



## Planning Study Points to Capital Campaign for Diocese

LAKE CHARLES – The Diocese of Lake Charles recently concluded a planning study to test the feasibility of a major diocesan-wide fundraising effort. The study was conducted over the summer. Parishioners were invited to provide their opinions on (or their level of support for) specific needs affecting the diocese's long-term strategic vision.

### Tested Goals

Bishop Glen John Provost, with the advice of the Presbyteral Council and Finance Council, commissioned the study to test \$26 million in potential projects and goals to support the diocese's many missions.

Projects tested included: increasing the priest retirement and seminarian education funds, expanding the programs of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, providing a place for youth programs at the Saint Charles Center, and restoring the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

"Since I arrived in Lake Charles more than eight years ago, many have shared what they thought were the most important needs of our parishes and our diocese," Bishop Provost said. "In addition, we were looking at what needed to be done to ensure the diocese remained on solid financial footing for many years to come."

### Forums for the Faithful

The planning study sought input from both parishioners and clergy via personal interviews, town hall Forums for the Faithful held throughout the diocese, and a combination of mail, online, and in-pew surveys. In all, over 600 people participated.

"We are really pleased with the turnout of parishioners," said Msgr. Daniel Torres, vicar general for the diocese. "Open and honest feedback is what we wanted, and it is what we got. This has helped us with our decision-making process."

Gretchen N. Jester, a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, attended the August 4 Forum for the Faithful

held at the Cathedral and said, "At first, I did not know what to expect at the meeting. I got a little more information on what diocesan leaders were thinking. It was nice to know that they were still identifying the issues and working on plans to address them. I got the feeling that they wanted to know how we felt about these issues. They were truly interested in what we had to say and listened to the questions that we had raised."

### Capital Campaign

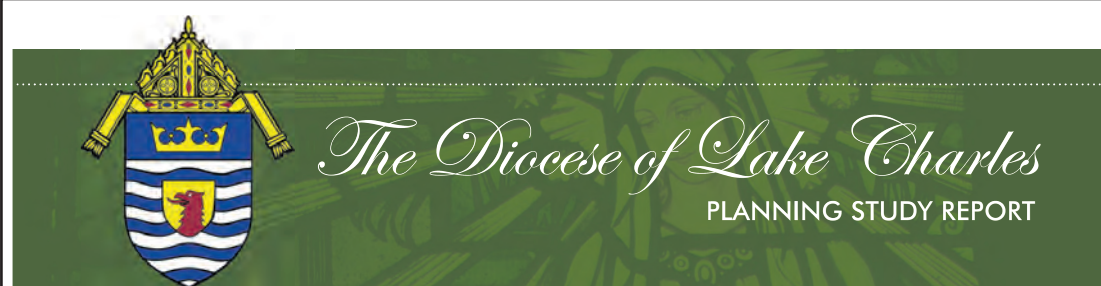
Based on an analysis of the study's findings and feedback received after sharing the results with pastors and the diocesan pastoral council and finance council, Bishop Provost and diocesan leadership voted to move ahead with a diocesan-wide capital campaign.

"The diocese has never done anything like this. We were thankful for the participation we received and were heartened by the overwhelming support for us to move forward in a measured, thoughtful manner," Bishop Provost said.

"It seems most everyone knows that if we do not address these issues now, they only get more difficult to address in subsequent years. Now is the time."

The diocese indicated that the first step in the campaign will be a preparation phase to form committees composed of clergy and laity to help advise the bishop and lead the effort. The diocese said to look for additional announcements regarding the campaign's leadership and final goals of the campaign in the following months.

"There is still much work that needs to happen to incorporate, the best we can, the responses we heard in the study. And once we get through that, the campaign itself will be hard work. But we know the Lord will provide. And we know he will bless our work," the Bishop concluded.



Thank you to all who participated in this landmark study for the Diocese of Lake Charles. Your responses will help diocesan leadership better plan to address the needs of our faith family.

### PARTICIPATION

- 54 personal interviews with members of the clergy.
- 85 personal interviews with parish identified members and potential major donors.
- 478 survey responses filled out via mail, *Forums for the Faithful*, in-pew and online.

### KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Overall support for a diocesan campaign is strong throughout all constituencies, especially to fund seminarian education and priest retirement.
- Respondents throughout the diocese generally understand why restoration is needed at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. However, many respondents want to ensure the cost and scope of the proposed project is detailed to be more reflective of structural restoration and beautification rather than large-scale renovation. Those outside of the Cathedral parish want to ensure the Cathedral portion of the campaign is proportionate relative to the other goals.
- Supporting the needy is perceived to be consistent with the Church's teachings and respondents feel that Catholic Charities does this well.
- Investing more resources in youth formation across the diocese.
- Donors want greater detail regarding each of the needs and how exactly the money will be used to address those needs.

### RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

- Build upon the positive results of the study by immediately moving forward with the preparation phase of a capital campaign.
- Finalize the campaign goals based on the diocese's master plan, planning study results and fundraising projection.
- Gather and provide exhaustive details on each of the finalized campaign goals.
- Address the most frequently asked questions from the planning study.
- Establish a diverse and talented campaign committee comprised of clergy and lay leadership from across the diocese.

It is an exciting time to be a Catholic in Southwest Louisiana as we move ahead with a diocesan-wide capital campaign. This major fundraising effort will help us make significant investments in our priests, our parishes and our faith. Look for more information in the coming months regarding campaign leadership and goal details.

### Key Statistics

- 77% of all respondents are personally in favor of a capital campaign.
- 70% of all respondents said they would make a gift to the campaign.
- 122 families (individuals or couples) are willing to serve as leaders in a capital campaign and solicit gifts.
- 109 additional individuals indicated they would serve in another volunteer capacity during the campaign.

\*All data scores at or above the needed benchmarks for a diocesan capital campaign.



## Guadalupean Torch Run Nov. 8-9

LAKE CHARLES – The annual *International Run Carrera Antorcha Guadalupeana Mexico-New York Torch Race* connecting Mexico and the United States makes its annual visit to the Diocese of Lake Charles with two stops - St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jennings - Sunday and Monday, Nov. 8 and 9.

The Holy Fire and the oversized images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego accompanying the relay are en route from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City for Our Lady's feast day on Saturday, Dec. 12.

On Sunday morning, Nov. 8, the Torch will arrive from its overnight stop in the Diocese of Beaumont. The relay will commence at U.S. 90 and Toomey Road going through Vinton, Ederly, Sulphur and into Westlake. In the early afternoon, the Holy Fire will arrive at the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau off I-10 on Lakeshore Drive, continuing east, after a short break, on Lakeshore Drive to Broad Street and to St. Henry at 1021 Eighth Avenue, where the torch and images will remain overnight. Mass will be celebrated at St.

Henry at 5 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 9, the relay recommences down Broad Street and on to U.S. 90 going through Iowa, Lacassine, Welsh, Roanoke, and on to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 705 Lake Arthur Avenue, in Jennings. Mass will be celebrated Monday at Immaculate Conception beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The torch and images will remain in Immaculate Conception overnight and leave the diocese on Tuesday continuing on its journey to New

York.

This particular torch run began more than a dozen years ago, but the tradition actually began more than a half a century ago to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The religious holiday stemmed from a visitation from the Virgin Mary to an indigenous Mexican named Juan Diego in 1531. The theme of the holiday is more compassion to help indigenous people and the modern translation is solidarity across borders with the plight of immigrants.



Runners in the 2014 *International Run Carrera Antorcha Guadalupeana Mexico-New York Torch Race* remove the images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego from vehicles for the final stretch of their first day in the Diocese moving down Eighth Avenue to St. Henry Catholic Church. This year's arrival will be on Sunday, Nov. 8, with Mass slated for 5 p.m. in St. Henry.



Bishop Glen John Provost accepted diocesan seminarian Trey Ange, left, to candidacy for Holy Orders during Mass Sunday, Oct. 25, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Lake Charles – Ange's home parish. Assisting the Bishop are Very Reverend Ruben Buller, master of ceremonies, Deacon Glenn Viau, and far right, Deacon Garrett Caraway, Ange's grandfather. Sam Bond, another seminarian, held the Book of Rites, from which the Bishop is reading. The Admission to Candidacy offers candidates for ordination the opportunity to publicly express their intention to receive ordination as a Deacon and perhaps later as a Priest. The aspirant composes beforehand and then signs and dates before the start of the rite in the presence of the Bishop a declaration stating his conscious intention to serve others in the Spirit of Compassionate Presence as an ordained cleric and is making this intention freely on his own accord. The Bishop also signs and dates this declaration, attesting acknowledgement of receipt thereof in the name of the Church.

