



March for Life 2015: A Pilgrimage

LAKE CHARLES -- Three chartered buses with 148 pilgrims – adults and young adults – were in Washington, DC for the 43rd Annual March for Life in mid-January only to be forced out of the city before the actual march by winter storm Jonas, which wreaked havoc on the District.

The buses left for their arduous journey in the dark hours of early Monday, Jan. 18, from the street in front of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Lake Charles. For many of the pilgrims, the trip was not their first to the March for Life, but for seasoned pilgrims as well as first-timers, it was quite an experience.

Planners of the journey had harped to everyone for weeks before the departure that those going would be pilgrims, not tourists. Several have provided their thoughts of their trip.

“The March for Life is definitely, primarily a pilgrimage,” said Jessen Mayo, a young adult who works in the Office of Religious Education for the Diocese. ‘A lot of the trip can be summed up in the chant we repeated all week “What do we want? A culture of Life! How do we get it? Prayer and Sacrifice!”’

“To me, she continued. “We just added another element to our sacrifice,” she stated. “I got to visit so many beautiful places and learned a lot about what it means to be “pro-life” in every aspect of our daily living. Every part of our trip was a prayer. It was all offered for the end of abortion as well as healing and conversion for anyone who has been touched by abortion in their lives. It was a really beautiful trip, especially because of the relationships you get to form with the other pilgrims after so much time together. I definitely want to join the pilgrims on the March for Life trip until it’s no longer necessary.”

Felicia Borel, the director of evangelization at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, took part as well.

“This year’s pilgrimage theme of Mercy was perfect in educating both adults and children in what it means to build a Culture of Life in this world,” Borel said. “Learning about abortion and what it does to babies and how it affects mothers, fathers, and many others, witnessing the compassion and caring of a hospice prison ministry, hearing personal testimonies, and visiting the Holocaust Museum are just a few of the activities that helped us to see the dignity that exists in EVERY person – no matter where they are in life or what they’ve done. Prayer and the sacrifice of missing the actual March on Friday, in my opinion, helped to build character and humility in every one of us pilgrims.”

Kathy Owen, a teacher of theology and head of Students for Life at St. Louis Catholic High School, was making her fourth journey.

“It was a pilgrimage, not just a trip,” Owen said. “Visiting holy sites such as the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, the Basilica and the Saint John Paul Center was spiritually moving for all of us. However, it was a pilgrimage not only for visiting those holy sites, but most especially through the prayers and sacrifices that were offered during the six days we spent together as the Diocese of Lake Charles.

“Since we were unable to attend the actual March due to the blizzard, we still had our own march (before the snow started to fall) as we prayed in solidarity at the White House then walked to the Supreme Court where we prayed the Rosary and sang the Divine Mercy Chaplet,” she said. “The week is not just about the March, but throughout all of the events we witnessed, the pilgrims learned about the inherent dignity and respect of all human life.”

Nine of the 15 diocesan seminarians were also part of the pilgrimage. Two – Andy Derouen and Michael Beverung, both of Lake Charles - had the following comments:

“Participating in the March for Life gave me the chance to be fully human,” Derouen said. “This is to say that the humanity capable of committing such heinous atrocities is the same humanity capable of such good, by the grace of God. I want to help the world because the March for Life taught me how much the world is hurting.”

Beverung said, “The March for Life is a pilgrimage like no other. It is an opportunity for us to express our deepest concern for our nation, a concern that involves the most vulnerable among us. Not being able to make the actual March this year was upsetting but proved to us that the pro-life movement goes beyond just a day of peaceful protest. It reaches to each and every day of our lives where we are called to pray to the end of this modern day holocaust.”

“24 Hours for the Lord” March 4-5

LAKE CHARLES – “24 Hours for the Lord” is a worldwide initiative called for by Pope Francis to invite all people to receive the mercy of God through Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is happening all across the world on Friday and Saturday, March 4-5, kicked off by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square.

Here in the Diocese of Lake Charles, four churches have been designated as sites for “24 Hours.”

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church will be the site of “24 Hours” beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 4, and continuing until 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 5.

In the East Deanery of the

Diocese, two churches – St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Oberlin and Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings – will utilize modified schedules. On Friday, St. Joan of Arc will be open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. while on Saturday, Our Lady Help of Christians is open from 8 a.m. to 2p.m.

In the West Deanery, Our Lady of Prompt Succor will be open Friday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This is especially a time to invite back to the Church those who have fallen away from the practice of the sacraments and are just waiting for the door of God’s mercy to be opened for them.

