

CATHOLIC CALENDAR



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The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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Diocesan seminarian ordained to diaconate

ROME – Cardinal Donald Wuerl recently ordained 43 seminarians from the Pontifical North American College as deacons at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica, including Deacon Ruben Villarreal, a seminarian of the Diocese of Lake Charles and a parishioner of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Raymond. Bishop Glen John Provost concelebrated the liturgy with Cardinal Wuerl and other bishops whose seminarians were also ordained.

On the morning following the diaconate ordination, Bishop Provost celebrated Mass in the Chapel of the *Salus Populi Romani*, the patroness of the Roman people, in the Basilica of St. Mary Major. It was there 39 years ago that Bishop Provost celebrated his first Mass.

"Deacon Villarreal had the opportunity to serve as deacon for the Mass on the day following his diaconal ordination, joined by family and friends who had come for the occasion," Bishop Provost said. "At the Wednesday audience I greeted the Holy Father personally in the name of each and everyone of you in the Diocese. He cordially accepted the greetings and we exchanged words of concern for those in our diocese who face the challenge of drug addiction."

The Bishop was also the main celebrant for the welcoming Mass to greet visitors in Rome for the ordination. He visited briefly on

another occasion with the priests and seminarians from Louisiana studying in Rome. "They represent the dioceses of Alexandria, Lafayette, New Orleans, and Lake Charles," Bishop Provost noted. "Louisiana is well represented in the Eternal City, with even an occasional gumbo prepared by some of our natives."

The cardinal Wuerl reminded the new deacons to always be open to God and to live their new ministry with joy.

"Dear deacons, never cease to be open to the call. Each day, renew your resolve to say, 'Yes, Lord. Here I am, Lord; send me,'" the cardinal told the new deacons during the ordination Mass.

"Your commitment to service will take the form of the many tasks you will be asked to do," he explained. "May you always find joy in the attitude, 'Lord, whatever it takes, that is what I offer you and your Church.'"

Cardinal Wuerl, who serves as archbishop of Washington, opened his homily by referencing the significance of receiving the sacrament of holy orders in St. Peter's Basilica, where he also was ordained a deacon, priest and bishop.

The words "*Ibi Petrus*," or "Here is Peter," that were written on the headstone marking where the apostle's remains are buried do not just refer to one man, but to "the reality that the Office of Peter and the ministry of his successors ... are still alive and thriving."

It is on the "rock" of Peter and "to the service of the people of God" that you will be ordained, the cardinal told the *ordinandi* present.

Reflecting on the qualities needed in order to be a good deacon, Cardinal Wuerl turned to the example of Stephen, who "possessed a generosity of heart and a love of Christ and his Church."

"These traits made it possible for each to work gladly and willingly with the apostles," he said, noting that when the priest or deacon lays prostrate during the rite of ordination, it is a sign of "the reality that you are laying down your lives for a friend, the greatest friend, Jesus Christ."

"It is also here where the bones of Peter remind us that our first pope truly laid down his life for the Lord. To serve means to give whatever it takes to serve Christ."

Cardinal Wuerl continued, saying that in one's ordination, "You are joined to Christ now as servant: the servant who nurtures, heals and restores; the servant who feeds the hungry, gives drink to the thirsty, clothes the naked, visits the sick and imprisoned."

He then went on to explain how their ordination as deacons is a concrete call to participate in the New Evangelization, which requires what Pope Francis often coins



Bishop Glen John Provost greets His Holiness, Pope Francis at a Wednesday audience. The Bishop attended during his trip to Rome for the diaconate ordination of seminarian Ruben Villarreal. Deacon Villarreal is studying theology at the Pontifical North American College. With God's grace, Deacon Villarreal will join with Deacon Jay Alexius, M.D. next year for their ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles. (Photo courtesy of Servizio Fotografico de "L'O".)

as a "response to Jesus as missionary discipleship. Each of us is called to share the Good News."

Bringing to mind a homily given by Benedict XVI, the cardinal observed that each of us is called to "re-propose" all over again" the Gospel, in order to gain "a hearing from those who perhaps feel they have already experienced the Gospel and it has no impact in their lives."

"The continuation of the mission of Christ, which began with the Great Commission following his death and resurrection, is what we are engaged in today," he said.

He referred to the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family, which began on the weekend following the ordination and on Pope Francis' October 19 beatification of Pope Paul VI, who instigated the synods following the close of the Second Vatican Council, at the end of the Synod on the Family.

"In *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, (Pope Paul VI) offers this assessment of our own effectiveness: 'Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.'"

"Dear deacons, carry out your ministry in joy," he said. "A sign of the indwelling Spirit

is found in what are known as the fruits of the Holy Spirit," and "among these we find love, joy and peace, together with patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness and self-control."

The cardinal concluded his homily by quoting the day's Gospel, in which Jesus tells his apostles: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. ... It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you. ... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

He then spoke of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel," saying that it serves as a reminder of "the joy of the Gospel that should fill the hearts and minds of all who encounter Jesus."

"Those in holy orders should manifest joy, since our proclamation is that Christ is risen and the kingdom of God is at hand."

"May the Holy Spirit who consecrates all the baptized, and who has further blessed you who are to be ordained deacons, continue to inspire you to service," he prayed.

And may he "enrich your liturgical ministry, deepen your life of faith and help you, as you, through your ministry, do whatever it takes to build up the whole body of Christ."



Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, DC, "lays hands" on the head of Ruben Villarreal ordaining him a deacon during the celebration of the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on October 2. (Photo by Michael Lund, PNAC Photo Service)

Annual Red Mass celebrated

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost was the celebrant and homilist at the annual Red Mass held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Judges, attorneys, and government officials from the five civil parishes that make up the Diocese of Lake Charles – Calcasieu, Cameron, Allen, Beauregard and Jefferson Davis – attended as well as the public.

The local St. Thomas More Society, Judge Henry Yelverton Chapter, along with the Diocese sponsors the event. The Mass is so named because of the color of the vestments worn by the Bishop and priests, donned in symbolism of the tongues of fire that descended on the Apostles. Additionally, Judges of the High Court of England and all doctors of law wore red robes or academic hoods.

In his homily, Bishop Provost talked about the "debate of our present society over matters such as the so-called 'separation of church and state' or the value of the natural law or an unbridled pursuit of some sort of multicultural 'common ground' is that we ignore the notion of covenant in law."

He prefaced that with remarks dealing with the Sermon on the Mount and presentation of the Ten Commandments to Moses.

"The Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount presume the Ten Commandments of Sinai," the Bishop said. "They fulfill the Commandments because of Jesus."

The Red Mass celebrates the opening of the judicial year and requests guidance

from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice and offers the opportunity to reflect on what Catholics believe is the God-given power and responsibility of all in the legal profession.

He noted that "historically law had a much broader role than simply communicating legal content. When a king took his oath, he 'guaranteed' his adherence to the law. The law was something promised. The king promised to be faithful in exchange for the fidelity of his people. This covenant was essential to the ancient understanding of law. Certainly, a concept of covenant is a fundamental presupposition of the Magna Carta along with a host of other medieval charters where law expressed the bond that existed between a people and their ruler."

Bringing his comments to the present day, the Bishop said, "The debate over what informs our law goes much deeper than whether or not we place a monument with the Ten Commandments on public land. The debate really should center upon how we view the law itself, whether it is simply an enforcer who punishes evil or whether it also instructs in seeking what

is good. The latter implies Covenant.

