



Our Lady Queen of Heaven School takes top prizes in video contests

LAKE CHARLES -- Bullying has always been around, but it seems to have gotten out of control in recent years. The recent outbreak of children and teens committing suicide as a direct result of being bullied has led to the coining of the word "Bullycide."

Bullycide is a nationwide problem, and something must be done to stop this epidemic. That is where Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School (OLQHS) stepped forward. Last fall, OLQHS started an anti-bullying club called Students With Anti-bullying Goals or SWAG. The organization is all about putting the power for positive change in the hands of those that are affected the most-our youth! SWAG instills in the students that they must be *Upstanders* - people who prevent, stop, and heal the harm that bullying causes for everyone.

Among other projects, and with the guidance from local news celebrity, Pam Dixon, SWAG created an anti-bullying themed video with the purpose of entering it into two national contests.

In the video, students promote a message of standing together, and not backing away from doing what is right. The school and the students were

thrilled to learn recently that they took the top spot in both competitions.

SWAG captured The Catholic Mutual Group's Grand Prize of \$10,000. The second contest win, came from The National School Climate Center's (NSCC) BullyBust Campaign partnered with the Blockbuster Broadway musical *Wicked*, and sponsored the "For Good" Video Contest. As the Grand Prize winner the school will receive a \$500.00 grant from BullyBust to continue their excellent bully prevention efforts. In addition, this fall, select cast members from the Broadway production of *Wicked* will make a special visit to OLQHS.

Sue Ellen Stokeld, school counselor and moderator for the video contest, since the beginning of SWAG said, "OLQHS has become a SAFER place where bullying is no longer acceptable. The school's conversation has changed. SWAG has brought together students, teachers, faculty, parents, and friends - all working towards a unified goal of creating the SAFEST environment for everyone in the community."

To view the prize winning video go to: www.StudentsWithAntibullyingGoals.blogspot.com.



The pictured students of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School took part in the video production on "Bullycide" that captured first place in two national competitions: **Bottom Row: (1 to r) Hollis Hernandez, Cecilia Benoit, Greyson Fruge, Kelsie Cooley, Evan Doret, Jacob Lebleu, Joseph Tassin, Anna Cameron, Alyssa Johnson, Alyx Hardy, Alli Kadlubar, Emily Eisner, Abigail Milligan, Ryan Monk; 2nd Row: (1 to r) Isabella Huber, Mackey Derouen, Timothy Curol, Brennan Prejean, Jenna Watkins, Mary Amanda Bell, Pratchie Roy, Maya Doucet, Garret Phillips, Haleybeth Cain, Jordan Lee, Julianne Morris, Jacob Self, John-David Houssiere, Cameron Witherwax; 3rd Row: (1 to r) Sue Ellen Stokeld (Sponsor), Owen Conner, Grace Racca, Jackson Flaherty, Cameron Fontenot, Zach Richard, Riley Ardoin, Bethany Soileau, Tabitha Sonnier, Gabby Moran, Bailey Daigre, Sarah Corbello, Collin Roan, Lauren Reyes; 4th Row: (1 to r) Robert Christman, Julian Gonzales, Mary Flaherty, Emily McGee, Cameron Guillory, Karleigh Courville, Bailey Fruge, Grayson Broussard, Robert Rigmaldin, Conner Williams, Gaby Welling, Ashlyn Poche-Pauley, Cameron Kingery, Isabelle McGee; 5th Row: (1 to r) Cara Hanks, McKenzie Duplechin, Ashlyn Theriot, Anna Woods, Emily Bono, Ian Bruce, John Noble, Nick Sullivan, Sarah Cormier, Will Groves, Lexi Larsen, Katherine Smith, Sierra Courville; 6th Row: (1 to r) Madison Duplechin, Jillian Whitley, Madi Oertling, Quin Roan, Hunter Dore, Hannah Hardy, Mady Guidry, Lauren Gayle, Annie Schindler, Jasmine Weber, Hailey Guth, Hannah Rogers; 7th Row: (1 to r) Frances Fournarat, Anna Bushnell, Ally Crooks, Kyle Godeaux, Mark Johnston, Anna Duplechin, Breanna Broussard, Madeline Stine, Julie Vincent, Ellen Johnston, Christian Bernard, Emily Tassin; Last Row: (1 to r) Maggie Kuehn, Will Upshaw, Grant Tassin, Maria Santacoloma, Zoe Richard, Mercedes Oviedo, Sophie Hacker, Logan Kuehn, Sam Bruchhaus, Charlie Ehlers, Daniel Best, C.J. Semien.**