Property Donation to the Diocese of Lake Charles Capital Campaign



The donation of 89 acres of property located in Moss Bluff, along with related assets, to the Diocese of Lake Charles will offer the diocese a location to provide Saint Charles Center with a camp for our Catholic youth with activities primarily aimed at their evangelization and personal spiritual growth. The construction of this facility, which will be named Camp Karol in honor of Pope St. John Paul II, whose baptismal first name was “Karol,” will be made possible by financial contributions made to the “Return to the Lord” capital campaign which will kickoff later in the year. Pictured above, Bishop Glen John Provost, shakes hands with David Grove (president of Camp Karol, Inc.), following the signing of documents that transferred ownership of the property to the diocese. Others pictured are Jack Robichaux (one of the General Chairpersons of the campaign); Father Whitney Miller, director of Saint Charles Center; and Deacon George Stearns, diocesan chancellor. Seen behind Grove is Deacon Glen Bertrand, director of the Office of Stewardship and Development, and Stephanie Rodrigue, assistant director of the Office of Stewardship and Development.

Canavox - Strengthening marriage through community reading groups

LAKE CHARLES -- In 2013 a group of women formed an initiative called Canavox to create a safe haven of free speech for folks who want to engage in open and frequent conversations with friends on the philosophy, science, and art of marriage and dating.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia has said this about Canavox, “I’m glad to welcome and support the Canavox ministry. While Canavox fits closely with Catholic principles, it is deliberately designed to be interfaith and non-denominational to draw as wide an audience as possible.

“Canavox is not alone in its good work;

it joins other excellent ministries in serving the integrity of marriage and family across the archdiocese,” he continued. “But for young mothers -- and fathers; Canavox also encourages men’s groups -- eager to deepen and strengthen their marriages, Canavox is a wonderful option to explore.

Alana Newman, who has hosted reading groups in Lake Charles since 2014 explains how it works.

“We carefully select the best readings from around the web so as to encourage discussions where participants learn about the latest research and read inspiring stories about the incredible union of

man and woman,” Newman said. “We have one meeting for mothers on the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. and one for single women every Sunday at 12 noon during the winter and spring of 2016.

“You or someone you know can join one our reading group on the many facets of marriage — from communication, to the ramifications of divorce, to political correctness and religious liberty in the face of marriage redefinition or ask how you can start one of your own by contacting me at AlanaN@canavox.com,” Newman concluded.

Legatus - Ambassadors for Christ in the Marketplace



A new chapter of Legatus - Ambassadors for Christ in the Marketplace – has been chartered in the Diocese of Lake Charles. With its establishment, it became one of more than 80 chapters nationwide and around the world and the fifth chapter in Louisiana. Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the Mass at the conclusion of which the chapter was installed. “To study, live and spread the Faith in our business and professional lives.” is the Legatus Mission Statement. According to the Legatus website, the organization was begun by Tom Monaghan, the founder Domino’s Pizza and owner of the Detroit Tigers baseball franchise as a result of a meeting in 1987 with Saint Pope John Paul II. Monaghan used his valuable experience with the Young President’s Organization to capture that organization’s dynamic for Catholic chief executive officers and presidents along with their spouses by combining faith, family and business in one package. Pictured above are the charter members of the Lake Charles chapter present as well as Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop-emeritus of Houma-Thibodaux, Bishop Sam Jacobs, International Chaplain of Legatus; Tom Monaghan; Msgr. Harry Greig; and Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich. Charter members are Glen and Tirana Bertrand; Bruce and Mary Frances Bordlee; Keith and Dale DeSonier; Andrew and Kelly Guinn; Alan and Bridget Hertrond; Christopher and Kim Ieyoub; Alan and Jeanne LeBato; Jake and Kay LeBeau; Donald and Monti Lloyd; Lance and Kelly Mudd; John and Cinda Noble, Michael and Connie Nodier; Joel and Lisa Oustalet; Robert and Eileen Piper; Joseph and Len Pousson; Ken and Cassie Price; John and Amanda Robichaux; Gary and Deannie Scroggs, Dennis and Marla Stine; Bruce and Cathy Thompson; Jack and Brandy Wheeler; and John and Alyson Yokubaitis. Officers of the chapter are Michael Nodier, Chapter Chairman; Mary Frances Bordlee, Programs Director; Cassie Price, Treasurer; Kallan Mudd, Chapter Administrator; and Father Starkovich, Chapter Chaplain.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

February 19, 2016

Our Lady Help of Christians celebrating 125 years

JENNINGS – A special gathering to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the church building of Our Lady Help of Christians is set for Sunday, Feb. 28, in the church at 2 p.m. Our Lady Help of Christians is the second oldest parish in the Diocese of Lake Charles celebrating its 125th year in 2016 – the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Grace called for by Pope Francis.