"To protect the rights of the innocent implies more than merely determining whether or not someone is not guilty," the Bishop said. "It implies the covenant agreed upon by the state to protect the liberty of its citizens. This is rooted in the Gospel mandate to embody the principles of goodness, not out of fear but motivated by love. The responsibilities of the legal profession are serious indeed. The function of the law is not merely to administer the law. The function of the law is to promote the proper ordering of the society, to reflect the hopes and values that animate the society. For this, a covenant exists that expresses itself in those simple oaths that we take, simple yet so important."

The first recorded Red Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral of Paris in 1245. From there, it spread to most European countries.

Bishop Provost also delivered the invocation at the annual Law Day ceremonies held in Courtroom A of the Historic Calcasieu Parish Courthouse.



Members of the judiciary, representing the civil parishes making up the Diocese of Lake Charles, are seated in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception during the annual Red Mass, sponsored by the local St. Thomas More Society, Judge Henry Yelverton Chapter, and the Diocese.

Holiday office hours

LAKE CHARLES – The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Thanksgiving week – Nov. 24 through 26. They will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and Friday, Nov. 28, reopening on Monday, Dec. 1.

The offices will also be closed on Monday, Dec. 8 - The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) will be observed the remainder of the week - Tuesday, Dec. 9 through Friday, Dec. 12

A tale of two churches

(A note from Bishop Glen John Provost on the following column: "I was very much impressed by the essay of Cardinal George 'A Tale of Two Churches' which appeared in the September issue of the archdiocesan newspaper in Chicago. His Eminence, I think, digests very well the challenges facing us as Catholics in a society ever-more secular and hostile to the Gospel of Christ. He places his observations in an historical and ecclesial context, for without a knowledge of history and an appreciation for the Church we are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past and risk losing the Catholic world. At the same time, he gives us reason for present hope and encourages us to be faithful to the Truth of Jesus Christ and His Church. As the Scriptures admonish us to "stay awake," may we grow in awareness of the faith we are privileged to profess.")

By His Eminence, Francis Cardinal George

Once upon a time there was a church founded on God's entering into human history in order to give humanity a path to eternal life and happiness with him. The Savior that God sent, his only-begotten Son, did not write a book but founded a community, a church, upon the witness and ministry of twelve apostles. He sent this church the gift of the Holy Spirit, the spirit of love between Father and Son, the Spirit of the truth that God had revealed about himself and humanity by breaking into the history of human sinfulness.

This church, a hierarchical communion, continued through history, with different peoples and cultures, filled with sinners, but always guided in the essentials of her life and teaching by the Holy Spirit. She called herself "Catholic" because her purpose was to preach a universal faith and a universal morality, encompassing all peoples and cultures. This claim often invited conflict with the ruling classes of many countries. About 1,800 years into her often stormy history, this church found herself as a very small group in a new country in Eastern North America that promised to respect all religions because the State would not be confessional; it would not try to play the role of a religion.

This church knew that it was far from socially acceptable in this new country. One of the reasons the country was established was to protest the king of England's permitting the public celebration of the Catholic Mass on the soil of the British Empire in the newly conquered Catholic territories of Canada. He had betrayed his coronation oath to combat Catholicism, defined as "America's greatest enemy," and protect Protestantism, bringing the pure religion of the colonists into danger and giving them the moral right to revolt and reject his rule.

Nonetheless, many Catholics in the American colonies thought their life might be better in the new country than under a regime whose ruling class had penalized and persecuted them since the mid-16th century. They made this new country their own and served her loyally. The social history was often contentious, but the State basically kept its promise

to protect all religions and not become a rival to them, a fake church. Until recent years.

There was always a quasi-religious element in the public creed of the country. It lived off the myth of human progress, which had little place for dependence on divine providence. It tended to exploit the religiosity of the ordinary people by using religious language to co-opt them into the purposes of the ruling class. Forms of anti-Catholicism were part of its social DNA. It had encouraged its citizens to think of themselves as the creators of world history and the managers of nature, so that no source of truth outside of themselves needed to be consulted to check their collective purposes and desires. But it had never explicitly taken upon itself the mantle of a religion and officially told its citizens what they must personally think or what "values" they must personalize in order to deserve to be part of the country. Until recent years.

In recent years, society has brought social and legislative approval to all types of sexual relationships that used to be considered "sinful." Since the biblical vision of what it means to be human tells us that not every friendship or love can be expressed in sexual relations, the church's teaching on these issues is now evidence of intolerance for what the civil law upholds and even imposes. What was once a request to live and let live has now become a demand for approval. The "ruling class," those who shape public opinion in politics, in education, in communications, in entertainment, is using the civil law to impose its own form of morality on everyone. We are told that, even in marriage itself, there is no difference between men and women, although nature and our very bodies clearly evidence that men and women are not interchangeable at will in forming a family. Nevertheless, those who do not conform to the official religion, we are warned, place their citizenship in danger.

When the recent case about religious objection to one provision of the Health Care Act was decided against the State religion, the Huffington Post (June 30, 2014) raised "concerns about the compatibility between being a Catholic and being a good citizen." This is not the voice of the nativists who first fought against immigration in the 1830s. Nor is it the voice of those who burned convents and churches in Boston and Philadelphia a decade later. Neither is it the voice of the Klan-Nothing Party of the 1840s and 1850s, nor of the Ku Klux Klan, which burned crosses before Catholic churches in the Midwest after the civil war. It is a voice more sophisticated than that of the American Protective Association, whose members promised never to vote for a Catholic for public office. This is, rather, the self-righteous voice of some members of the American establishment today who regard themselves as "progressive" and "enlightened."

The inevitable result is a crisis of belief for many Catholics. Throughout history, when Catholics and other believers in revealed religion have been forced to choose between being taught by God or instructed by politicians, professors, editors of major newspapers and entertainers, many have opted to go along with the powers that be. This reduces a great tension

in their lives, although it also brings with it the worship of a false god. It takes no time to take a deep faith to "swim against the tide," as Pope Francis recently encouraged young people to do at last summer's World Youth Day.

Swimming against the tide means limiting one's access to positions of prestige and power in society. It means that those who choose to live by the Catholic faith will not be welcomed as political candidates to national office, will not sit on editorial boards of major newspapers, will not be at home on most university faculties, will not have successful careers as actors and entertainers. Nor will their children, who will also be suspect. Since all public institutions, no matter who owns or operates them, will be agents of the government and conform their activities to the demands of the official religion, the practice of medicine and law will become more difficult for faithful Catholics. It already means in some States that those who run businesses must conform their activities to the official religion or be fined, as Christians and Jews are fined for their religion in countries governed by Sharia law.

A reader of the tale of two churches, an outside observer, might note that American civil law has done much to weaken and destroy what is the basic unit of every human society, the family. With the weakening of the internal restraints that healthy family life teaches, the State will need to impose more and more external restraints on everyone's activities. An outside observer might also note that the official religion's imposing and even on the world at large inevitably generates resentment. An outside observer might point out that class plays a large role in determining the tenets of the official State religion. "Same-sex marriage," as a case in point, is not an issue for the poor or those on the margins of society.

How does the tale end? We don't know. The actual situation is, of course, far more complex than a story plot, and there are no actors and characters, even among the ruling class, who do not want their beloved country to transform itself into a fake church. It would be wrong to lose hope, since there are so many good and faithful people.

