



Runners from Mexico and Texas as well as local volunteers escort the images of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Juan Diego, and the Holy Fire down Eighth Avenue to St. Henry Catholic Church during last year's **International Run Carrera Antorcha Guadalupeana Mexico-New York Torch Race** as it made an overnight stop at St. Henry. This year's relay race will pass through the Diocese of Lake Charles on Nov. 8-10. The Relay will also make an overnight visit to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jennings.

## Guadalupean Torch Run Nov. 8-10; runners needed

LAKE CHARLES - The annual relay, the **International Run Carrera Antorcha Guadalupeana Mexico-New York Torch Race** connecting Mexico and the United States, will make two stops in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The holy fire is on its way from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City for Our Lady's feast day on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Runners are being sought here in the Diocese to partici-

pate in the local legs of this historic annual relay. Those who would like to take part should contact Rev. Bryan Thompson, Co-Chaplain for Hispanic Ministry and Parochial Vicar of St. Henry Catholic Church, at 337-436-7223 or at [bryan.thompson@lcdiocese.org](mailto:bryan.thompson@lcdiocese.org) to register.

On Thursday morning, Nov. 8, the Torch will arrive at the Louisiana Visitor's Center at the Louisiana-Texas state line at 8:30 a.m. The relay will commence at U.S. 90 and

Toomey Road going through Vinton, Edgerly, Sulphur, and Westlake. In the early afternoon, the Holy Fire will be driven over the Calcasieu River to the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau off I-10 on Lakeshore Drive.

At 3 p.m., the relay will continue down Lakeshore Drive to Broad Street and on to St. Henry Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue, where the torch and images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, which accompany the torch, will remain overnight. Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. followed by a reception in the St. Henry Community Center.

Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 9, at St. Henry before the relay begins again down Broad Street and U.S. 90 through Iowa, Lacassine, Welsh, Roanoke, and to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jennings. Mass will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception at 5:30 p.m.

The torch and images will remain in the church overnight and leave the Diocese on Saturday morning to continue its journey.

## 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**

## Resources for Year of Faith found online

LAKE CHARLES - With the Year of Faith called for by Pope Benedict XVI to honor the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is providing a number of resources for the Catholic faithful.

You can find information online including resources for families, rediscovering the Faith, The New Evangelization, Plenary Indulgence, Year of Faith calendar, Year of Faith Q & A, Year of Faith Saints, Year of Faith Videos, and Daily Scripture Reflections at <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/>

## A Letter from Bishop Provost on Voting

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the November election fast approaching, I am writing on the importance of voting. Voting is not a casual activity. It carries with it serious responsibilities in conscience. In the document issued by the Catholic Bishops of the United States entitled "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," the Bishops make this salient point: "In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. This obligation is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do." For my part, as a Bishop of the Catholic Church, I would be remiss in my obligation if I did not call your attention to your moral obligation. As St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, "I am writing you this not to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children" (1 Corinthians 4:14). My purpose is not to instruct anyone on how or for whom to vote. My intent is to speak of solid moral principles which are consistent with Catholic teaching, both in Sacred Scriptures and Tradition, and the virtuous exercise of responsible citizenship.

Respect for human life is not one issue of many. It is basic, essential and non-negotiable. Blessed John Paul II in *Evangelium vitae* (1995, no. 101) articulated the teaching very well, when he wrote:

It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop.... Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace.

There is cause for grave concern, when, as Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York recently wrote, our society "has become increasingly callous about the radical abortion license, and a legal system... affords more protection to endangered species of plants and animals than to unborn babies; that considers pregnancy a disease; that interprets 'comprehensive health care' in such a way that it may be used to threaten the life of the baby in the womb." We speak of a preferential option for the poor and rightly so. Should not helpless, unborn babies enjoy a compelling preferential option?

There is also the issue of religious liberty, "our first and most cherished liberty." The practice of faith is being increasingly relegated to a "private matter," as though religious practice were something restricted to attendance at church services. Yet, we know that our Catholic hospitals, schools, charities, and ministries exist precisely because we are Catholic Christians who serve not only those within our own Church but also the community at large. For any government to define what a church is (cf. Dept. of Health and Human Services 45 CFR Part 147, Federal Register, vol. 77, no. 31, Wed., February 15, 2012/Rules and Regulations) for the purpose of determining an exemption in conscience is deeply troubling and could have disastrous consequences in the future.

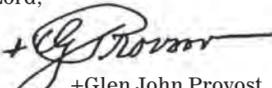
Finally, our conscience obligates us to have concerns about the poor, the underprivileged, the immigrant, the homeless, the unemployed, and the elderly. Regrettably, there are some who wrongfully ignore the less fortunate and prefer wasteful spending. There are many, on the other hand, who acknowledge these matters and know that we must engage in respectful and civil debate on how to address the needs of our society. Not everyone will agree on the solutions. But we simply cannot dismiss every attempt at fiscal responsibility and label as "bigots" those who seek to address a rampaging federal debt. Is it conscionable to hand on to our children and grandchildren a bill they cannot pay? If this occurs, the poor and the unemployed will be the first to suffer.

