

CATHOLIC CALENDAR



The Diocese of Lake Charles
lodiocese.org

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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Blessed John Paul II brought moral force, intellect, flair to the world's stage

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Blessed John Paul II, who will be canonized April 27, was one of the most forceful moral leaders of the modern age.

He brought a philosopher's intellect, a pilgrim's spiritual intensity and an actor's flair for the dramatic to his role as head of the universal church for more than 26 years.

The Polish pope was a tireless evangelizer and forceful communicator, speaking to millions in their own languages. But toward the end of his life, his powers of speech faltered with his worsening illness, which left him often unable to even murmur a blessing.

The first non-Italian pope in 455 years, Blessed John Paul became a spiritual protagonist in two global transitions: the fall of European communism, which began in his native Poland in 1989, and the passage to the third millennium of Christianity.

As pastor of the universal church, he jetted around the world, taking his message to 129 countries in 104 trips outside Italy -- including seven to the United States.

Within the church, the pope was just as vigorous and no less controversial. He disciplined dissenting theologians, excommunicated self-styled "traditionalists," and upheld often unpopular church positions like its opposition to artificial birth control. At the same time, he pushed Catholic social teaching into relatively new areas such as bioethics, international economics, racism and ecology.

In his later years, the pope moved with difficulty, tired easily and was less expressive, all symptoms of the nervous system disorder of Parkinson's disease. Yet he pushed himself to the limits of his physical capabilities, convinced that such suffering was itself a form of spiritual leadership.

He led the church through a heavy program of soul-searching events during the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, fulfilling a dream of his pontificate. His long-awaited pilgrimage to the Holy Land that year took him to the roots of the faith and dramatically illustrated the church's improved relations with Jews. He also presided over an unprecedented public apology for the sins of Christians during darker chapters of church history, such as the Inquisition and the Crusades.

His social justice encyclicals, including his landmark document, the apostolic letter "Novo Millennio Ineunte" ("At the Beginning of the New Millennium"), made a huge impact, addressing the moral dimensions of human labor, the widening gap between rich and poor and the shortcomings of the free-market system. He called for a "new sense of mission" to bring Gospel values into every area of social and economic life. At the pope's request, the Vatican published an exhaustive compendium of social teachings in 2004.

As a manager, he set directions but often left policy details to top aides. His reaction to the mushrooming clerical sex abuse scandal in the United States underscored his governing style: He suffered deeply, prayed at length and made brief but forceful statements emphasizing the gravity of such sins by priests. He convened a Vatican-U.S. summit to address the problem, but let his Vatican advisers and U.S. church leaders work out the answers. In the end, he approved changes that made it easier to laicize abusive priests.

The pope approved a universal catechism as one remedy for doctrinal ambiguity. He also pushed church positions further into the public forum. In the 1990s he urged the world's bishops to step up their fight against abortion and euthanasia, saying the practices amounted to a modern-day "slaughter of the innocents." His sharpened critique of these and other "anti-family" policies helped make him Time magazine's choice for Man of the Year in 1994.

The pope was a cautious ecumenist, insisting that real differences between religions and churches not be covered up.

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Blessed John Paul II



Blessed John XXIII

Holy Week Schedule

LAKE CHARLES -- Holy Week at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception continues today at 3 p.m. with the celebration of the Lord's Passion. Bishop Glen John Provost will preside and Very Rev. Derek Covert, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar, will be the homilist.

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

The Bishop will preside at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles are closed today and Easter Monday, April 21, reopening at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 22.

Catholic Charities Jazz Brunch slated May 18

LAKE CHARLES -- The annual Jazz Brunch, this year featuring Chester and Jarvis Daigle along with entertainment by Diocesan clergy and benefitting the ministries of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, will be 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at the Lake Charles Country Club.

Tickets are \$75 each and a table for eight is available for \$700. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, LCSW, director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, will deliver the welcoming address.

Catholic Charities provides financial assistance for a variety of needs: rent, mort-

gage, utilities, prescription assistance, funeral, and bus tickets. It also offers onsite monthly food distribution.

Catholic Charities Volunteer Appreciation Awards will be presented during the afternoon and there will be a silent auction. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted for payment of winning auction bids.

For more information and to purchase tickets contact Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, 1225 Second Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, call 337-439-7436, or click Support the Diocese at the diocesan website - lodiocese.org.

New assignments, transfers

Bishop Glen John Provost announced new pastoral assignments and priest transfers at the Chrism Mass on Wednesday, April 16. As the *Catholic Calendar* was already being printed at that time, the list of appointments will be published in the May 16 *Catholic Calendar* and can be found now on the diocesan website: www.lodiocese.org

Short pontificate, long impact: Blessed John XXIII launched reforms

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Although he served as pope for less than five years, Blessed John XXIII left one of the most lasting legacies in the Catholic Church's history by convening the Second Vatican Council.

A plump, elderly, smiling Italian of peasant origins, the future pope had an illustrious career as a papal diplomat in Bulgaria, Turkey and postwar France.

He became pope amid the dismantling of colonialism, the rise of the Cold War and on the cusp of a technological transformation unlike anything the world had seen since the Industrial Revolution.

Citing the Holy Spirit as his source of inspiration, he called the Second Vatican Council to help the church confront the rapid changes and mounting challenges unfolding in the world -- and, by inviting non-Catholics to the council, to work toward Christian unity.

As pope from 1958 to 1963, Blessed John launched an extensive renewal of the church when he convoked the council, which set in motion major reforms with regard to the church and its structure, the liturgy, ecumenism, social communication and Eastern churches.

After the initial session's close in 1962, he set up a committee to direct council activities during the nine-month recess. Subsequent sessions -- the final one ended in December 1965 -- produced documents on the role of bishops, priestly formation, religious life, Christian education, the laity and interreligious dialogue.

He produced a number of historic encyclicals, including "Mater et Magistra" on Christian social doctrine and "Pacem in Terris," issued in 1963 at the height of the Cold War, on the need for global peace and justice.

He established the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law, which oversaw the updating of the general law of the church after the Second Vatican Council, culminating in publication of the new code in 1983.

Before he was elected pope, he served as a Vatican diplomat. His work in Bulgaria and Turkey put the future pope in close contact with many Christians who were not in full communion with the Catholic Church and inspired him to dedicate so much effort as pope to try to recover the unity lost over the centuries. It was Blessed John who, as pope in 1960, created the Vatican's office for promoting Christian unity.