Youth and Young Adult Ministry events

LAKE CHARLES - The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry has released its schedule of events for 2012-2013, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, director.

The office's annual Called2BCatholic music festival will be replaced by a powerful retreat experience called YOUTH 2000. It is a weekend event, with sessions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, to which a person could attend all or part. It is for teens and young adults with a focus on Eucharist and Prayer. It will be held at St. Louis Catholic High School from 6:30 p.m. Friday, August 24 to Sunday, August 26 at 12:30 p.m. Further information is available through the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

The 2012 National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry is in Orlando, Fla., from Thursday, November 29 to Sunday, December 1. For registration and hotel information as well as other general information please visit their website www.nccym.nfcym.org.

The March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington, DC is set for Monday, Jan. 21 through Saturday, Jan. 26. More information will be made available soon, Thibodeaux said.

Changes have been made in the 2013 Diocesan Youth Conference. It will be held on February, 22-24. In order to make it more affordable for teens and parishes, the new site will be the Dry Creek Camp in Dry Creek, La. Promotional materials and registration information will be available in the fall.

The Spring Middle School Rally is Saturday, April 6, 2013 at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Lake Charles from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. with Mass at 4 p.m. Registration information will be available after the first of year.

Thibodeaux is exploring the possibility of taking a group to World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from July 21 to July 30, 2013. Young adults who are interested in joining this pilgrimage can contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (337) 439-7400, Ext. 303.

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

Saint Charles Center events during July

MOSS BLUFF - Several events are slated at Saint Charles Center during the remainder of July.

Tomorrow, July 7, the Center's own versions of the "Running of the Bulls" is set for 9 a.m. until noon at Tabor Retreat House. Come and cheer the brave souls who will be chased by the "bulls", which will be actually members of the performing arts ensembles of St. Louis Catholic High School on rollerskates, around the covered pathways of the Retreat House. Admission is \$5 per person or \$15 per family.

A Basic and Intermediate Workshop in Icon Painting is set for Monday, July 16 through Sunday, July 22. Participants in this workshop/retreat will be introduced to the practical and theological aspects of the iconographic tradition, as well as the symbolism of each step of the icon-writing process.

Limited to 15 participants, the suggested donation for the program is \$1,142.00 per person for a single room. The cost includes all art supplies and other expenses. A deposit of \$150.00 is due upon registration.

On Tuesday, July 10, Sr. Diane Depwe will present "Saving America" from 6 to 9 p.m. in Tabor Retreat House. The suggested donation of \$20 includes supper. Deadline for registration is today, July 6.

Father Gary Schexnayder will present an Evening of Reflection on "The Spirituality of the Serenity Prayer" from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24. This evening of prayer and presentation will focus upon the well known Serenity Prayer, originally composed by Reinhold Niebuhr and often associated with the Alcoholics Anonymous community and 12 step spirituality. The suggested donation of \$20 includes supper.

To register or for more information call Saint Charles Center at 337-855-1232.



Julie Ieyoub Miller, holding the crystal award, was recently honored with induction to the St. Louis Catholic High School Hall of Fame during an early evening celebration. Miller spent more than 20 years as a volunteer and employee of the school. She shares her award here with four grandchildren, all students at St. Louis, from left:- Hunter Thibodeaux, Alex Kjellsten, Elise Ieyoub, and Remy Miller.