The disregard for the natural law and the embrace of intrinsic evil that we see in this country are deeply troubling. In many ways, we must all accept some responsibility, because our government is not imposed upon us from outside but elected from within. God has given us an intellect and a free will with which to discern and to act. God also calls us to conversion and a life of virtue. The conscientious voter brings all of these to the decision he or she makes.

We should also pray for God's mercy and at the same time be confident that God will bring good out of this moral collapse. With God all things are possible.

With prayers for your intentions and our nation, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

  
+Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

## Year of Faith activities around the Diocese

(Read more at <http://live.lcdiocese.org/news/1171-year-of-faith-activities-in-the-diocese.html>)

LAKE CHARLES - Four local churches - Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Theodore in Moss Bluff, and St. Peter the Apostle in Hackberry - have announced events taking place during the Year of Faith.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven will have the final fall evening showing of Father Robert Barron's Catholicism on Monday, Nov. 12 at 6

p.m. in the Family Life Center Activity Room. For those unable to attend in the evenings, Tuesday showings from noon to 1:15 p.m. will be Nov. 4 and 10. The final five video showings will be in the spring.

St. Theodore and its SALT group will have showings of Catholicism each Monday through Jan. 7, except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Immaculate Heart of Mary will present the program on Tuesdays, Nov. 13 and 27, Dec. 11, Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 5 and 26, and March 12.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Vocaré meeting dates announced

LAKE CHARLES - Men, seeking to understand God's call in their lives, are invited to attend Sunday Vocaré meetings at Vianney House.

Meetings are set for 6 p.m. on Nov. 4 and Dec. 9. Vianney House is the diocesan house of discernment, located at the corner of Ninth and Bank streets.

Call Father Nathan Long for more information about Vocaré and vocations to the priesthood at 337-439-7400.

### November prayer lunch Nov. 7

LAKE CHARLES - The Women's Prayer Luncheon will be Wednesday, Nov. 7. Both events take place in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex.

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

### Mass and Adoration for Healing on First Thursdays

HACKBERRY - The Holy Mass and Adoration for Healing will be held on the First Thursday of each month at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, 1210 Main Street.

The praying of the Rosary and Confession begins at 6 p.m. following at 6:30 p.m. with the celebration of the Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and prayers for healing at 7:30 p.m.

### Middle School Youth Rally Nov. 10

SULPHUR - The Middle School Youth Rally, sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10, in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, located at 1109 Cypress Street.

Registration fee is \$15, which includes lunch and a tee shirt. Contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 337-439-7400 or your parish youth minister for more information.

### Bishop Provost visiting Catholic schools

LAKE CHARLES - Visits by Bishop Glen John Provost to the Catholic Schools in the Diocese during the 2012-2013 school year continue on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School.

On Wednesday, Jan. 16, he will visit Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur.

Wednesday, Feb. 20, the Bishop will be at Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School and the final stop is Wed. March 20, at St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff.

### Holy Family School French Market Bazaar

MOSS BLUFF - The annual St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School's French Market Bazaar is Saturday Dec. 1, in the Enrichment Center and on the grounds at 785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway. The bazaar begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 3 p.m. with crafts, Christmas décor, gifts, religious items, cosmetics, homemade goodies and gumbo.

Vendors interested in participating should contact Racquel Williams at 842-3083 or [racquel323@aol.com](mailto:racquel323@aol.com). A registration form can be found on the schools website [stfhcs.com](http://stfhcs.com).

### Advent Mission at St. Peter the Apostle

HACKBERRY - St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church will host an Advent Parish Mission on Sunday, Dec. 2, featuring Dr. Kelly Bowring, S.T.D., beginning at 2:45 p.m.

Dr. Bowring will have two presentations, the first on Mary Our Mother in Scripture, in Devotion, and in the Church Today and then, from his latest bestselling book, *The Secrets, Chastisement, and Triumph of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary*.

### Rachel's Vineyard 2013 retreats

MOSS BLUFF - Rachel's Vineyard Retreat dates in the Diocese of Lake Charles for 2013 are Friday-Sunday, Feb. 8-10 and July 5-7 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

The weekend is an opportunity for any man, woman, couple, grandparents, or sibling who struggles with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion 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, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential.

Call Rachel's Vineyard of Southwest Louisiana at 337-439-7400, Ext. 317 or e-mail [rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org](mailto:rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org) for information or registration.

# Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

November 2, 2012

## Decree for the Centennial

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a translation by Very Reverend Derek Covert, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar, from the original Latin, of the Decree from the Apostolic Penitentiary granting Bishop Provost's request for a Jubilee for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception as it celebrates the 100th year of construction of the church.)**

The Apostolic Penitentiary, by virtue of faculties from His Holiness, Benedict XVI kindly grants to His Excellency, Glen John Provost, the Bishop of Lake Charles, on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Cathedral Church, the Papal Benediction joined with a Plenary Indulgence in order that he impart it to all the Christian faithful present, who, in mind are distanced from the affection of sin, took part in the same rite, and have fulfilled the usual conditions of sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father.

The Christian faithful who are unable to physically attend the sacred rites due to reasonable circumstances may receive the Papal Blessing provided that the rites are carried out using such instruments as television or radio.

The Christian faithful are able to receive the Plenary Indulgence who, under the usual conditions, have duly performed the following:

- a) A sacred pilgrimage to the Cathedral

Church, were devoutly present at the Holy Mass or other liturgical celebrations or other pious exercises;

- b) Whether individually or in a group, one devoutly visits the Cathedral Church for an appropriate length of time for pious considerations or reflections and concludes with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith, and invocations of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The elderly and sick who have legitimate reasons preventing them from leaving home will be able to obtain the plenary indulgence by detesting sin, and with the intention to fulfill the three conditions as soon as possible. In order to do so they are to spiritually join themselves to pilgrimages or the jubilee celebrations committing to God their pains and inconveniences through prayer offered faithfully through Mary.

The Christian faithful are able to acquire a partial indulgence daily with at least a contrite heart and piously performing works of mercy, or penitence, or works of evangelization proposed by the local Ordinary.

Therefore in order that access to the divine through the keys of the Church might pass more easily in pastoral charity, this Penitentiary prays that the clergy of the Cathedral church will offer themselves with a prompt and generous spirit to penitential celebrations and the communion of the sick.

## Indulgences: Powerful graces that help to repair damages from sin

**By Rev. Nathan Long  
Secretary for the Ministry  
of Christian Formation**

Many today are unaware of the practice of obtaining indulgences. This is unfortunate, since indulgences are powerful graces from the Church to help us repair the damage caused by our sins.

In order to properly understand the importance of indulgences, we must have a correct understanding of sin. Sin wrecks not only my relationship with God, but also the other members of the Body of Christ, my family, society, and even myself. This is what the Church means by "temporal effects" of sin - effects in the world caused by my poor choices.

The letter to the Hebrews reveals God's plan for healing these effects: "for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines" (Heb 12:6). Here, the Scripture teaches us that the correction of our faults comes through chastisements - pains, difficulties, and struggles that result directly from our sinful behavior. You might say that God often punishes us in this life by giving us exactly what we want.

While we may be forgiven for this or that sin, effects still remain which we must help repair. This is what Catholics call "temporal punishment due to sin." Our sins create problems for us and others that require a remedy. The Lord, however, can use the pain and suffering to bring about "the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (Heb. 12:11) - a renewed heart and deeper faith.

It is the same logic used by our justice system, which keeps offenders behind bars or in community service even after he or she repents of the crime. Similarly, it is like the parent who requires the child to do extra chores or acts of service to further teach him not to go astray again. Our God understands that we need rehabilitation and uses our own punishments to transform us.

Indulgences are provided to help heal this "temporal punishment due to sin." Our Lord's Passion and Death heal the rupture we incur with God, but it also provides us with grace to endure life bravely and to overcome the defects produced by our sins. These graces are dispensed

through the Church, who has been endowed with "every spiritual blessing in the heavens" (Eph. 1:3). By showing certain fruits of our love for Christ - praying the Rosary and other prayers, attending a pilgrimage, feeding the poor, reading Scripture, etc - we contribute to the healing of our world and ourselves. For this reason, the Church dispenses the grace of mercy, which relieves the effects of sin and gives us strength and healing that we need. This is what we mean by an "indulgence." Some of these are partial and account for a good portion of the reparation required of us; others are "plenary", meaning they can restore in entirety the damages our past sins have incurred.

In short, indulgences are important aids to growing in holiness granted by the Church. They enhance our cooperation with God's grace so that we bear more fruit. So go ahead, "indulge"! Many blessings await us during the centennial year though prayer and pilgrimage. Let us be eager to receive what God has prepared for us.

## Bishop Provost inaugurates "Jubilee Year of the Cathedral Church"



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the forthcoming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, December 8, 2012, I have decided to inaugurate a "Jubilee Year of the Cathedral Church" in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the completion and dedication of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral church, which will conclude, December 13, 2013. This Year is meant to renew the commitment of all the faithful to the mission of Christ in the Diocese of Lake Charles and to deepen Catholic unity in the same.

