

CATHOLIC CALENDAR



The Diocese of Lake Charles
lcdioocese.org



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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Bishop Provost to establish St. Pius X as 39th parish in Diocese

RAGLEY – His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will be the principal celebrant of Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 17, in St. Pius X Catholic Church. The establishment of St. Pius X as the 39th canonical parish of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be announced during the Liturgy.

The Decree of Establishment becomes effective on Thursday, August 21, the Memorial of St. Pius X, Pope. The Rev. Timothy Goodly is the founding pastor of St. Pius X, effective Thursday August 21.

An announcement of the boundaries for the new parish,

which boasts more than 400 families, will also be made at the Mass.

There has been a faith-filled Catholic community in the southern area of the civil parish of Beauregard for many years. In 1957, the family of William and Agnes Habetz donated two acres of land along U.S. Highway 171 to build a church. A wood-frame building was constructed and in December of 1957, the first Mass was celebrated at the mission church of St. Pius X by Rev. Eugene Veillard, M.S. The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, dedicated the church on Feb. 16, 1958.

With the community growing, served by the LaSalette priests of Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in DeQuincy, the need for a multi-purpose building was evident and a 900 square foot structure was built in 1960, only to be enlarged to 1,800 square feet in 1975.

As the area's Catholic population continued to expand, permission was given to build a new chapel and the first Mass celebrated on May 30, 1980 by Rev. Roland Bernier, M.S., the pastor of Our Lady of LaSalette. Bishop Jude Speyrer, the founding Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles, dedicated the new church and education

building on Nov. 9, 1980.

Further improvements for the ever enlarging faith community of St. Pius X continued with construction of a hall and education building, which was completed in August 1996.

St. Pius X becomes the second canonical parish domiciled in Beauregard Parish, joining St. Joseph Catholic Church of DeRidder.

The church, while a mission of Our Lady of LaSalette, has been under the pastoral care of St. Theodore Catholic Church in Moss Bluff since 1999. Over the more than 50 years of the community, it has been cared for by more than 20 priests. In recent years by

Msgr. Charles Dubois, Fr. Don Piraro, Fr. Whitney Miller, Fr. Scott DesOrmeaux, Fr. James Doyle, and Fr. T.L. Herlong.

The last new parishes established in the Diocese came in November 2002 with St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church and Christ the King, both in Lake Charles, formed from territory of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church by Bishop Edward K. Braxton. Before that, Bishop Speyrer established St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Fenton, formerly a mission of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder, in November 1983.



Rev. Timothy Goodly

Ordination of 17 permanent deacons scheduled Saturday

LAKE CHARLES – Seventeen men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Glen John Provost on Saturday, August 16, during a 10 a.m. Mass in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

The ordination will conclude a five-year journey of study and discernment for these deacon candidates. Fourteen parishes are represented by the 17 men. The Bishop instituted them as acolytes on August 10, 2013, during a liturgy at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sulphur. He had previously instituted the group as lectors October 3, 2012 at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder. Bishop Provost had accepted them as deacon candidates on June 11, 2012 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

Those who will be ordained are Glen Bertrand and Albert Weinnig of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in DeRidder; Josue Canelo and Patrick Hebert of Saint Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles and Erroll Deville and Harold Nixon of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

Others being ordained are Richard Donahoe of Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Lake Charles; Keith Ellender of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church in Carlyss; Christopher Fontenot of Our Lady of Counsel Catholic Church in Lake Charles; Daniel Foreman of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur; James Christopher Gregory of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Maplewood; and Michael Guillory of Saint Paul Catholic Church in Elton.

Also, Leo Hebert of Saint Theodore Catholic Church in Moss Bluff; Jesse Menard of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton; Anthony Pousson of Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Lake Charles; Brian Soileau of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Oakdale; and Stephen Starr of Saint Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa.

Deacons, whether permanent or transitional (those men who are to be later ordained to the priesthood) are ordained clergy just like priests and bishops. The ministries that deacons perform include the teaching mission of the Church, caring for the poor, performing baptisms and marriages (when given those faculties by the diocesan bishop), conducting funeral liturgies, presiding at wake services and assisting the priest at Mass by proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, leading the intercessions, preparing the altar, and intoning the dismissal. Most are engaged in outside occupations. Some are retired and still others have full time ministries within the diocese or at their assigned parish.

The 17 new deacons will bring the total number of permanent deacons, active and retired, in the Diocese of Lake Charles to 38. At the close of the liturgy, the newly ordained deacons will learn their pastoral assignments.



The deacon candidates are shown above following their institution as acolytes by Bishop Glen John Provost on August 10, 2013 in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Maplewood. Pictured, from left, are Glen Bertrand, Keith Ellender, Dan Foreman, Tony Pousson, Leo Hebert, Jesse Menard, Patrick Hebert, Stephen Starr, Josue Canelo, Bishop Provost, Christopher Fontenot, Harold Nixon, Richard Donahoe, Chris Gregory, Michael Guillory, Erroll DeVille, Brian Soileau, and Albert Weinnig.

Diocesan Patron to be honored Sept. 7

LAKE CHARLES – On Sunday, Sept. 7, a Vespers (Evening Prayer) Service in honor of Saint Peter Claver, Patron of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception beginning at 6 p.m., with Bishop Glen John Provost, presiding and presenting a homily.

Everyone is invited and members of fraternal and pontifical organizations are asked to sit together and wear their uniforms or regalia. A reception will follow in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral Office Complex, located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets.

See **DIOCESAN PATRON**, Page 6

Bishop's Gala tickets on sale

LAKE CHARLES – The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra will provide smooth "Big Band" sounds at the Third Annual Bishop's Gala on Saturday, Dec. 13, in the Lake Charles Civic Center, according to Msgr. Daniel Torres, V.G. and Msgr. Ronald Groth, Gala co-chairman.