Catholics do know, with the certainty of faith, that, when Christ returns in glory to judge the living and the dead, the church, in some recognizable shape or form that is both Catholic and Apostolic, will be there to meet him. There is no such divine guarantee for any country, culture or society of this or any age.

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Cardinal Francis George, OMI, was the Archbishop of Chicago from 1997 to 2014 before his retirement was accepted by Pope Francis. He is now Archbishop-emeritus following the installation of Archbishop Blasé Cupich earlier in November. Cardinal George previously served as Bishop of Yakima (1990-1996) and Archbishop of Portland, Oregon (1996-1997).

Thirty-three receive Religious Emblems Recognition

LAKE CHARLES -- The Bishop's Dinner for Religious Emblems was held recently at the Knights of Heaven Catholic Church. Various medals earned through Religious Emblem programs went to 21 youth while 12 adults were honored for services rendered on behalf of Scouting.

Youth awarded included the I Live My Faith, and Spirit Alive for girls and Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, and Ad Altare Dei for boys. Adult recognition came in the form of the Bronze Pelican. Bishop Glen John Provost, aided by Father Matthew Cormier, Chaplain for the Catholic Committee on Scouting, presented the awards with the assistance of Committee chair Susan Fontenot, Joe Castro and John Halloran. Castro is the chair of Religious Activities and Halloran, a retired U.S. Army colonel, is the vice chair of the committee.

Cassie Piatt received the I Live My Faith award and Bayleigh Smith was honored with the Spirit Alive award. The I Live My Faith program is designed to help Girl Scouts and Camp Fire members, grades 4-6, appreciate more deeply the place that God and religion occupy in their daily life. The action-oriented activities focus on developing awareness within the individual of his/her potential as a growing person, friend, family member, citizen, and a participant in the community of faith.

The Spirit Alive award is designed for Catholic youth in high school who are in the senior level of Girl Scouts or Horizon Club members of Camp Fire. It assists them in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to greater participation in the church's ministry. The four chapters cover: The Holy Spirit Alive in Scripture; The Holy Spirit Alive in the Catholic Church; The Holy Spirit Alive in Prayer; and The Holy Spirit Alive in Your Life. Activities are an integral part of The Spirit Alive process. Because different people have different learning styles, there are four categories of activities to choose from for chapters 1-3 - written, artistic, interactive, and digital.

One of the scouts, Christopher Abrahams, earned two awards - the Light of Christ and the Parvuli Dei. Abrahams completed the requirements for the Light of Christ shortly after last year's awards dinner and fulfilled the Parvuli Dei standards as a Webelo this year.



Bishop Glen John Provost and Father Matthew Cormier are joined by youth and adult honorees recognized at the annual Bishop's Dinner for Religious Emblems Recognition on Sunday, Nov. 2.

Recipients of the Light of Christ emblem also included Carter Fain, Bryce Fuselier, Finn Gage, Ethan Lantier, Will Lounsberry, and David Olivares.

The Light of Christ program was developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting under the auspices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In order to receive the Light of Christ emblem, he must complete all requirements before he starts the third grade.

Parvuli Dei recipients were Bryce Bertrand, Miguel Cahilog, Joshua France, Shreve Gage, Nathaniel Hill, Dylan McFarlain, Matthew Miller, and Arnulfo Olivares. The Parvuli Dei (Children of God) emblem is a recognition that the Catholic Church presents to Cub and Webelo Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation.

Luke Burnham, Will Gage, Christopher Perry, and Kaleb Taylor received the Ad Altare Dei, which is designed to equip the Scout to take his place in the world as a maturing Catholic and a maturing American.

Bronze Pelican honorees were Melissa Bertrand, Russell Castille, Russell Dawdy, Christine Koll, Rich Lee, Katherine Miller, Fasser-Edward Richard, M.S., Cecilia Richmond, and Danella Taylor-Sonnier.

The Bronze Pelican is a Diocesan recognition approved by the Catholic Committee on Scouting and Camp Fire for the Diocese of Lake Charles. It is given to those who have made a significant contribution to Scouting in the field of religious Catholic relationship.

The St. George Emblem honors adults who, among other work, help to promote the religious education programs for Catholic youth, give notable service in promoting Catholic activities and service projects for the Church, participate actively in and promotion of Scout retreats and days of recollection. A fuller explanation of the selection criteria is available at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/Relationships/StGeorgeEmblem.aspx>

Members of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese are Father Cormier, chaplain; Susan Fontenot, chair; John Halloran, vice chair; Jimmy Berry, finance chair; Joe Castro, religious activities chair; Robert Dabelow, secretary; Richard Skinner, communications; Theresa Fruge, membership chair; members-at-large, David Marcantel, Tiffeny Lessigne, Darin Lessigne, Donn Dees and Maria O'Dowd, Boy Scouts of America representative, Shawn Chamblee; Girl Scout representative, Kara Guillery; Knights of Columbus representative, Richard Roy; and Girl Scout program specialist, Katharine Staggs.

Collection for Catholic Campaign for Human Development Nov. 22-23

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is November 22-23, the weekend before Thanksgiving. The collection is taken up in parishes and dioceses nationwide, including here in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

This annual national collection is the primary source of funding for CCHD's anti-poverty grants and education programs. These programs enable low-income people to join together to identify problems, make decisions and improve their communities. For over 40 years, CCHD has funded organizations that address the root causes of poverty, providing lasting solutions for the future.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from the CCHD collection here in Southwest Louisiana will remain here in the Diocese to fight poverty and foster liberty and justice. CCHD uses the national portion of the collection to fund projects across the country through grants. These grants fund community efforts to promote human dignity and fight poverty. Many of the funded projects focus on health care, immigration, community safety, political participation and environmental justice.



Very Reverend Jacob S. Conner, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Oberlin, blessed area cemeteries on All Souls Day, Nov. 2. Father Conner, along with servers, led a procession of parishioners through the streets to the Oberlin Cemetery (left photo) and (right photo) sprinkled each of the graves there with Holy Water. Later in the afternoon, Oaklin Springs, Reed, Durio, and Hammie Duplechain Cemeteries were also blessed.



New *cathedra* installed in Cathedral for Bishop

LAKE CHARLES – A new *cathedra* (chair for the bishop) was recently installed in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The *cathedra* was designed in such a way that it is in accord with the documents of the Church, according to Father Ruben Buller, director of the Office of Liturgy and Master of Ceremonies for Bishop Glen John Provost.

“In the *Ceremonial of Bishops*, written after the Second Vatican Council, the *cathedra* has certain requirements that should be kept,” Father Buller said. “First, the *cathedra* should be permanent and have a sense of permanence. This means that its construction should give it a sense of stability. This is to signify the role of the bishop in accord with the Second Vatican Council. The bishop of a local diocese (the local church) is the representative of the apostles established by Christ. “The purpose of the *cathedra* that has been constructed for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is to keep these principles in mind,” Father Buller continued. “Another aspect that was duly considered is the integrity in keeping with the architecture of the Cathedral. With

these considerations, the new *cathedra* will stand as a sign of the connection that we have to Jesus Christ through the hierarchy of the Church.”