The Apostolic Penitentiary has given a Decree granting both plenary and partial indulgences during this year for the benefit of all of the People of God making pilgrimages to our Cathedral or offering pilgrimage prayers in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Furthermore, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has granted me, as the Bishop of Lake Charles, the privilege of crowning Our Lady in the name and authority of the Holy Father. The crowning event will occur on Thursday, August 22, 2013, the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary and will be officiated by His Excellency, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy Father to the United States of America.

To the Most Holy Virgin I entrust this Jubilee Year. This Jubilee Year corresponds and compliments the Year of Faith proclaimed by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. I ask our Blessed Mother to awaken in the hearts of all the faithful a generous and renewed commitment to the ideal of a total offering of oneself to Christ and the Church.

With my blessing,

From the Chancery at the Diocese of Lake Charles, November 2, 2012.

+Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

## THE BISHOP'S GALA

Saturday, December 8, 2012

## Tickets are still available

LAKE CHARLES - Tickets for the inaugural Bishop's Gala, a black tie formal social and dance on Saturday, Dec. 8, may be purchased at the Chancery of the Diocese (337-439-7400), 414 Iris Street; Crossroads Bookstore (337-474-7100), 601 West Prien Lake Road; and in the parish churches of the Diocese.

Tickets can also be purchased for \$125 each or \$1,100 for a table of 10 with a credit card on the website of

the Diocese - [lodiocese.org](http://lodiocese.org). Just click the "Support the Diocese" button and follow the simple instructions.

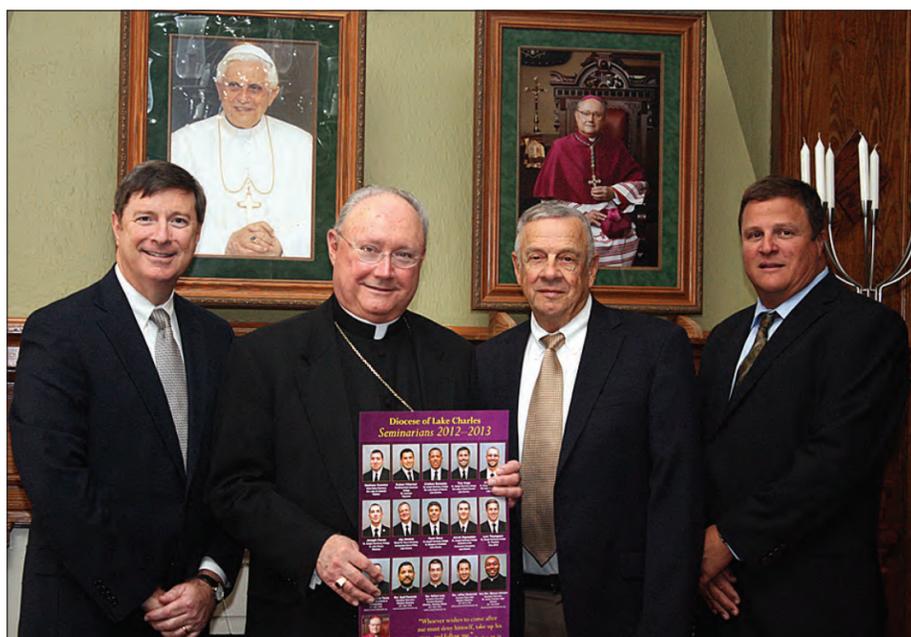
Special levels of giving are also available with Platinum tables, \$15,000; Gold tables, \$10,000.00; Silver tables, \$5,000; and Crystal tables, \$2,500. Purchasers at all of these levels, in addition to 10 tickets, great food, the wonderful music and ambience of the evening, will receive a photo with the Bishop. Buy-

ers of Platinum and Gold Level tables will be additionally recognized the night of the Gala.

Though a black tie event, men may opt to wear black or dark suits rather than a tuxedo.

The Gala will be in the Exhibition Hall of the Lake Charles Civic Center with the doors opening at 6 p.m. Music by the 12-member Tommy Dorsey Orchestra starts at 8 p.m. and continues until midnight. 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 and winning bidders can use their credit cards to pay for the items on site.



The recent Bishop's Golf Classic raised \$35,000 this year, pushing the total for its five-year run to \$175,000, which provides assistance to the Seminarian Education Fund and the Priest Retirement Fund. Ten men are studying for the priesthood for the Diocese this year in four different seminaries while the Diocese has 13 retired priests, including Bishop-emeritus Jude Speyrer. Pictured here, with Bishop Glen John Provost, are title sponsors of the event - at left, Philip C. Earhart, Market President, Southwest Louisiana of Iberia Bank; at right, Alfred Palma, Alfred A. Palma, Jr., President of Alfred Palma, LLC and James Palma, Vice President, Alfred Palma LLC.

## We have a Mission!



"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
John 20:21



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