The orchestra's bandleader is Bill Tole and features vocalist Nancy Knorr. Tole has been the leader of the orchestra since Jan. 1, 2002. He is very much in demand as a soloist, teacher and clinician in the United States and plays a Getzen trombone model 3508 and/or a King 2B PLUS, with a Warburton mouthpiece model 11M-T4. He has performed in Great Britain, Australia and Japan as a clinician and lecturer as well as in concert as a

featured soloist.

Last year's Bishop's Gala raised \$63,193.47 to support the ministries of the diocesan Office of Communications.

Tickets are \$125 each and a table for 10 can be purchased for \$1,250. They can be purchased in the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles, at the Chancery at 414 Iris Street, Crossroads Bookstore, 701 W. Prien Lake Road, and on the website of the Diocese. To buy tickets on the website, using your credit card or e-check, go the lcdioocese.org and click on the "Support the Diocese" button on the front page. Then, click on "Bishop's Gala Tickets" and follow the easy instructions.

See **BISHOP'S GALA**, Page 6

PLANTING THE SEED

Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary important to Faith

Friday, August 15, we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This doctrine affirms our belief that God did not wish the body of the Mother of His Son to corrupt in the grave and that she was taken up into heaven and soul. This teaching also connects Mary with the Old Testament. We read in the Sacred Scriptures of holy persons being taken up into heaven. For example, we have the example of Elijah, the holy prophet (II Kings 2:11). The belief that Mary was taken up into heaven, body and soul, an event called the Dormition in the Eastern Orthodox Church, has been held by devout Catholic and Orthodox Christians since the earliest centuries. The fact that no relic of Mary's mortal remains exists in the world at any time in the Church's history testifies to this ancient belief.

In defining and proclaiming this ancient belief, Pope Pius XII wrote:

It is to be remembered that, from the second century onwards, our Lady has been identified by the Fathers of the Church as the second Eve. Not on the same level, indeed as the second Adam, but intimately associated in this warfare against the enemy of our race. It was to issue, as we know from the promise made in paradise, in a complete triumph over sin and death, those twin enemies that are so often coupled together by Saint Paul. Of this victory, our Lord's resurrection is the operative part, the supreme trophy; but our Lady, too, who shared in the conflict, must share in its conclusion, through the glorifying of that virgin body of hers.

Mary's Assumption gives testimony to the "complete triumph over sin and death" brought about in Jesus Christ.

Mary through her Assumption shares in the victory, "the supreme trophy," of the Jesus' Resurrection. As she shares in the "conflict," she "must share in its conclusion." In this belief the Assumption gives us hope of our own sharing in the victory.

Our Lady of the Assumption has particular interest to us in Southwest Louisiana. Pope Pius XI, Pope Pius XII's immediate predecessor, declared her the Patroness of the Acadians. We all know from our tradition the great devotion that we in Southwest Louisiana have maintained for Mary. This is not accidental.

In declaring Our Lady of the Assumption the Patroness of the Acadians, Pope Pius XI recognized how the Acadians had suffered from each school. New research has shed light on this fact (cf. Prof Glenn Conrad of UL Lafayette and Prof John Mack Faragher of Yale in *A Great and Noble Scheme*). Contemporary source material indicates that the very reason for the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia was religious bigotry. Simply, the English Protestants wished to replace the French Catholic farmers with their own co-religionists. For this the Acadians were dispersed along the East Coast and Canada, some back to France itself, and a large number eventually to Southwest Louisiana. Since 1765, not without difficulty especially in our present day, the Acadians have kept alive that Catholic faith for which they suffered persecution. Due to increasing secularism and the American-



**Bishop
Glen John
Provost**

ization of Southwest Louisiana culture, some have lost many traditions and strayed away from their Catholic faith. I think that Our Lady of the Assumption can remind us of our roots in the faith that have defined our traditions, our families, and our values for centuries.

The appeal of Our Lady of the Assumption goes beyond those of Acadian descent. She is truly Our Lady of the New Evangelization, because she reaches out to all in two ways. First, as a model of the Church, she embraces everyone, calling each back to her Son, Jesus Christ. She reminds us of the mercy of God, something that our own Pope Francis makes very clear in his preaching. Mary does not distract us from God or from His Son, Jesus Christ. She is the humble "handmaiden" who has put herself totally at God's disposal to do with as He pleases. In this way, Mary becomes the first disciple who not only hears the Word of God but acts upon it.

Second, Our Lady of the Assumption calls us back to essentials. One of these essentials is the family. As the genealogies of Jesus in the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke give testimony, the roots of Jesus are important. Mary is part of this family. She is part of salvation history, and family is history. We learn from family. We inherit from family. Our culture is in desperate need of being reminded of this. Family is the ideal and the fundamental.

In her Assumption, Mary points us in another direction. We can become fixed at only looking around us. A materialistic world wants us to be totally absorbed with what we can see, touch, smell and taste. But Mary reminds us that there is something more. She points us heavenward. She helps us to see beyond. As she pointed the way to an exiled people, the Acadians, Mary assures us of the "complete triumph over sin and death."

Welcome back Catholic school students!

**By Kimberlee Gazzolo
Superintendent of Catholic Schools**

LAKE CHARLES -- The Office of Catholic Schools welcomes back over 2,600 students and their families for the 2014-2015 school year. As we open the doors this month, we send a special welcome to our two newest administrators, Mrs. Christi Jarreau, principal at Immaculate Conception Cathedral School and Mr. Chris Fontenot, principal of St. Louis Catholic High School.

This summer has been busy for many teachers and staff, as they attended in-services on topics such as Math standards, College Readiness assessments, and instructional technol-

ogy integration. Several schools sent representatives to the ISTE conference where they attended numerous presentations on teaching and learning with technology standards.

The Special Education Committee, comprised of representatives from each school, has been busy building a schedule of Special Education Saturdays. These morning in-services will be offered to teachers on varied topics to assist them in supporting students within their classroom.

