



## St. Louis Catholic graduates largest class in history

LAKE CHARLES -- Bishop Glen John Provost was the featured speaker at the 2012 commencement ceremonies for 178 graduates of St. Louis Catholic High School. This was the largest senior class in the history of the school, according to administrators.

In his remarks, Bishop Provost told the graduates, as well as their parents, friends and the clergy present, that they should consider that present that consider that they have free will and have been given the intelligence and spiritual gifts to make good choices in life. The Bishop advised seniors to build their house on the sound foundation of the body of Christ. As graduates move on to the next phase of their lives, he asked them to keep in mind that when they build their house, they should keep God a part of it, or their labor will be in vain. Bishop Provost reminded graduates that God is always with them, and that they should be faithful to the principles they have been taught in their Catholic education. He encouraged them to be wise and think twice before they act, considering the consequences of their actions.

Valedictorian Victoria Knollmeyer noted in her talk that the class had grown together from their first moments as freshmen four years ago and that the Class of 2012 had "grown to greatness" and thanked her classmates for "growing with me to be the best class we could be."

Jonathan Vogel pointed out that the Class of 2012 was "either going to be the class of the end of the world or the class to begin a new cycle -- a cycle of new life and begin again to make order out of chaos." This was in reference to the purported end of the world proclamations made through interpretations of the Mayan calendar.

Bishop Provost and Father Marcus Johnson, the rector of St. Louis, presented the St. Louis Awards to Timothy Montet and Caryn Meschwitz. The St. Louis Award goes to a male and female senior student voted as the outstanding Christian student at the school by their peers and approved by members of the faculty.

The awards, made possible the Lake Charles Serra Club, are presented to students who have shown the following characteristics: Love of God and Neighbor, Strong Moral Character, Desire to Serve Community, Courage to Stand up for Christian Principles, a Daily Christian Lifestyle, and Proper Use of God-Given gifts.

Scholarship awards to the Class of 2012

totalled \$2,759,627 and did not include Louisiana TOPS funding, which will not be known in later in June.

Members of the Class of 2012 were Richard Nathaniel Alston, Jared Christopher Amiot, Nekko Chenning Andrepont, Sal Michael Ange, Anne-Claire Babineaux, Olivia Nichole Babineaux, Camille Alexandra Baca, Kayla Nicole Baca, John Michael Baggett, Juliann Marie Baggett, Onje'le Brook Bailey, Janie Ruth Baird, Allison Marie Bartek, Joshua James Benoit, Anthony Joseph Bercier, Patrick Joseph Bice, Caleb Lee Billedeaux, Madison Clare Blackwell, Anne Marie Bono, Shelby Lane Borders, Sam Houston Boyer, Gabrielle Grace Brame, Kara Rae Breaux, Colin Joseph Broussard, Ava Elizabeth Brown, and Sean Michael Byrd. Ellen Carlisle Carleton, Brittney Renee Celestine, Ariel Lee Chapman, Annie Catherine Charles, Jodi Simone Chatters, Harrison Connor Chinn, Samuel Knapp Chol, Carla Paloma Choucino, Christopher Michael Cironi, Emily Anne Clark, Marlon Joseph Collins II, Nicholas Austin Combre, Aaron O'Neil Conrad, MaryKate Francis Core, Christopher Paul Darbonne, Brett Austin Derouen, Amber Elizabeth Doiron, Chloe' Ellen Dore', Douglas Ryan Dousay, Benjamin Lee Drouilhet, and Garrett Michael Dufrene.

Also, Matthew Connor East, Scarlett Merle East, Robert Allen Ehlers, Kelsey Austin Elander, Shaquesha Britney Evans, Harrison David Flynt, Kelli Aline Fontenot, Matthew Alphonse Fontenot, Tiffany Nicole Fontenot, Jace Ray Foret, Martin Daniel France, Anthony Markell Frank, Catherine Claire Fruge, Taylor Andrew Gagneaux, Matthew James Gallier, Kelsey Deanna Gaspard, Andrew John Gayle, Lindsey MaChelle Gobert, Daniel Alonso Godoy-Martinez, Anna Kay Grantham, Logan Joseph Guidry, and Joyce Catherine Guillory

