



CATHOLIC CALENDAR

Happy New Year!



The Diocese of Lake Charles
lodiocese.org

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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Native son, Bishop Olivier, returns home for final rest

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Leonard J. Olivier, S.V.D., 91, a native son of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church and Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C., was laid to rest in Sacred Heart Cemetery Saturday, Nov. 29, following the Mass of Christian Burial in the church. Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the main celebrant.

The Mass was concelebrated by five other bishops: Bishop Shelton Fabre, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux; Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., Diocese of Beaumont; Bishop J. Terry Steib, S.V.D. Bishop of Memphis; Bishop Dominic Carmon, S.V.D., Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans; and Bishop Martin Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, D.C.

Clergy and religious from the Diocese and around the country, including members of the late Bishop's Society of the Divine Word order, also attended.

In his homily, Bishop Provost said, "It was on that morning of November 7, 1988, when we learned at the Cathedral in Lafayette that Father Leonard Olivier, then Vicar for Black Catholics, had been appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Washington. I had come to know Father Olivier well when Bishop (Gerard) Frey assigned me Pastor of St. John Cathedral in 1985, because soon after Father Olivier came to live with Bishop (Harry) Flynn at *LEveche*.

"We took our meals together, visiting frequently, and it was there that I learned how humble a man he was, how devoted to his people, and how faithful a son of the Church," Bishop Provost continued. "You also could not take Southwest Louisiana out of him. Like any of us, born and raised in this region, we may be sent to the ends of the world but there is always a thread, a string, pulling us back home."

Bishop Provost also related the story of Bishop Olivier's explanation of his choice of episcopal motto.

"I remember when Bishop Olivier explained to me the choice of his motto," Bishop Provost said. "Every bishop must choose one. So he chose, 'Lead me, Guide me.' Verse 4 of Psalm 30 inspired the words and they form the lyrics of a classic old African-American hymn. He said the words spoke for themselves and were part of the way he had lived his life. He knew that God would place challenges before him that he could never have imagined, but he would embrace them because he trusted in God's will."

The Bishop's homily is available in its entirety on the website of the Diocese – lodiocese.org – under the tab **Our Bishop** on the front page.

Bishop Olivier died in Washington, D.C. Wednesday on Dec. 19. The Bishop was residing at the Jeanne Jugan Residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Previously, a Vigil for Bishop Olivier was held at the Chapel of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Washington. Washington Archbishop Cardinal Donald Wuerl celebrated a Funeral Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

Bishop Olivier, was born in Lake Charles in 1923, the fifth of eight children. He attended Sacred Heart of Jesus grade school; then St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and St. Mary's Seminary in Techny, Illinois and was ordained a Divine Word Missionary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi in 1951.

From 1952 to 1973, he was successively Assistant Dean and Dean of Seminarians, and rector of the Religious Community. From 1974 to 1982, he was Secretary of Studies for all USA Divine Word Seminaries and Rector of the Religious Community of Divine Word Seminary, Epworth, Iowa.

St. Anthony Catholic Church in Lafayette was his first pastorate. In the last two years of that assignment, he also served



Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for Bishop Leonard J. Olivier, S.V.D., Bishop Emeritus of Washington, DC, on Saturday, Nov. 29, in Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, the parish in which Bishop Olivier grew up. Concelebrants, pictured behind Bishop Provost, include from left, Bishop Martin Holley, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, DC; Bishop Dominic Carmon, S.V.D., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of New Orleans; Bishop Terry Steib, S.V.D., Bishop of Memphis, Tenn.; Bishop Shelton Fabre, Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux; and Bishop Curtis Guillory, S.V.D., Bishop of Beaumont Texas.

as part time Vicar for Black Catholics in the Diocese of Lafayette, becoming full time Vicar in 1986. Two years later, on Nov. 7, 1988, Pope John Paul II appointed him as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington. Ordained a bishop on December 20, 1988, he served the Archdiocese of Washington as Regional Bishop of Northeast, Southeast, and East-Northwest Deaneries of the District of Columbia, and Deaneries of North and Middle Prince George's Counties. In 1995, he became responsible for the Deaneries of Northeast and Southeast of the District of Columbia, of Lower Prince George County, and Counties of Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's.

Bishop Olivier was a Fourth Degree Knight of St. Peter Claver, a Fourth Degree Knight of St. John and Columbus. He served as the Convener of the African American Catholic Bishops Subcommittee on Youth, the Ad Hoc Steering Committee for the National Strategy on Vocations, and the Task Force Group for American Adaptations to the Order of Christian Marriage, and the Liturgy Committee of USCC/NCCB. He was also a member of NCCB Committee on Bishops Life and Ministry, Board Member of Covenant House Washington, Member of the Inter-Faith Conference, Member of Maryland Catholic Conference, Board Member of The National Black

Catholic Congress, Member of National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, and Episcopal Moderator of the Pan African Roman Catholic Clergy Conference.

He retired on May 18, 2004, after 18 years of episcopal service.

Survivors are his sister, Theresa, his brother Edward and many other extended family.

Bishop Olivier celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in 2011, being honored at a number of jubilee celebrations. One of those was at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lake Charles. Others took place at St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Miss., at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and at St. Patrick Catholic Church in downtown Washington.

REFLECTIONS ON LIFE

Leonard Olivier, A Bishop Of Family Folklore

By Rev. Jerome LeDoux, SVD

From my earliest memories, Jim Olivier was a household name in church circles, especially around times like the annual church bazaar at Sacred Heart Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Doing the carpentry work for setting up chance, fun and food stands, plus making himself a handyman available for the many little tasks that made for a grand social weekend of amusement and profit, Jim was the go-to person for getting things done.

With that spark and work ethic, James L. and Mathilda Rochon Olivier became one and imparted their faith, ethos and love to five daughters and three sons. Leonard, the fifth child, observed, "My desire to become a priest was fostered by the example of my very Catholic family. My family raised us in a very Catholic atmosphere. They sent me to Catholic school. We went to Mass every week. It never occurred to us to miss Mass.

Reflecting back at the time of his Golden Priestly Anniversary in 2001, he stated, "I would say that from the time I was 7 or 8 years old I knew that I wanted to become a priest. I was inspired by the devotion of my father and mother, the service to the people of the Holy Ghost Fathers who staffed my home parish, and the positive encouragement of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters who taught me in elementary school."

No doubt, Leonard's early vocation to the priesthood was given a push by homeboy Harold Robert Perry who entered

"The Bay" – St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi – seven years ahead of him. They were the point men of the dozen-plus local boys who would try their hand at testing their perceived vocation to the priesthood.

After 14 years in the pipeline of high school at St. Augustine Seminary, two years of novitiate at Techny, Illinois, college and four years of theology at St. Augustine Major Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Leonard was ready for ordination to the priesthood. What were the improbable odds that he and Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) would be ordained on the same day, June 29, 1951? The ancients would have seen an omen in that.