Dates for breakfasts, luncheons with Bishop

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost will begin his new round of presentations at the Men's Prayer Breakfasts and Women's Prayer Luncheons in September.

Dates for the breakfasts, held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Office Complex on the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets, are Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. Dates in 2013 are Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1, April 5, and May 3. The breakfasts begin at 7 a.m. and are preceded by the celebration of Mass in the Cathedral at 6:30 a.m.

Luncheons are slated for Sept. 5, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7. Due to scheduling conflicts there will be no presentations in December or January.

Dates in 2013 are Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, and May 1. The luncheons will also be held in Ave Maria Hall.

Two men with local ties ordained priests

LAKE CHARLES - Two men with close ties to Southwest Louisiana have been ordained priests in recent months, one for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and the other as a priest of the worldwide Legionaries of Christ.

The Rev. Mitchell P Semar is a 40-year old native of Vinton. He is the son of LeRoy and Judy Semar, and the youngest of four children. He has two sisters, Anne and Stephanie and one a brother, Chris. He graduated from Vinton High School and attended Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans where earned a master's of divinity degree.

As part of his priestly ministry, he ministered at St. Hilary of Poitiers Church in Mathews in the summer of 2006 and at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bayou Black in the summer of 2009. From June to October 2011 he served his deacon internship at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Houma.

Prior to his ordination, May 26, Semar was quoted in the Bayou Catholic (the monthly newsmagazine of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux), saying, "I can't wait to serve the Church of Houma-Thibodaux by celebrating the sacraments and being there for important

times, as well as ordinary times, in people's lives. I desire very much to spend my life in service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Father Semar celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, May 27, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton. He also celebrated Mass on Sunday, June 3, at St. Hilary of Poitiers Church in Mathews.

Father Michael Andrew Picard was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on January 14, 1979. He attended Moss Bluff Elementary and Junior High, and graduated from Sam Houston High School in 1997. After high

school, he completed three years at McNeese State University, majoring in business management.

He did his novitiate in Cornwall, Ontario, from 2000 to 2002, and a year of classical humanities in 2002. He worked for three years in Atlanta in youth and development work, and completed bachelors' degrees in philosophy and theology at the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum College in Rome. He is currently working in Cornwall, Ontario, as the business manager of his old novitiate, as well as the high school seminary there.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

July 6, 2012

Mass, Rally held for Fortnight for Freedom

SULPHUR – Father Edward Richard, M.S., pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, spoke about Religious Liberty in his homily last Sunday during the Mass for Freedom celebrated by Bishop Glen John Provost.

The Mass, along with last Saturday's Standup for Freedom Rally on Sulphur's Heritage Square Pavilion, were part of the nationwide "Fortnight for Freedom" called for by the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The two-week period began on Thursday, June 21 and ended on Independence Day. On April 12, the Ad Hoc Committee issued a document, "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty," outlining the bishops' concerns over threats to religious freedom, both at home and abroad.

In his homily, Father Richard noted that we should all be like Jesus, who performed his works of mercy and healing in the public square. "He gave Himself without counting the cost to save those for whom He was sent.

"The day is at hand, brothers and sisters, for you to stand up with Jesus Christ for truth and justice," Father Richard continued. "Our God did not ask the Roman Emperor if he could cure the sick or who he could choose to assist him. God the Son did not check His obedience to the Father at the door of the synagogue to avoid offending the sensibilities of the empire. In his care for others, in the ways of God, Our Divine Savior did not accept that the world's way of serving was the only way he was allowed to serve. The Son of Man placed himself at the service of inconvenient truth and he accepted suffering above the security of his own comfort and life. He did not go seeking a fight with the authorities, but he did not back away from it so that he could live only to speak the word but not do it.