With his humility, gentleness and active courage, he reached out like the Good Shepherd to the marginalized and the world, visiting the imprisoned and the sick, and welcoming people from every nation and faith.

He visited many parishes in Rome, especially in the city's growing suburbs. His contact with the people and his open display of personal warmth, sensitivity and fatherly kindness earned him the nickname, "the Good Pope."

Blessed John brought a humble yet charismatic, personal style to papacy. He placed great importance on his modest upbringing in a village about 25 miles northeast of Milan, saying: "I come from the country, from poverty" that he said was "happy and blessed poverty -- not cursed, not endured."

Born in Sotto il Monte, Italy, in 1881, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was one of 13 children in a family of sharecroppers. He entered the minor seminary at the age of 11 and was sent to Rome to study at the age of 19.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1904 and, after several years as secretary to the bishop of Bergamo, he was called to the Vatican. In 1925 he began serving as a Vatican diplomat, first posted to Bulgaria, then to Greece and Turkey and, finally, to France. He was named a cardinal and patriarch of Venice in 1953.

After more than five years as patriarch of Venice, then-Cardinal Roncalli was elected pope Oct. 28, 1958.

He died of cancer June 3, 1963.

Blessed John was beatified in 2000, by Blessed John Paul II, with whom he will be canonized April 27.



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia speaks as Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, looks on during a press conference with a delegation from Pennsylvania at the Vatican to discuss the September 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

World meeting will engage all of society to help strengthen families

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next year will be open to families and people of different faiths, including no faith at all, to engage the wider society in dialogue and to serve and strengthen all families, organizers said.

The gathering Sept. 22-27, 2015, "is meant to be a gift not just for Catholics in Philadelphia, but for every person of good will in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the surrounding regions and the wider world," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia.

Meetings that bring together thousands of people from many different parts of the world with different experiences are a source of "tremendous joy" and grace and "have the power to transform, in deeply positive ways, the whole public community," the archbishop said at a Vatican news conference March 25.

Archbishop Chaput visited the Vatican with Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter as part of a delegation of government, religious and community leaders meeting with Vatican officials to

plan the 2015 international family gathering. They also expected to have an audience with Pope Francis during their March 24-26 visit.

While the delegation leaders vowed to convince the pope to travel to Philadelphia to celebrate the closing Mass of the eighth World Meeting of Families, Archbishop Chaput said confirmation of the pope using the occasion to make his first pastoral visit to North America was not expected "anytime soon."

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, which is helping prepare the meeting, said confirmation could come as late as six months before the event.

The aim of the global gathering will be to help all families of the world and accompany them "with an intelligent, courageous and loving" pastoral approach, the Italian archbishop said.

Archbishop Paglia called for intelligence in being able to read the current situation of

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PLANTING THE SEED

Good Friday and the Gospel of St. John resounds

In every Catholic church in the world on Good Friday, the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the Gospel of St. John resounds. Along with the other accounts of the Passion, it is a moving testimony to the final hours of Jesus before His crucifixion.

As all Catholics know, who attend Holy Week services, the Gospel is unusual because it is read dramatically. Different readers take the parts of Jesus, the Narrator, and the other figures in the Passion, while the congregation speaks the part of the crowd. In this way we are drawn into the drama of the event. We are made to relive it. It is as though we were there ourselves.

Catholic liturgy accomplishes this. We are present to Our Lord Jesus as He prays in the Garden of Olives, walks the streets of Jerusalem, appears before Annas and Pilate, is scourged and beaten, carries His heavy cross, and finally speaks those momentous words, "It is finished." What is finished? What has Jesus accomplished? To answer let us delve into the event of the Passion itself.

I am particularly struck by the irony of Pilate and what he says. With Jesus standing before him, Pilate asks the question, "What is truth?" Pilate asks this in the spirit of the Roman times not unlike our own. He asks the question as a cynic would. As a matter of fact, Pilate's question is on the mouth of many today.

Our world is filled with a good deal of cynicism. Many have lost faith in institutions. They have lost their equanimity. There is anger, but people do not know the cause of that anger. They are unhappy, but they search for happiness in material things and become only more frustrated. There is dissatisfaction, but there are few answers. All of this leads to distrust of

human nature and motives. Pilate is indeed a very modern man. What does Jesus have to offer him? In asking the question, "What is truth?", Pilate has in fact missed the point. Truth is standing before his eyes.

Truth needs no justification. Truth simply is. Jesus taught this as well. When Jesus says that He is "the way, the truth, and the life", He is drawing attention to the fact that truth does not reside apart from Him. The Father has sent Him. As the Father is true, Jesus reveals the truth. "I did not come on my own," Jesus explains, "but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true" (John 7:28).

Jesus is willing to die, and in doing so gives testimony to the truth. He obediently embraces the Father's will for Him. His death on the cross demonstrates the truth of everything He taught. How is this possible?

It is one thing for a messenger to preach a message. It is quite another thing for the messenger to be willing to die for it. This is exactly what Jesus does. The cross testifies to the message and its truth. For this reason, St. Paul will write, "We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:23-24). The cross is the constant reminder of the truth of what Jesus did and said. As Jesus stood before Pilate, the cross must stand before the world to witness to the



**Bishop
Glen John
Provost**

truth. This truth of the cross must be preached and witnessed to in the lives of every Christian. Again as St. Paul expresses it, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14). To identify with Christ to this extent is, I think, the goal of every Christian. These are not empty words.

Pope Francis has called our attention to this truth. He boldly visits the outcasts and immigrants, he embraces the severely handicapped, and he challenges all of us to acknowledge our own crosses and the crosses of others that are often far heavier. We cannot get into our comfortable cars and drive away or shut the doors of our secure homes and ignore the suffering humanity outside. Neither can we point fingers at others whom we judge not to be doing enough for the poor. We simply cannot join Pilate and ask, "What is truth?" As Pope Francis has frequently reminded us, we must open our minds, eyes and hearts.

The world needs to see witnesses to the Truth. It needs no more mediocrity. When the Pilates of the world ask, "What is truth?", they should find an heroic answer in the lives of faithful Christians who take their faith seriously and seek to follow God's commandments. To do so is to embrace the cross, and embrace that brings victory.