## Annual Bishop's Gala tickets on sale

LAKE CHARLES – The centennial tribute of the birth of Frank Sinatra – "Old Blue Eyes" - will be the feature entertainment provided by the renowned Nelson Riddle Orchestra at the Fourth Annual Bishop's Gala on Saturday, Dec. 12, in the Lake Charles Civic Center.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for a VIP social with general admittance at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 each and a table for 10 is \$1,250. They can be purchased in the parishes

of the Diocese, at the Chancery (414 Iris Street) and at live.lcdioocese.org.

To buy tickets online, using your credit card or e-check, click on the "Support the Diocese" button on the front page, then click the "Bishop's Gala Tickets" link and follow the easy instructions. The patron of this year's event, on whose feast day the Gala is celebrated, is Our Lady of Guadalupe. Call 337-439-7400, Ext. 220, for more information.

Proceeds from the Gala provides for diocesan communication efforts – the production and airing of the *Glad Tidings* television program, the publishing of the *Catholic Calendar* in five regional newspapers, the website of the Diocese – live.lcdioocese.org, and the radio broadcast of the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on two local stations.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Catholic Charismatic Conference Nov. 6-7

LAKE CHARLES – The 44th Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference with its theme of "Unified in the Spirit: Reaching out with Mercy" is Friday and Saturday, November 6-7 at St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street.

Speakers include Chuck Hornsby of the Alleluia Community of Augusta, Georgia and Frieda Shuff, a lay Catholic evangelist from St. Paul Catholic Church in Elton, who will give her testimony on Saturday.

### Council 5755 named "Star Council"

WESTLAKE – Knights of Columbus Council 5755 was named a "Star Council" for the 2014-2015 fraternal year according to an announcement made by the Supreme Office of the Knights of Columbus. The award is one of the group's highest honors.

The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.

### Open house set at St. Louis Catholic

LAKE CHARLES – St. Louis Catholic High School hosts its annual Open House at the school, 1620 Bank Street, for middle school students and their parents on Wednesday, Nov. 18. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with school tours starting at 6 p.m. A special liturgy honoring grandparents and veterans is

Friday, Nov. 13, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Kimberly Krajicek Memorial gym.

Call 337-436-7275 for more information.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Italy in 2016

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will lead a diocesan pilgrimage to Rome, Vatican City, Orvieto, and Assisi May 20-28, 2016, with Father Nathan Long as moderator.

There is a November deadline for the \$350 deposit with final payment due by Feb. 10. The discounted package price, per person sharing a twin room, is \$3,395.00, plus \$695.00 departure taxes and fuel surcharge for the all-inclusive 9-day package with airfare from Houston. This discount of \$100.00 per person will apply for payments made entirely by personal check, money order or certified bank check.

For payments made with a credit card, the price per person, sharing a twin room, is \$3,495.00 plus \$695.00 departure taxes and fuel surcharge. The cost of departure taxes and fuel surcharge is subject to increase until ticketing.

Brochures providing a more in-depth view of the stops on the pilgrimage are available at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Our Lady of Good Counsel, at the Chancery, 414 Iris Street, or by printing it from the story located on the diocesan website – live.lcdioocese.org.

### December prayer breakfast

LAKE CHARLES – The next Men's Prayer Breakfast is Friday, Dec. 4, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex.

Mass is celebrated at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral before the break. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register.

There will be no Ladies Luncheon in December, with the next scheduled for January 13. Women should send a check for \$15, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Mrs. Gaynell Carrier, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 at least a week prior to the luncheon. A stamped, self-addressed envelope should be included.

### Final Fall VOCARE Work Day Nov. 28

LAKE CHARLES – This final fall VOCARE Men's Work Days at Vianney House of Discernment, 1624 Bank Street, is Saturday, Nov. 28, according to Father Nathan Long, who invites young men ages 16-25 considering a vocation to the priesthood to attend.

Morning prayer is set for 8:30 a.m., followed by work around the Vianney House and grounds from 9 to noon with the celebration of Mass at noon and then lunch. It is a time to meet the residents, serve the Lord, and discern your vocation.

