



## Catholic Charities extends helping hand to flood victims; hopes to expand to aid more

LAKE CHARLES -- During the recent rain events of early March that brought flooding to the communities and homes along the Sabine River, Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana has been busy bringing aid to those affected by high floodwaters. They first mobilized to provide food, clothing, and cleaning supplies.

Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, Director of Catholic Charities, explained, "We cannot restore these people's lives or material goods to what they were before the storm. But we try to restore their faith by helping them get through a rough time until they are able to get back on their feet again."

This isn't the first time Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana has had to step in after a natural disaster. After Hurricane Rita in 2005, Catholic Charities was one of the first aid organizations on the scene and one of the last to leave. Distributing mainly food, clothes, cleaning supplies and construction supplies, the organization was also able to leverage grants and donations to provide gift cards, gas vouchers and other supplies aimed to give people back some normalcy with their day-to-day lives while the clean-up effort was ongoing.

It is this spirit of service that Sister Mary Vianney and other diocesan leaders bring to those who may need assistance in their daily life in communities across the diocese. Catholic Charities is undertaking an outreach program to expand its regular, non-emergency services.

"The Bishop wants to know, are my people being taken care of?" said Blanche Landry, long-time volunteer at Catholic Charities. "There is a common misperception that we don't go beyond Calcasieu

Parish and Lake Charles, that we don't serve the other parishes of this diocese.

"It's not the whole story," she continued. "Sometimes grants and other donations dictate where and when we can go. Our hope is to use the campaign funds we receive to get out of the city and into the lives of people who need us, wherever they may be in our diocese."

The *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign is set to earmark \$800,000, or 5 percent of the \$16 million total goal, to help Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana expand. They plan to use these funds to work with pastors and parish councils through an outreach program designed to match the right services to the neediest in their parish boundaries. This includes expanding capacity for food storage, upgrading the ability to mobilize services, and endowing portions of the campaign funds to pay for additional staff to meet the growing need.

Sister Mary Vianney shared, "Unfortunately, the need isn't disappearing. More and more people are showing up, asking for our assistance to meet their basic needs. Day in and day out people need help and we know as Catholics, we want to help them. Our services have proven to be one of the best ways to do so. One of the best ways for people to live like Christ asked us to live."

The *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign is a landmark effort to raise \$16 million for priests, parishes and ministries. It will begin later this year. Each parish will take part in the campaign during one of three waves and all have been providing information on their start date. If you want to know more about the campaign, please contact your parish or the diocesan Stewardship and Development Office at 337-439-7400.



Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, thanks (1) Caroline Hankins of Lake Charles for her contribution of food for the victims of the recent flooding in Southwest Louisiana. The girl asked her neighbors to donate food to help those displaced and on Tuesday, March 29, she delivered the donation to Catholic Charities. Volunteers from local ACTS ministry groups and Knights of Columbus Councils (2) donned Catholic Charities t-shirts first responders provide meals for those affected from their homes in the Vinton and Starks area as well as sustaining help with hot meals at the Crossroads Baptist Church in Vinton. Non-perishable goods flowed into Catholic Charities' facilities (3) at 1225 Second Street from Second Harvest of New Orleans and Acadiana for flood victims. In the aftermath of Hurricane Rita in 2005, Catholic Charities aided the many displaced victims with (4) food, clothing, gift cards, and in numerous other ways, shown here loaded into the back of a van. Pallets of bottled water and non-perishable foods were delivered to a warehouse (5) for later distribution to those in need. Local help came from individuals and groups (6) who provided, in this case, blankets for those who had lost all.



## Catholic school calendars for 2016-2017 released

LAKE CHARLES -- The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles, located in Calcasieu Parish will begin the 2016-2017 school term on Wednesday, August 17 while Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings opens a week earlier on Wednesday, August 10, coinciding with the opening of Jefferson Davis Parish schools.

The Office of Catholic Schools recently released the calendars for next year's school term. The 2016-2017 term will end at Our Lady Immaculate on Wednesday, May 24. In Calcasieu Parish the schools close Friday, May 26, at St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff, and Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur.

School holidays include Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5; Jennings Fair Day, Friday, October 7 (in Jefferson Davis Parish); Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 10 (in Calcasieu Parish); Thanksgiving, Monday-Friday, Nov. 21-25; Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Thursday, Dec. 8; Christmas, Wednesday, Dec. 21 to Tuesday, Jan. 3; Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 16; Mardi Gras, in Calcasieu, Friday, Feb. 24 to Tuesday, Feb. 28; in Jefferson Davis, Monday, Feb. 27 to Wednesday, March 1; Easter, Friday, April 14 to Friday, April 21.

Special events during the school year include Catholic Schools week, Jan. 29 - Feb. 3, and the Catholic Schools Week Mass on Wed. Feb. 1 at 8:30 a.m. in the Cathedral.

The second annual Quiz Bowl will be Saturday, Dec. 10 in St. Louis Catholic High School.

St. Louis graduation ceremonies are on Tuesday, May 16.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### May prayer breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The final dates for the Men's Prayer Breakfast and Ladies Luncheon for this session with Bishop Glen John Provost are Friday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 11, 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.