Family folklorist that he was, the very young Father Olivier was appointed father of a family: Assistant Prefect of seminarians at St. Augustine Seminary, serving first in that role, then as Prefect from 1952 to 1973. He knew not only the names, but the individual personalities of the seminarians, forming with them a bond unbroken even to this day.

Moving to the next level of education, he was assigned the work of Secretary of Studies for all Divine Word Seminaries in the United States from 1974 to 1982 and was simultaneously Rector of the Divine Word Seminary in Epworth, Iowa.

Returning to the South, Father Olivier was appointed pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Lafayette, Louisiana where he was named Vicar for Black Catholics in the diocese. In pure shock, he received a November, 1988 call from the Papal Nuncio, saying that Pope John Paul II had named him Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Thus, he would become the thirteenth black bishop of the 20th century.

A big vanload of us SVDs in Bay St. Louis, where I was on sabbatical, rolled to Washington, D.C. for Father Olivier's ordination as a bishop. Held in joyous expectation, there was a solemn vigil of prayer and remarks from a couple of priests on December 19. A standing-room-only crowd greeted an overwhelmed Leonard Olivier on December 20 as an endless queue of people filed into the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.



Bishop Olivier is pictured leaving Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in 2011 following the celebration of his 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained on June 29, 1951, coincidentally the same day of ordination as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The Jubilee celebration was one of a number around the country for Bishop Olivier's milestone.

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The next Catholic Calendar will be published January 23, the Fourth Friday

PLANTING THE SEED

Look, see, believe, and be at peace

We come to Christ through His mysteries, and one of the chief (John 1:14) is the Incarnation. "And the Word became flesh, an article of faith unique in the history of the world's religions. That God would become man, emptying Himself out for our salvation (cf. Philippians 2:5-11), is the mystery at Christmas that invites us to pause and reflect.

St. Paul begins this beautiful "hymn" with this prefatory remark: "Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). This "attitude" of Christ is one of humility and total emptying out. God takes "the form of a slave, coming in human likeness, and found human in appearance, he humbled himself" (Philippians 2:7-8). This humility had consequences. It meant becoming "obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8). Because of this emptying out, God "exalted" His Son and gave Him a name that is "above every name" (Philippians 2:9). This name, that we as Christians profess as ours, is a name at whose mention "every knee should bend" (Philippians 2:10). For this reason, I add here, Catholics preserve the pious practice of bowing their heads when the name of Jesus is mentioned.

Christmas can mean quite a number of things to us, but if it does not mean for us this emptying out, this taking on of human flesh by God, then we have truly missed the point. The mystery of the Incarnation calls us to the humility of Christ. I am afraid we miss the point too often, especially in the more affluent West.

What concerns us? We need to ask ourselves that question. Current media, what informs us and entertains us, would have us believe our lives are nothing but one big war over sex, pleasure, power, and prestige. But what really concerns us? Is it the needs of the poor, the victims of human trafficking, and those held in the bondage of sexual and drug addiction? Does the plight of persecuted minorities, like Christians, in the Mid-East or Africa concern us at all? Are we the least bit interested in the true causes of violence in our society? We



**Bishop
Glen John
Provost**

seek prosperity to answer these questions but do not realize that with prosperity comes added responsibility, and soon this pursuit of prosperity becomes hedonism because it lacks purpose and focus. Disillusionment follows and we begin to self-destruct.

For a society or a people to thrive there must be purpose. The Judeo-Christian faith once gave that purpose to our society. Now we see nothing but an almost suicidal attempt to destroy it.

Here is where Christmas offers us some reason for hope. Christmas calls us back to Christ through His Incarnation. In an act of eternal love, God empties Himself out and is born in a Bethlehem manger. This humble act is so foreign to the spirit of our times it does not even merit one sentence to describe the impact it should have. The image of the Christ child, surrounded by His Virgin Mother and worshipped by shepherds, is enough commentary. If we cannot see the truth of what is being said in this image, then truly we have eyes but cannot see (Matthew 13:13, 15).

Look, see, believe, and be at peace. Merry Christmas!

Vatican conference to show Haiti 'not forgotten' after quake

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Nearly five years after a massive earthquake struck Haiti, the small Caribbean country and its people still are only limping along. In an effort to reactivate interest and commitment to reconstruction efforts there, the Vatican is organizing a one-day international conference in Rome Jan. 10.

The magnitude 7 earthquake struck Haiti Jan. 12, 2010. While the full and exact extent of the damage is not known, the Haitian government estimates 230,000 people were killed, 300,000 were injured and 2 million were displaced.

Msgr. Tejado Munoz, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, said reconstruction is happening, but it is "very slow."

Cor Unum is the Vatican's office for distributing and encouraging Catholic charitable giving. Msgr. Tejado spent five days in Haiti in late November along with Cardinal Robert Sarah, the council's outgoing president. The two prelates traveled to Haiti for the inauguration of a new grade school, Notre Dame des Anges (Our Lady of the Angels), to replace one in the town of Leogane, the epicenter of the quake.

"The entire school was flattened," the monsignor said.

The new school, inaugurated Nov. 27, was funded by donations sent directly to the pope after the quake. The pope then transferred the donations to Cor Unum, which oversaw the construction of the school, which is run by the Companions of Jesus, a local community of Haitian religious sisters. The new school is an earthquake-resistant construction and can accommodate about 500

students.

While in Haiti, Msgr. Tejado and Cardinal Sarah also met with the Haitian bishops' conference, the administrators of Caritas Haiti, religious communities, representatives of charitable organizations, and Haitian President Michel Martelly. They attended the blessings of St. Michael the Archangel School in Morne-a-Chandelle and of the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Miragoane. They also visited the Cathedral of St. James and St. Philip in Jacmel.

Msgr. Tejado said he saw positive changes in Haiti since he was last there in 2012, though he emphasized it was "very slow." The capital, Port-au-Prince, was a lot cleaner with the rubble mostly removed. Some schools and homes had been built, though many more were needed. And while thousands continue to live in the temporary tent shelters provided by emergency-relief organizations immediately after the quake, more people had moved into permanent housing, he said.

He also saw a "very lively church," he said, one that was "very present and incarnate" and had become "a sign of hope" and "a social force" in Haiti.

"The church is on the front line of the reconstruction," he said.

The local bishops' conference established a technical commission to oversee and ensure that all new church building projects follow construction norms and are earthquake-resistant, he reported. Plans have been drawn up for the new seminary and cathedral in Port-au-Prince; both buildings were destroyed in the quake. However, Msgr. Tejado said, construction is on hold until funding can be secured.