Also, Luke Michael Habetz, Hannah Lynnae Harless, Austin Louis Hebert, Catelyn Racquel Henry, Daniel Patrick Henry, Hunter Allen Hodgkins, Maximilian Huber, Jacob Matthew Hughes, Jacob Ryan Hughes, Haley Marie Hutchins, Jacob Mark Ieyoub, Shaun Michael Ieyoub, Dallas Dayle Jagneau, Matthew Payne Jester, William Craig Jones, Benjamin Joseph Kaspar, Victoria Rose Knollmeyer, Joseph Dawson Koenig, Audrey Renee Kolde, Jacob Zachery Kraft, Catherine Louise Laborde, Lauren Elizabeth LaFleur, Mary Alexandra LaFosse, Blake Paul Lamendola, Randi Alexandra Landry, Savannah Pearl Landry, Kristen Claire LeBato Amy Elizabeth



Caryn Meschwitz, left, and Timothy Montet, right, are shown with their St. Louis Awards along side Bishop Glen John Provost, who presented the awards, and Reverend Marcus Johnson, Rector of the school, at the 2012 Commencement Exercises.

LeBleu, Lance Paul LeBleu, Caitlyn Janae Lewis, Mercedes Jane Lewis, Ryan Taylor Logan, William Harrison Lorio, and Sarah Wakeley Lungaro.

Also, Logan Paul Maes, Austin Gabriel Mallett, Holden Paul Marceaux, Tanner Allen Martin, Anna Grace Matz, Margaret Elise Matz, London Kelsey Maust, Anna Beth McConnaughay, Katelyn Marie McCoy, Alexandra Elizabeth McNeely, Caryn Emily Meschwitz, Elizabeth Mae Miller, Remy Daniel Miller, III, Lauren Elizabeth Montelaro, Timothy Scott Montet, Joshua Graham Nickel, Alexis Lashawn Nixon, Madison Olivia Nixon, David Kurt Odenheimer, John Patrick O'Dowd, Hannah Alexis Oertling, Kirby Alexander Oertling, Chaz Michael Oubre, Alexander Bonham Owen, Jordan Chance Palmer, Nina Zoe Perzo, Andrew Genin Pharr, Ali Renee Piatt, Adrienne Michelle Poe, Christopher Taylor Portie, and Laura Len Pousson.

Also, Frederick Dupre Rau, Nicholas Abraham Reeves, Dayrun Antoinette Rideaux, William Rhett Riquelmy, Brooke Al-

ye Roach, Rachel Joy Robinson, Desir-aye Nicole Rosamore, Jordan Christopher Saltzman, Adelaide Alice Saucier, Barrett Collin Savoie, Ryan Louis Savoie, Alden Ann Schindler, Donald Paul Shetler, Lance Michael Shuff, Brianca Fruge' Sims, Caroline Elaine Solari, Grace Elizabeth Solari, Mia Louise Sperandeo, Catherine Elizabeth St. Romain, Jaden Arielle Sterling, Savannah Marie Stevens, Hunter Drake Stidham, Christopher Glenn Stout, Anthony Joseph Syon, Leon Charles Theriot, Amelia Claire Thibodeaux, Hunter Gage Thibodeaux, Cole Michael Thomas, Mary Margaret Thompson, Lex Alan Townsley, Thomas Douglas Townsley, Truc-Linh Tran Truong, Margaret Julia Tuminello, Joseph Michael Vanchiere, Kailey Sue Venable, Cameron Joseph Victorian, Austin Paul Vidrine, Jonathan Peter Vogel, Mark Ryan Walter, Lakeyn Kristine Ward, Rachel Elizabeth Wieschhaus, Denzel Marquise Williams, Tanner Jennings Wise, and Frank Allan Wood, Jr.



Vocation coordinators from the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles attended Mass on World Day of Prayer for Vocations in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. At the conclusion of the liturgy, Bishop Glen John Provost blessed candles that the coordinators brought back to their faith communities to aid in the effort to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and the religious life for the Diocese.

## Blessed John Paul II Exhibit will open in February in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS -- A museum exhibit on the legacy of Blessed John Paul II will begin its tour of United States at New Orleans' Notre Dame Seminary in February 2013. More than 200,000 people are expected to visit the display which will be open seven days a week, with 24-hour security.