### Catholic Charities provides aid to those in need

LAKE CHARLES -- The most recent report from Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana on its aid to the needy of the area shows a total monthly expenditure of \$11,204.60 through the latest reporting period, according to Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, director.

Fifty-three clients were served during the month with 19

## Catholic Charities Jazz Brunch May 1

LAKE CHARLES - Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana hosts its eighth annual Jazz Brunch, the annual fundraiser that sustains the ever-growing ministries of service to the residents of southwest Louisiana, on Sunday, May 1, at the Lake Charles Country Club.

The doors will open at 10:30 a.m. with brunch served at 11:30 a.m.. The event will provide an opportunity to enjoy a traditional southern brunch with Bishop Glen John Provost, while enjoying the sounds of nationally acclaimed saxophonist Huber "Mickey" Smith, Jr., and surprise musical appearances.

The signature item of this year's live auction is a 10-day stay at a 2-bedroom casa (apartment) in Rome owned by the Religious Sisters of Mercy, the order of Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, Director of Catholic Charities. The apartments are located just around the corner from the St. Peter's Basilica and St. Peter's Square, immersing the guests into the everyday culture of the city.

The silent auction will include an array of items from gener-

ous donors.

The 2016 honorees include memorial tributes to Russell Stutes, Sr., and Billy Navarre, longtime icons of church and community support, for their generosity and attentiveness to the needs of others.

Also honored will be Deacon Edward Lavine of Sacred Heart Parish in Lake Charles for his 30 years of service to the Diocese and his work with Catholic Charities, and Ryan Bourriaque of St. Eugene in Grand Chenier for his selfless commitment to the good of all.

Tables are currently being reserved. The Disciple Tables, those closest to Bishop's table, are \$1,500 each, with Friend Tables at \$1,000 and traditional tables at \$700, all seating eight guests. Individual tickets are \$75 each.

To reserve tables, purchase tickets or donate an auction item, contact Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana at (337) 439-7436.

## Catholic Home Missions Appeal April 23-24

WASHINGTON -- The annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be held in the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles on the weekend of April 23-24. This appeal helps to sustain nearly 45 percent of

all dioceses and eparchies in rural and struggling areas of the country and in a number of U.S. territories in the Caribbean and Pacific.

In 2016, the Subcommittee

on Catholic Home Missions allocated over \$10 million to 85 dioceses, including \$155,000.00 for programs and ministries of the Diocese of Lake Charles. The collection

supports evangelization, catechesis, seminarian education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry, and other essential pastoral programs for dioceses in need.

aided with rental payments, two helped in acquiring a TWIC card or Louisiana state ID card; 10 with medication payment assistance, 19 with utility payments, and three with assistance in funeral payments.

### 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 includes the Prepare/Enrich online assessment, lunch, and materials. Registration and payment can be achieved online at live.lcdiocese.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 (\$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 to you.



## Holy Week in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



On Palm Sunday, (1) Bishop Glen John Provost began the liturgy in prayer in the Cathedral's courtyard where he blessed the palms given out to the faithful and (2) blessed the faithful gathered there before leading them (3) into the Cathedral. At the Chrism Mass (4), the priests of the diocese concelebrated with Bishop Provost and the Bishop received and blessed the three oils – the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and holy chrism - used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year. Bishop Provost pours (5) balsam (a scented oil) into the container of olive oil. After the two are stirred together, the Bishop then breathes (6) over the vessel of chrism, a gesture which symbolizes both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate this oil, and the life-giving, sanctifying nature of the sacraments for which it is used. The concelebrants at the Chrism Mass also extend their right hands toward the chrism as the bishop says the consecratory prayer, signifying that in union with their bishop they share "in the authority by which Christ Himself builds up and sanctifies and rules His Body," the Church. On Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Bishop Provost incenses the altar (7). It is at this liturgy where the Bishop emulates Christ's washing of the feet of his disciples by washing of the feet of clergy and laity (8). At the conclusion of the Holy Thursday liturgy, Bishop Provost carries the Blessed Sacrament (9) out of the Cathedral to the day chapel where a prayerful watch is continued throughout the remainder of the evening. After entering the Cathedral silently on Good Friday afternoon, the Bishop prays (10) the opening prayer while the servers, including seminarians of the diocese, prostrate themselves before the bare altar. The large wooden cross is brought up from the back of the Cathedral (11), stopping three times before reaching the altar to be incensed and prayers recited (*Behold the wood of the cross on which hung the salvation of the world* and the response *Come, let us adore*). Bishop Provost receives the cross (12) and then venerates the cross by kissing it (13) followed by the same practice of veneration by the people (14). The Easter Vigil begins after sunset, the start of the new liturgical day, with the Service of Light (15). It is here (16) that the Paschal candle is blessed and then lit, reminding all that Christ is "light and life." Following the homily, Bishop Provost blesses the water that will be used to initiate those received into the Church (17). At the conclusion of the vigil, Bishop Provost wishes (18) Happy Easter to the departing faithful.