I offer you my best wishes and blessings for a joyful Easter. As we renew our baptismal promises at every Easter Mass, may we renew our commitment to the Truth. May the sufferings of Christ be ours, so that ours will be joined to His and we might share in the victory.

Teen leadership training week of May 24-30

LAKE CHARLES – The Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) and Advanced Leadership Institute (ALI) are weeklong training experiences sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles focusing on developing and sharpening leadership skills in a Christian manner to use in every aspect of their lives.

This year's events will be held from May 24 to May 30 at Camp Bethany, located at 9766 U.S. Highway 79 in Bethany, La, which is near Shreveport. For information on the camp, go to campbethany.com.

The focus of the training includes effective communication skills, facilitation skills, decision making skills, consensus seeking skills, temperament and leadership styles, male/female leadership styles, and call to ministry. The training involves experiential learning and is re-enforced by hands-on activities and small group challenges. The young people themselves play a part in shaping the routine activities of each day from waking up in the morning, to setting the environment and planning prayer for meals, morning and evening prayer, the evening liturgy and the evening socials. ACLI takes the skills learned at CLI and continues to sharpen the skills and planning process on a larger scale. It is an exciting and challenging experience, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, director of the office.

Those eligible to take part in CLI include high school students from entering freshman through graduating seniors. With the exception of those entering seniors, who have never experienced the program, a participant goes through two years of CLI before entering ACLI.

This provided a solid foundation in the content as well as more hands-on training and experience in the basics of the program. Each year uses the same content but the activities and group challenges vary between Year A and Year B.

ACLI is for students who have participated in two training years of CLI (both years A and B).

Catholic Christian values are woven into every fiber of the week! Since CLI is Catholic Christian based, it is rooted in Catholic faith tradition and Christ is the model for the kind of "servant" leadership that is participants are striving to emulate. One of the main goals for the week is to learn how to really live as a Christian community. A balanced existence of hard work in learning, planning and implementation; prayer, down-time (relaxation); as well as fellowship and social activity is offered.

It is truly a faith-filled experience in which young people are challenged to grow in their faith and truly experience what love of neighbor is all about.

In addition to all of the wonderful leadership skills offered at CLI, there is a ministry component to the week. The teens will be placed in an area of ministry to explore and develop throughout the week, including Everything Liturgy, Meaning of Mass, Music Ministry, Prayer and Spirituality, Sacred Scripture Study, Service in Ministry and the Church, Church Teachings...A look at the YOUCAT, Witnessing & Defending the Faith, Discerning My Call, Living Pro-Life, and Life After High School – Keeping God in College Life.

Transportation for teens is provided to and from Camp Bethany on buses. The cost of the week is \$425 and includes meals, lodging, leadership materials, transportation to/from the camp, and t-shirt. A deposit of \$100 is due with registration form by Thursday, May 1. The remaining balance of the cost can be paid at any time between May 1 and Friday, June 5. Bills will be mailed twice during this time.

There is also a Payment Plan Option, which calls for a second payment of \$150 by Thursday, May 15 and the final payment due Thursday, May 29.

Day, May 29.

Contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 337-439-7400, Ext. 301, for more information.



Rev. Archimandrite Hebert J. May, pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church in Welsh, guides Joseph Natali in blessing with holy water of the St. Joseph Table prepared at St. Joseph Catholic Chapel in LeBleu Settlement. Father May gave a historical perspective of the tradition of the St. Joseph Table. The young Natali portrayed the child Jesus in the traditional religious tableau common to the annual celebration while Gabrielle Carrier was Mary and Aaron Natali was Joseph.

Border wall Mass was dramatic, but was anyone in D.C. listening?

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The bishops who trekked through the desert, served dinner to deportees, celebrated Mass at the Mexican border and visited a morgue full of unidentified bodies found in the wilderness were intent on sampling and publicizing the harsh realities of what they repeatedly called the broken immigration system.

Now comes the test of whether anyone in Washington got the message.

News stories, photos and video of the activities circled the world: showing bishops ducking under barbed wire amid stands of cactus and sticker bushes; pouring juice for weary migrants; and reaching between the slats of the border fence to bless Massgoers and distribute the Eucharist.

Comparisons were made to Pope Francis' visit last summer to the Italian island Lampedusa, where migrants who attempt to enter Europe illegally -- and often die in the process -- were memorialized. In Nogales, as the pope did in Lampedusa, the bishops warned against indifference to the plight of suffering people.

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, preaching during the Mass, ticked off statistics: 400 bodies found in the border region each year; 25,000 children who arrived in the U.S. last year unaccompanied by relatives; 30,000 people without criminal records held in immigration detention, at a cost of \$2 billion annually; and more than 10 million people without legal immigration status living in fear of discovery, deportation and separation from their family members.

Magnificat breakfast set Saturday, May 10

JENNINGS - The Lake Charles Chapter of Magnificat will hold its Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 10 – Mother's Day from 9 a.m. until noon at the Grand Marais Courtyard and Pavilion.

The guest speaker is Susan Mayes, the mother of two girls, the bereaved mother of one son, and the grandmother of five. She was married to Keith Mayes for 35 years until his death in 2012.

Residing in Welsh, she is a member of Our Lady of Seven Dolours parish and belongs to Catholic Daughters Court Stella 1233. She participates as a lector at church and sings in the Lake Arthur Coalition and in Magnificat's "Bella".

Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at Crossroads Bookstore in Lake Charles and Our Lady of the Lake in Lake Arthur. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Tickets by mail are available by sending send a check payable to *Magnificat* including a self-addressed envelope to Magnificat, Lake Charles, P.O. Box 655, Jennings, LA 70546.

Childcare is available with advance registration! by contacting Staci Thibodeaux at 337-515-4543 or staci.thibodeaux@gmail.com to register.



Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May, pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church in Welsh, speaks to the members of the permanent deacon candidates class along with current permanent deacons in the Chancery recently. Father May holds a Licentiate of Canon Law [Latin: Juris Canonici Licentia (J.C.L.) - an advanced graduate degree with canonical effects in the Catholic Church from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Licentiate is the title of a person who holds an academic degree called a license in Canon Law, The class Father May leads is part of the training for the candidates as their studies move them toward potential ordination as permanent deacons, hoped for in August at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

Non-public schools Students of the Year

LAKE CHARLES – The Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles has announced the winners of the 2014 Student of the Year program among non-public schools located within the geographic confines of the diocese for the fifth, eighth and 12th grades.