As we begin the school year, we are also looking forward to receiving the ASPIRE scores for our students in grades 3-8. These rigorous assessments were given to our students last spring in all core areas of the cur-

riculum. The ASPIRE is a standards-based assessment, designed to measure our students' achievements towards the ACT College Readiness Standards. Beginning this school year, several of our schools within the Diocese will also pilot ASPIRE interim assessments. Taken three times a year, within a class period, these assessments will allow a teacher to target intervention for both individual students and entire classroom groups.

I look forward to meeting with all of our teachers at our annual Diocesan in-service held in September. This year's keynote speaker, Thomas Smith, will present *7 Keys to Faithfully and Fruitfully Sharing Your Faith*.

This morning keynote address will kick-off

the 2014-2015 faith formation program "Quick Journey through the Bible" which all staff of Catholic schools will complete during this school year. The eight-part series is an overview of scripture from a Catholic perspective.

I urge all families to participate in their school back-to-school events in the coming weeks. Your students are successful thanks to the true partnership between home, school, and parish. I continue to appreciate the support of pastors, families and community as our students excel in their academics, faith and service.

Welcome Back!

Bishop Provost Requests Prayers for Peace and Persecuted Christians

Bishop Provost is asking the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Lake Charles to join him in continuing prayers for peace in the world and for persecuted Christians. The Bishop remarked, "The media is filled with reports of severe strife, wars, insurrections, and persecutions. The threat of terrorism, as well, has only increased. The victims of violence are in desperate need of our support and prayers. We are particularly aware of the conflicts in the Middle East and the Ukraine but must be reminded of the alarming situations in South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all of which have uprooted millions of people. Placing special emphasis on the persecution of Christians in Iraq, Pope Francis stated recently: 'Today our brothers are persecuted. They are banished from their homes and forced to flee without even being able to take their belongings.' The Holy Father concluded: 'Violence cannot be overcome with violence. Violence is overcome with peace!'" The Bishop requests that people of good will join in prayer for world peace and for the intentions of persecuted Christians. "In our Catholic churches," the Bishop added, "Votive Masses for Peace and Persecuted Christians can be celebrated during the week and intentions included in the Prayer of the Faithful. We should also keep ourselves well informed about world events and support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services and other agencies of our Church.

Let us pray the rosary and ask the intercession of the Queen of Peace."



The East Deanery Serra Club recently honored the clergy, religious, and seminarians of the Diocese of Lake Charles at the group's annual recognition dinner in Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church's Pere Daigle Center in Welsh. Pictured here are some of the seminarians and priests of the diocese along with members of the Serra Club and guests as well as deacon women serving in the diocese. Following the meal there were talks by seminarian Ruben Villarreal, Deacon Glenn Vian, and Father Alan Trouille about their vocation journeys. Villarreal will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on Oct. 2 in Rome. Very Rev. Daniel Torres, Vicar General and Director of Vocations and Seminarians, introduced the men studying for those priesthood for the diocese in attendance.

First Friday, Saturday Devotions at Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES - Devotions for First Friday - to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - and First Saturday - to the Immaculate Heart of Mary - began on August 1-2 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, according to Rev. Rommel Tolentino.

Immediately after the 2:05 p.m. First Friday Mass at the Cathedral, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration on the Altar of the Sacred Heart. Holy Hours of Reparation will continue until 2:30 p.m.

On the First Saturday of each month the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration on the Altar of Our Lady at 7 a.m. with Benediction preceding Mass in the Extraordinary Form, which begins at 8 a.m.

According to Father Tolentino, the First Friday of each month was designated by our Dear Savior Himself as a day to be consecrated to honoring His Sacred Heart.... As the object of this devotion is to make Our Lord ardently and perfectly loved, and to make reparation to Him in the past, as well as for those which He daily receives in the Blessed Eucharist... Our Blessed Lord merits our love at all times, but alas! He is despised and outraged in the Sacrament of His love at all times, and so people should at all times make reparation to Him. "Attendance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is assuredly the best means of honoring and loving the adorable Heart of Jesus," Father Tolentino said. "The following First Friday devotions are efficacious in honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus, The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, The Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and The Sacrament of Reconciliation."

The observance of the first Saturday in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is intended to make reparation to it

for those of mankind.

"This devotion was revealed by the Blessed Virgin to three children, Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia to whom she appeared at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917," Father Tolentino continued. "On June 13, 1917, Our Lady specifically stated in speaking to Lucia: 'Jesus wants to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. Our Lady repeated this in the July 13 apparition when, after the vision of Hell that was granted to the three children, she said: 'You have seen Hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.' "Our Lady asks for reparation. "There are so many souls whom the Justice of God condemns for sins committed against me, that I have come to ask reparation; reparation to this Heart for the sins of mankind, in particular the five kinds of offenses and blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Those five blasphemies are: those against the Immaculate Conception, against the perpetual virginity, against the divine and spiritual maternity of Mary, involving the rejection and dishonoring of her images, and the neglect of implanting in the hearts of children a knowledge and love of this Immaculate Mother.

Father Tolentino noted that First Saturday devotions that are efficacious in honoring the Immaculate Heart of Mary are The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Act of Reparation, The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and The Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Breakfast and luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has announced the schedule of men's prayer breakfasts and women's prayer luncheons for September 2014 through May 2015. This year's presentations will key on the Acts of the Apostles.

Both events are held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex, located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets.

Breakfasts are at 7 a.m. on the Fridays of Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 6, April 10, and May

15, following Mass celebrated in the Cathedral beginning at 6:30 a.m. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register.

Luncheon dates are Wednesday Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Feb. 11, March 4, April 8, and May 13. There will be no luncheons in December and January.

Women should send a check payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles for \$15 to Gaynell Carrier, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Deadline for luncheon reservations is the Friday before each event.