The Most Reverend James Blenk, Archbishop of New Orleans, dedicated the structure on Feb. 29, 1916. Father Joseph Peeters the second pastor of the parish (the first being Rev Cornelius van de Ven – later pastor of Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles) enlisted his brother Louis to assist him with the design and building. Constructed of locally made concrete bricks, molded by Father Peeters and parishioners that he had instructed in such work, and made on site, its design is based on the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.

During construction, which took nine years of labor to complete, mass was celebrated on the second floor of St. Henry Academy; a school conducted by Marianites of Holy Cross nuns that Father Peeters built. The school remained

in operation until World War I.

Current pastor, Father Charles McMillin will open with prayer and Our Lady's Choir will provide music. Parishioner David Marcantel will offer a presentation on the early history of the church parish and building, there will be a presentation on the stained glass windows in the church, and a slide show by Helen Louviere on the structure of the church, its bell, and the attic.

A photo display will be available for viewing following the program in St. Mary Center across the street from the church.

Other events during the anniversary year will include a Lenten Mission led by Deacon Ed and Flo McNally on March 6-7; a celebration of the May 24 feast day of Mary Help of Christians on May 22; visitors from France on Oct. 7-9; and, on Nov. 6, the celebration of the 125 year anniversary of the parish – established Dec. 7, 1891.

Contact Flo McNally for more information at 337-824-0168 or if you have historical photographs or information you would like to share with the church.



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church

Events scheduled for Saint Charles Center

LAKE CHARLES – A number of programs and events are scheduled at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center through the end of the month and into March including Lenten Private Directed Retreats from Monday, Feb. 29 through Sunday, March 6.

These directed retreats are led by Fr. Whitney Miller, Fr. Don Piraro, Judy Savoie and Gloria Villegas. The retreatant may choose to do three or five days. Information and registration is available by calling 337-855-1232. Registration is not available online.

A Lenten Introduction to the Directed Retreat is also available for those interested in this type of silent retreat from Thursday, March 3 to Sunday, March 6. Registration and information can only be obtained by calling the Center.

Father Miller will present an Evening of Reflection: “Celebrating Lent in the Jubilee Year of Mercy: How to Make a Better Confession” on Thursday, March 10 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Father Miller and Father Piraro will host An Evening of Mercy at Saint Charles Center on Thursday, March 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. The Sacrament of Penance will be available during those hours.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church sponsors its annual Women's Lenten Silent Retreat - “An Ignatian Perspective on the Lenten and

Easter Journey” presented by Fr. Steve Kimmons, S.J. from Friday, March 18 to Sunday, March 20. The retreat is open to any and all women wishing to attend.

“K.I.S.S. Life” (Keep it Sane and Simple) with Sr. Diane Depwe is Tuesday, March 22 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The spring selection for the “Spiritual Book Club,” led by Father Piraro, is The Passion and the Cross” by Father Ronald Rolheiser, a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and presently serving as the head of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. It will take place from 6 to 9 p.m.

on Tuesday, March 22.

The Center's annual Good Friday Meditations, led by Fr. Miller and Fr. Piraro, on Friday, March 25, is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no fee for this event but pre-registration is appreciated.

Information on events, suggested donations, and deadlines to register can be obtained by calling 337-855-1232 or going to stcharlescenter.com. Registration online is available for most events by going to stcharlescenter.net or by clicking on the Registration Events button at the website of the Diocese – live.lcdioocese.org.

Black and Indian Mission Collection Feb. 20-21

LAKE CHARLES -- The 2016 Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) will be taken up in the Diocese of Lake Charles on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20-21. The Diocese receives grants from the collection to aid programs of evangelization among evangelization ministries in African American parishes in this local church.

Among those, are catechetical programs, encouraging vocations, sponsorship of events, including attendance at the

National Black Catholic Congress, and empowering evangelizers. The Black and Indian Mission Collection exists to help communities build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, people of God right here in Southwest Louisiana.

The BIMC has for the last 131 years, changed the landscape of evangelization and education efforts for Native Americans, Alaskan Americans and African Americans throughout the United States.

Call Connie Walker at 337-298-0866 to register or for more information.