"The day is here, brothers and sisters," Father Richard said. "The U.S. Supreme Court told you that the day has come. The day has come for you to write your legislators to tell them what you want. The day has come for you to hold them accountable for their actions. They are the ones who are responsible. "Let me be clear about this," he continued. "In this matter of religious freedom, you cannot depend upon the Court. You cannot depend upon the power of the President. If you want Catholic hospitals, Catholic Charities,

Catholic adoption agencies, Catholic schools, Catholic social services, then you better figure out what these people who are in the Congress are doing and vote for the principles of justice that Jesus lived when stepped upon the earth to save the world."

At the close of Mass, before the final blessing, Bishop Provost made several comments and alluded to his talk at Saturday's Rally for Freedom. He spoke of the central issue of concern for everyone in this erosion of religious freedom. "In regards to the Health and Human Services mandate," the Bishop said. "It does something that no federal law has done in the history of the United States. It defines what a church is. They call it a 'religious employer.' The church must have as its primary purpose the inculcation of doctrine and it must serve and employ only those of its religious group. This, in and of itself, is very much the heart and center of what our concern should be. The definition is too restrictive. In being so restrictive, Catholic institutions are not exempt from the mandate. Catholic social services do not serve only Catholics. Our Catholic schools and hospitals do not employ only Catholics. This is why the Bishops of the United States voted unanimously to register their protest and why over 40 Catholic institutions filed suit regarding this particular mandate.

"I invite you to become more participatory in this," Bishop Provost continued. "All the information is there for anyone who would seek it, on the website of the bishops and in other sources as well. You will find much to read and much to reflect upon. I commend this to your thoughts and to your prayers as well. Let this prayer and this Fortnight for Freedom heighten our awareness of this very critical issue."

In addition to Bishop Provost, ministers and public officials who spoke at the rally were Sulphur Mayor Chris Duncan and councilwoman Veronica Allison, Sulphur City Judge Charles Schrupf, 14th Judicial District Judges David Ritchie and Kent Savoie, Third Circuit Court of Appeal Chief Judge Gene Thibodeaux, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso, and Rev. Ronnie Burke, Senior pastor of Maplewood First Baptist Church.

(Read Bishop Provost's complete remarks from the rally lcediocese.org by clicking *Standup for Freedom Rally*)



Bishop Glen John Provost, left, celebrated the Mass for Freedom last Sunday at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur. Father Edward Richard, M.S., right, was the homilist.



The Blessing and Dedication of Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in Johnson Bayou is tomorrow, July 7, at 10 a.m. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the presiding prelate and celebrant of the Mass of Dedication for the newly reconstructed church with Rev. Rommel Tolentino, pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry, as con-celebrant. The church building was destroyed by Hurricane Ike in 2008 after having been restored following heavy damage by Hurricane Rita in 2005. Assumption Chapel is the mission church of St. Peter the Apostle.



Continued violent crimes in the Town of Welsh prompted religious and community leaders in addition to the public in general held an Ecumenical Prayer Service last Sunday at Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church. Members of law enforcement, including the Welsh Police Department, Jefferson Davis Sheriff's Department and Louisiana State Police were present. Father Herbert May, pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolours, concluded the service by inviting all who were willing 'to stand up and be a light in this community, a watchman for and with others,' to approach the altar and light a candle from the Paschal Candle to symbolize that commitment. Father May, right, and Rev. Betty McGehee, pastor of Welsh First Presbyterian Church, lead the crowd out of the church.

"Beat the Heat" applications now being taken

LAKE CHARLES -- Citizens of Southwest Louisiana, at least 65 years old and/or disabled, can now begin applying for a window unit air conditioner from the "Beat the Heat" program facilitated through Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana and assisted by Assembly #22, Fourth Degree Knights of Peter Claver. Applicants must call the Catholic Charities office at 337-439-7436. No walk-in applications will be accepted.