Blessing of statues held on Feast of Saint Henry

LAKE CHARLES -- On Sunday, July 13, in St. Henry Catholic Church, Pastor Rev. Msgr. Daniel Torres, V.G., blessed the Italian wood carved statues of St. Henry and St. Peter Claver commissioned last year for placement in the sanctuary of the church.

Msgr. Torres also blessed the image of St. Juan Diego, which came from Mexico City. It was framed by hand and installed in the church by master craftsman Lance McNease of Lake Charles. This blessed image hangs in the nave of the church parallel to the framed image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with both images gazing upon the Altar in the sanctuary.

St. Henry, the patron saint of the parish, was born in 972 A.D. in a region of Germany known as Bavaria. He was born into a noble family and was the heir to his father's throne. St. Henry had a strong attraction to the priesthood; however, in his discernment he learned from God that he was not being called to the priestly life, but was being called to the vocation of married life. He was able to understand God's will due to his well-developed spiritual life in his younger years. He eventually married and became Duke of Bavaria in 995 A.D.

St. Henry became King of Germany in 1002 A.D. where he proved to be a selfless ruler where he used his power for the exaltation of the Church and the sanctity of his people rather than seeking prestige and honor. He is a good example of everyday holiness possessing holy fear of God and carried his duties with great humility. Pope Benedict VIII crowned St. Henry emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in 1014 A.D. and proved to be a very effective military leader. St. Henry died on July 13, 1024. His feast day is July 13th in the Roman Catholic Church.

St. Peter Claver, the diocesan patron saint of the Diocese of Lake Charles, was a Catalo-

nian Jesuit who served in the New World in the 1600's by journeying to Cartagena, Colombia. He served for 38 years being devoted to the caring for African slaves, baptizing over 300,000 in Cartagena. He would care for them, teach them about the Catholic faith, and would speak out on their behalf to those who were unjustly hurting them. In the final four years of his life, St. Peter Claver suffered tremendously with an illness where he was totally abandoned by the people he so much loved and cared for. He died September 8, 1654. His feast day is September 9 in the Roman Catholic Church.

In the month of December, between December 9-12, the Americas recall the apparitions of Mary at the hill of Tepeyac (outside of Mexico City) that took place in 1531 to the native convert, St. Juan Diego. The image of Mary known to the Aztecs as Tecuotlaxope (or de Guadalupe in Spanish), meaning "she will crush the serpent of stone" was declared patroness of the Americas by Pope Pius XII and raised to the rank of Feast for all the countries of the Americas (North America, Central America, and South America) by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on March 25, 1999. The feast day of St. Juan Diego is December 9 and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12.

"To sit, pray in silence before the Blessed Sacrament in the church, and witness the beauty of these statues and images may just assist in your reflection on your personal journey with the Lord," Msgr. Torres said. "Seeing and reflecting on how these saints and Mary said, 'Yes' to doing God's Will, may be what is needed for you to see how the Lord is calling you to holiness and how to serve Him. This is an open invitation to come to St. Henry Parish and witness God's Love and Healing."



St. Henry



St. Peter Claver



St. Juan Diego



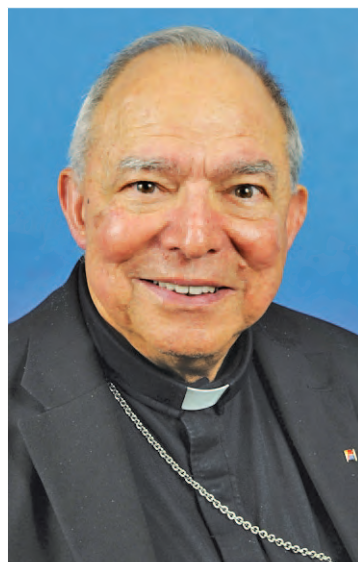
Our Lady of Guadalupe

Bishop Jacobs celebrating significant anniversaries

HOUMA - Bishop-Emeritus Sam G. Jacobs of the Diocese of Houma Thibodaux will celebrate two significant anniversaries at a 2 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving, on Sunday, August 24, in the Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales.

The Bishop Emeritus will be honored for his 50-years of priestly service and 25 years as a bishop, first in the Diocese of Alexandria and then in Houma-Thibodaux. A reception will follow in the parish youth center.

He was born March 4, 1938 in Greenwood, Mississippi, and raised in Lake Charles. He studied at Immaculate Seminary in Lafayette from 1951 to 1957, and at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. from 1957 to 1964. On June 6, 1964, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lafayette by Bishop Warren L. Boudreaux. Jacobs served as pastor, chaplain, and associate pastor of several parishes in the Diocese of Lafayette and the Diocese of Lake Charles. He has served as chairman of the National Service Com-



Bishop Sam G. Jacobs

mittee for the Charismatic Renewal and Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

On Monday, September 23, 2013, Pope Francis accepted Bishop Jacobs' resignation, having reached the age of 75, when all Catholic Bishops must offer to retire. The Holy Father appointed Bishop Shelton Fabre, Aux-

iliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans, as the successor to Bishop Jacobs.

On July 1, 1989, he had been appointed the tenth Bishop of Alexandria by Pope John Paul II. He received his episcopal consecration on the following August 24 from Archbishop Francis Schulte, with Bishops Boudreaux and Jude Speyrer serving as co-consecrators. Jacobs was later named the third Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux on August 1, 2003, and was installed on October 10 of that year.

Within the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, he served as chairman of the committee for Evangelization (2005-2007), and as a member of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth and the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. The Bishop also served as chairman of the U.S. National Service Committee of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and Chairman of the U.S. Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Msgr. Cramers Assembly installs 2014-2015 officers

LAKE CHARLES -- Monsignor Hubert Cramers Assembly 320 of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus recently installed its officers for 2014-2015 in St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church.