The first *cathedra*, used by founding Bishop Jude Speyrer, was a modified pew taken from the Cathedral. It was later moved to Saint Charles Center as the presider’s chair in the Chapel of the Assumption of Tabor Retreat House. This occurred after Bishop Edward Braxton replaced it with a larger free-standing chair that was designed to be placed in front of the *reredos* and the closed tabernacle of the historic marble altar.

Bishop Provost returned the Blessed Sacrament to its historic and architecturally customary place in the center of the sanctuary. It was done because it was thought that this arrangement was not only aesthetically pleasing but also liturgically appropriate. This new arrangement also allows for more space in the sanctuary. With the move, the *cathedra* then had to be moved to a position perpendicular to the altar of sacrifice as the *cathedra* designed to be placed in front of the *reredos* no longer fit.

According to Bishop Provost, it was through the gener-

osity of donors that prefer to remain anonymous that this new *cathedra* was designed and manufactured by the distinguished church design firm of Conrad-Schmitt.

The placement of the *cathedra* to the side of the sanctuary with the Blessed Sacrament on the historic center altar is found in many older cathedrals in the United States, such as St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

This new *cathedra* is distinguished by being made of solid oak to match the old pews in the Cathedral. The designers repeated in the *cathedra* architectural details, which appear in the historic marble altar.

“In this way, a serious attempt was made to harmonize the sanctuary,” Bishop Provost said. “A Cathedral Church is a cathedral because it contains the chair of the bishop,” he continued. “The new *cathedra* possesses a sober, simple and dignified presence that immediately identifies the church as a ‘Cathedral’. Through its understated yet distinct design, the new *cathedra* is at home in the historic place and allows for appropriate liturgical movement in the sanctuary.”



Gala tickets still available

LAKE CHARLES – Tickets remain available for the Third Annual Bishop’s Gala set for Saturday, Dec. 13, in the Lake Charles Civic Center.

The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, led by Bill Tole and featuring vocalist Nancy Knorr, will provide the night’s entertainment.

Tickets are \$125 each and a table for 10 can be purchased for \$1,250. Tickets are available in the parishes of the Diocese, 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 live.lcdioocese.org and click the “Support the Diocese” button on the front page, then the “Bishop’s Gala Tickets” link, and follow the easy instructions. Last year’s Gala raised \$63,193.47 to support the ministries of the diocesan Office of Communications.

Special sponsorship opportunities also remain available including Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Crystal. Multiple numbers of these sponsorships are available.

Platinum Sponsors will receive two tables for 10, special individual gifts, special mention in the Gala program and from the bandstand that night, and the VIP social from 6 to 6:30 p.m. before the Gala opens to the public, including a photograph with Bishop Provost. Each of the Platinum Sponsorships is \$20,000.

Gold Sponsors receive a table for 10 with special seating, recognition in the Gala program and from the bandstand that night, and the VIP social from 6 to 6:30 p.m. before the Gala opens to the public, including a photograph with Bishop Provost for a \$10,000 donation.

For \$5,000, Silver Sponsors receive a table for 10 with special seating and recognition in the Gala program while Crystal sponsorships of \$3,000 each get a table for 10 and recognition in the Gala program.

Call Msgr. Torres at 337-439-7400 for additional information on these special sponsorships.

Proceeds from the Gala help the Office of Communications produce and air *Glad Tidings* television program each Sunday morning at 6 o’clock on KPLC-V as well as the monthly preparation and publication of the *Catholic Calendar* in five regional newspapers. The website of the Diocese – lcdioocese.org – is overseen by the Office of Communications including its continuous maintenance and upgrading while the office broadcasts the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on two local radio stations – KLCL (1470) AM and KJEF (1290) AM, serving Lake Charles and Jennings, respectively.



Bishop Glen John Provost was the celebrant and homilist at the annual Memorial Mass for deceased members of the Companions of Honor on Saturday, Oct. 11, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Fourteen members, that had died between October 2013 and September 2014, were remembered.

Fourteen Companions remembered at Mass

LAKE CHARLES --- Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the celebrant of the annual Memorial Mass for deceased members of the Companions of Honor of the Diocese of Lake Charles on Saturday, Oct. 11, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

In his homily, the Bishop noted, “We are here this morning to celebrate Mass and to commend to the Lord all of our members of the Companions of Honor who have gone before us to the Lord. In doing so, we remember their lives and their contribution to the Church, which began at baptism for them.”

“We recall the deceased of the Companions of Honor this morning in so many ways, as we read their names on the card that was given out to you this morning,” the Bishop continued. “We recall each of them and their lives and that goodness to which God called them. Each and everyone different, each and everyone called in a different way, at a different time in their lives, but nonetheless called to this goodness, which is God himself.”

“We pray that the Lord will receive our Companions of Honor into eternal life and grant them the record of their faith and of their good works,” he said. “That the charity that they lived and the love that they exhibited might truly be, for us, an example to follow.”

Earlier in the day, Father Wayne LeBleu led a Morning of Reflection in the Cathedral for members of the organization.

Fourteen members of the organization died since last year’s meeting of the Companions including: Lady Elizabeth “Bettye” Hebert + December 30, 2013; Mrs. Viola Lavergne Chantlin + December 31, 2013; Ms. Maria Esther Gallardo + January 8, 2013; Dr. Richard Calhoun + January 29, 2014; Mrs. Ida Mae Price + February 16, 2014; Mr. Isaac “Jay” Gillard + March 10, 2014; Mrs. Sharon Mueller + April 14, 2014; Mrs. Gloria Zimmerman + April 23, 2014; Mrs. Shirley Romero + April 30, 2014; Mrs. Neva Darte + May 27, 2014; Lady Lauretta Fluitt + June 6, 2014; Miss Antoinette Barkett + June 27, 2014; Mrs. Joyce Mathieu + August 18, 2014; and Mr. Alfred DeVall + September 5, 2014. During the recitation of the Prayer of the Faithful, the name of each was read and a bell toned.

Sir David Marcantel took over the office of president of the Companions from Sir John Halloran, KM, at the luncheon, which followed the liturgy. The remaining officers serving until 2016 are Sir Paul Reed, president elect; Gretchen Jester, secretary; and Sir Gayle Marshall, treasurer. Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May continues as the chaplain for the organization.

The Companions of Honor is an organization, established by Bishop Jude Speyrer in December 1982, that is composed of clergy, religious, and laity honored by the Diocese, the Holy See, or those who are members of recognized orders of chivalry residing in the Diocese. These include members of The Sovereign Military Order of Hospitallars of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta; The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; The Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great; The Pontifical Order of Pope St. Sylvester; The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem; The Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem; The Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George; Order of the Fleur de Lis; Bearers of The Pontifical Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice; Bearers of The Pontifical Medal Benemerenti; Members, Officers, and Companions of The Order of St. Charles of the Diocese of Lake Charles; Bearers of The Devoted Service Medal of the Diocese of Lake Charles; and Bearers of The Bishop’s Medal of the Diocese of Lafayette.

The purposes of the Companions of Honor, as outlined in its constitution and bylaws, are to uphold and to encourage the support of Papal teachings, documents, and directives as well as those of the Diocese of Lake Charles and its Bishop; to make an annual voluntary offering to the Evangelization Program of the Diocese of Lake Charles; and to pray for and to promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood and the religious life.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, contributions from members of the Companions of Honor totaled \$19,573.00, an increase over the previous fiscal year’s donations - \$16,314.00. Since its establishment the members of the organization have contributed nearly a half million dollars to evangelization efforts in the Diocese.