The program funding is made possible through the City of Lake Charles, United Way of Southwest Louisiana, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Catholic Charities, and the Knights of Peter Claver.

Funding for units distributed inside of Lake Charles is through a grant from the City of Lake Charles Office of Community Development and Service while units go-

ing to clients outside Lake Charles will be made possible by private donations and funds from the previously mentioned entities.

Stine Lumber Company is assisting the program by providing the air conditioners at a reduced cost.

Fourth Degree Knights of Peter Claver from Assembly #22 will inspect homes and install the units after clients receive final approval.

All applicants must pass a screening process that in-

cludes an appointment at Catholic Charities, the home inspection, and have a demonstrable need for the unit. No applicant may have central air conditioning or more than one window unit already in the home.

Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution to the project should call Catholic Charities at 337-439-7436 or mail a check payable to Catholic Charities of SWLA-a/c Program to 1225 2nd St, Lake Charles LA 70601.

Did you know...

Monsignor Joseph Bourque celebrated his 57th priestly anniversary on June 4 and Father James Doyle had the 51st anniversary of his ordination on May 27.

One Catholic school in the Southwest Louisiana had its beginnings, starting with a kindergarten class, in a newly completed Knights of Columbus Hall. Can you name that school? Find out in the next Catholic Calendar.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Bishop's Gala tickets on sale

LAKE CHARLES – Tickets for the inaugural Bishop's Gala, a black tie formal social and dance set for Saturday, Dec. 8, are now on sale at the Chancery of the Diocese (439-7400), 414 Iris Street; Crossroads Bookstore (474-7100), 601 West Prien Lake Road; and through parish churches of the Diocese.

Purchasing tickets, which are \$125 each, by credit card will also be available on the website of the Diocese – lcediocese.org. Tables for 10 are \$1,100 each. Only 1,000 tickets will be available.

The Gala will be in the Exhibition Hall of the Lake Charles Civic Center beginning at 6 p.m., continuing until midnight, with music by the 12-member Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Proceeds will benefit the efforts of the Office of Communications to evangelize the Catholic faith through print (Catholic Calendar), television (Glad Tidings), radio (airing of the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass from the Cathedral); and the Diocesan website.

There will also be a silent auction with many wonderful selections available. Winning bidders will have the ability to use credit cards on site to pay for their items.

Donors aid Abrazando Cristo Mission Program

LAKE CHARLES – Generous contributors to the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program have donated \$65,500 to aid the poorest of the poor in Nicaragua.

The recent Big Cash Giveaway netted \$40,500 from 463 ticket buyers. The top prize went to ticket number 0318BB, sec-

ond prize winner was number 0369LMJ and third spot went to 0148CM.

The Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf Tournament netted \$25,000 for the *Pan y Amor Boys Home and School*.

Dates for breakfasts, luncheons told

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Rachel's Vineyard retreat July 27-29

LAKE CHARLES – A Rachel's Vineyard of Southwest Louisiana Retreat will be held Friday through Sunday, July 27-29, at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

The weekend is an opportunity for any man, woman, couple, grandparent or sibling who struggles with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. This unique retreat allows par-

ticipants to enter the grieving process, identify effects the abortion has had and release deep feelings of anger, shame and guilt that frequently accompany an abortion experience.

The retreat combines discussions, spiritual exercises, Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of Entrustment.

Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience the mercy and compassion of God, whose greatest desire is to forgive.

Call 337-439-7400 Ext. 317 for more information or registration or e-mail rachels.vineyard@lcediocese.org

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 Progreso and Cozumel, and returns on Saturday, Sept. 29.

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

Registration closes for pilgrimage to France

LAKE CHARLES – Registration for the 10-day pilgrimage with Bishop Glen John Provost to the Shrines of France from Oct. 29-Nov. 7, has closed.

Bishop Provost said he "looks forward to the pilgrimage in the fall and joining in prayer with those who are going."