A grave is seen in Titanyin north of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 12, the fourth anniversary of the country's devastating earthquake. To mark the disaster's fifth anniversary, the Vatican is organizing a one-day conference Jan. 10 to maintain interest in the country's reconstruction. (CNS photo/Jean Jacques Augustin, EPA)



Members of Knights of Columbus Council 3015, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, along with Deacon Patrick LaPoint, director of the Stella Maris Seafarers Center at the Port of Lake Charles, put up a new flagpole at the Center. In the photo above, the group lifts the pole and places it into a previously prepared hole and at right, watch as the Flag of the United States

is raised. Members of the Council participating in the raising were Harry Jones, Gene Huck (Grand Knight), Gerald Touchet, Weldon Terro, Blaken McGee, Brian McCann, Chance Henry, and Deacon LaPoint. SOWELA Technical Community College donated two flagpoles for the center and Environmental Response Services transported them to the site, according to Deacon LaPoint.



Joseph Boland, a representative of Catholic Church Extension Society, visited two of the churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles recently - St. Joseph in Elton and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Jennings. In the top photo, Boland speaks with Father Babasino Fernandes of St. Joseph. Grants to St. Joseph have allowed Father Fernandes to purchase laptop computers to assist students with religious education studies. In the bottom photo, Boland enjoys a conversation with Father Celsius Offer, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, about how grants to the parish have aided students to take part in diocesan youth activities such as the Diocesan Youth Conference, the Christian Leadership Institute, and others. Catholic Extension has provided aid to parishes, programs, and ministries of this local church since the establishment of the Diocese in 1980. During 2015, the diocese will receive \$250,000 from Extension.

Cathedral Altar Society spring trip March 3

LAKE CHARLES -- The annual spring trip of the Altar Society of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will be Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

The bus departs the Cathedral at 6:30 a.m. The group will attend Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Port Arthur with a visit to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine. Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine was dedicated on June 3, 2000. It is the fruit of collective dreams, with the guidance of Rev. T. R. Blanco, O.S.A., artistic design of Port Arthur's Douglas Clark, architectural design by Architectural Alliance, Inc., Beaumont, TX, and construction by

Pelco, Inc. of Liberty, Texas.

The 17' bronze statue in patina color was sculptured by artist Miguel Angel Macias, from Mexico City, and Douglas Clark. It is set directly on top of rocks brought to Port Arthur from the Mount Tepeyac where the Virgin appeared to St. Juan Diego.

Next stop is Galveston for lunch at Gaido's Seafood Restaurant and a visit to the Bishop's Palace.

Please make check payable to ICC Altar Society and mail to: Karen Fitts, 1513 Anita Street, Sulphur, LA 70663. Call 625-8436 for information. Cost of the trip is \$125 with a \$50, non-refundable deposit required.

2014 Carrera Antorcha Guadalupana Mexico-New York



The 2014 Antorcha Carrera Guadalupana Torch Run from Mexico City to New York City once again came through the Diocese of Lake Charles, this year November 10-12. The Holy Fire began its journey at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City in September and arrived at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12. In photo 1, the relay begins down U.S. Highway 90 at Toomey. In photo 2, local runners, exchange the torch with the Holy Fire, as they near Vinton. New this year, were bicycle outriders all along the route. The route continued down U.S. 90 through Vinton, Sulphur and into Westlake and a break for lunch. In the mid afternoon, the group was ferried over the Calcasieu River Bridge to the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau, where the relay continued down Ryan Street to Broad Street. In photo 3, the runners and outriders near Enterprise Boulevard. Photo 4 shows the entire group walking down Eighth Avenue as they near St. Henry Catholic Church with the large images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego. In photo 5, Msgr. Daniel Torres, V.G., pastor of St. Henry and director of Hispanic Ministry, welcomes the Holy Fire. In photo 6, Msgr. Torres uses a taper to transfer the Holy Fire to the Paschal Candle located inside the foyer of St. Henry. In photo 7, Msgr. Torres blesses the people and images with holy water. After an overnight rest, the relay continued on Tuesday from St. Henry shown in photo 8, with Father Jenesh Joseph, H.G.N., parochial vicar of St. Henry taking the torch first. The route on Tuesday was again down U.S. 90 through Iowa, Lacassine, Roanoke, Welsh and into Jennings. Photo 9 shows the runners reaching Jennings as they near their destination of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. In photo 10, as they neared the church, the group once again dismounted from the vehicles and walked with the torch to Immaculate Conception. In photo 11, Father Susil Fernando lights the paschal candle from the Holy Fire in the torch. Photo 12 shows the large images of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady being moved into the church for the overnight stay. On Wednesday, the relay continued on its journey to New York.

Pope Francis continues to take 'the world by storm'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- During the second year of his pontificate, Pope Francis was still feeling the love, and not just from Catholics or those from his homeland of Argentina.

A Pew Research Center study released Dec. 11 showed that the pope has broad support across much of the world. Sixty percent of the 43 nations polled had a positive view of the pontiff.

Americans, in particular, have shown their fondness for Pope Francis, often extolling his simplistic style. According to the Pew study, 78 percent of Americans view the pope favorably.

Put another way: Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, who just completed his first year as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the pope has "taken the world by storm."

He recently told Catholic News Service that 2014 brought worldwide attention to almost everything Pope Francis said and did -- which "in so many ways," he said, "made the U.S. bishops' work easier. And the bishops were not the only ones to recognize the

pope's appeal.

The pontiff, who was on the cover of many magazines in 2013, still had the coveted cover spot -- not usually reserved for religious leaders -- on Rolling Stone magazine this February.

He was also the topic of a number of books issued this year and innumerable Catholic discussions either during coffee and doughnut socials after Masses or larger-scale symposiums at Catholic universities.

During a Feb. 3 talk on the "Francis factor" at Georgetown University, panelists used descriptors such as "troublemaker" and "anti-establishment" in their discussion about Pope Francis. They also commended his strong leadership and management style and of course, his popularity.

Kerry Robinson, executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, said the pope's strongest action so far had been urging people to personal conversion.

The conversion he seeks in the world, she said, "starts now, with us."

At the same gathering, hosted by Georgetown's Ini-

tiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, John Allen, associate editor at the Boston Globe, said there are likely some cardinals who might say the pope has done things that make them nervous, but they would still no doubt appreciate his overall appeal.

One catch, so far with the pope's popularity, is that it has not, as of yet in the U.S., drawn more people, or those who have left the church, back to Mass or the sacraments in measurable numbers, according to a Pew Research Center poll earlier this year.

Some observers have said the pope's impact shouldn't be measured in returning Catholics, but in the restored image of the Catholic Church and the number of Catholics who feel proud of their faith again thanks to Pope Francis.

She also said parishes should be prepared for these returning Catholics and be sure they are ready to serve as "field hospitals" welcoming all, as the pope has said they must do.

This fall, the pope had a lot of eyes on him during the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican. The pope opened the first working session, but never expressed his views during the gathering.