For more information call Father Long at 337-477-1434.

### "Lumen Fidei" on Second Saturdays

LAKE CHARLES – Women – juniors in high school and older – welcome to join the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, on the second Saturday of each month to discuss the Order's vocation to love as attendees discover God's particular and loving plan for their lives.

The meeting begins with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and concludes at 6:20 p.m. Call 337-656-2911 or e-mail miriam.macleam@lcdioocese.org to RSVP.





## Saint Charles Center celebrates the 20th anniversary of its dedication



Saint Charles Center began as an idea brought forth from a meeting with Bishop Jude Speyer and the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles held after the 1980 establishment of the new local church. Many ideas came from the meeting, but the most auspicious was the diocese's own spirituality center. Other more pressing needs took precedence though and the idea was left to simmer. In the mid-1980s, Bishop Speyer, after much consultation, concluded it was time to take seriously the notion, and fundraising efforts began. Many people showed great generosity. In the early 1990s, pieces started falling into place and project began in earnest. Photo one shows the signage that announced the construction of Saint Charles Center. On April 1, 1993, heavy equipment, shown in photo two, made its way onto the property. Keeping the property as natural as possible meant cutting trees only in places where buildings, roadways, and parking lots were to be located. Photo three provides a picture of logs that were cut and removed from the property. The property had varying elevations with high ground as well as wetlands. One of the major obstacles was building the road from the front to back of the site where the main retreat house property was located. That job required the removal of thousands and thousands of cubic yards of muck (photo 4) and the replacement with fill dirt (photo 5). Once dirt work on the causeway was done and heavy vehicles could traverse it, continued clearing made way for the building pads at the back of the site (photo 6) where Tabor Retreat House, consisting of five buildings, would be located. Work continued at the front of the site as well as with the director's house (photo 7) along with the other structures – Katharine Drexel Conference Center, the gatehouse (for the property's caretaker); and the maintenance building. On January 9, 1994, Bishop Speyer, joined by a large crowd, blessed the site (photo 8). Two wooden crosses were set – one at the front and another at the back – along with planting two 13-year old oak trees. Pictured with Bishop Speyer is Msgr. A. J. Vincent (left) along with Father Jace Eskind (right, the master of ceremony). In photo 9, a completed concrete slab for the Drexel Conference Center, designed to house youth and young adult retreat programs, begins to take shape as concrete blocks sit awaiting bricklayers. The Center's concrete entry road begins to snake its way from Sam Houston Jones Parkway to the entrance to Tabor Retreat House in photo 10. The focal point of Tabor Retreat House is the Chapel of the Assumption and its 18 feet tall and six feet wide windows looking out onto the wetlands to the north of the Chapel. Early construction of the chapel is seen in photo 11. Construction work continues in photo 12 on Oustalet Hall, the administration building, with its cupola and porte cochere as its distinctive architectural highlights. The Diocese accepted the project as substantially complete some two years after the job began in early 1995. Various programs took place during that spring, summer, and fall before an official dedication, seen in photo 13, took place on November 5, 1995 at Tabor Retreat House. Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to the United States and Pope John Paul II's Ambassador to the U.S., joined Bishop Speyer as well as Archbishop Francis Schulte, Metropolitan of the Province of New Orleans, other bishops, priests of the diocese, and hundreds of donors to the project. Many additions have been made to the center in its 20 years. The brick entry to the property in photo 14 and New Bethany Cemetery, the final resting place of Bishop Speyer, along with many priests and deacons in photo 15. The most recent addition to Tabor Retreat House is the Memorial Courtyard, made possible by the generous gift of the family of A. J. M. "Bubba" and Lena Mae Oustalet of Jennings and dedicated last year. A beautiful fountain was dedicated (photo 16) in memory of Peggy Chapman Oustalet, the late wife of Rick Oustalet. In the past 20 years, thousands and thousands have come and benefitted from the blessing of the facility (seen today in photo 17) attending programs of spiritual enrichment and educational development for the Roman Catholic community and others of good will. Saint Charles Center (the courtyard of Tabor Retreat House in photo 18) stands as a place apart, offering an atmosphere of serenity and peace, where one can deepen one's relationship with God and achieve spiritual renewal and growth rediscovering life's meaning in quiet reflection.