



An Easter Message from Bishop Glen John Provost

“Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; let us then feast with joy in the Lord.” Gospel Verse for Easter Sunday (cf. I Corinthians 5:7b-8a)

For my spiritual reading in Lent, I chose the Baptismal Instructions given by St. John Chrysostom to the Church in Antioch around the year 390 A.D. How marvelous the Church is that we can go back into our history, delving into the rich treasure trove of writings by the Fathers of the Church! They speak to us as though they had written yesterday! And what an important work these instructions are. We hear St. John gently leading the sheep of his flock to baptism, to their union with Christ and His Church, explaining to them the teachings of the faith, so that their faith is not just words that they recite in a creed but the living expression of their new life in Jesus Christ.

St. John Chrysostom had only recently been ordained a priest when he gave these instructions. And soon afterward he was elevated to be the Patriarch of Constantinople. St. John Chrysostom had this to say about baptism:

When a man takes and melts down a gold statue which has become filthy with the filth of years and smoke and dirt and rust, he returns it to us all-clean and shining. So, too, God takes this nature of ours when it is rusted with the rust of sin, when our faults have covered it with abundant soot, and when it has destroyed the beauty He put into it in the beginning, and He smelts it anew. He plunges it into the waters as into the smelting furnace and lets the grace of the Spirit fall on it instead of the flames (9th Instruction, no. 22).

This is what happens to the newly baptized at the Easter Vigil. St. John uses the rich image of smelting. For those of us unfamiliar with this process, a little reflection might help. I have seen it done only once but it left quite an impression.

When you apply enough heat to a precious metal, like gold or silver, it becomes liquid and a separation takes place. Any impurities or foreign matter are separated from the precious metal.

At baptism we are washed by waters, which act as a smelting

furnace. The old is burned away. The flames of this furnace are the grace of Holy Spirit. The old enters the waters, and the new arises. Thus, baptism is like a death and rising. For this reason the Church baptizes at Easter and we renew our baptismal promises at the Easter Masses.

Something marvelous and new is happening this Easter. Consider the joy and wonder that Mary Magdalen, Peter and John must have experienced when they discovered the empty tomb. What wonderful thoughts must have filled their minds! Could it be true? Jesus had conquered death. And, finally, when they saw him! What did Mary Magdalen say? “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18).

Rising from the waters, the baptized say the same. “I have seen the Lord.” The old rust and corrosion of sin is burnt away in the smelting of the Easter baptism. “I have seen the Lord.” Indeed, we have seen the Lord in our penitential acts, in the forgiveness He gives us, in the Eucharist that we share, and in the awesome power of eternal life. “I have seen the Lord.” In every sacramental gift that Jesus left us, “I have seen the Lord.”

Spring events scheduled at Saint Charles Center

LAKE CHARLES – Today at Saint Charles Center is the annual Good Friday Meditations from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. led by Fr. Whitney Miller and Fr. Don Piraro.

A brief meditation will be given by Fr. Miller on the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and by Fr. Piraro on the hours of noon and 2 p.m.. After each, a contemplative silence will be observed by all participants until the next hour meditation. Those who plan to attend should bring your own lunch and beverage, if so desired.

April events at Tabor Retreat House include Father Miller offering an Evening of Reflection - “Praying with Mercy: Spiritual Insights from the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Writings of St. Faustina” on Tuesday, April 5 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Fr. Jeffrey Starkovich will offer An Evening of Reflection - “Digital Citizenship” on Wednesday, April 20, from 6 to 9 p.m.

“Honey Communication 101” with Sr. Diane Depwe is Tuesday, April 26 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Two programs will close out the spring offerings - “Undoing Knots: De-Stressing Tech-

niques for Living and Praying,” an Evening of Reflection presented by Fr. Miller and Ms. Laurie Cormier on Tuesday, May 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. and “Apparitions of Mary” with Sr. Diane Depwe on Tuesday, May 17 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Future dates of upcoming Private Retreats include Monday, June 20, 2016 – Sunday, June 26, 2016; Monday, December 12, 2016 – Sunday, December 18, 2016; Monday, March 20, 2017 – Sunday, March 26, 2017; Monday, June 19, 2017 – Sunday, June 25, 2017; and Monday, November 6, 2017 – Sunday, November 12, 2017.