Saint Charles Center events in December

MOSS BLUFF – Among December events at Saint Charles Center will be An Advent Evening of Reflection – “Prepare Your Heart for a Spirit-filled Celebration: A *Mary’s Christmas*” presented by Pat Fox on Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. Deadline to register is Friday, Nov. 28

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, Sr. Diane Depwe will offer Angels: Past, Present and Future, a journey in scripture and the participants’ own personal lives regarding angels. All who take part are urged to bring their Bible for this 6 to 9 p.m. event. Registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 5.

The suggested donation for each of these programs is \$20 per person. Call 337-855-1232 to register or online at stcharlescenter.com.

Fr. Whitney Miller, Fr. Don Piraro, Judy Savoie and Gloria Villegas will offer Private Directed Retreats from Monday, December 15 through Sunday, December 21. The directed retreat is a form of silent retreat based on the spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius of

Loyola focusing on the personal prayer of the individual. There are no group activities or conferences other than daily Eucharist and an individual daily meeting with the director. The retreatants spend about four hours in contemplative prayer each day of the retreat. The retreatant may choose to do three or five days. For more information or to register, participants must call the Center at (337) 855-1232. Scholarship assistance is available upon request.

The same group of leaders will offer An Introduction to the Directed Retreat over the weekend of Friday, December 19 to Sunday, December 21. The weekend helps the retreatant learn the prayer technique and prepares the person for the longer retreat. Participants must call the Center to register at (337) 855-1232. Scholarship assistance is available upon request.

Online registration for these two events is not available.



Bishop Glen John Provost spoke to young people of the Diocese of Lake Charles that he confirm in the spring during the annual Afternoon of Reflection for Confirmation Students held at W.W. Lewis Middle School auditorium in Sulphur and sponsored by the Office of Religious Education. Some 1,400 students and their sponsors attended. Giving moving testimonies about their confirmation experience were Deacon Glenn Viau, St. Louis teacher and youth ministers Katie Prejean, Alexis Ryder, and Tommy McGrady. The fact that Deacon Viau had been Prejean’s sponsor and Jeffrey DeVall was Viau’s sponsor last year, added much to their presentations. The afternoon concluded with the celebration of Mass by Fr. Nathan Long, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven School building dedicated

LAKE CHARLES – Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School celebrated the dedication and blessing of its new middle school building – The Monsignor James M. Gaddy Building – at a ceremony in the courtyard presided over by Bishop Glen John Provost.

The Monsignor Gaddy Building was completed over last summer and students in grades five through eight had their first day of school in August. The 26,500 square foot building includes 13 classrooms and a state-of-the-art science and technology lab in addition to the large courtyard for student gatherings.

The facility, designed by architect Randy M. Goodloe and built by Russell J. Stutes

Construction, provides a beautiful environment and mature setting for the middle school students to learn and grow.

The Monsignor Gaddy Building is a result of many years of planning on behalf of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church and school, led by its pastor, Msgr. Gaddy, and school principal, JoAnn Wallwork. Funds raised through the Cornerstone Capital Campaign, which began in fall 2012, allowed the vision for the new building to become a reality.

“I feel so proud to be a part of this faith community,” Msgr. Gaddy, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church pastor, said. “They see a need and then fill it. This new

building will significantly enhance the educational opportunities for our children.”

The large crowd in attendance included priests from a number of parishes, including former Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church pastors, Msgr. Ronald Groth and Rev. Msgr. Harry Greig. Other priests in the crowd included Very Reverend Marcus Johnson, V.F.; Very Reverend Anthony Fontenot, V.F.; Rev. Msgr. Jace Es-kind, Msgr. John Poerio; Rev. Matthew Cormier, and Rev. Nathan Long.

During the ceremony, Bishop Provost blessed crucifixes being held by the school’s teachers, which were hung in each classroom.

A reception and tours of the new building followed.



Bishop Glen John Provost sprinkles holy water on crucifixes, blessing them before they are placed in each of the classrooms of the new Msgr. James M. Gaddy Building, which houses the middle school of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School during its recent dedication.

December events at the Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES -- Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, has announced a number of events in the month of December at the cathedral.

On Monday, Dec. 8, the patronal feast of the Cathedral - Feast of the Immaculate Conception - will be celebrated with a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 5:30 p.m. Following the liturgy a Marian Procession will wind its way through the streets of Lake Charles and at the conclusion of the pro-

cession a reception will be held in Ave Maria Hall, on the southeast corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets.

An Advent Parish Mission featuring Matthew Arnold, a Catholic speaker, author, and host on the Radio Maria Network, will be Wednesday, Dec. 10. Arnold will talk about Mary’s role during the Advent Season and in particular her title Our Lady of Good Success. Attendees will discover: Our Lady’s centuries-old prophecies and her promise for the Church today; What the title Our Lady of Good

Success really means; The miraculous history of this fully Church-approved Marian devotion; Why you have not heard of Mary under this title until now; and much more. Come, discover the 400-year-old message of restoration, and hope that Mary brought especially for those of us in the Church today!

A Pontifical Solemn Mass in the Extraordinary Form, celebrated by Bishop Glen John Provost, is set for Sunday, Dec. 28 beginning at 5 p.m.

Six attend St. Lazarus Grand Priory meeting; two receive high honor

MILWAUKEE - Six members of the Imperial Calca-sieu Delegation attended the Military and Hospitalier Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem Grand Priory of America (GPA) Conference held recently.

Representing the delegation were Delegate Arch-mandrite Herbert May (Senior Chaplain), Hospitalier Nila Halloran (Officer), Sub-Delegate and GPA Associate Newsletter Editor COL (Ret.) John J. Halloran, Jr. (Knight), Protocol Officer and GPA Newsletter Editor CAPT (Ret.) Joe Hill (Knight), Lucille Matthews (Officer) and Paul Matthews (Officer). Approximately 150 members and guests attended the conference, which included partici-pants from Mexico and Canada.

Joe Hill and John Halloran each received one of the highest awards that the GPA bestows on its members - the Companionship of Merit in the rank of Grand Officer. The award was given for the pair’s many years of service to the Grand Priory as the Editor and Associate Editor of the GPA Newsletter.