Sir Knight Peter Snatic PGK/FDD of Council 3208 in Lake Charles was installed as Faithful Navigator. Also installed was Sir Knight Paul Farnell PGK/FDD/PFN, Council 13931 of Lake Charles as Faithful Comptroller.

Others installed included Sir Knight Joseph (Bill) Marcantel PGK/FS, Council 2893 in Kinder, as Faithful Captain, Sir Knight John O'Reilly, Council 13931 in Lake Charles, as Faithful Purser, Sir Knight Sam Battaglia PGK, Council 3208 of Lake

Charles, as Faithful Pilot, and Sir Knight Fray Zamora, Council 13931 of Lake Charles, as Faithful Scribe.

Also, Edward Mason GK, Council 5022 of Lake Charles, as Faithful Inner Sentinel, Sir Knight Ernest Vincent FS (Council 11407 Grand Lake) as Faithful Outer Sentinel, and Sir Knight Lee Roy Cates PGK/PFN, Council 8058 Carlyss, as One Year Trustee, Sir Knight Patrick Broussard PFS/PFN, Council 15006 Lake Charles, as Two Year Trustee, and Sir Knight Raymond Hurst PGK/PFN (Council 4562 Lake Charles) as Three Year Trustee.

Faithful Navigator Sir Knight Snatic announced that Sir Knight Paul Farnell the Immediate Past Faithful Navigator will serve as the

Faithful Admiral also, and Ft. Anthony Fontenot, Pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church, will serve as the Assembly Faithful Friar. Appointed as the Color Corps Commander was Sir Knight Fray Zamora.

Sir Knight O'Reilly, Jr. PSS/PFM/PSD of Lake Charles conducted the installation with the help of District Warden I.J. Tarou FDD/DW of Sulphur.

Faithful Navigator Snatic also announced that any Third Degree Knight in the Councils that make up the Assembly - 2893 (Kinder), 3006 (Iowa), 3014 (Creole), 3208 (Lake Charles), 3622 (Moss Bluff), 4562 (Lake Charles), 5022 (Lake Charles), 8805 (DeQuincy), 9281 (Lacassine), 11407 (Grand Lake), 7033 (Ragley), 13931 (Lake Charles), 15006 (Lake Charles) wishing to join the Assembly should call Sir Knight Snatic 337-764-3547 or Sir Knight O'Reilly at 337-478-2018. The Assembly also has members from Councils 5461 (Cameron), 8058 (Carlyss), 8323 (Johnson Bayou), 8324 (Grand Chenier), 3015 (Sulphur), and 8978 (Sulphur).

Bishop's Golf Classic on Friday, Sept. 26

LAKE CHARLES -- The 2014 Bishop's Golf Classic this year is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 26, at the Lake Charles Country Club, 3350 Country Club Drive. The four-person scramble tournament will have morning and afternoon tee times at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Registration for the morning round begins at 7 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. for the afternoon tour.

Presenting sponsors for the tournament are City Savings Bank of DeRidder, Alfred Palma LLC of Lake Charles, and Bubba Oustalet Automotive Group of Jennings.

Fees are \$500 per four-person team, with prizes for first, second and tenth low gross in both morning and afternoon rounds. The field is limited to 22 teams per session. Prizes will also be given for the longest drive and closest to the hole for each round and a \$5,000 cash prize goes to the first golfer to score a hole in one.

Tee box sponsorships are \$150, green sponsorships are \$300 and banner sponsorships are \$1,000.

Proceeds from the event provide financial assistance to the Seminarian Education

Fund and the Priest Retirement Fund.

Sixteen men are studying for the priesthood for the Diocese this year in four different seminaries and the cost of educational expenses will exceed \$600,000. One priestly ordination was celebrated this year and next year two additional ordinations are set. The Diocese currently has 11 retired priests and expends more than \$300,000 to maintain their health and welfare. Several others are nearing retirement or could retire due to health issues during the year.

Registration forms are available at area golf courses and the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Payment of fees and registration using a credit card is also available on the Diocese of Lake Charles website - ldiocese.org. Just click on the "Support the Diocese" button, then "Bishop's Golf Class" and follow the easy steps to register your team or become a sponsor. Deadline for entry is Wednesday, Sept. 19.

Contact Larry DeRoussel at 337-794-8339 or at lderoussel@laia.com for more information.



A member of one of the morning groups in last year's Bishop's Golf Classic gets the ball airborne from the tee box on the third hole at the Lake Charles Country Club

Pope visiting Albania Sept. 21

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- After a quick flight over Italy and the Adriatic Sea, Pope Francis will make an 11-hour visit to Albania Sept. 21, making time to meet with the nation's leaders and bishops, but also spending time with disadvantaged children and other people assisted by Catholic charitable organizations.

According to the schedule released by the Vatican, Pope Francis also will hold a late-afternoon meeting with the leaders of other religions and other Christian communities. Albania has a population of about 3.2 million, more than half of whom are Muslims. According to Vatican statistics, about 16 percent of the population is Roman Catholic. About 7 percent of the citizens belong to the Orthodox

Church.

The pope will spend the entire day in Tirana, Albania's capital. His flight to Albania will land in and take off from Mother Teresa International Airport and his Mass with Albania's Catholics will be celebrated in Mother Teresa Square -- both honor the famous ethnic Albanian, Blessed Teresa of Kolkata.

Did you know...

The papacy of St. Damasus coincided with the establishment of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380. He was a staunch advocate of the primacy of the bishop of Rome as being the direct successor of Peter and is said to have established Latin as the standard liturgical language in Rome.

St. Soter was Bishop of Rome from around 167 A.D. to his death about seven years later. One of the acts of his short pontificate resonates throughout Christianity through today. Do you know what it is? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar, published on September 19.