A Beginner/Intermediate Advanced Icon Workshop is set for July 18-24. Contact: Sylvia Marcantel or call the Center at (337) 855-1232 for information.

Saint Charles Center stands a place apart, offering an atmosphere of serenity and peace, where one can experience spiritual renewal and growth – rediscovering life’s meaning in quiet reflection.

Cathedral schedule for Good Friday and Easter Vigil

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, continues the celebration of the Sacred Triduum today with the Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion, and on Saturday with the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

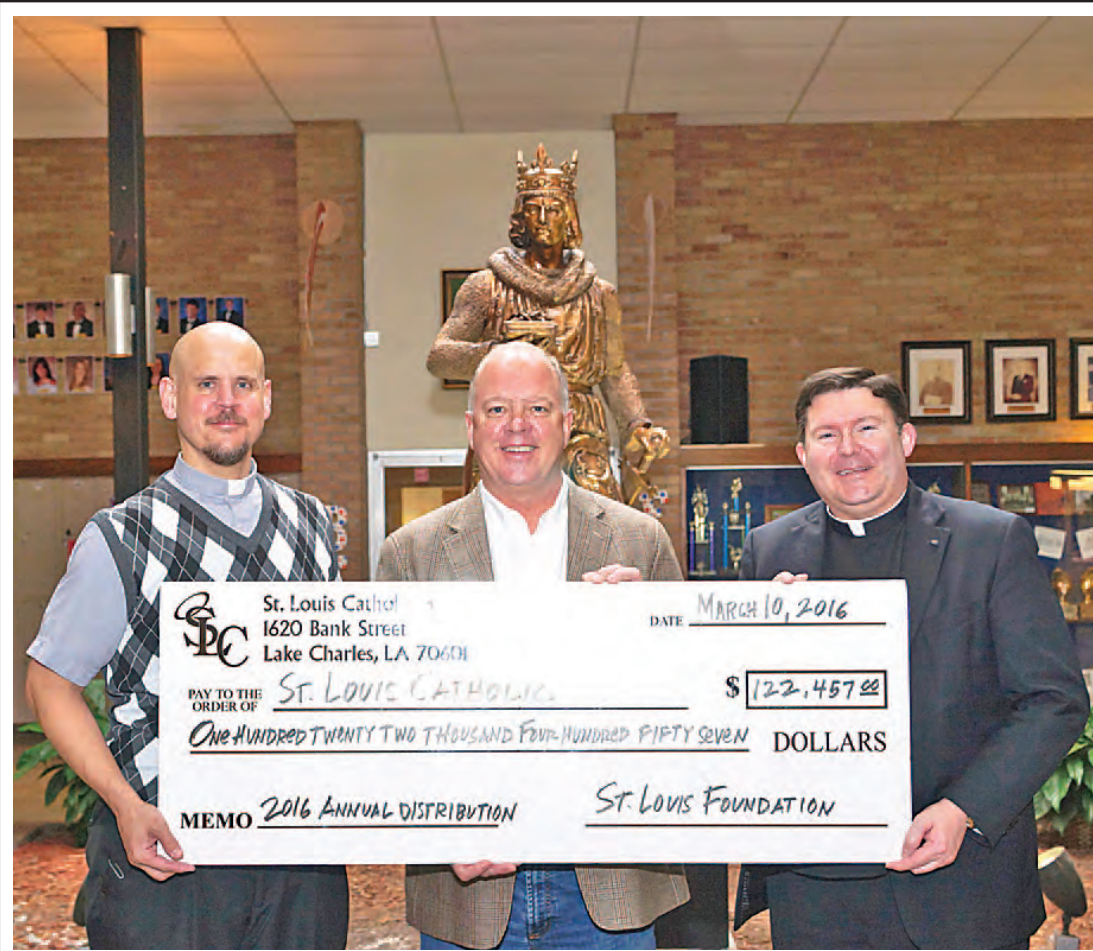
The Mass of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated on Holy Thursday where the Bishop washed the feet of members of the clergy and laity in commemoration of Christ washing the feet of His Apostles.