"Receiving this exhibit is not only a great honor for our archdiocese, but an opportunity for us to enter more deeply into our work of evangelization, carrying on the legacy of Bl. John Paul II," Archbishop Gregory Aymond said. "Pope Benedict XVI has named the upcoming year a 'Year of Faith' and by hosting this exhibit, we are attempting to answer his call."

The new exhibit, titled "I Have Come To You Again," has over 100 items from the personal possessions of Bl. John Paul II; coming from the Pope John Paul II Center in Krakow, Poland and the Vatican Collections.

Among the artifacts will be camping equipment from his early priesthood, his crib, family photo album, vestments when he was ordained a priest and pope, a desk, one of his well-recognizable crosses, and a first-class relic -- a vial of his blood -- in a reliquary.

The Lubbock, Texas-based National Exhibits Association is running the exhibit tour under the leadership of Father Malcolm Neyland, its president and executive director. "Never before has a collection of the personal belongings of a Roman Catholic Pope been on display in the United States," the association said, noting that during his pontificate, Bl. John Paul II visited the U.S. seven times.

His "immense faith and great courage were inspirational and admired by Christians and non-Christians alike throughout the world," the organizers said.

The exhibit will be open on the Notre Dame Seminary Campus from February through April 2013. Its contents are divided into four sections: Karol Wojtyla's childhood and adolescence, from 1920-1938; Karol Wojtyla's years in Poland as a laborer, priest, bishop, archbishop and cardinal from 1939-1978; his years as Pope from 1978 until his death in 2005; and the wake of his papacy through his beatification.

The curator of the exhibit is Prof. Francesco Puranelli, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission of the Cultural Patrimony of the Church. He

has previously served as the general director of the Vatican Museum.

Many close advisors of the late pontiff have contributed essays for the exhibition catalogue, including Cardinal Angelo Comastri, vicar general for Vatican City; Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Dean of the College of Cardinals; Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for Laity; and Msgr. Stanislaw Oder, the postulator for John Paul II's canonization.

The National Exhibits Association is working with Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce to bring the exhibit to New Orleans. Stops are also planned for Seattle, Wash. and Washington, D.C.

Everyone is encouraged to visit the exhibit to "experience and witness Bl. John Paul II's life and ministry." Archbishop Aymond also asked for prayers for the exhibit's success.

An audio tour and printed material will be available at the exhibit for which tickets are expected to go on sale in late summer. More information about the exhibit is available at the National Exhibits Association website <http://www.nationalexhibits.org>.

## Can you hear the voice of the Good Shepherd?

LAKE CHARLES -- Sunday, April 29, was Good Shepherd Sunday, but it was also World Day of Prayer for Vocations and Bishop Glen John Provost was the celebrant of a morning Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. At the conclusion of Mass, the Bishop blessed candles given to Vocation Coordinators from the parishes of the Diocese to bring back to their faith communities so that the parishioners could pray for an increase in vocations.

The winners of the annual Vocation Drawing Contest were present and received their awards from Bishop Provost before the final blessing. First place went to Sarah Miller, a parishioner of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church in Carlyss. Miller's drawing was reproduced on a prayer card distributed at the Mass and sent to each parish in the Diocese. Second prize went to Olivia Meche of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School while third was garnered by Patrick Juneau, also a student at St. Margaret.

Father Nathan Long, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation and Director of Vianney House (the diocesan house of discernment), was the homilist.

In discussing vocations, Father Long pointed out that "the only instruction we received from the Lord regarding vocations was to pray. No command to construct programs, billboard advertisements and the like."

He also noted that if we lose sight of that instruction we can become jaded in working for vocations. A recent survey of men ordained to the priesthood in 2011 showed the average to be 34, from larger families. About half attended Catholic Schools, and a similar number took part in youth group activities. Essentially, they were normal young men, with hobbies that included music, reading, movies, sports and outdoor

activities and cooking.

"The most consistently reported fact about the ordinands though was that 71 percent had been altar servers," Father Long said. "The survey also reported that less than 10 percent had been influenced by advertisement or vocations awareness programs while over 70 percent had a regular practice of Praying the Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration."

He pointed out that this should not come as a surprise because the priesthood is a supernatural vocation, meaning God creates the desire by His grace, not by one's own choosing.