At the synod's end, many news outlets said the final report was a "setback" or "loss" for the pope, because it did not include the mid-term's conciliatory language toward people with ways of life contrary to church teaching, or reflect the theme of mercy, the pope so often articulates.

German Cardinal Walter Kasper, who gained attention during the synod for his proposal to make it easier for divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion, told an audience at The Catholic University of America in Washington in early November that Pope Francis is "a pope of surprises."

In using words that almost sound like something the pope would say, the German cardinal said Pope Francis has "succeeded in a short time in brightening up the gloomy atmosphere that had settled like mildew on the church."

He also acknowledged that the pope has his detractors, saying: "What for some is the beginning of a new spring, is for others a temporary cold spell."

The cardinal said the pope doesn't "represent a tradi-

tionist, or a progressive scheme," but instead "wants to lead faith and morality back to their original center," to the heart of the Gospels.

That's a recurring theme of Pope Francis and for many it was echoed in the pope's appointment this fall of Archbishop Blase J. Cupich as the new archbishop of Chicago.

The archbishop's simple and very pastoral style has often been compared to Pope Francis.

When he was asked why he was given this new position, the archbishop has repeatedly told reporters that the pope "sent a pastor."

And certainly, many Catholics will accompany each other next fall when Pope Francis will make his first visit to the United States to attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in late September.

Plans call for the pope to attend the Festival of Families Sept. 26 -- a cultural celebration expected to draw up to 800,000 participants -- and to celebrate Sunday Mass the afternoon of Sept. 27 on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art for a crowd of about 1 million people.

Donna Crilley Farrell, executive director of the 2015 World Meeting of Families, said numbers for the gathering are expected to grow each day and could reach close to 2 million people.

Other details of the U.S. trip have not been announced, but this summer Pope Francis told reporters that President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress had invited him to Washington and that the U.N. secretary-general had invited him to New York.

Did you know...

There are three basic steps to formal sainthood: First, a formal inquiry is opened and if a person's "heroic virtues" are initially confirmed the candidate is called "venerable." Beatification, usually by the pope, is the second step and the candidate is called "blessed." Canonization is the third and final step, when a candidate is formally declared a saint. The sainthood process remained largely unchanged until John Paul II approved revisions in 1983. What changes did Saint Pope John Paul II make in the process? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar, published on January 23.



Pilgrims and their parents for the 2015 March for Life trip to Washington, DC set for Sunday, Jan. 18 to Friday, Jan. 23, were brought together at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to go over important last minute items. Six buses will take the group from Lake Charles to the nation's capital and return.

Christmas Mass Schedule for churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles

Bell City
St. John Vianney
(7120 Highway 14 E.)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. (Day)

Big Lake
St. Mary of the Lake
(11054 Highway 384)
4:00 p.m. (Eve)

Cameron
Our Lady Star of the Sea
(135 Our Lady Road)
4:00 p.m. (Eve)

Carlyss
St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
(4822 Carlyss Drive)
4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:30 a.m. (Day)

Creole
Sacred Heart of Jesus
(5250 West Creole Highway)
8:30 a.m. (Day)

DeQuincy
Our Lady of LaSalette
(203 S. Grand Avenue)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

DeRidder
St. Joseph
(1125 Blankenship Drive)
5:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Elizabeth
St. Frances of Rome Chapel
(204 Poplar Street)
8:00 a.m. (Day)

Elton
St. Joseph
(209 N. Washington Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

St. Paul
(1100 St. Mary Street)
7:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Fenton
St. Charles Borromeo
(804 Third Avenue)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Grand Chenier
St. Eugene
(5035 Grand Chenier Highway)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

Hackberry
St. Peter the Apostle
(1210 Main Street)
8:00 p.m. (Eve); 8 a.m. (Day)

Iowa
St. Raphael
(211 S. Thomson Avenue)
5:30 p.m. (Eve); 10:15 a.m. (Day)

Jennings
Immaculate Conception
(705 S. Lake Arthur Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady Help of Christians
(710 N. State Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
(920 S. Broadway)
8:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Johnson Bayou
Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel
(5556 Highway 82)
5:00 p.m. (Eve)

Kinder
St. Philip Neri
(607 Fourth Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Lacassine
St. John the Evangelist Chapel
(306 Ann Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m. (Day)

Lake Arthur
Our Lady of the Lake
(203 Commercial Avenue)
4:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Lake Charles
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
(Corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets)
4:00 p.m., 12 Midnight (Eve);
8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. (Extraordinary Form) (Day)
Christ the King
(7680 Gulf Highway)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Immaculate Heart of Mary
(2031 Opelousas Street)
4:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Good Counsel
(221 Aqua Drive)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady Queen of Heaven
(3939 Lake Street)
4:00 p.m. (Main Church), 4:15 p.m. (Family Life Center gym),
6:00 p.m., (Main Church) (Eve);
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Sacred Heart of Jesus
(1102 Mill Street)
4:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Henry
(1021 Eighth Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Eve);
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m. (Sponsor), 5:00 p.m. (Day)

St. Margaret of Scotland
(2500 Enterprise Blvd.)
(NW Corner of Enterprise Blvd & 17th Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m. (Eve);
7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Martin de Porres
(5326 Elliott Road)
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Patrick Chapel
(524 Dr. Michael DeBakey Drive)
9:00 a.m. (Day)

LeBleu Settlement
St. Joseph Chapel
(2110 Claude Hebert Road)
8:30 a.m. (Day)

Moss Bluff
St. Theodore
(785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway)
4:30 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Day)

Oakdale
Sacred Heart of Jesus
(1208 E. 7th Avenue)
7:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Oberlin
St. Joan of Arc
(110 W. 5th Avenue)
5:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Extraordinary Form) (Eve);
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Ragley
St. Pius X Chapel
(16816 Highway 171)
6:00 p.m. (Eve);
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Day)

Raymond
St. Lawrence
(5505 Pine Island Highway)
6:30 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Sulphur
Immaculate Conception
(2700 Maplewood Drive)
4:00 p.m.; 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of LaSalette
(602 N. Claiborne Street)
4:00 p.m. (Children's Mass), 8:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Prompt Succor
(1109 Cypress Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve);
7:00 a.m. (Extraordinary Form), 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Sweetlake
St. Patrick Chapel
(469 Highway 27)
8:00 a.m. (Day)

Vinton
St. Joseph
(1502 Industrial Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Welsh
Our Lady of Seven Dolours
(209 N. Adams Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Joseph
(310 N. Sarah Street)
9:00 a.m. (Day)

Westlake
St. Louis Bosco
(1301 Sampson Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

2015 Diocesan Marriage preparation classes set

LAKE CHARLES – The first marriage preparation class of 2015 in the Diocese of Lake Charles for 2015 - Prepare for Life and Prepare-Enrich – is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 10, in the Chancery Building, 414 Iris Street.