The celebration of the Lord’s Passion takes place today Good Friday, at 3 p.m. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross, with the faithful recognizing the Cross of Christ as our only

hope of salvation. The celebration concludes with Holy Communion.

Saturday’s Easter Vigil begins at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral. Easter Sunday, March 27, Cathedral Mass times are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.

Bishop Provost will be the bishop of the 9 a.m. Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on Easter Sunday.



The St. Louis Catholic High School Foundation, the Trust Fund for the Future, was established in 1983 for the sole purpose of giving financial assistance to the school. Governed by a Board of Directors, the Foundation distributes one-half of its earned income to the school and reinvests the remaining portion, meaning that every gift to the Foundation is perpetual. This year’s distribution to St. Louis amounted to \$122,457. The presentation of the check is pictured above with, from left, Deacon Christopher Fontenot, St. Louis principal; Bryan Vincent, Foundation Chairman; and the Very Rev. Anthony Fontenot, Rector and Foundation Treasurer. St. Louis Catholic High School is located at 1620 Bank Street in Lake Charles. For information on making a gift to the foundation call 337-436-7275, Ext. 244.



The Junior Catholic Daughters of Court Mother Cabrini 1468 Catholic Daughters of the Americas of Our Lady Help of Christians (OLHC) in Jennings recently met to learn about the special feast day of Our Lady of Altigracia. Though unfamiliar to many in the U.S., it is very important to those in the Dominican Republic where the feast day is a National Holiday. Rita Credes read the story, A Gift of Gracias, to the junior court. Her beautiful Spanish accent added much to the story. The book told the story of Our Lady of Thanks, and how she helped a family who was almost forced to leave their olive farm. She appears to a little girl in a dream showing the family how to remedy the situation by planting orange seeds. The junior daughters heard about the importance of faith and giving thanks. In the photo above, the group watches a presentation on a laptop computer. After hearing the story, the girls ate oranges and made orange smoothies. They were encouraged to educate their families about Our Lady and make smoothies on Our Lady’s feast day, January 21. Late in 2015, the Court began a spiritual adoption program, which ended at the afternoon’s meeting with a discussion of the development of unborn child, then 20 weeks old. The girls sprayed unmarked cans of silly string (blue and pink) to reveal the gender of the baby!



Bishop Glen John Provost, prepares to venerate the cross during the 2015 Good Friday liturgy in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Deacon Chris Gregory, left, and Deacon Christopher Fontenot, right, hold the cross. Today’s Good Friday liturgy is scheduled for 3 p.m. in the Cathedral.

Mother Teresa to be canonized Sept. 4

VATICAN CITY -- After months of anticipation, the date of Mother Teresa’s canonization has finally been announced. It falls on Sept. 4, which this year will also mark a special jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy.

Though it’s been rumored for months that Mother Teresa’s canonization will take

place Sept. 4, the Vatican made the date official during a March 15 consistory of cardinals.

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu Aug. 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia. After joining the Sisters of Loretto at age 17, she was sent to Calcutta, where she later contracted tuberculosis,

and was sent to rest in Darjeeling.

On the way, she felt what she called “an order” from God to leave the convent and live among the poor.

After she left her convent, Mother Teresa began working in the slums, teaching poor children, and treating the sick in their homes.



Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

March 25, 2016

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

LAKE CHARLES – The Pontifical Good Friday Collection offers Catholics worldwide with an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. A donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region.

This collection will be taken up on Friday, March 25, in the churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles and everyone is urged to be as generous as possible.

Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. It is important that Christians continue to live, work and pray in the Holy Land.

Since the time of St. Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked.

Christians in the Holy Land face special challenges – many of which are heard about in the daily news. The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. Like Simon of Cyrene, you can help carry the cross under very difficult circumstances in the Holy Land.

Last year's Good Friday Collection: supported 29 parishes,

four homes for orphans, three academic institutions; helped keep schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students; supported 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers; helped rehabilitate 80 homes for Christian families; provided Senior Care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth; created 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land for Christians; and preserved 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets.