Emma Michon of Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur was chosen the fifth grade student, Gracie Johnson of Hamilton Christian Academy was honored as the eighth grade student of the year, and Natasha Navejar, a senior at St. Louis Catholic High School earned the 12th grade top spot. These three represented the Diocese in the regional competition held last month in Baton Rouge.

The Student of the Year Program is designed to distinguish outstanding public and non-public elementary, junior high and high school students. This program recognizes those students who have demonstrated excellent academic achievement, leadership ability and citizen ship. Student of the year is sponsored by the Louisiana State Superintendent through the State Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and

Secondary Education.

Students of the Year from each of the non-public schools that advanced to the district competition were fifth graders, Torey Washington, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School; Conner Cassidy, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School; Michael Lavergne, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Brooke Dupuis, Bethel Christian School, and Emma Michon, Our Lady's Catholic School; eighth graders, Ashley Patin, Our Lady's Catholic School; Lindsey Hall, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Olivia Meche, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School; Meaghan Thibodeaux, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School; and Gracie Johnson, Hamilton Christian Academy; and twelfth graders, Trinity Bergeron, Bethel Christian School and Natasha Navejar, St. Louis Catholic High School.

All the school winners, families and their school administrators were invited to a Mass on Sunday, March 30, where they were recognized by The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles.

THE WINNERS' STORIES:



Natasha Navejar

Twelfth grade winner Natasha Navejar is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Navejar of Westlake. She was selected for the National Honor Society and elected secretary of the Art Club at St. Louis Catholic High School. Natasha has also served as a member of the following school organizations: Students for Life and Spanish Club. She placed first in District Literary Rally in Spanish I and was selected overall winner in Spanish I. At state rally, she placed 4th in Spanish I. Natasha attended the National Youth Leadership Forum in Medicine and won the Sony Mobile US contest for outstanding artwork. Natasha has been an outstanding member of the St. Louis bowling team, earning the following bowling awards: YABA bowler of the month, League High Game and League High Average awards, selected US Bowling Congress Calcasieu Parish Youth Director, Youth State Tournament Division I Team Champion, District MVP, District 1st Team Champion, 1st Place High Scratch Series, High Game Award, 1st Place Team Youth City Tournament Division I, and

qualified for the North Point Junior Gold Championships, a national tournament for the top male and female bowlers in the United States. Her volunteer efforts include work with collecting and packing care packages for our local National Guard in Iraq, serving and preparing food for the homeless at Abraham's Tent, volunteering hours at the City of Lake Charles Arts Fest. Natasha has also volunteered her time tutoring children and aiding in a camp at La Familia Resource Center. Natasha has also earned the prestigious national honor of being named a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar by the National Merit Corporation.



Gracie Johnson

Eighth grade winner Gracie Johnson is an amazing young lady who has overcome a long battle with leukemia while in elementary school. She has overcome other difficulties that have forged her into a strong individual. She is very active in the community, sponsoring a "Relay for Life" drive for research on leukemia and works with the American Cancer Society. Gracie is on the volleyball team an ac-

tive member of Junior Beta Club, has been on Student Council and is a cheerleader at Hamilton. She also participates in the Club Volleyball at McNeese State University during the summer. She spent some time learning Tae Kwando and has earned a superior rating at the piano competition festival.



Emma Jean Michon

Fifth grade winner Emma Jean Michon is 11 years old and attends Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur. She is the daughter of John and Patrice Michon and has three siblings. Emma has been at Our Lady's School for seven years and maintains a 4.0 grade point average. She has earned Trophy of Excellence awards for reading test scores and Partners of Education awards for math and science, the latter her favorite subject. She participates in 4-H, drama club, dancing classrooms and has served on the performance crew for school drama productions. In her spare time she cheers for DCA and enjoys arts and crafts. Emma wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up.



Pictured, from left, following the March 30 Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception honoring all the non-public school class winners in the Student of the Year competition, along with Catholic school administrators, are Michael Lavergne, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Lindsey Hall, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Natasha Navejar, St. Louis Catholic High School; Trevor Donnelly, Principal at Our Lady's Catholic School; The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles; Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Olivia Meche, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School; Conner Cassidy, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School; and Emma Michon, Our Lady's Catholic School.

Good Friday collection aids work in Holy Land

LAKE CHARLES – The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be taken up today, Good Friday, in every parish of the Diocese of Lake Charles as well as across the United States. Proceeds from the collection go to support ministries and works, largely under the direction of the Franciscans, in the Holy Land.

The collection offers a direct link for individual parishioners to be witnesses of peace. Their financial support is a sign of Christian unity, which helps protect the Holy Places, uniting all Christians with the Holy Land.

Bishop Glen John Provost has written to each of the parishes of the Diocese to urge everyone's generous participation in the collection. "It is of the utmost importance for us to give generously to this collection in order to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land," the Bishop said. "Thanks to the Good Friday Collection, the various Catholic communities of the Holy Land, from the Latin Patriarchal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Franciscan Custody and the other circumscriptions, to the representatives of the Eastern Churches...will receive a contribution with which to stay close to the poor and suffering without distinction of creed or ethnicity.

"On my recent visit to the Holy Land, I was able to see first hand how our support is used to benefit so many," he continued. "It was my pleasure to visit with His Excellency, His Excellency William Shomali, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar for Jerusalem of the Latin Patriarchal Dio-

cese of Jerusalem. He gave a brief but comprehensive summary of the important issues in the region. I also had the pleasure of traveling with a Franciscan priest who has worked with The Franciscan Custody since 1990. He was of great assistance to our pilgrimage and he

provided a wealth of knowledge concerning the Holy Land. Although our visit was a pilgrimage to the holy sites, we saw the numerous schools, hospitals, clinics and charities that are funded through the generosity of so many. "Our annual collection will no doubt assist such institutions. These funds are used to support Catholic schools, parishes and religious education in the Holy Land. The Good Friday collection also preserves the shrines for pilgrims and provides assistance, including housing and food, for the poor and needy. Pope Francis travel to the Holy Land May 24-26 and his presence will be a great source of encouragement

to all Christians there. His pilgrimage will also demonstrate that the Holy Land is a high priority of his pontificate. He has asked all Catholics to support Christians in the Holy Land.