Together for Life is now a one-day program held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

The remainder of dates for the program in 2015 are February 28, March 21, April 11, May 16, June 20, August 1, September 12, October 10, and November 21.

Couples may secure a registration form by contacting the Office of Family Life, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA

70601, by phone at 337-439-7400, or register on-line at lodiocese.org. Online, click the "Support the Diocese" button and then the Together for Life, Prepare-Enrich link, to register and pay by either credit card or e-check.

Confirmation of a couple's registration will be mailed to the bride's address, along with directions. Registration fee is \$100 per couple and includes the Prepare/Enrich Online Assessment, lunch and materials. Classes fill up very quickly; therefore couples should not delay in securing and mailing in the registration form. If the couple's requested date is full, they will be automatically placed

in the next available class. Contact Office of Family Life with questions 337-439-7400 Ext. 307.

An alternative to the Together for Life program is the Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend, a three-day, two-night retreat. The next one scheduled in the Diocese of Lake Charles is January 23-25 at the Katharine Drexel Conference Center at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. The registration fee for this retreat is \$190

Beginning in February, these retreats will be held at the Acadian Baptist Center, Eunice.

The retreat, presented by two married couples and a

priest, is designed to give the engaged couple an opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their prospective lives together. The program begins Friday at 7:30 p.m. and concludes with Mass on Sunday. Registration fee is \$200 per couple for the entire weekend including lodging, meals and materials. To register for a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend, contact Paul and Carolyn Trahan at 337-254-8947, or email ceeh@trahan@gmail.com.

Other dates for 2015 include: February 6-8, March 6-8, April 17-19, July 17-19, August 7-9, and September 11-13.



In the top photo, Bishop Glen John Provost, left, presents the Distinguished Catholic of the Year Award to Patrick Guillory, right, a parishioner of St Joseph Catholic Church in Welsh. The award was made at the annual Sapphire and Ice Gala hosted by Knights of Peter Claver Council and Court #168. Guillory was chosen by a special committee from a list of nominations made by the pastors of the diocese. Previous honorees include Mrs. Rosie Richards (2013), Herman Guidry (2012), Mrs. Cheryl Richey (2011), and Clarence Prudhomme (2010). In the bottom photo, Msgr. Daniel Torres, center, was named Clergy of the Year by the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary's Southwest Central Committee and presented with the award by Mrs. Mary Jane Jones. He stands with Grand Lady Connie Lemelle, left, of St. Henry Court #168, and Michelle Jackson, right, president of the Southwest Central Committee. Grand Lady Lemelle nominated Msgr. Torres for the award. The Sapphire and Ice Gala is a fundraiser to aid with funding the educational expenses for college-level seminarians studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles and the St. Henry Catholic Church Building Bridges Capital Campaign.

Faith groups 'key' to fighting Ebola, says U.N.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- More cooperation is needed between the international community and faith leaders in stemming the ongoing Ebola epidemic, said a joint communique issued by the United Nations and the World Council of Churches.

"It is important to share information at all levels, but much more important to intensify our direct efforts, especially at community levels," said Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, who represents Caritas Internationalis at the U.N. agencies in Geneva. "This is where the urgent need can be found."

More than 20 organizations participated in a consultation at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva on fighting Ebola. Among the participants was Caritas Internationalis, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNAIDS, the International Organization for Migration and the Lutheran World Federation..



The 2014 Bishop's Golf Classic, held at the Lake Charles Country Club, raised \$33,000 bringing the total amount raised to date for Seminarian Education and the Priest's Retirement Fund to \$208,000 over the seven years of the tournament's existence. Sponsors for this year's event were Alfred Palma LLC and City Savings Bank. Pictured, from left, are James and Alfred Palma, Bishop Glen John Provost, and Glen Bertrand. Next year's Bishop's Golf Classic will tee off on Friday, October 2, at the Lake Charles Country Club.

When I Was Thirsty, You Gave Me to Drink

The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services provide moral guidance for the administration of health care in the United States. The group of directives covers a wide range of issues but provides a concise and practical reference for health care workers. In 2009, the Catholic Bishops in the US issued their fifth edition of the directives. The revised directive concerning medical feeding and hydration ought to be known and understood by everyone for the sake of human life and human dignity.

In an earlier edition of the directives approved in 2001, the text on feeding and hydration stated, "There should be a presumption in favor of providing nutrition and hydration to all patients, including patients who require medically assisted nutrition and hydration, as long as this is of sufficient benefit to outweigh the burdens involved to the patient."

The wording of the directive, as time would show, needed revision in order to clarify the nature of the moral duty to avoid immoral dehydration and starvation of vulnerable patients. Even though there are limits to treatment, ordinary care, including feeding and hydration is still morally obligatory. In 2009, the bishops approved a new text covering the duty to provide food and water to all patients who need them, even using medical means for those who are unconscious and unlikely to regain consciousness. This directive provides concrete moral guidance for those who are faced with the difficult decision concerning a loved one that cannot eat or drink.

The 2009 revision was based upon important clarifications provided by the teaching of the Holy Father, St. John Paul II.

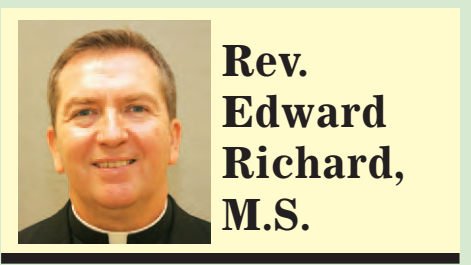
The first clarification considered in the bishops' revision was Pope St. John Paul II's March 2004 address to an international conference on "Life-Sustaining Treatments and the Vegetative State." John Paul II confirmed in very clear terms that patients in a so-called vegetative state have the right to basic care including food and water provided through medical means. He said, "I should like particularly to underline how

the administration of water and food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a natural means of preserving life, not a medical act. Its use, furthermore, should be considered, in principle, ordinary and proportionate, and as such morally obligatory, to the extent to which, and for as long as, it is shown to accomplish its proper finality, which in the present case consists in providing nourishment to the patient and alleviation of his suffering."

The pope added, "The evaluation of probabilities, founded on waning hopes for recovery when the vegetative state is prolonged beyond a year, cannot ethically justify the cessation or interruption of minimal care for the patient, including nutrition and hydration. Death by starvation or dehydration is, in fact, the only possible outcome as a result of their withdrawal. In this sense it ends up becoming, if done knowingly and willingly, true and proper euthanasia by omission."

The second instruction the bishops considered was the reply of August 2007 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to certain questions raised by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops on artificial nutrition and hydration.

The Congregation addressed this question: "When nutrition and hydration are being supplied by artificial means to a patient in a 'permanent vegetative state,' may they be discontinued when competent physicians judge with moral certainty that the patient will never recover consciousness?" The Congregation answered: "No. A patient in a 'permanent vegetative state' is a person with fundamental human dignity and must, therefore, receive ordinary and proportionate care



Rev. Edward Richard, M.S.

which includes, in principle, the administration of water and food even by artificial means."