"God does this often as a response to our prayers and he does this in the silence of the heart," Father Long continued. "Becoming a priest is not like becoming a banker, a lawyer, or a doctor. It would be a mistake to call priesthood a 'job' or a 'career path.' Jesus gives us this contrast so that we understand how entirely God-given is the vocation of the priest. This important truth was confirmed in the Gospel of the day -- 'A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.'"

"The Gospel gives us another important truth -- 'the

sheep will hear my voice,' Father Long said. "The key to following Christ in becoming a priest lies in the ability to recognize the shepherd's voice."

Many voices are vying for the attention of youth. How is it possible to distinguish Christ's voice from the others?

"They must learn His voice by spending time with Him," Father Long said. "In silence, in prayer and in reading Scripture."

Father Long noted that everyone must do all they can to help cultivate in the young the possibility of a priestly vocation by praying -- praying in a particular way.

"You must pray for your child's vocation and you must pray for yourselves to create a culture of prayer that is able to hear the Shepherd's voice," he said. "It is the Good Shepherd's desire to give life and give it in abundance doing this through priestly vocations. Let us dispose our families and communities to receive what God deeply desires to give us."

The Diocese of Lake Charles will have 10 men in various stages of discernment and education for the priesthood this fall.

## Did you know...

Deacons Garrett Caraway (St. John Bosco), Ray Granger (St. Henry), Sumner Kohlhund (St. Joseph, DeRidder), Jack Reynolds (St. Theodore); and H.E. Wagner (Immaculate Conception, Sulphur) celebrate 35 years of diaconate ministry this year. They were ordained on June 24, 1977 by Bishop Gerard Frey, Bishop of Lafayette, at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur.

Four priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles will celebrate 10 years of priestly service this year. Can you name them? For bonus points, who is the longest serving priest in the Diocese? Find out in the next Catholic Calendar.

# Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

June 1, 2012

## World Day of Prayer for Sanctification of Priests in Diocese set June 15

LAKE CHARLES -- Bishop Glen John Provost has announced that the Holy See has called for a World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, observed in the Diocese of Lake Charles on Friday, June 15 - The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Bishop has encouraged the priests of the Diocese to increase their devotion by daily spiritual reading, Eucharistic Adoration, *Lectio Divina*, meditation, Holy Hour, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, recitation of the rosary, and frequent confession.

A special letter from Mauro Cardinal Piacenza, Prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, has been sent to all priests of the Diocese, as well as a prayer for the intention of sanctification and an examination of conscience.

Blessed John Paul II established that, on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart, the Church would observe the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests.

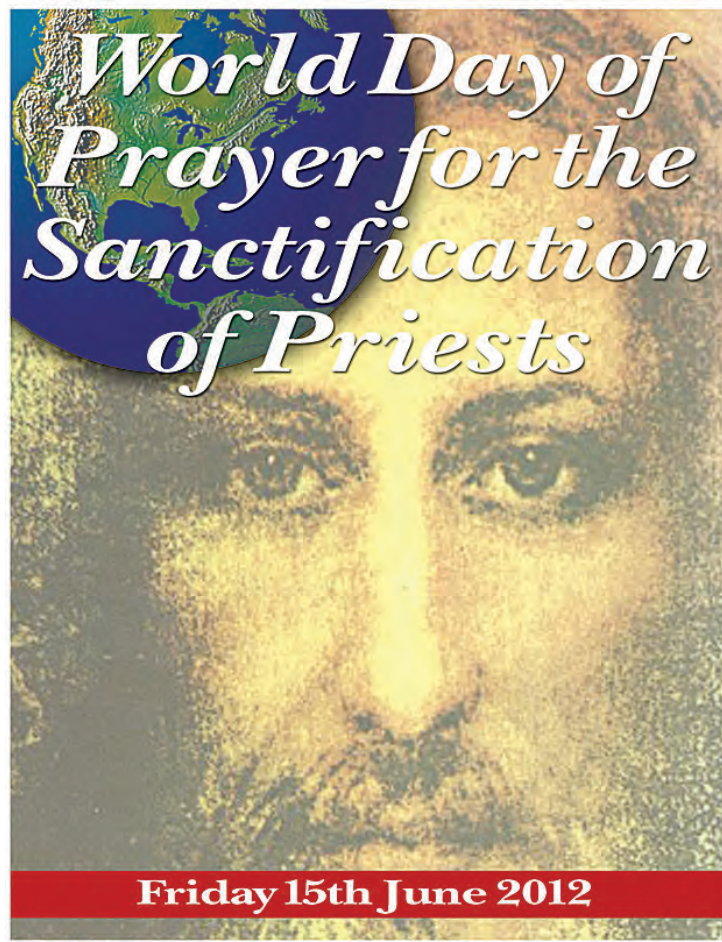
The 2010 to 2011 "Year of The Priests" was a tremendous success worldwide. This year of prayer was a special

gift to all priests.