Last year's Good Friday Collection provided support for the Holy Land in these ways:

- Supported 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, three academic institutions
- Helped keep schools open for more than 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students
- Supported 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers
- Helped rehabilitate 80 homes for Christian families
- Provided Senior Care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth
- Created 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land
- Preserved 54 shrines from the life of Jesus and the prophets.

LCCB releases statement on gestational surrogacy

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops (LCCB) released a statement, March 28, on gestational surrogacy, an arrangement in which a woman carries and delivers a child for another unrelated couple or person.

The LCCB seeks to articulate the Catholic Church's teaching on the issue of surrogacy in light of legislation proposed during last year's legislative session as well as what is before the Louisiana Legislature presently. The Church is clear and consistent in her teaching that surrogacy, in any form, is to be opposed as an immoral means to create a family. The desire to have a child is both natural and good. We recognize that issues of infertility can be incredibly sensitive and personal. While acknowledging this reality, it is important to realize that pursuing all means in the effort to create a child presents moral and ethical concerns and that a child is truly a gift to be given as opposed to a right to attain.

Surrogacy arrangements commercialize and objectify women relegating them to a utilitarian purpose. The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith spoke to this point in Donum Vitae as it stated

that surrogacy is contrary to the dignity of persons. Surrogacy diminishes the dignity of women in that it grossly focuses on what women can produce as opposed to the entire worth and being of who women have been created to be. In addition, surrogacy fails to acknowledge the uniqueness of the mother-child relationship to the detriment of women from a physical, psychological, and spiritual level.

Surrogacy arrangements re-define and re-conceptualize what a traditional family is to the detriment of this sacred unit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church expresses this in clear terms, "Techniques that involve the disassociation of husband and wife, by intrusion of a person other than the couple are gravely immoral" (CCC #2376). Surrogacy involves the inclusion of at least one other individual in the creation of a family beyond the married couple. Such arrangements therefore betray the spouses' right to become father and mother only through each other, and infringe upon the child's right to be born of a father and mother known to him and bound to each other by marriage. Finally, surrogacy agree-

ments pose threats to the protection of life at the earliest stages. Given that in vitro fertilization is used to produce the embryos that are implanted into a surrogate, concerns arise as to the production of additional unused embryos which include what may be done to such lives, and whether they will be rightly honored as human beings or tragically destroyed.

LCCB makes clear the position of the Catholic Church that surrogacy should and must be opposed in any form.

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, based in Baton Rouge, is made up of the following:

The Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans; The Most Rev. Michael Jarrell, Bishop of Lafayette; The Most Rev. Robert W. Muench, Bishop of Baton Rouge; The Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog, Bishop of Alexandria; The Most Rev. Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles; The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca, Bishop of Shreveport, and The Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre, Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux, Daniel J. Loar serves as the Executive Director while Robert M. Tasman is Associate Director of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Did you know...

The longest period of time during which the Church was without pope was from November 1268 to September 1, 1271, almost 3 years. This period is known as the interregnum (between reigns) and the reasons were mostly political. It would have taken even longer, but the cardinals were locked in the Palazzo dei Papi di Viterbo to vote, given only bread and water and even were faced with the removal of the roof, making conditions very uncomfortable, to pressure their decision. Eventually, Pope Gregory X was elected.

Over the history of the papacy there is a wide disparity between the ages of the youngest and oldest men elected. Can you name them? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar - May 15.



Deacon Michael Tramel, standing center, speaks to catechumens and candidates to be received into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil that attended the recent Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults retreat held at Taber Retreat House of Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. The Office of Evangelization of the Diocese of Lake Charles sponsors this annual retreat for those coming into the Church through the RCIA program.

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

Pondering today's reading on the "Suffering Servant"

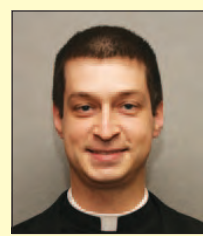
The prophecy of the "Suffering Servant" found in the book of Isaiah (52:13-53:12) has always intrigued me. Read every Good Friday, this passage is remarkably accurate in its depiction of Jesus Crucified, even though it was written several hundred years before it happened. One line in particular is worthy of our reflection this weekend: "It was our infirmities that He bore, our sufferings that He endured... He was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins... the Lord laid upon Him the guilt of us all" (53:4-6).

When we look at a Crucifix, we are seeing simultaneously two significant truths: one is the astonishing love of God; the other is a graphic depiction of our own sinfulness. Even Pontius Pilate unknowingly alludes to this in the Gospel when he displays the beaten body of Jesus under the scourging: Ecce Homo! Behold the man! Behold humanity, full of lacerations and abuse as a result of sin!

An equally important, but often overlooked proclamation is the reality of original and personal sin. The Gospel proclaims not only man's Redemption, but also why he needs redemption in the first place. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it like this: "The doctrine of original sin is, so to speak, the reverse side of the Good News that Jesus is the savior of all men, that all need salvation" (389). The idea of salvation

is meaningless if we think we are without sin. Our Lord Himself described, "I have come to call sinners, not the righteous. Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do (Luke 5:31-32). One does not seek a doctor's care if he is not aware of his fatal cancer.

Some years ago, Christian author C.S. Lewis noted that early in the Church's history, "the Gospel appeared as good news. It brought news of healing to men who knew they were mortally ill. But all this has changed. Christianity now has to preach the diagnosis - in itself very bad news - before it can win a hearing for the cure." Lewis is correct - never before in the history of the world have we ever denied wholesale the reality of our own evil as we do today. Yet, it was the 20th century that saw more murders than all of human history combined. Fortunately, the Holy Cross of Our Lord stands as a beacon of light - cutting through the myth of our ability to save ourselves.



Rev. Nathan Long

The saints give further witness to our need of a savior: One might expect them to be sure of their own sinlessness, yet quite the opposite is true. Whereas we tend to excuse ourselves and rationalize our sins, they drive straight into the light and so can see with full honesty all of their offenses. St. Paul himself tells us in his first letter to Timothy, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these, I am the worst" (1:15).