It is notable that the earlier version of the directive spoke of a presumption in favor of providing food and water. The 2009 directive approved by the bishops, states that providing food and water is obligatory, in principle, even for those in a vegetative state. According to the commentary of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith on the matter, "in some rare cases, artificial nourishment and hydration may be excessively burdensome for the patient or may cause significant physical discomfort, for example resulting from complications in the use of the means employed." The 2009 directive indicates that withdrawal of the means of providing food and water under such circumstances is acceptable.

The directive requiring that food and water be provided to all patients who need them draws the line more clearly when termination of basic care, including the administration of medically-assisted food and water, is being considered. It should help avoid those deliberate acts of euthanasia associated with the interruption of minimal care of the patient. And, in those rare cases when artificial nourishment and hydration may be excessively burdensome for the patient or may cause significant physical discomfort, one can make the judgment to withdraw the means with a morally upright conscience.

Father Edward Richard, M.S., a native of DeQuincy, a priest of the Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette, and Pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, is a nationally recognized expert in the field of medical ethics, as well as a well-published commentator on moral issues. Ordained in 1990, he holds a Doctorate in Moral Theology, a Juris Doctor, and a Masters of Divinity. He received a Bachelor of Science from McNeese State University and studied at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri.

"New" Abraham's Tent building dedicated

LAKE CHARLES - The newly completed Abraham's Tent building, during its recent dedication, was named in honor of its longtime executive director Pearl Cole, much to her shock. Abraham's Tent, which fed its first meal on Oct. 27, 1986 and whose mission to provide free, to all who seek it, one hot meal per day, with no regard to race, creed or gender continues to this day.

The new building, located at 2424 Fruge Street just east of its old location in the former Fisherville Elementary School, was a \$1.3 million dollar project that took more than a year to complete. The fundraising effort, headed by Robert Piper, president of the organization's board of directors, found many kind and generous donors that made the new structure possible.

Current Abraham's Tent board of directors include - Robert Piper, president; Jennifer Babin, Eddie J Conner, Jim Cox, Gayle Zembower, who served on the building committee as well as Sarah Alexander, Ted Authement, Earl E Burton, William Koehl, Father Wayne LeBleu, Michelle Lee, Millie Mylander, and Richard Stutes.

The contractor for the new building was Alfred Palma LLC and the project manager was Gayle Zembower.

A History of Abraham's Tent

The following narrative is found as a wall hanging in the lobby of the new building along with photographs of four men who played an enormous role in the earliest beginnings of Abraham's Tent - Bishop Jude Speyrer, Father Don Piraro, Rabbi Sherman Stein, and Rev. Henry Bowdon.

On April 4, 1986, Reverend Don Piraro presented an idea to Bishop Jude Speyrer, Bishop of Lake Charles, for the establishment of a temporary soup kitchen, ecumenical in nature, functioning with its own board and supported by individuals, corporations, and churches of the area. The idea was prompted by the high unemployment rate in the area at the time.

Bishop Speyrer contacted Rabbi Sherman Stein, President of the Calcasieu Ministerial Association, and requested that the idea for a soup kitchen be presented as a project of the Association, and on May 9, 1986, the "Soup Kitchen Committee" was formed. A concerted effort was made to contact clergy members from all denominations to invite them to contribute their talents and efforts to the soup kitchen project.

On June 19, 1986, the first meeting of all who expressed interest in participating on the committee took place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The name "Abraham's Tent" was chosen, inspired from a reading from the Book of Genesis on the account of visitors to Abraham's Tent. In addition to Abraham being the link to the three major religions, the story is representative of the spirit of service and open-handed generosity and hospitality that the committee members desired for the soup kitchen.

At the next meeting of the committee on July 8, 1986, Rabbi Stein reported on the steering committee, which had been formed, led a discussion of the group and appointed various committees needed to get the project moving. The committees formed included a Finance Committee with him and Fr. Vincent Sedita as co-chairman; a public relations committee with Rev. John Giles as chairman; a Place Committee with Rev. V.E. Washington as chairman; and a Food Resources Committee



The new Abraham's Tent building, officially bearing the name of its longtime executive director Pearl Cole, was recently dedicated with a ribbon cutting at the new Fruge Street location. Abraham's Tent is open Monday through Saturday for free hot lunches for anyone who shows up, no questions asked. Among those pictured above at the ribbon cutting are Cole, Robert Piper, a member of the board of directors, Rep. A.B. Franklin, Bishop Glen John Provost, and Father Don Piraro. The program was begun in 1986 by the Calcasieu Ministerial Association through the initiative, especially of Bishop Jude Speyrer, Rabbi Sherman Stein, Father Piraro, and Reverend Henry Bowdon. Abraham's Tent served its first meal on Oct. 27, 1986. Sr. Mary John Lachowsky, S.S.N.D, served as the first executive director.

with Rev. Ralph Masters as chairman.

Locations for Abraham's Tent were taken under consideration, Central School, at one time was considered; however, with the efforts and time of a lot of dedicated clergy and lay people, the Calcasieu Parish School Board approved a sublease agreement for the old Fisherville Elementary School building on U.S. 90 and it became the final choice for the location. Sr. Mary John Lachowsky, SSND, was chosen to become the first director of the project.

The Dedication of Abraham's Tent took place on October 20, 1986 with Reverend Henry Bowdon reading Genesis 18:1-8; the biblical story which was the inspiration for "Abraham's Tent." Rev. Bowdon served as chairman of the House Committee now that the location had been determined.

Serving of the meals began at Abraham's Tent on Monday, October 27, 1986 and continues daily under the direction of Ms. Pearl Cole, who became director in 1989. Its mission con-

tinues to be to provide free, to all who seek it, one hot meal per day, each day of the year with no regard to race, creed or gender.

In May of 1987, Abraham's Tent expanded its services to include feeding daily elderly persons residing in the Chateau du Lac Apartments. It also began providing vouchers at a reduced rate to provide a city bus ride to Abraham's Tent for those who could not otherwise get there.

As has been the case from the beginning, the backbone of Abraham's Tent is the many volunteers who give of their time, talent, and treasure so faithfully. Their generosity and gifts shared with the larger community have truly enriched the spirit of joyous giving that began with the recognition of a simple and basic need. A by-product of this enriched spirit of joyous giving is the ecumenical goodwill first established by revered men of foresight such as Rabbi Stein, Bishop Speyrer, Father Piraro, and Reverend Bowdon.