During the meeting, Fr. Matt attended the GPA Com-

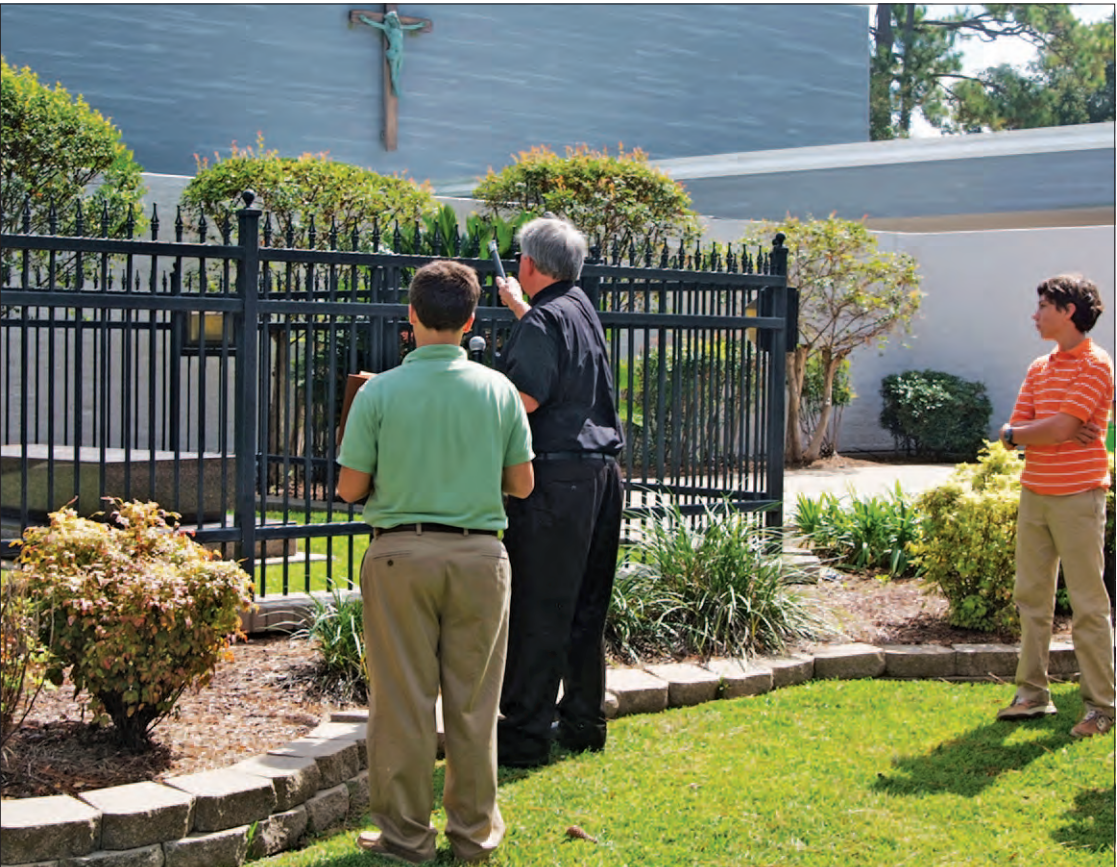


Pictured, from left, are John Halloran, Grand Prior RADM (Ret.) Ken Moritsugu, and Joe Hill. Halloran and Hill received the Companionship of Merit in the rank of Grand Officer, one of the highest honors that the Order of Saint Lazarus presents for their pair’s years of service to the Grand Priory of America as Editor and Associate Editor of the group’s newsletter.

manders Meeting and Nila Halloran attended the Hospitalier Meeting.

Members attended the GPA general session and the American Association of the Order of Saint Lazarus, Inc. (AASL) meeting. The AASL is the charitable arm of the GPA. Last year, donating \$267,665 to support a number

of activities to include the Infant Welfare Center in Jerusalem, Rising Star Outreach, Hansen’s Disease Programs, Leprosarium’s in Mexico, Donate Life America, Project Hope for Tomorrow, Aleethic Foundation, National Workshop on Christian Unity, and others.



To honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc, longtime pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, Msgr. James Gaddy, the current pastor, blessed Msgr. DeBlanc’s grave on the church grounds. This year’s family picnic also honored Msgr. DeBlanc. The crowds sang Happy Birthday and everyone enjoyed a birthday cake.

Second Annual Respect Life Dinner on Jan. 13

LAKE CHARLES – The Second Annual Diocese of Lake Charles Respect Life Dinner, which aids Rachel’s Vineyard, The Gabriel Project, and diocesan youth pilgrims to the National March for Life, is Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015 in the Buccaneer Room of the Lake Charles Civic Center.

Julia Holcomb, author of the memoir *The Light of the World – the Steven Tyler and Julia Holcomb Story* - will be the guest speaker. The book relates her relationship, beginning at age 16, with Aerosmith front man Steven Tyler and the rebuilding of her life following a forced abortion.

When she was 16 years old, she became the legal ward of Tyler, lead singer of the rock band Aerosmith and former American Idol judge. At age 17 and over five months pregnant with Tyler’s first child, she barely survived a fire that burned their apartment.

While still in the hospital recovering from smoke-inhalation, she was coerced into a horrific saline abortion. In the book, which is published on LifeSiteNews, she credits her faith in Jesus Christ as the lifeline that helped her rebuild her life after her abortion trauma.

She writes, “I pray that all those who have had abortions or have participated in any way in an abortion procedure may find in my story, not judgment or condemnation, but a renewed hope in God’s steadfast love, forgiveness and peace. Marriage and the family are the building blocks of all virtuous societies. I pray that our nation may find it’s way back to God’s plan by

Catholic Calendar 2015 publishing dates announced

LAKE CHARLES – The 2015 publishing dates of the Catholic Calendar, the monthly publication of the Diocese of Lake Charles, have been announced.

The Catholic Calendar is a six-page broadsheet insert in the American Press and remade to a single page for publication in the Southwest Daily News, the Jennings Daily News, and the weekly Cameron Pilot, generally on the third Friday of each month. The Pilot is published weekly on Thursdays.

Historically, the Catholic Calendar has been published on Good Friday. Since in 2015 it does not fall on the third Friday, a special single page edition will appear in each of the newspapers on April 3.

Regular publication dates in the daily newspapers are January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18.

Deadlines are three weeks prior to the date of publication.



Julia Holcomb

respecting the life of unborn children and strengthening the sanctity of marriage.”

Holcomb is also an accomplished artist, having studied painting at the University of Houston and the Toronto Academy of Realist Art. She specializes in iconography, portraiture and landscape realism. Today, Julia is happily married to her husband of 30 years and together they have seven children.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with silent auctions available for bid, and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Holcomb will speak at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each and a table for eight can be purchased for \$400.

Call 337-439-7400 for Caroline Matt, e-mail: rachel.s.

vineyard@lcdiocese.org, or caroline.matt@lcdiocese.org for more information.

Respectez la vie benefits a number of diocesan pro-life ministries, including

Rachel’s Vineyard/Silent No More (healing abortion one weekend at a time/men and women do regret their abortion); The Gabriel Project (making abortion unthinkable) and the Youth Pilgrims traveling to March for Life in Washington DC.

Rachel’s Vineyard/Silent No More is a weekend retreat program offered to men and women who have been harmed by the abortion experience. It is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion and the retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortion emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

The Gabriel Project provides a 24-hour hotline staffed by volunteers as well as spiritual and emotional support for unwed mothers and those facing difficult pregnancies as well as baby items that the mother might need.

For information on Rachel’s Vineyard retreats and the Gabriel Project, call 337-439-7400, Ext. 317.



Father Roger J. Landry, right, shown here with Bishop Glen John Provost, served as the retreat director for the recent retreat for the priests of the Diocese held at Saint Charles Center. A priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., Father Landry speaks widely on the thought of Pope John Paul II and on controversial and often misunderstood issues in Catholicism, especially in the realm of bioethics and the convergence of Catholic teaching and popular culture. The topic at the priest’s retreat was Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* - The Joy of the Gospel.

How I found myself on Mount Kilimanjaro

Five years ago, I had it all. I was the Agency Director for a PR-firm, I had a beautiful apartment, and I was enjoying all the pleasures of fleeting nature imaginable. I knew I was supposed to be feeling on top of the world, but my heart was very restless. If this is it, I asked myself, if this is the meaning of things, why does it feel like I'm stuck in an alley?