On August 25, 1856, Blessed Pope Pius IX inscribed the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart in the Calendar of the Catholic Church, directing that it be celebrated on the Friday after the Octave of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) each year. He was responding to a formal request made by Jesus Himself almost two centuries earlier in 1675 to a French Visitation nun, Margaret Mary Alacoque. This saintly woman was later to be canonized on May 13, 1920, just five days before the birth of Blessed Pope John Paul II.

In his visitation to Sr. Margaret Mary, Jesus expressed His wish that the Feast of the Sacred Heart be a day of reparation, not for sins in general, but specifically for sins against the Eucharist which St. Albert the Great considered the first gift of the Sacred Heart. This great Dominican teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas marvelled at how the institution of the Eucharist was a source of great joy to the Sacred Heart; "His Heart overflowed with love and joy at being completely one with us and filling our hearts with

joy and jubilation". Each and every one of the faithful are strongly encouraged to begin, if not already doing so, to pray for our priests today - this day, this very moment - in preparation through prayer, celebration



Friday 15th June 2012

**Priests need to be Saints!**

[www.worldpriestday.com](http://www.worldpriestday.com)

of the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, so that June 15 will be an even greater celebration of the priesthood of Jesus Christ worldwide.

Please remember to pray for our priests!

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## OLQH students garner special praise

LAKE CHARLES - Seventh and eighth grade students of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School were recently singled out for special praise by the National Hurricane Museum and Science Center (NHMSC) as well as receiving a resolution for their assistance from the group's board of directors.

Jennifer Templet, museum board member, made the presentation at the school following an all-school mass in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. "These stu-

dents have imagined what the perfect museum/science center experience could be," she said, "And, they showed their initiative by sharing their ideas with everyone."

The students organized their suggestions for exhibits and activities they would like to see brought to life when the NHMSC opens. Social Studies teacher Diane Oden used the items to compose an open letter to the Lake Charles Area last February.

Among the ideas were a "4-D IMAX" theatre, a wind

tunnel to experience 60-100 mph winds, and a demonstration of a 2x4 being driven through a brick wall. The students made nearly 40 suggestions, included a promotional sketch, and signed their names to the document.

One student said, "there could be a simulation where people go into a house. A hurricane and tornado warning is issued. The people in the house then find and hide where they think is the safest place. The tornado/hurricane eventually hits the house followed by spotlights that shine on the hidden people. Then a speaker would tell if that place

was a good place to take shelter or why it is not a good place to take shelter."

Templet presented the classes with the "Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation" signed by the seven members of the NHMSC Board of Directors. The document also pledged to include permanent recognition at the Center as the first such group of students to submit their ideas.

To view the students' letter and the official resolution, go to [www.nhmsc.com/pressroom](http://www.nhmsc.com/pressroom).

For more information, contact Jill Kidder, [jill.kidder@nhmsc.com](mailto:jill.kidder@nhmsc.com), 225 803-7033



Jennifer Templet, top left, a board member of the National Hurricane Museum and Science Center presented a resolution from the group to Diane Oden, top right, social studies teacher at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, and students Kelsie Berlin, bottom left, and Isabella Huber, bottom right. The resolution praising the junior high classes for the letter they wrote to the museum board with a variety of suggestions that would make a visit to the museum/science center a better experience.

## Fortnight of Freedom set June 21-July 4

LAKE CHARLES - Plans are being finalized for activities in the Diocese of Lake Charles during the "Fortnight of Freedom," and are being provided to the priests of the Diocese. The event was called for by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty.

In April, the committee issued a document, "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty," outlining the bishops' concerns over threats to religious freedom, both at home and abroad. The bishops called for this 14-day period of prayer, education and action in support of religious freedom.