Papal Infallibility: Peter Speaks Through Successors

The month of August is traditionally designated as the Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, no doubt because during this month the whole Church rejoices in the celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into Heaven. Our Lady's assumption has been liturgically celebrated in the Church since time immemorial, that is, it appears in the earliest liturgical orders and calendars, under one name or another, which were merely codifying what already existed. Indeed, belief in the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is indeed, holding the Catholic faith and, moreover, the fact of her assumption into Heaven, body and soul, is fitting to one whom God knows as "she-who-is-perfectly-filled-with-grace" (see Lk 1:28) and concerning whom the Holy Spirit announces through the aged Simeon that she will share in her annunciation of the Passion of Christ (see Lk 2:35). Thus, St. Paul's assurance that those "who have been united with [Christ] in a death like His" will also "be united with Him in a resurrection like His" (Rom 6:5), applies in a preeminent way to His Immaculate Mother.

The fact of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin was infallibly defined by the Servant of God Pope Pius XII in 1950, although, as His Holiness wrote at the time, it has been a part of our Faith from the beginning. It is also a well-known fact that our profession of this doctrine of the Faith was made certain for us by an exercise of Papal infallibility. What is perhaps not as well-known is the precise nature of Papal infallibility. Some think that this means that everything the Pope says is

without error, but if the Pope had told me that Argentina was to win the World Cup, I would not have put money on it. Rather, Papal infallibility is the fulfillment of the promises of our divine Savior to St. Peter, His Vicar on Earth, and to Peter's Successors in the Petrine office, the current Bishop of Rome, the Supreme Pontiff, the Servant of the Servants of God.

Rather, the Pope speaks without possibility of error when he speaks on faith and/or morals and only when he intends to clarify, specify, or define the Faith for the entire Church. And this is what Pope Pius did when he wrote, "...We pronounce, declare, and define it to be, a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." Yet, as the Second Vatican Council reminds us, even when he is not speaking on this level, every Catholic owes the Pope "religious submission of mind and will...even when not speaking ex cathedra" such that "the judgments made by him are sincerely adhered to" when he speaks on faith and/or morals (Lumen gentium 25).

In the Gospel according to St. Matthew, as Peter correctly



Rev. D. B. Thompson

confessed the true identity of Our Lord as Christ because of a revelation from the Father, Christ our Lord reveals the true identity of St. Peter in the Church: "You are Rock, and on this Rock I will build My Church and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against her; and to you I give the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 16:18-19) and later He gave the Keys to Peter alone "I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail, and when you have turned back again, confirm your brethren" (Lk 22:32). Peter and his Successors as the Bishop of Rome have the office, the duty, and the charisma to maintain the true Catholic Faith and to be an authoritative voice for the entire Church, "the permanent and visible source and foundation of unity of Faith and communion." No wonder, then, that early Fathers of the Church affirmed that the Holy Father "presides over the whole Church in charity" (St. Ignace of Antioch, Ad Rom 1,1) and that, when Pope Leo sent his decision in a doctrinal matter to the Council of Chalcedon (AD 451), the Bishops assembled there shouted "Peter has spoken through the mouth of Leo!"

Rev. D. B. Thompson was ordained for the Diocese of Lake Charles by Bishop Glen John Provost on May 26, 2012. He is the Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, serves as the Co-Chaplain for Hispanic Ministry, and as an Advocate on the Diocesan Tribunal.

Work on reinstatement of Council 1207 Knights of Columbus ongoing

LAKE CHARLES – Plans for the re-institution Calcasieu Council 1207, Knights of Columbus, of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception continue to become firm.

The Council, the oldest Knights of Columbus was organized in Opelousas, was organized in 1907 by a number of active members of then-Immaculate Conception Parish. It stopped being an active council in June 1999, when only a handful of active members remained.

Men are being sought to become part of the revived Council, according to John Day, a parishioner of the Cathedral parish. While no official date has been set for the ceremony of re-establishment, Day noted that he hoped it would be January 2015.

Through the auspices of local businessman, Tommy Navarra, the use of a building located at 316 Iris Street

– the corner of Iris and Bilbo streets – has been granted as a meeting place. As the process of re-institution will be held on the last Tuesday of each month, according to Day.

He invited men interested in being a part of the revitalization of Calcasieu Council 1207 to contact him for more information at 337-274-6886 or by e-mail: john.day@kofc.org.

The establishment of the 1207 council primarily through the efforts of Rev. Hubert Cramers, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, and William E. Krebs, editor of the Lake Charles American Press. Others included John Harrop, a former Shreveport resident, and George Riling, a member of a Kansas Council.

A total of 39 candidates were signed and approved and on March 10, 1907, Cal-

casieu Council was formally instituted with an all-day initiation.

Krebs was the first grand knight, serving from 1907 to 1909. He again led the council from 1914-1917.

In 1925, through the efforts of the late Paul Zimmermann and other leaders of the Knights of Columbus, a permanent domicile was constructed at 414 Iris Street. The building, a two-story brick structure, was also the home for the parish's Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court. In 1980, following the establishment of the Diocese of Lake Charles, the building and its grounds were donated to the Diocese for use as its official headquarters. It was renovated and dedicated as the Chancery on April 21, 1985, with Archbishop Pio Laghi, the Apostolic Pro-nuncio (the Pope's ambassador) to the United States, in attendance.

Prayer for peace written by Iraqi Patriarch Sako

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost asks the Catholic faithful and all people of good will in the Diocese of Lake Charles to offer the prayer, found below, for peace in the Middle East but especially Iraq at Masses this weekend – Aug. 16-17.

The prayer, composed by His Beatitude Louis Raphael Sako, Chaldean Catholic Patriarch of Iraq, asks for peace in his country.

"Many of you have heard the repeated calls of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to pray for peace in Iraq, Bishop Provost said. "Violence there has escalated as the Islamic State (ISIS) has taken control of large sections of the country, destroying, burning and looting churches, homes and businesses. Thousands of Christians and others who choose not to

convert to the extremist brand of Islam espoused by ISIS have fled for their lives.

