will celebrate Closing Mass on Tuesday, May 22 at 6 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. There are 36 kindergarten and 47 eighth grade students in the school. ICCS first grade winners of the Arbor Day Poster Contest were Rachel Redd, first place; Emma Jarreau, second; and Camdyn DuRousseau, third. These students were presented at the Lake Charles city Council meeting on, May 8.

### Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year at OLI continues. Call 337-824-1743 for more information. Openings are available in most grades.

### Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School

OLQHS holds its Fifth Annual Heavenly Fish Festival tomorrow, May 19 beginning at 6 a.m. from the bank, boat or pier. Weigh-in begins at 11 a.m. at Calcasieu Point. There will be prizes for all age groups and lunch is provided by Port Aggregates. Entry fees are \$25 for individuals (includes free t-shirt) and \$60 for a family. For registration information, contact Lisa Jakel at OLQHS at 477-7349.

### Our Lady's Catholic School

Our Lady's School recently celebrated the Bicentennial with an afternoon of special events. The school's Louisiana Day consisted of the Lake Charles Mardi Gras Revelers, Festival of Foods, Cajun band, Demonstrations from the Louisiana Parks and Recreations, crawfish and frog races.

### Sacred Heart of Jesus/St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School

Sacred Heart's Creole Festival, held April 29, was a great church, school and community celebration. Everyone who attended had a marvelous time and organizers would like to thank all who helped make the annual event successful.

### St. Louis Catholic High School

Students and families who will be at St. Louis next year should check the school website for valuable information concerning summer assignments, student orientations, and Christian service hours. The ACT Council has recognized 46 current sophomores for outstanding academic achievement. They met or exceeded benchmarks in all four categories of the PLAN (English, mathematics, reading and science).

Diocesan  
Offices  
will be closed  
Monday, May 28  
Memorial Day

Did you know...

On September 1, St. Eugene Catholic Church in Grand Chenier will be 50 years old. Bishop Maurice Schexnayder of the Diocese of Lafayette established the parish on that date with Father Joseph Decoteau, a priest of the LaSalette Missionaries, as the founding pastor.

Can you name the four permanent deacons of the Diocese of Lake Charles who celebrate 35 years of diocesan ministry in June.? Find out in the next Catholic Calendar.

# Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

May 18, 2012

## Diocese of Lake Charles announces kickoff of Apostleship of Prayer

By Rev. Nathan Long  
Secretary for Ministry of Christian Formation

On Pentecost weekend (May 26-27), the Diocese of Lake Charles will begin enrolling the faithful in an association dedicated to connecting Christ's followers to the Eucharist and to the Church at large. Known as "the Apostleship of Prayer," the association dates back to missionaries in France in 1844. At the time, a group of Jesuit seminarians were eager to conclude their studies and begin work in the missions. The founder of the Apostleship, Fr. Francis Xavier Gautrelet told them, "Be apostles now, apostles of prayer!"

This instruction applies just as well to all of us today. Our parishes are bustling with activity, families are busy bouncing from activity to activity, and needs abound everywhere for Christ's presence. Yet, the Church has always taught that prayer is superior to any activity. Jesus himself called prayer "the better part" (Luke 10:38-42).

The teaching, while simple enough, needs explanation in light of our "busyness". Our faith teaches that only God can create life. This is true in nature, but it is also true in the spiritual life as well - we labor in various services for Christ, but ultimately, "God gives the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6). As a rule, God only gives grace upon our asking - "ask and it shall be given you" (Matt. 7:7). Therefore, if we expect to see any true spiritual effect in our labors, we must pray.

Our saints have always taught us this truth as well. Among the patrons of the Apostleship of Prayer, St. Therese of Lisieux stands out in particular. St. Therese is the patron of mis-

sions in the Church, yet she never left her convent! In my time on the seminary, I remember asking many of my classmates and friends how they came upon a vocation to the priesthood, only to discover that St. Therese had somehow influenced them. Many converts to the Catholic faith report the same. Upon her death, very few knew of her; yet now she is known worldwide as a powerful intercessor. To what can we attribute these many graces? Certainly it has everything to do with her fervent prayer.

This means that one can be a "missionary" without ever leaving home! What an important truth to share with our elderly and infirm whom society tells us are no longer "useful". Their prayer and your prayers are the lifeblood of the Church's ability to bring souls to Christ.

To further guarantee the fruitfulness of all our parish and diocesan activities in the name of Christ, Bishop Glen John Provost is calling on us to take seriously this call to pray. To assist us in this effort, the Apostleship of Prayer has proven to be effective in helping regular faithful Catholics to live an "apostolic" way of life. Enrollment is simple - there are no additional money or time commitments. There are no additional meetings to attend. We simply ask that you continue whatever prayer commitments you already have and offer them in unison with the intentions of the universal Church and the local Diocese. We will do this by asking you to enroll your name among many other millions of apostles worldwide. Volunteers throughout the Diocese will be visiting our parishes throughout the year asking for your commitment. The intentions of

the Pope and Bishop Provost will then be announced each month for you to keep in your prayers.

Once enrolled, the Apostleship asks you to do two simple things - one is the "Morning Offering," and the other is to stay mindful of the monthly intentions.