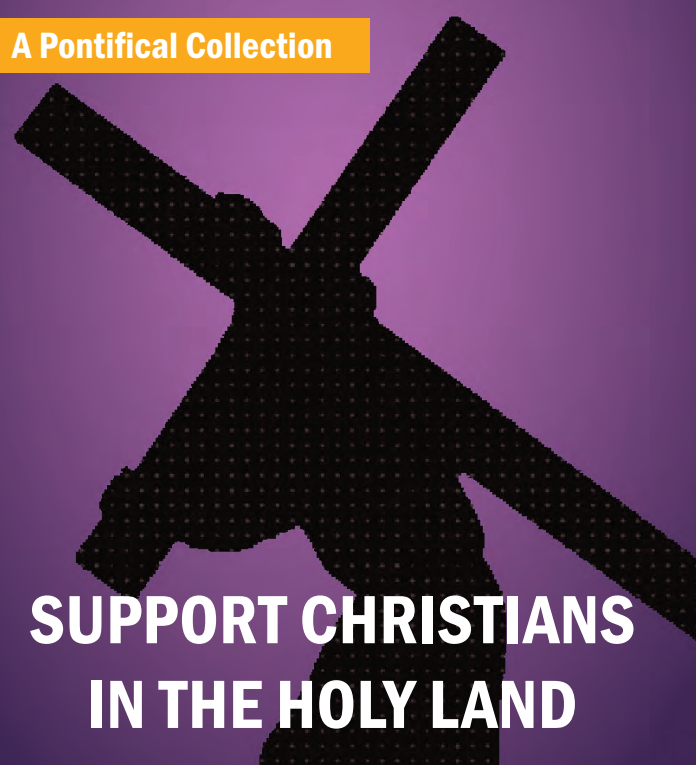
The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your support is vital to helping Christians to live in the Holy Land.

In his letter to the bishops of the world concerning the collection, Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, The Prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches Prefect, said, "The Collection for the Holy Land reminds us of an 'ancient' duty, which the history of recent years has made more urgent, but no less a source of the joy that comes from helping our brothers.

"Good Friday is the day when evil seemed to triumph, as the Innocent One suffered death on the Cross" the Cardinal continued. "It is a day that never seems to end in the Holy Land, where apparently interminable violence must be endured. Broadening our gaze to the whole world, it is no less difficult to give wings to hope for a serene future."

GOOD FRIDAY

A Pontifical Collection



SUPPORT CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

Like Simon of Cyrene, you can help us carry the cross in the Holy Land.

Through the Good Friday Collection, join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

FRANCISCAN MONASTERY OF THE HOLY LAND

1400 Quincy Street NE, Washington, DC 20017
MyFranciscan.org | 202-526-6800

For more information about the Good Friday Collection or the work of the Holy Land Franciscans, visit: MyFranciscan.org/good-friday.



Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM., L.C.S.W., Director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, accepts a donation from Grand Regent Bobby Landry, on behalf of the members of Catholic Daughters Court Katharine Drexel #2697. The Catholic Daughters made donations to Catholic Charities instead of exchanging Christmas gifts. Other officers present included, from left, Allyson Bourriaque, Debbie Savoie, Penelope Richard and Jennifer Jones. Sister addressed the group at their regular January 18, 2016 meeting at the Life Center in Creole, on the various services of Catholic Charities and current efforts to expand to the outlying parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles. (Photo by Michelle Vincent)

Summer Holy Cross course schedule told

LAKE CHARLES – The academic offering from Our Lady of Holy Cross College for the summer semester at the Center for Catholic Studies of the Diocese of Lake Charles is Theology 205: Introduction to Christian Scriptures. Registration deadline is April 8.

The course is an introduction to the Christian Bible, which contains the Old and New Testaments. The unique historical origins and developments of Jewish and Christian scriptural traditions will be examined. Interpretation of the Scripture will be discussed as well as themes, such as covenant, Messiah, Christ, Church, and grace will be explored. The importance of scriptures found in other religious traditions, e.g., Islamic, Hindu, etc., may also be examined.

Rev. Jacob Scott Conner, M.Div., S.T.B., pastor of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Oberlin, will be the instructor for the three credit-hour class, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from June 10 through July 8, at the Catholic Student Center of Our Lady of Good Counsel, 221 Aqua Drive, Lake Charles.