The Mathematics Department at SOWELA Community and Technical College, - students and faculty - recently delivered 2,255 cans of food to Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana to assist food baskets given out to those in need at this time. This was the second year that the school's math department collected canned goods. Pictured above, from left, at the delivery are Deacon Edward Lavine, Vicar for Pastoral Services of the Diocese of Lake Charles; Katrina Freeman, a SOWELA math instructor; Catholic Charities volunteers DEBRA Richard and Theresa Guillory; Luann Ballou, SOWELA; and Todd Carrere, SOWELA. Other instructors at the school taking part in the collection drive were Stephanie Smith, Kristeen Ison, and Lacey Couch.

Second Annual Respect Life Dinner set 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.

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 Beth Buller, e-mail: rachel.vineyard@lcdiocese.org, or beth.buller@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 ex-

perience. 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.

Bishop Provost to celebrate Masses in the Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate Midnight Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets.

The Cathedral Choir will present a Christmas Concert beginning at 11 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The Bishop will also be the celebrant of a Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Extraordinary Form, on Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, Dec. 28, at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral.

A reception will follow in Ave Maria Hall, 935 Kirby Street.

Vatican official: Religious freedom, Ukraine are priorities for Europe

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A top Vatican official emphasized religious freedom worldwide and a peaceful resolution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine as urgent priorities for Europe's main security organization.

The "profoundly deplorable crimes" committed against people because of their religious faith "must be strongly condemned and opposed," said Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican's outgoing secretary for relations with states. He has been appointed to be the new prefect of the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican's highest court.

The archbishop spoke at the 21st ministerial council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Basel, Switzerland, Dec. 4-5.

"We cannot be silent in

the face of tens of thousands of Christians who are persecuted and killed worldwide every year, including in areas bordering on the OSCE region," he said.

The archbishop called for "a new partnership of believers and nonbelievers to fight anti-Semitism, intolerance against Muslims and the ever-growing discrimination against Christians, also in Europe, where although there is no organized persecution, there are many forms of intolerance, which manifest themselves in a variety of ways, even in hate-motivated crimes against persons and sacred places."

He told the council Dec. 4 that the "full guarantee of religious freedom cannot be limited to the free exercise of worship" but must include "the public dimension of religion" and the possibility of

believers to contribute to society. Freedom of religion includes the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, he stated.

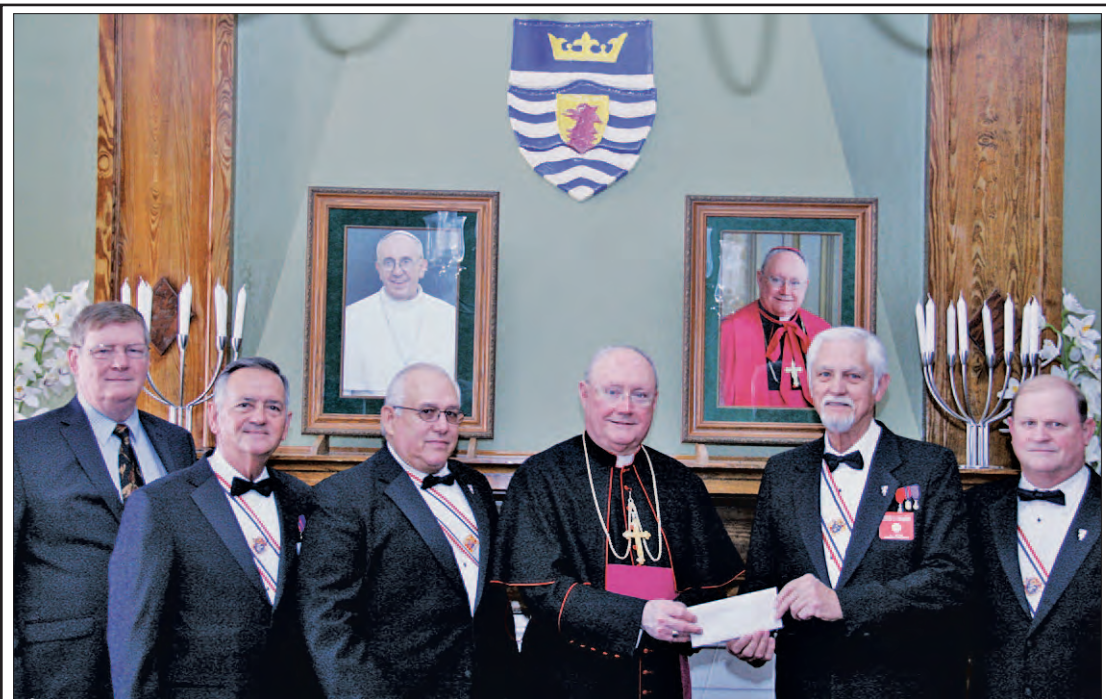
On the enduring conflict in eastern Ukraine, the archbishop said it is the Vatican's "strong conviction that the best way of resolving the current situation is through dialogue and negotiation."

He said the Vatican has been "following very closely and with deep concern the worrying developments" in the country and expressed the pope's closeness to the people who suffer in the region.

He lamented the use of arms in attempting to resolve disputes as "a sad development" and expressed regret at the loss of life, suffering, and grave violations of people's basic rights in the conflict.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas Officers' Inaugural Christmas Social for the Diocese of Lake Charles was held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Ave Maria Hall in Lake Charles. Shown here are all of the attending CDA members. Also present were Louisiana CDA State Officers: Barbara Michael, Regent; Connie Dronette, First Vice Regent; Dawn Fortenberry, Second Vice Regent; Linda Ancona, Treasurer; Ruth Guidry, a CDA National Director; and local Court officers. Local Court officers attending represented Lady of the Lake #695, Stella Maris #1233, Our Lady of LaSalette #1255, Our Lady of Fatima #1506, Our Lady Queen of Heaven #1785, Our Lady of Grace #1964, Our Lady of the Snows #1980, Of the Visitation #1999, St. Barbara #2153, and St. Martin de Porres #2659. The Social was hosted by District Deputies from the Diocese of Lake Charles: Karen Fills, Chairman; Melina Dally, Co-Chairman; Aline Babineaux; and Barbara Lantz. Invitations were sent to all local Court officers, State Chairmen, and LA State Officers.



Bishop Glen John Provost recently received a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 from I. J. Tarou, Diocesan Coordinator for the Fourth Degree in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The gift is the annual contribution of the Fourth Degree Assemblies in the Diocese - Father James J. Shahrigan Assembly #2182 of DeRidder, Msgr. Hubert Cramers Assembly #320 of Lake Charles, Father Veillard Assembly #2087 of Sulphur, and Msgr. Joseph Peeters Assembly #332 of Jennings to the Excellence in Religious Education Program. Pictured, from left, are Glenn McFarlain, Faith Scribe of Msgr. Peeters Assembly; Al Gary, Past Faithful Navigator of Father Veillard Assembly; Peter Sntic, Faithful Navigator of Msgr. Cramers; Bishop Provost; Tarou; and John Jackson, Faithful Navigator of Father Veillard.