"Please join me in praying for peace," the Bishop concluded.

Lord, The plight of our country is deep and the suffering of Christians is severe and frightening. Therefore, we ask you Lord to spare our lives, and to grant us protection, and courage to continue our witness of Christian values with trust and hope. Lord, peace is the foundation of life; Grant us the peace and stability that will enable us to live with each other without fear and anxiety, and with dignity and joy. Glory be to you forever.

† Louis Raphael I Sako



Reverend Archimandrite Herbert J. May, left, recites the Oath of Fidelity during the July 20 installation as Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron. The Mass was celebrated by the Very Reverend Aubrey Guilbeau, V.F., Dean of the West Deanery of the Diocese of Lake Charles. Father May's dual role became effective on July 1, after a 19-year tenure as Pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolours in Welsh.



In the top photo, work, which began April 15, continues on the Saint Charles Center Memorial Courtyard at Tabor Retreat House. The courtyard is to be named in memory of A.J.M. "Bubba" and Lena Mae Oustalet, the patriarch and matriarch of a family whose generous support has been of great importance to Saint Charles Center. The fountain feature of the project will honor the memory of Peggy Chapman Oustalet. Individual donors can join in the prayerful practice of honoring the memory of a loved one by purchasing an engraved brick paver in the courtyard space. Two sizes of bricks are available – 4 inches by 4 inches and 8 inches by 8 inches. This will be a lasting legacy, showing the donor's support for a project that will provide peace and comfort for many generations. A 4x8 brick is available for a \$100 donation and provides for three lines of type with a maximum of 60 characters, 20 per line including spaces and a donation of \$250 allows the donor an 8x8 brick, with six lines of type and a maximum of 120 characters, 20 per line including spaces. Outright donations for the project are gladly accepted, according to Father Whitney Miller, director. For more information call 337-855-1232 or go to stcharlescenter.com, where a credit card or e-check can be used to contribute. In the bottom photo, work was recently completed on the renovation of the wooden walkway across the marsh from Tabor Retreat House to the West Fork of the Calcasieu River. The volunteer structure built in 1998, the refurbishment was achieved completely by volunteers and their coordinator, Denis Husers. Through their generosity of time, talent, and much effort the structure was restored, strengthened, and secured for future guests and retreatants for years to come. Crosses cut from \$25 wood, reclaimed from the original building are now available to purchase, for \$25 each, at Tabor Retreat House. Proceeds benefit the Saint Charles Center Maintenance Fund. Come take a look at examples of the crosses or call 337-855-1232 for more information.

Catholic Charities provides aid

LAKE CHARLES – Between June 21 and July 18, Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana provided 766 boxes of food to those in need and gave financial assistance totaling \$11,443.39.

During June 18-20, the Center conducted recertification for food distribution. On June 18, 315 boxes of U.S. Department of Agriculture foodstuffs were issued along with 116 boxes provided for with money donated from the community to Catholic Charities.

The July food distribution, on July 18, had 280 USA boxes and 45 non-USDA boxes issued.

During the two months, 23 clients were assisted with housing expenses, 14 with utilities, eight with medication, and six with funeral expenses

Ten promoted at Holy Sepulchre Investiture

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. – Clergy and lay members of the Southeastern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem attended the 2014 Investiture recently.

Sir Clarence Prudhomme, KGCHS, began his duties at the Investiture as Section Representative for the Diocese of Lake Charles, replacing Sir Bernard Beaco,

KGCHS, who served six years in the position.

Ten members of the Order were promoted during the three-day meeting. Sir Keith DeSonier of Lake Charles, Sir Fred Fluitt of DeQuincy, and Sir Clarence Prudhomme of Welsh were promoted to Knight Grand Cross while Lady Dale DeSonier of Lake Charles and Lady Geneva Prudhomme of Welsh were

promoted to Lady Grand Cross.

Lady Marie Davidson of Lake Charles and Lady Lauretta Fluitt of DeQuincy were promoted to Lady Commander with Star.

Sir Christopher Thibodeaux of Jennings was promoted to Knight Commander.

Promoted to Lady Commander were Lady Angela Miller of Lake Charles and Lady Staci Thibodeaux of Jennings.

Leading the delegation were Msgr. Jace Eskind, KCHS, the pastor of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Lake Charles, and Msgr. Harry D. Greig, KCHS, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Big Lake.

Members attending the investiture included Sir Bernard Beaco, Lady Dolores Beaco, Sir Joe Stoma, Lady Janet Stoma, Sir Clarence Prudhomme, Lady Geneva Prudhomme, Sir John Halloran, Sir Edward Mason, and Sir Paul Reed.



A delegation of Knights and Ladies of Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from the Diocese of Lake Charles attended the recent Investiture of the Order held in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Pictured, from left, are Sir Bernard Beaco, Lady Dolores Beaco, Sir Clarence Prudhomme, Msgr. Jace Eskind, Lady Geneva Prudhomme, Sir Joe Stomas, Sir Edward Mason, Lady Janet Stoma, Paula Reed, Sir Paul Reed, and Msgr. Harry D. Greig.



Sir Bernard Beaco, KGCHS, right, has relinquished his position as Section Representative in the Diocese of Lake Charles of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, after six years, in favor of Sir Clarence Prudhomme, KGCHS, left.

Eight priests to be honored for special anniversaries

LAKE CHARLES – Knights of Columbus Council 5022 and the St. Henry Catholic Church family will honor priests, deacons, and religious celebrating significant anniversary years in 2014 with Mass on Tuesday, Sept. 7, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in St. Henry, 1021 Eighth Avenue. A reception will follow in the St. Henry Community Center.