In the "Morning Offering," the effectiveness of the Apostleship finds its source. The disciple pledges that from that point forward, all prayer, sacrifices and events are given to Christ for the good of the Church and souls throughout the world. This is the old saying; "offer it up" lived out practically. Enrolled members are asked to "offer it up" - whatever "it" may be - offer it up for the intentions of the Pope and our Bishop.

It also calls to mind the role of the faithful in the Holy Mass. The Second Vatican Council, realizing that apostles were needed to evangelize the world, saw the key in lay attendance at Mass. By prayerfully "offering up" all their prayers, sufferings and joys to the Lord on the altar, they are joining with Christ's Sacrifice and adding to the graces pouring out on the world. Even if one is not able to make Mass daily, the morning offering is a simple and effective way to bring all of your prayer efforts into that great prayer of the Church.

The Apostleship of Prayer is therefore a Eucharistic way of life that will allow you to assist the Church throughout the world. Beginning this Pentecost, we invite you to enlist in this important effort when members of the Apostleship visit your parish. Remember, "God gives the increase," and therefore we must ask the master-builder through prayer.

## EOHS members promoted

ATLANTA - Two members of the Equestrian Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from the Diocese of Lake Charles received promotions during the group's annual meeting.

Lady Dolores Beaco was promoted to Lady Grand Cross while Sir John (Jack) O'Reilly was promoted to Knight Grand Cross. In addition, Sir Paul Reed received the Pilgrim's Shell Award for making the pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The group in attendance totaled 20 from the Diocese, including three clergy and 14 lay members along with three guests. These included Bernard Beaco, Diocesan Representative to the Order, and his wife Dolores; Dr. Keith, Dale, and Ainsley DeSonier; Clarence and Kitty Prudhomme; Dr. David and Joyce Buttross; Paul and Paula Reed; Fred and Lauretta Fluit; Charles and Joanna Vicellio; Msgr. Harry D. Greig; Msgr. Jace Eskind; and Very Rev. Anthony Fontenet.

At the organization's general meeting, members listened to speakers from the Holy Land on the terrible plight of Christians there and the terrific need to assist those persons in order to maintain the presence of Christianity in that part of the world. Information on the status of the Southeastern Lieutenancy, which includes the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, was provided.



Attending the recent annual meeting of the Equestrian Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held in Atlanta were Sir Bernard Beaco, Lady Dolores Beaco, Paula Reed and Sir Paul Reed.



Father Whitney Miller, director of Saint Charles Center, leads the opening prayer during this year's morning of reflection for administrative assistants of parishes and offices of the Diocese held in Tabor Retreat House. The annual event was sponsored by Billy Navarre, who provided gifts for those who attended.

## Mass to Avert Storms May 31

CAMERON - Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Mass to Avert Storms at 5 p.m., Thursday, May 31, the eve of the 2012 hurricane season, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

This event will constitute the first Diocesan pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea following the recent "spiritual bond" granted by the Holy See. The bond links the Cameron Shrine to the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. In this, such a pilgrimage provides a plenary indulgence, just as if the pilgrimage were to St. Mary Major. The plenary indulgence is granted with the fulfillment of certain requirements, which include recent confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayers for the Holy Father, and the recitation of the Creed.

Bishop Provost has also asked that during this year's storm season that the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the prayer composed by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, in 1957 following Hurricane Audrey.

## Let Us Pray

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 the 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, and 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 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

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Percle now SLCHS Development Director

LAKE CHARLES -- Susan Percle is the new Director of Development at St. Louis Catholic High School, according to Deborah Frank, President /Head of the School.

A native of Lake Charles, Percle is a 1989 graduate of St. Louis and holds a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and English from the University of Alabama. She has most recently served at Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School (ICCS) directing the Cathedral School's Capital Campaign, Building On Tradition and serving as public relations director and liaison to all school fundraising.

Percle brings nine years of experience in Catholic education and school development to her new role as Development Director at St. Louis. She is a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and an active volunteer in the community. Married to Gregory Percle, the couple has four children, John-Gregory, Jacob-Paul, Joseph and Eliza.

### Vogel wins Peace Essay contest

LAKE CHARLES - Jonathan Vogel, a senior at St. Louis Catholic High School, was the Louisiana winner in the 2011-



Susan Percle

2012 National Peace Essay Contest, sponsored by the United States Institute for Peace.

The first place earned Vogel a \$1,000 scholarship and entry in the national competition.

### Bishop's Pilgrimage to Shrines of France

LAKE CHARLES - Space is still available for the 10-day pilgrimage to the Shrines of France with Bishop Glen John Provost from Oct. 29 through Nov. 7.

Contact Father Ruben Buller at 337-439-7400 for more information.

### Jazz Brunch set June 10

LAKE CHARLES -- The 2012 Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana Jazz Brunch is Sunday, June 10, at the Lake Charles Country Club. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Food, entertainment, and the opportunity to bid on auction items are included with the price of admission.

For tickets, call Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana at 337-439-7436.

### Abrazando Cristo Cash Giveaway Fundraiser

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

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

gram in Nicaragua. 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 in 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.

### Married Couples Retreat Cruise

LAKE CHARLES - Married couples are invited to a Celebrate Marriage Couples Retreat aboard the cruise ship Triumph, sponsored through the office of Family Life.

The ship departs Galveston on Monday, Sept. 24, with stops in the ports of Progresso and Cozumel, and returns on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Call Kathy Owen in the Office of Family Life for more information, 337-439-7400.

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