Volunteers from the DeQuincy community are shown in the hall of Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church beginning the process of filling the 320 food baskets given out for Thanksgiving to those in need. This year's basket ministry was dedicated to Sharon Mueller who died earlier this year. Mueller's basket minister John Blummed, pastor at Our Lady of LaSalette at the time, began the ministry 33 years ago. The Mayor's Office of the City of DeQuincy, represented by Mark Peloquin, proclaimed the day a "Mueller Love Day" in honor of Mueller and Cheryl Jones. Brown presented it to the laborer family along with a framed picture of Mueller. At the beginning, baskets were provided for 10-12 families in need but over the years it grew. Students in area schools donated more than 7,000 food items and DeQuincy High School athletes moved the food from four schools to the church hall.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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, at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, located at Pujot 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 Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic churches in Cameron Parish, will deliver the address.

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

REFLECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

Hitting the ground running, Bishop Olivier served as the district bishop for the District of Columbia. Commenting on his ministry as bishop, he disclosed that he labored over sermons and statements and would not speak off the cuff, "because it would be an injustice to the people." That was a typical indicator of his personality and preparedness.

After confirmations, he congenially lingered with the people. At Christmas time he visited the D.C. jail, celebrating

a Mass for the women and a Mass for the men, after which presents were distributed. Again, there was Leonard the family man. His upbringing in a tight-knit, loving family formed the substance and style of his ministry.

True to his role as family folklorist, Leonard often reminisced fondly about his siblings. One of his favorite stories concerned his siblings' penchant for playing pranks. An impish sister decided to scare the Dickens out of the others. When it became dark enough, she donned a white sheet and moved menacingly along the side of the house.

Just as she hove into sight

of the others, the thorns of a rosebush snared the sheet. In sheer terror, she screamed and ran to the door while her siblings laughed till they cried.

Fittingly, Leonard went home to God just short of his episcopal anniversary. "There will be a mighty celebration up there!" said his brother Edward. "Our dear parents, my dear wife and my dear siblings all celebrating together! What a time we will have with God!"

Father Jerome LeDoux has served as a priest for more than fifty years. Born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, he was ordained in 1957. He

taught at Xavier University in New Orleans and served sixteen years as pastor of St. Augustine Church in New Orleans where he renewed its spiritual center in the Tremé neighborhood. St. Augustine was one of the first churches where slaves, free blacks, and whites worshipped together. *June 3, 2007* was declared "Fr. LeDoux Day" in New Orleans by then mayor Ray Nagin. Fr. LeDoux is currently at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Ft. Worth, Texas and is the author of *The War of the South: A Personal Account of St. Augustine Church in New Orleans*.

Diocesan Briefs.....

January Catholic Calendar publication

LAKE CHARLES - The January publication of the Catholic Calendar will be on Friday, Jan. 23, the Fourth Friday, rather than on the regular Third Friday date, which will return in February.

2015 Abrazando a Cristo mission set

LAKE CHARLES - Registration for next year's *Abrazando a Cristo* Mission Trip to Nicaragua - Saturday, July 11 to Sunday, July 19 - is now open, according to Msgr. Daniel A. Torres. Call 337-439-7400 or e-mail connie.perkins@lcediocese.org for a registration form. Forms must be returned, with the non-refundable \$300 deposit, by the Saturday, Jan. 10 deadline to secure a seat.

Campus Ministry Opportunity

LAKE CHARLES - Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Student Center at McNeese State University is seeking to expand its Campus Ministry program through a new part-time leadership spot.

Contact Fr. Nathan Long at nathan.long@lcediocese.org to discuss the position, which includes trailblazing in the areas of evangelization retreats, small-group formation, and Newman Club events. Candidates must be practicing Catholics with a college degree, social media and organizational skills, and a commitment to the New Evangelization.

Men's prayer breakfast on Jan. 9

LAKE CHARLES - The next men's prayer breakfast is Friday, Jan. 9, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex.

Call 337-439-7400 to register. The breakfast and presentation is preceded by a 6:30 a.m. celebration of the Mass in the Cathedral.

The next women's luncheon has been set for Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Ave Maria Hall. There is no prayer luncheon in January.

Women should mail a check in the amount of \$15, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Gaynell Carrier, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Catholic Charities provides assistance

LAKE CHARLES - Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana provided a total of \$15,060.84 in financial assistance to those most in need during the period from Oct. 23 to Nov. 18.

Twenty-four clients were assisted with housing, 26 with utility payments, six with medication, five for funeral expenses and 23 with aid in acquiring Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards (TWIC) in order to gain employment.

Sacred Heart clothing outreach

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

Open for donations or free shopping for women's business attire on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. it is located at 1024 Division Street.

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

First Friday, Saturday Devotions at Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES - First Friday and Saturday Devotions have begun at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, according to Rev. Rommel Tolentino, pastor.

Following the First Friday 12:05 p.m. Mass, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar of the Sacred Heart for Adoration.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Altar of Our Lady from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on each First Saturday, followed by Benediction and celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Liturgy starting at 8 a.m.

Knights of Columbus gumbo cook off

WESTLAKE - First place in the annual Knights of Columbus diocesan Gumbo Cook Off was Our Lady of LaSalette Council #3015 of Sulphur. Second spot went to St. John Bosco #5755 of Westlake and third to Our Lady of LaSalette #0000 of Sulphur.

The first and second place teams will take part in the State Competition in Lafayette in January.

Masses in the Extraordinary Form

LAKE CHARLES - The celebration of Mass in the Extraordinary Form in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception takes place each Sunday at 5 p.m., at 8 a.m. on each First Saturday, and on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

Theresians sponsoring day of reflection

LAKE CHARLES - The Fleur de Lis Theresians of Southwest Louisiana are sponsoring "The Woman Within: Women's Day of Reflection" on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc Family Life Center.

Father Whitney Miller, Gwin Miller-Cronin, and Vicki Schmidt, Executive Director of Theresians International will be the presenters. The retreat is open to all women. Registration by February 14 is \$25 and \$30 after that date, with lunch included.

Call Rose Viau to register or for more information at 337-802-2487.

Vocare on First Saturday at Vianney House

LAKE CHARLES - Young men ages 16 to 25, seeking to know God's will in their lives, are invited to attend Vocare, a ministry of the Office of Vocations, on the first Saturday of each month at Vianney House, 1624 Bank Street, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Call Father Nathan Long at 337-77-1434 for more information.

Special Needs Mass on Feb. 8

LAKE CHARLES - A Mass for Individuals with Special Needs and their families will be celebrated Sunday, Feb. 8, by Father Whitney Miller at 11 a.m. in St. Louis Catholic High School.

All denominations are invited to join the celebration, which is offered as an opportunity for all to worship despite difficulty, embarrassment, or frustration. Family members and friends are welcome.

Call Karen Duhon at 337-478-0243 or Shari Cormier at 337-478-0043 for more information.