For more information on fees and registering for the course, please contact: Office of Religious Education- Susan Borgman -- (337) 439-7400 -- susan.borgman@lcdioocese.org.

The Center for Catholic Studies is an initiative of the Diocese of Lake Charles that allows students to take Theology courses for college credit. The courses are offered in conjunction with Holy Cross College. Courses are available for credit or audit and may be taken by college students or any interested lay faithful.

Papal schedule for World Youth Day in Poland

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has released a provisional schedule of Pope Francis' visit to Poland for World Youth Day. He will be in the central European nation July 27-31.

The Pope will arrive at Krakow-Balice airport July 27 and meet with president Andrzej Duda and the nation's bishops. Later in the day, he will meet with Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow and greet the crowds from a window

used often by St. John Paul II. On July 28, the Pope is scheduled to visit Czestochowa, the home of the monastery of Jasna Gora, which holds an icon of a Black Madonna, the patroness of Poland. He will say Mass there for the 1,050th anniversary of the baptism of Poland.

The Holy Father will visit Auschwitz July 29, and later celebrate the Way of the Cross in Krakow.

On July 30 Pope Francis will visit the Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow, passing through its Holy Door and visiting the nearby chapel where St. Faustina Kowalska, the 20th-century nun who had visions of Christ upon which the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is based. While there the Pope will say Mass with priests, religious, and seminarians, hear confessions, and lunch with some youth.

Diocesan Briefs.....

April prayer breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES – The April Men's Prayer Breakfast and Ladies Luncheon with Bishop Glen John Provost will take place on Friday, April 8, and Wednesday, April 13, 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.

East Deanery Serra Club golf tournament

JENNINGS – The East Deanery Serra Club sponsors its annual golf tournament at the Jennings Golf and Country Club on Friday, April 8.

A four-person scramble, the event tees off with a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Entry fees are \$300 per team and \$100 for an individual golfer. The field is limited to the first 25 paid teams.

Call Charles D. Savoy at 337-912-2987 for more information and an entry form.

Racial Divide in the U.S. discussion on tap

LAKE CHARLES -- Twenty-eight parishioners from three

Lake Charles churches - Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Henry, and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception are meeting for six Thursdays in Lent to discuss the study promulgated by Belleville, Ill., Bishop Edward Braxton on the Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015.

This pilot project in the Diocese of Lake Charles intends to foster greater communication and deeper understanding by considering the various perspectives that the participants bring to the topics discussed.

More information about this study may be obtained by calling 337-842-7640.

Five-part Bible Study at OLQH

LAKE CHARLES -- A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, a five part Bible study is set for Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. from April 4 through May 2, in the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Center Activity Room.

The \$20 mandatory registration fee provides the attendee with a book and accompanying workbook for the study. Register by March 28 at www.olqh.org or call Felicia at 337-477-1236 for more information.

Marriage Preparation class on May 14

LAKE CHARLES – Openings for the Saturday, May 14, 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 in-

cludes 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.

Johnnie Thibodeaux golf tournament set

LAKE CHARLES -- The Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf Tournament will be Saturday, June 4th at Mallard Cove in Lake Charles. Proceeds benefit the mission work of Abrazando Cristo in Nicaragua.

For registration and information, contact Johnnie Thibodeaux at 337-405-8491 or Susan Thibodeaux at 337-249-6886.

Big Cash giveaway tickets on sale

LAKE CHARLES -- The Mission Big Cash Giveaway for Abrazando Cristo will be Sunday, June 19 and only 500 tickets are being sold at \$100.00 each.

First place prize is \$5,000.00; Second place prize is \$1,000.00; and Third place prize is \$500.00. Proceeds benefit the mission work in Nicaragua in the dioceses of Matagalpa and Granada.

To purchase a ticket, please send your check payable to Abrazando Cristo Mission for the number of tickets you wish (\$100.00 each) and mail to Abrazando Cristo Mission Program, Attn: Monsignor Daniel Torres, 414 Iris Street, LC, LA 70601. The ticket stub(s) will be mailed back.