March prayer luncheon, breakfast

LAKE CHARLES – The March Ladies Luncheon and Men's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Provost will take place Wednesday, March 2 and Friday, March 4, respectively, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex.

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.

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

Marriage Preparation class, April 16

LAKE CHARLES – Openings for the Saturday, April 16, Marriage Preparation class offered by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles remain.

The class is held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Chancery of the Diocese, 414 Iris Street. Registration is \$100, which includes the Prepare/Enrich online assessment, lunch, and materials. Registration and payment can be achieved online at live.lcdioocese.org by clicking the Event Registration button, then the Marriage Preparation link.

A registration form can also be printed by looking for Marriage Preparation under the forms link.



Jr Catholic Daughters

A Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court was recently established at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church - St. Maria Goretti, Court #1573 with 38 girls installed is shown above. A Catholic school – St. Maria Goretti High School – served the Catholic children of Lake Arthur from 1955 until 1985. Msgr. Ronald Groth, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake, took part in the installation of the new Junior Daughters, Vice State Regent Connie Dronette attended and installed each girl. Each girl received a blue sash and was given a white rose and membership pin. Officers for the newly established court are president, Kayleigh Broussard; vice president, Patsy Beard; secretary, Briley Doan; and treasurer, Alexis Hornsby. The court has grown since its establishment now with 50 members - 31 juniors between 13 and 18 years of age and 19 between seven and 12 years old. The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court in Lake Arthur is the seventh of its kind in Louisiana. Its mission is “helping girls to live lives of service.”

Give to Operation Rice Bowl during Lent

LAKE CHARLES – Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl, the largest and oldest Lenten program practiced by Catholics in the United States, began on Ash Wednesday as it has done for the past 41 years, including here in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Every Lent, Catholics in the United States do something amazing. Their prayers,

fasting and almsgiving become lifesaving aid for millions of individuals living in conditions of poverty around the world. The hungry are fed; the thirsty are given drink; the homeless find shelter.

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities.

Seventy-five percent of gifts

support CRS programs around the world, including agriculture projects help farmers improve harvests; water and sanitation projects bring clean water to communities; microfinance projects support small businesses, mother and child health projects offer health and nutrition services; and education projects provide resources and training.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Lenten Mission, workshop

LAKE CHARLES – Rev. John O'Connor, a priest of the Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand, will be in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church from Feb. 21 through Feb. 25 for a three night mission and a two night workshop.

The Lenten Mission - Jesus Christ – The Face of the Father's Mercy – is from 7 to 8 p.m. from Sunday, Feb. 21 to Tuesday, Feb. 23 in the Church, located at 3939 Lake Street. The two-night workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 24 and Thursday, Feb. 25 runs from 6 to 8 p.m. in the church's Family Life Community Center. Father O'Connor will use the workshop to introduce the Communion & Liberation Movement. A light meal will be served at 6 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Altar Society Gumbo Feb. 28

MOSS BLUFF -- The 32nd Annual St. Theodore's Altar Society Chicken and Sausage Gumbo is Sunday, February 28, in the Activity Center located behind the church. Serving time is 9:20 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Those purchasing for takeout should bring their own containers. Tickets are \$6 per serving and available by calling Linda Mathis at 855-2367 or the St. Theodore office at 855-6662.

There will be music along with cakewalks, dancing, a sweet shop to go along with the delicious gumbo and potato salad.

An American Phenomenon, Feb. 28

LAKE CHARLES - The Lake Charles Kiwanis North will assemble a community choir under the musical direction of

Don McZeal and the artistic supervision of Fred Houston to present its 3rd annual Negro Spiritual and Gospel Sounds: An American Phenomenon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church 2031 Opelousas in Lake Charles on Sunday, February 28 at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact McZeal at 337-853-2163 or Houston at 337-244-1182.

St. Theodore Lenten Mission

MOSS BLUFF -- Rev. Msgr. Ronald Groth, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Arthur, will be speak at the St. Theodore Catholic Church 2016 Lenten Mission Feb. 21 to Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. daily.

Msgr. Groth's message will speak on “Heaven - Purgatory - Hell”;

What Faces Us After Death? Where Shall We Spend Our Eternity?”

Call 337-855-6662 for more information.

Women's Day of Reflection Feb. 27

LAKE CHARLES – “The Woman You Were Made to Be,” a women's day of reflection will be led by Sr. Camille Martinez, SEC, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in St. Louis Catholic High School.

Open to all women, the day is sponsored by Fleur de Lis Therians of Southwest Louisiana.

Early registration, by Feb. 20, is \$25 with registrations after that date being \$30.