I decided to make some dramatic changes in my life—after all, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. So I quit my job, sold my apartment, and gave away my possessions to travel the world for a year. I hoped to find the cure to my dissatisfaction, the answers to my heart's restlessness.

Three days into my "walkabout," I met my future wife. I was sleeping on a porch in a backyard in Brooklyn (a story for a different time), and when I woke up my bride was sitting in the window drinking her morning coffee. I'm glad I didn't know God's plans for us then—the pressure and expectations would have overwhelmed the both of us. I had grand dreams where I was the sole protagonist; I imagined the content of my story dealt with feats and trials, not people and dialogue.

My future wife, Alana, and I started dating, but I was still trying to make sense of my life and—like many men before me—I decided that the answers to my most deep existential questions could be found on a mountain top. So I traveled to

Tanzania to climb the highest mountain in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro. I thought surely at altitudes of 20,000 feet something profound would reveal itself to me, something that would move me closer to meaning, happiness, and peace. I was also convinced that in order for a man to find himself he needs to be alone, so I made the choice not to join a group and trek on my own.

As I scaled the mountain alone, my girlfriend was on a flight from New York to London for work. I had told her to text me to let me know she was safe after she had arrived. But I didn't receive any text and I started to worry. I quickly became more preoccupied with checking my cell phone and finding good reception than exploring my soul and lapping up astonishing scenery.

After five days of hiking, I had finally reached the final base camp, preparing to summit. Just minutes before I set off toward the peak, I turned on my ice cold phone with practically no battery left, to check it one more time. To my absolute de-



Rickard Newman

light I had a message from Alana, telling me she was okay and that she missed me. When I stood on the roof of Africa just hours later I cried tears of joy, knowing she was safe and doing well (perhaps the lack of oxygen played a role too, who knows). Nevertheless, I found the answer I was looking for. On that mountain top by myself—but not alone—I came to realize that it is when we stop looking inward and instead direct our thoughts and actions outward that we find meaning.

I took the first flight I could to London to meet Alana. Wearing hiking boots, unkempt facial hair, and the dust of Tanzania I walked into Harrods department store and bought an engagement ring. Three months later, after introducing Alana to my family, I proposed.

The mountain played its role, but I'm not certain it was necessary. Man cannot live without love and it's only when he encounters it and starts participating deeply in it that things start to make sense. It is the discovery of another person—the promise of intimacy—that takes us to higher places.

Rickard Newman is the Director of Family Life and Pro-Life in the Diocese of Lake Charles since July 2014. He and his wife, Alana, are the parents of two small children.

Seminarians receive scholarships

LAKE CHARLES – Two diocesan seminarians have received scholarships to aid in the expenses of their formational studies, according to Bishop Provost.

Deacon Jay Alexius, in his final year of theological study at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., has been awarded a partial scholarship by the Knights of Columbus as well as two additional stipends - the Begley Scholarship and the Best Scholarship.

John Souder, presently in his second year of theological formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, will continue to receive Val J. Peter Scholars



Deacon Jay Alexius

funding. This is based on the needs of missionary dioceses in the United States and pays 25 percent of his four year tuition, room and board while at the Pontifical North American College.

"We can all see the benefit



John Souder

to our diocese of seminarians with existing scholarships and endowments," Bishop Provost said. "We are also grateful to the benefactors for their generosity and our gifted seminarians for their hard work."

Fr. James Miles laid to rest in Baltimore

LAKE CHARLES – The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated for the Rev. James C. Miles, 69, a priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles, on Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Shrine of the Little Flower in Baltimore, Md.

Father Miles, who was ordained on May 19, 1978, died on Friday, Oct. 24, in his residence in Opelousas. Interment was in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Baltimore.

A native of Baltimore, he studied at St. Mary's, Baltimore; the Pontifical College Josephinum, Worthington, Ohio; and at the University of Louvain, Louvain, Belgium.

Following ordination Father Miles served in the Dioceses of Lafayette and Lake Charles as associate pastor for Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church and St. Henry Catho-

lic Church. He was a member of the faculty of St. Louis Catholic High School for two years and served as priest-in-charge for St. Jude Mission in Dry Creek and St. Maurice Mission in Reeves until 1990.

He worked outside the diocese in Baltimore from 1990 in residence at a number of parishes, including the Shrine of the Little Flower, until his recent return to Opelousas.

Fr. Michael Champagne, SJC, a member of the Community of Jesus Crucified based in St. Martinville, knew Father Miles well.

"Father Miles was known for his beautiful singing voice, which helped many enter into the praise of God," Father Champagne said. "Always generous with his time, he assisted the Cursillo and the Charismatic movement, among others, with his talks and confessions."

"Fr. Miles had a love for



Rev. James C. Miles

the poor and made long time friends wherever he served," Fr. Champagne continued. "His strong devotion to Mary and the saints, especially Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, was evident to all."

He is also survived by many loving first cousins and he will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, donate to your local church in his name.

The next Catholic Calendar will be published December 19



Members of the staff of Villa Maria Retirement Center (including director JoAnn Niles and Our Lady Queen of Heaven pastor Msgr. James Gaddy), volunteers, public figures, and friends celebrated the 20th anniversary of the opening of the facility on Friday, Sept. 26, with a re-cutting of the ribbon outside the front door by Lake Charles Mayor Randy Roach. Inside Msgr. Gaddy, Mayor Roach, Ms. Niles, and a number of others spoke about the late Msgr. Irving DeBlanc and his vision to provide for everyone in his parish – from conception to natural death. Villa Maria is the reality that came from his minds eye. Msgr. DeBlanc would have been 100 years old this year and he was fondly remembered by residents and visitors alike.



One of the five Silver Roses traversing the United States and Canada on their way to the Dec. 12 handover by U.S. Knights of Columbus to Knights from Mexico came through St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton on Sunday, Nov. 2. Rev. Carlos Garcia, pastor of St. Joseph, left, joined Larry Treibel, Assistant Deputy for the Diocese of Beaumont, who accepted the rose from Grand Knight Lamar Vincent, right, of Knights of Columbus Council 6103 following the Mass.

'Pagan Christians' go to church, but don't put God first, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- People who go to church on Sundays, but spend the rest of the week cultivating their attachment to money, power and pride are "pagan Christians," Pope Francis said.

When St. Paul wrote his Letter to the Philippians, the Christian community was

composed of two groups, real Christians and those who were "enemies of the cross of Christ," the pope said Nov. 7 during his homily at Mass in the *Domus Sanctae Marthae* where he lives.

"Both groups were in the church together; they went to Sunday Mass, praised the Lord and called themselves Christians," he said, according to Vatican Radio. But some of them were "worldly Christians, Christians in name only, with two or three Christian characteristics, but nothing more. Pagan Christians!"

Today, the pope said, "there are many of these. And we, too, must be careful not to slip" into being Christians in name only. Being half-heart-

ed Christians, "accustomed to mediocrity" is a danger for all, he said.

In the day's first reading Philippians 3:17-4:1, St. Paul speaks of true Christians having their "citizenship" in heaven, the pope said, while "pagan Christians" are full citizens of the world.

The way for someone to check their spiritual nationality, he said, is to ask some questions: "Do I like to brag? Do I like money? Do I like pride?"

Or, he said, "Do you try to love God and serve others? If you are meek, if you are humble, if you are a servant of others, then you are on the right path. Your citizenship papers are in order and they are from heaven!"