Priests celebrating jubilee anniversaries of their priestly ordination are Father John Poerio, Father Jude Brunert, M.S., Father Ernest Corriveau, M.S., Monsignor Charles Dubois, Father Joseph Aquino, M.S., Monsignor Ronald Groth, Father Thomas Huhn, M.S., Father Augustine Mullanjanany, Father Emanuel Tanu, S.V.D.

Father Poerio, a native of Chicago Heights, Ill., celebrates 55 years of service, having been ordained at the Pontifical North American College Chapel in Rome on Dec. 20, 1959. The Most Reverend Martin J. O'Connor, rector of the North American, was the ordaining prelate.

He celebrated his first Mass the next day in St. Peter's Basilica.

Father Poerio, retired

since 2003, has served as associate pastor in the parishes of St. Margaret of Scotland in Lake Charles, St. John Cathedral in Lafayette, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in New Iberia, and St. Raphael in Iowa. He was pastor in St. Lawrence in Raymond, Sacred Heart in Oakdale, St. Raphael in Iowa, St. John Vianney in Bell City, and St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake. In his priestly formation, he attended Immaculata Seminary in Lafayette, Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and the Gregorian University in Rome.

Father Brunert, Father Corriveau, and Msgr. Dubois will each celebrate 50 years of priesthood, all ordained on Dec. 19, 1964.

Forty-five years of priesthood will be celebrated by Msgr. Groth, Father Aquino, Father Huhn, who was transferred by his LaSalette order on July 1, and Father Mullanjanany. Each was ordained in 1969 - Msgr. Groth on May 19, Father Aquino on May 24, Father Huhn on Dec. 20, and Father Mullanjanany on Dec. 21.

Father Tanu will celebrate the 10th anniversary of his ordination, held on August 24, 2004.

Veritas Conference keynote speaker

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Veritas Conference - On Faith and Evangelization - will be Saturday, Sept. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street, with the Very Rev. Jim Wehner, President-Rector of Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, as the keynote speaker.

Breakout sessions will have topics such as "Credo," "Angels and Demons according to the Dumb Ox," "Theology of the Body for First-timers," "Getting Started as a Catechist," "Catching and Keeping the Attention of High-Schoolers," and more. There will also be exhibits by publishers and bookstores.

Early-bird registration, by August 29, is \$25 including lunch or \$20 without lunch. Registration by the deadline, Sept 5, is \$30 with lunch or \$25 without lunch. The fee for those registering Sept. 6 and beyond is \$30 without lunch.

Father Wehner was appointed Rector/Pres-

ident of Notre Dame Seminary by Archbishop Gregory Aymond on July 1, 2012. Father Wehner was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1995. After completing doctoral studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Father Wehner served as Rector of Saint Paul Seminary, Pittsburgh, for six years.

He also served as diocesan director for evangelization, the permanent diaconate, vocations, and clergy and ministerial formation. Father Wehner served as adjunct professor of theology at Duquesne University and as a Trustee for Carlow University. Father Wehner served as Pastor of Saint Thomas More Parish in 2008-2009.

The Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education appointed Father Wehner Rector/President of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Spring 2009. Father Wehner's appointment to Notre Dame Seminary is for five years.



Fr. James Wehner, S.T.D.

March for Life 2015 Pilgrimage

LAKE CHARLES – The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles is sponsoring the March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington, DC from Sunday, Jan. 18 through Friday, Jan. 23, 2015.

The Pilgrimage is for high school teens and young adults from the Diocese and all chaperones, at least one for each six students, must be up-to-date on the diocesan Safe Environment Training.

Cost of the Trip is \$550.00, which includes travel, lodging, most meals, t-shirt, scarf, hat, bag, journal and entry fees into various events and sites.

A deposit of \$150.00 per person is due with the parish registration form and individual registration forms by Wednesday, October 22. The remaining balance for the trip due no later than Thursday, January 8, 2015.

Individual's spending money in the amount of at least \$75 should be brought on the trip for "meals on the road."

Spaces are reserved on a first come, first served basis. There will only be five buses and seats will fill fast, so it is advisable to complete and return forms and deposit as soon as possible.

All participants must register through St. Louis Catholic High School (contact Mrs. Kathy Owen) or their church parish.

Group leaders should contact Milissa Thibodeaux at 337-439-7400 or youth.ministry@lcdioocese.org with any questions.



Bishop Glen John Provost incenses the altar on which sits the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, during the celebration of a Pontifical Mass in the Extraordinary Form on Friday, June 27, - the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur. Also pictured are participants in the Mass, Rev. D.B. Thompson, Rev. Jacob Scott Conner, Rev. Edward Richard, M.S., Eric Gruspier, Rev. Nathan Long, Deacon Jay Alexius and Rev. Derek Covert.

Curial reform is longtime tradition at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals continue to study the most effective and efficient way to organize the Roman Curia, a large bureaucracy with a long history of expansions and a few, short-term, attempts at consolidation.

For centuries, popes were assisted in their ministry by the cardinals meeting in consistories; the practical matters were handled by what was called the Apostolic Chancery. But as the church grew and matters became more complicated and more time-sensitive, offices were

added. The first was the Sacred Congregation for the Inquisition, a tribunal established in 1542 by Pope Paul III to judge heresy and orthodoxy.

Over the next four decades, a few other offices were added, but an organized Roman Curia came into existence only with Pope Sixtus V in 1588.

Currently the principal offices of the Roman Curia are the Secretariat of State, nine congregations headed by cardinals and 12 pontifical councils led by cardinals or archbishops. The offices share the mission of helping the pope

carrying out his ministry "for the good and service of the whole church and of the particular churches," according to St. John Paul II's 1988 apostolic constitution "Pastor Bonus" ("The Good Shepherd").

In a December address to officials from the curial offices, Pope Francis said he knows there are saints among them, but a renewed commitment to service and humility always is necessary.

"When the attitude is no longer one of service to the particular churches and their bishops, the structure of the Curia turns ponderous."

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2014 the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed in 1957 by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey:

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 former 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