To this end, the essayist and Catholic convert G.K. Chesterton once participated in an editorial contest for the London Times. The topic was "What's wrong with the world?" Chesterton's entry was the shortest: "Dear sirs, I am. Sincerely, G.K. Chesterton." In the face of the Cross, none of us are innocent. Yet, to our great delight, it is in seeing the proclamation of our sinfulness that we receive the first light of our journey back home to God.

Father Nathan Long, a priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles, serves in a number of administrative capacities, including as Director of the Ministry of Christian Formation, director of Religious Education, director of the Center for Catholic Studies, and director of Ongoing Formation of Clergy. He is also Co-Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation.



The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles recently donated \$2,743.35 to Abraham's Tent. Pictured (at the presentation are, from left, Pearl Cole, Director; Jenifer Babin, Board Member; Conner Cassidy, 5th grade, Our Lady Immaculate School; Grace Ancelet, 3rd grade, Our Lady's Catholic School; Lawston Broussard, Pre-K, Our Lady Queen of Heaven School; Braden Brown, 1st grade, St. Margaret of Scotland School; Sara Mixon, 6th grade from Immaculate Conception Cathedral School; Robert Piper, President of the Board; and Jack Vanchiere, a senior at St. Louis Catholic High School.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal strengthens the Church at home

WASHINGTON — The 2014 Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up in the Diocese of Lake Charles and many dioceses in the United States on the weekend of April 26-27. The appeal supports isolated, challenged parishes and missions in dioceses and eparchies across the United States and in several U.S. territories in the Caribbean and Pacific islands, including Samoa Pago-Pago, St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The Diocese of Lake Charles is the recipient of a \$125,000 grant from Catholic Home Missions, assisting needy parishes, youth ministry programs, vocation programs, evangelization, vocations, and communications efforts.

Funds collected in the annual appeal are given out as grants from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions. Forty-four percent of all dioceses and eparchies in the United States currently receive support from the appeal. This year, Catholic Home Missions is giving out \$8.45 million to dioceses in need. These grants will help to cover the costs of basic and essential pastoral programs, such as evangelization, catechesis, seminary formation, and lay leadership training.

"The home missions require our attention every bit as much as the missions abroad," said Bishop Peter F. Christensen of Superior, Wisconsin, chairman of the Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions. "Many Catholics don't realize that their neighbors in the next dioceses do not have access to the same catechetical programs and Catholic schools that are available in a wealthier, more populous diocese."

Grants from the Catholic Home Missions

Appeal help support 84 struggling dioceses and strengthen the Church here in the United States. "Every donation to this collection will help your neighbor to grow in his or her faith," said Bishop Christensen.

The needs of mission dioceses are as diverse as the dioceses themselves. In the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan, the greatest need is for migrant ministry. Over the past 20 years, the Hispanic population has almost tripled in size. During the harvest season, some parishes double in attendance. However, many workers are still unable to attend Mass because they live and work in remote areas. There is a huge need for Spanish-speaking deacons and priests to bring the sacraments to the people. Funds from the appeal support the diocese's migrant ministry program, which is run by several part-time priests and over 160 volunteers from 14 parishes. This group reaches out to the migrant workers and their families to serve their spiritual and material needs.

Mississippi has the country's highest number of families living in poverty and the lowest per capita income, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. For the Diocese of Jackson, these challenges are combined with the region and a small number of Catholics. One of the biggest problems is lack of priests. A grant from Catholic Home Missions helps cover the cost of educating the diocese's 10 seminarians, whose studies each cost about \$37,000 per year. As future priests of the diocese, these men will answer the need of the people and bring the sacraments and catechesis to the parishes.

Mass to Avert Storms June 4

CAMERON = Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Mass to Avert Storms at 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and Shrine.

Pastors of the coastal Cameron churches - Father Timothy Goodly, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Father Richard Adiukwu of Grand Chenier's St. Eugene, and Father Rommel Tolentino of Hackberry's St. Peter the Apostle and the chapel of Our Lady of the Assumption in Johnson Bayou will concelebrate. With the opening day of the season being Sunday, June; the June 4 date was specifically chosen to provide the best opportunity for parishioners of all the coastal parishes as well as former parishioners who have moved away to attend the liturgy along with other

clergy who wish to be in attendance.

The faithful who make this Diocesan pilgrimage to the Shrine for the liturgy will receive spiritual benefits as if visiting the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, due to the special affiliation the Cameron church has with the Basilica. The pilgrimage provides a plenary indulgence with the fulfillment of certain requirements, including recent confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayers for the Holy Father, and the recitation of the Creed.

Bishop Provost also asks once again that during this year's storm season that all pray the prayer composed by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, in 1957 following the Hurricane Audrey.



Bishop Glen John Provost and Father Ruben Buller at the Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea at the conclusion of the 2013 Mass to Avert Storms.



The 44th Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference was held in Lake Charles recently with meetings in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex. The opening session on Monday, March 31, had Dr. Robert Welsh, President of the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ as the keynote speaker, with the topic "Revisiting the Church, Mission and Christ's Call to Unity." That evening attendees took part in a prayer service at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church with Episcopal Bishop of the Western Diocese of Louisiana, Bishop Jacob Owensby, as the homilist. Bishop Glen John Provost issued a welcoming and presided over the prayer service.



Autoplex 2000 in Sulphur donated this 2014 Jeep Wrangler Sport, with a sticker price of more than \$28,000.00, as an auction item for the fundraising effort being conducted by Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church and Our Lady's Catholic School to build a new gym for the school. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at the offices of Our Lady's School, and Our Lady of Prompt Succor, and the Diocese of Lake Charles. The drawing will take place on Saturday, June 28, at the Religious Freedom Rally in Sulphur's Grove at Heritage Square. Call 337-527-9969 for more information.

Family Life Director sought for Diocese

LAKE CHARLES -- The Diocese of Lake Charles is seeking applicants for the position of Director of Family Life.

This office directs marriage preparation and enrichment programs throughout the Diocese, including Together for Life, Prepare-Enrich, and the lay movement, Domestic Church. It

also oversees the pro-life activities for the Diocese.

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic with knowledge and enthusiasm for the Church's teaching on marriage, human life, and sexuality. A background in theology is preferred, with special emphasis on the theology of marriage and morality.

Speaking, writing, and organizational skills are also required. Applicants for the position should send a resume to Father Nathan Long, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. For information email nathan.long@lcdiocese.org.

Deadline to apply Thursday, May 1.