This time, from June 21 - the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More - to July 4, Independence Day, is dedicated to a great hymn of prayer for our country. The

Church's liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power - St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome.

Forty-three Catholic organizations as well as dioceses from across the country have filed religious liberty lawsuits against the federal government challenging the Obama administration's contraception mandate.

New York's Timothy Cardinal Dolan called the act "a compelling display of the unity of the Church in defense of religious liberty." At least 11 previous lawsuits were filed by states, colleges, private employers and organizations and now there are 12 more in a dozen jurisdictions.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Glad Tidings airs on web only June 4

LAKE CHARLES - The Diocesan television program *Glad Tidings* will be pre-empted from its normal 6 a.m. airing on KPLC-TV on Sunday, June 4, due to NBC network coverage of the Men's Finals of the French Open.

The program will be available on the website of the Diocese - [lcdioocese.org](http://lcdioocese.org) - at 6 a.m. Sunday, June 4. It will air at its regular time of 6 a.m. on Sunday, June 11, on KPLC-TV.

### Long-married couples to be honored June 24

LAKE CHARLES - Married couples in the Diocese of Lake Charles celebrating anniversaries of 25 and 50 years of Christian marriage in 2012 will be honored Sunday, June 24, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant of the 11:15 a.m. Mass. The Office of Family is sponsors the event.

Couples who will celebrate an anniversary of more than 50 years that is divisible by five, such as 55, 60, 65, 70 or 75 are also invited. All couples should contact their church parish office to register for the celebration and receive a formal invitation from the Bishop.

A reception will be in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral Office Complex on the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets immediately following the Mass. The Cathedral is handicap acces-

sible for those who may require this assistance.

Contact Kathy Owen, Director of the Office of Family Life, at 337-439-7400 for more information.

### Fourth cycle of Parish visitations set

LAKE CHARLES - The dates and sites of the fourth cycle of Bishop Glen John Provost's parish visitations have been announced.

The Bishop will visit the parishes of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Creole and the Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron on the weekend of Sept. 22-23.

He will celebrate masses on Sunday, Dec. 9, at St. Joseph Parish in Elton.

On January 19-20, 2013, the Bishop will visit Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Oakdale and its mission chapel, St. Frances of Rome in Elizabeth.

The final stop on this cycle of visitations will be at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lake Charles and its mission chapel of Our Lady of Fatima on March 9-10, 2013.

### 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. Call 337-439-7400 for more information.

## Official Appointments

By order of the Most Reverend Bishop:

### Effective Sunday, July 1, 2012:

The Very Reverend Marcus Johnson is appointed to a second three-year term as Dean of the Central Deanery;

The Very Reverend Aubrey Guilbeau is appointed to a second three-year term as Dean of the West Deanery;

### Effective Monday, June 4, 2012:

The Reverend Ruben Buller is appointed Master of Ceremonies to the Bishop and Director of the Office of Liturgy and is assigned for summer study at the Liturgical Institute of the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Chicago to achieve a Master of Arts Degree in liturgy;

The Reverend John Huckaby is appointed Bishop's Liaison to the Lake Charles Chapter of ACTS Missions;

The Reverend Jacob Scott Conner is appointed Diocesan Chaplain to the Boy Scouts;

### Effective Monday, June 25, 2012:

The Reverend Herbert May is appointed Diocesan Chaplain to the Companions of Honor;

### Effective Monday, July 2, 2012:

The Reverend Jeffrey Starkovich is appointed Vocation Recruiter for the Eastern Deanery;

### Effective Wednesday, August 1, 2012:

The Reverend Ruben Buller is appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Lake Charles, remaining Master of Ceremonies and Director of the Office of Liturgy and without compromise to his studies at the Liturgical Institute

### Effective Monday, July 2, 2012:

The Reverend Derek Covert is appointed Judicial Vicar for a term of three years and Secretary Adjutant to the Bishop;

### Effective Monday, June 25, 2012:

The Reverend Dean Bryan Thompson is appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Henry Parish in Lake Charles and co-Chaplain to the Office of Hispanic Ministry.

Given from His Chancery, this 26th day of May in the Year of our Lord, 2012.

+ Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

## Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2012 the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey in 1957:

*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

### 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 program 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.

### 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.