Chesterton Conference set March 7

PONCHATOULA – The Chesterton Society of Baton Rouge is sponsoring the first Louisiana Chesterton Conference - A Day with G.K. Chesterton – on Saturday March 7, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Chesterton Hall on Chesterton Square. Mass will follow the event for those who would like to attend.

Anyone would like to learn more about or who enjoys reading G. K. Chesterton, whose cause for sainthood has recently begun, are invited to attend.

Speakers at this first ever one-day Chesterton conference held in the Southeastern United States, will include EWTN regulars Joseph Pearce, Dale Alquist, Kevin O'Brien and Chuck Chalberg. Chalberg who portrays Chesterton on the series *The Apostle of Common Sense* that airs on EWTN on Sunday evenings.

Register online at <http://www.chestertonbr.com/louisiana-chesterton-conference.html> or call Karen Hornsby at 225-312-5824, if you have further questions or want more details.

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

Oustalet Memorial Courtyard at Saint Charles Center



Bishop Glen John Provost led a Vespers Service during which he blessed the A.J.M. "Bubba" and Lena Mae Oustalet Courtyard at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. Also unveiled on Tuesday, Nov. 4, was the Peggy Chapman Oustalet Fountain at the site. The Oustalet made a major contribution to the original capital campaign that allowed the facility to be built and later gifts made construction of the Marshwalk from the south side of Tabor Retreat House to the West Fork of the Calcasieu River a reality. The Chapman Oustalet fountain honors the memory of the late wife of Rick Oustalet. Pictured are scenes from the blessing and dedication, counter clockwise from right, photo (1), Bishop Provost begins blessing the courtyard and fountain with Holy Water; in photo (2), attendees look for the memorial bricks they purchased to honor their loved ones and friends, deceased and living. Photo (3) shows Bishop Provost during Vespers with his master of ceremonies, Father Ruben Buller, right, and at left, Father Don Piraro, Director-Emeritus of the Center and Father Whitney Miller, current director. Photo (4) shows the beauty of the fountain with its lights ablaze and the water flowing.

Pope confirms retirement age of 75 for bishops, including in Curia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- While all bishops offer to resign at age 75, those who are not cardinal and are working in the Roman Curia -- including as presidents of pontifical councils -- automatically end their service on their 75th birthdays, said a new document from Pope Francis.

The ministry of a bishop in a diocese or in the Roman Curia requires a total commitment of energy, and anything -- including age -- that decreases the ability to dedicate oneself fully to serving the church and the faithful is a valid reason for offering to retire, said the brief new document, released by the Vatican Nov. 5.

The text of "dispositions regarding the resignation of diocesan bishops and holders

of offices of pontifical nomination" was signed by Pope Francis Nov. 5 and was to take effect Nov. 5.

Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman, said there was "nothing truly new" in the document, but it is a "strong re-proposal of existing norms."

The 1983 Code of Canon Law and the 1990 Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches already require most bishops to submit their resignations at the age of 75; the pope is not required, however, to accept them.

The new document says that when the pope accepts a bishop's retirement, the bishop automatically ceases to hold any fixed-term office he may have on a national level,

for example as an officer of the national bishops' conference.

The document also formally restated the power of the pope in a "fraternal dialogue" to request a bishop's resignation when he believes it is necessary, "after having made known the reasons for such a request."

St. John Paul II's 1988 constitution on the organization of the Curia required all cardinals and bishops working at the Vatican to submit offers of resignation at 75. However, in the 1988 document, only non-cardinal "moderators and secretaries" of Vatican offices automatically retired at 75.

The new document says, "Non-cardinal heads of dicasteries in the Roman Curia,

the secretaries and bishops who fulfill other offices of pontifical nomination forfeit their office on the completion of their 75th year."

With the exception of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, which was without a prefect when the papal document was published, in early November all congregations were headed by a cardinal as were eight of the 12 pontifical councils.

The four non-cardinals who head pontifical councils are: Archbishops Claudio Maria Celli, 73, president of the council for social communications; Vincenzo Paglia, 69, president of the council for the family; Zygmunt Zimowski, 65, president of the council for health care ministry; and

Rino Fisichella, 63, president of the council for promoting new evangelization.

In addition to senior staff members, Vatican congregations and pontifical councils also have members who include both the heads of other Vatican offices as well as cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and laity from around the world. Pope Francis reaffirmed that membership auto-

matically ends when a person turns 80, although he added that if the person is a member of a congregation or council because of the main office he holds, when he retires from his main office his term as a member of other congregations and councils also ends.

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Did you know...

In 1234, Pope Gregory IX gave the papacy the final say over whether a dead person, who was venerated locally, could be officially recognized as a saint by the Church.

What are the three steps to formal sainthood. Find out in our next Catholic Calendar, published on December 19.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Christ the King Procession at St. Joan of Arc
 OBERLIN -- St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church will celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, with a Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, November 23rd, through the streets of Oberlin.

The procession will follow immediately after the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass. The public is invited to the holy Mass and the Eucharistic Procession. The Procession will conclude with Benediction in the church.

Work of Human Hands sale Dec. 13-19
 LAKE CHARLES -- Christ the King Catholic Church is hosting a Work of Human Hands sale just in time for the Christmas season, from Saturday, Dec. 13 through Friday, Dec. 19.

On Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14, the sale will take place in the parish hall following each Mass. Masses are 5 p.m. on Saturday and 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. During the week, Dec. 15-19, stop by the office to shop during regular hours - Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Christ the King Catholic Church is located at 7680 Gulf Highway, Lake Charles, LA 70607, near the Lake Charles Regional Airport. Call 337-478-0213 for more information.

Catholic Charities' aid report
 LAKE CHARLES -- Two-hundred ninety three boxes of food provided through the United States Department of Agriculture were distributed during October by Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana.

Additionally, 50 boxes of food provided through local contributors were also distributed.

Clients assisted during the month included 34, housing; 31, utilities; 11 medication; and seven, funerals.

Assistance in obtaining Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards (TWIC) was provided to 13 individuals for employment purposes.

The total expenditure from Sept. 23 through Oct. 22 was \$23,912.50.

Sacred Heart clothing outreach
 LAKE CHARLES -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church continues its outreach ministry for women in the area called "Gently Used Business & Dress Attire" This was done in anticipation of job creation and hiring due to the growth of the area in the future;

Clothes can be donated or those in need can shop free for women's business attire on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. at 1024 Division Street, across from the former junior high building of Sacred Heart Catholic Drexel Catholic School.

For more information, contact Deneen Sweet at gently-usedbusinessdressclothes@gmail.com

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service set
 LAKE CHARLES -- Christians of every denomination are invited to gather together to observe the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, located at Pujo and Hodges

Streets in Lake Charles.

This year's theme is based on the Gospel passage from John 4:7 -- "Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." Reverend Archimandrite Herbert May, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus and Star of the Sea Catholic churches in Cameron Parish, will deliver the address.

The annual event is being planned by the Local Christian Ecumenists group and is coordinated by the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus, the Lake Area Ministers group, and by representatives of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.

December 40 Hours Devotion
 LAKE CHARLES -- Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be in the East Deanery during Diocese:

Adoration at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Raymond, will be Sunday through Wednesday, Nov. 30, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 1, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church in Lake Arthur will be the next site Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 11, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; and Friday, Dec. 12, 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 15 through Thursday, Dec. 18, Adoration will take place at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Fenton from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. each day.