Sr. Mary John, first director of Abraham's Tent, dies

CHATAWA, Miss. -- Sister Mary John Lachowsky, SSND, of St. Mary of the Pines died Wednesday morning, March 26. Morning prayer and visitation were Saturday, March 29, at St. Theresa Church in Chatawa. The Eucharist in Celebration followed with Rev. Brian Kaskie as celebrant.

Gertrude (Strack) was born to Elenora and John Edward Lachowsky in Conway, Arkansas, on October 5, 1917. She was usually considered the oldest of their ten children since an infant, who lived only a short time after her birth, died before Gertrude was born.

Gertrude grew with this close-knit family on the family farm. With the rest of the family, she attended St. Joseph Elementary and Secondary Schools in Conway. After graduation, Gertrude prepared to enter the congregation of the School Sister of Notre Dame in St. Louis.

On reception into the congregation, Gertrude received the name, Novice Mary John.

She professed her vows in 1937; during the next three semesters, she completed studies in Latin and French to earn a bachelor's degree. Subsequently she earned an M.A. in Latin.

In 1939, Sister Mary John's first teaching assignment was for middle grade children at St. Francis deSales School in St. Louis. From 1941 to 1951, she taught English, Latin, and French in secondary schools in Missouri, Iowa, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Illinois.

Her work in education did not end in 1951, but took quite a different turn when she was asked to go to Kyoto, Japan to direct young women who applied to enter the congregation there. She learned Japanese as she taught the applicants. She was elected Regional Leader in Japan, in 1964. When her term as leader was completed, she joined the faculty of Notre Dame Women's College in Kyoto.

Following 21 years in Japan, Sister Mary John re-

turned to the U.S. in 1973. She prepared for and experienced a postlodge, Arizona, then was called to be novice director for the Dallas Province. The next seven year she defined her parish ministry in San Jose Parish in Albuquerque as a program of caring, of helping others.

Then the Dallas Province called Sister Mary John to join a pre-retirement community in Lake Charles. There she was asked to set up an inter-faith, hot-meals program named "Abraham's Tent" for the homeless and the hungry. In recognition for her leadership as director of the program, Mary John was elected Citizen of the Year by the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Sensing her diminishing health, Sister Mary John came to the retirement community of St. Mary of the Pines, in Chatawa, in 1992, as a volunteer in the community in tutoring, in serving the Sisters. For the last decade, broken bones limited

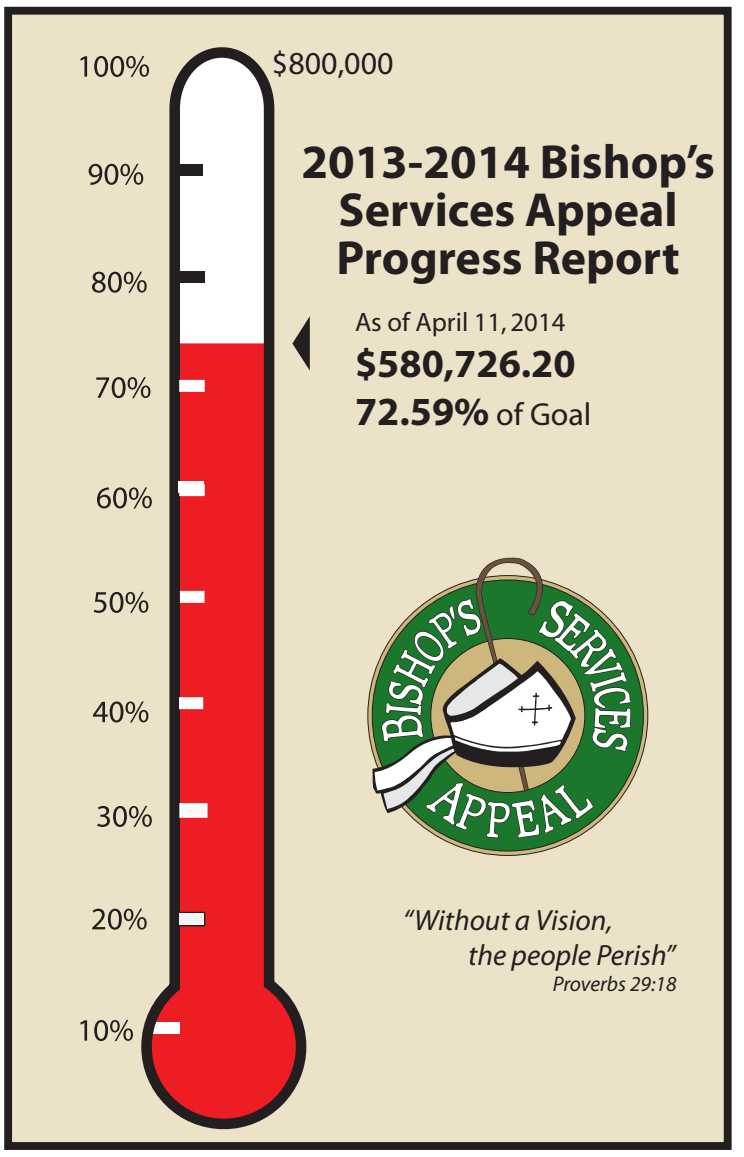
her physical activity, with the last years confining her to a wheel chair. She was bedridden only a short time before her peaceful death.

Sister Mary John was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers, Rev. Clement Lachowsky, C.S.Sp., Norbert, Louis, Alphonse, and Dennis, and her sister, Angela. She is survived by her brother, John and her sisters, Mrs. Rosemary Zimmerman, and Mrs. Clarita Lepine, along with numerous and nephews. Her first cousin, Sister Elizabeth Nabolz and her second cousin, Sister Helen Roper are community members in Chatawa.

Hartman-Sharkey Funeral Home of McComb is in charge of arrangements. Pallbearers were from the Charles R. Brill Council of the Knights of Columbus. Burial was in the Chatawa Cemetery. Memorials to honor Sister Mary John may be sent to St. Mary of the Pines; 3167 Old Hwy 51 South; Chatawa, MS 39657.



Sister Mary John Lachowsky, SSND



Top 10 most interesting popes who have been declared saints

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- From St. Peter to Pope Francis, there have been 266 popes; 78 of them are recognized as saints, and that number will jump to 80 after the April 27 canonizations of Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II.

The earliest popes were martyred for their faith, which the Catholic Church takes as a clear sign of holiness. Once the persecution of the church ended, the clusters of saint's names with the title "saint" before them got thinner.

Over the past 701 years, and as of April 27, only four popes will have been declared saints.

Here's a quick look at some of the top 10 most interesting of the earliest popes who are saints:

7. St. Nicholas I the Great was pope 858-867. He was the third and last pope to receive the title of "great." He worked to strengthen papal authority and denied anyone had the right to depose a bishop without papal authority.

8. St. Gregory VII was pope 1073-1085. He enacted many reforms such as reversing centuries of civil control over church affairs and giving the pope of Rome full sovereignty over all church affairs in the West. He promoted a more saintly episcopacy and priesthood and fought against simony, the buying and selling of church office. He introduced the legislation

that locked in the observance of celibacy, despite frequent debates over the issue. He decreed the Roman rite for all of Europe and established Nov. 1 as All Saints' Day.

9. St. Celestine V was a Benedictine monk and hermit who resigned from the papacy just a few months after his election in 1294 because he wanted to return to his humble monastic life. He issued a papal bull articulating the ability of a pope to resign and establishing rules for an abdication.

10. St. Pius X was elected pope in 1903 and served until his death in 1914. He promoted greater piety among the faithful, encouraged the frequent reception of the sac-

raments of penance and the Eucharist, and insisted on proper decorum during the celebration of the Mass. He highlighted the beauty and appropriateness of Gregorian chant, cautioned against using popular musical styles and encouraged efforts to ensure that the faithful could participate actively in the Mass by singing. He reorganized the Roman Curia and established a congregation of cardinals to codify Canon Law. He embraced scientific inquiry and designed sundials. However, when given the first papal car in 1909 by then-Archbishop John M. Farley of New York, the pope never used it, sticking with his horse and landau carriage.

Pope declares three new saints for the Americas

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Without a canonization ceremony, Pope Francis declared three new saints for the Americas, pioneers of the Catholic Church in Brazil and in Canada.

Pope Francis signed decrees April 3 recognizing: St. Jose de Anchieta, a Spanish-born Jesuit who traveled to Brazil in 1553 and became known as the Apostle of Brazil; St. Marie de l'Incarnation, a French Ursuline who traveled to Quebec in 1639 and is known as the Mother of the Canadian Church; and St. Francois de Laval, who arrived in Quebec 20 years after St. Marie de l'Incarnation and became the first bishop of Quebec.



St. Jose de Anchieta

In declaring the three saints, the pope used a procedure known as "equivalent canonizations," which required a thorough study of the candidates' life and writings, fame of holiness and reports of favors granted through their intercession. Unlike a regular sainthood process, though, it did not require the verification of a miracle through their intercession, nor further studies by historians and theologians working for the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

In addition to the three "equivalent canonizations," Pope Francis signed decrees recognizing the miracles needed for the future canonizations of Blessed Giovanni Antonio Farina, the Italian founder of the Teaching Sisters of St. Dorothy; Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the Indian founder of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, a Sy-

ro-Malabar Catholic order; Nicholas of Longobardi, an Italian Oblate priest; and Euphrasia Eluvathingal, an Indian Carmelite sister and member of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church.

He also recognized the miracle needed for the beatification of Brother Luigi Bordino, an Italian member of the Brothers of St. Joseph Cottogegno, who died in 1977.

Pope Francis also declared eight men and women "venerable," recognizing they lived the Christian virtues in a heroic way. The eight included three Italians, three Spaniards, a Brazilian and Assumptionist Father Marie-Clement Staub, who was born in France and sent to the United States in 1909. At Assumptionist College in Worcester, Mass., in 1914 he founded the Sisters of St. Joan of Arc in 1914. He died in Quebec in 1936.

1. St. Peter, who was first named Simon, was the first to refer to Jesus as Christ, the Son of the living God. His special stature in the Gospels to "feed the sheep" of Christ formed his mission to proclaim, protect and nourish the faith. He is also considered the first pope. Early tradition says he was crucified at the foot of Vatican Hill in the mid-60s during the reign of Emperor Nero, martyred because of his Christian faith and preaching. His tomb is believed to have been found under St. Peter's Basilica.

2. St. Soter was Bishop of Rome from around 167 A.D. to his death about seven years later. It's believed St. Soter formally introduced the annual celebration of Easter in Rome.

3. St. Fabian was pope 236-250. He is famous for the miraculous nature of his election, in which a dove is said to have descended on his head to mark him as the Holy Spirit's unexpected choice to become the next pope.

4. St. Damasus was born in Rome and served as pope 366-384. His papacy coincided with the establishment of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380, and he was a staunch advocate of the primacy of the bishop of Rome as being the direct successor of Peter. He is said to have established Latin as the standard liturgical language in Rome.

5. St. Leo the Great was born with the name Leo, which he kept as pope. Serving as pope 440-461, he was the first pope to be called "the great" and is a doctor of the church. He confirmed the church's position on the incarnation of Christ -- that Christ was both divine and human.

6. St. Gregory the Great was pope 590-604 and was the second pope to be referred to as "the Great," after Leo. He was related to two popes, and his mother and two aunts were also canonized, leading him to be considered "a saint among saints." He put great emphasis on simplicity and charity and donated food to Rome's poor as well as in-



Joia Farmer was the Sunday morning keynote speaker at the 2014 Diocesan Youth Conference held March 21-23 for over 300 participants. Farmer, a singer and songwriter from Denver, Colorado, spoke to the group about finding fulfillment in God's love. Her husband Brad and their son Caedmon also made presentations to the youth. The annual event, nearly a quarter century old, is sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.



The St. Louis Foundation presented a check in the amount of \$104,956 to St. Louis Catholic High School. Pictured, from left, are Deborah Frank, school president, Susan Percle, Director of Development, Bryan Vincent, 2014 Foundation Chairman and John Doumit, 2014 Foundation Vice-Chairman. The St. Louis Foundation was established in 1983 for the sole purpose of giving financial assistance to the school. Governed by a Board of Directors, it distributes a portion of its earned income annually to the school while reinvesting the remainder. For more information about The St. Louis Foundation and giving opportunities, contact Susan Percle at 436-7275 or e-mail spercle@slchs.org.

