



Bishop completes seventh cycle of parish visitations

LAKE CHARLES -- Bishop Glen John Provost completed the seventh cycle of his visitations to the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles since becoming Bishop, with his journey to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jennings on the weekend of March 5-6.

"I am pleased to see the many good things that are happening pastorally in our parishes," Bishop Provost said. "There is a decided interest in Catholic youth activities and an increase in participation.

"Some areas are "exploding" with sacramental participation in marriages and people entering into full communion with the Church, thinking here of St. Theodore Parish in Moss Bluff and St. Pius X Parish in Ragley," he continued. "I wish to mention also the active involvement of parishioners, especially in bereavement ministry and religious education, at Christ the King and Immaculate Conception in Jennings, where I also visited.

"Let us pray for our good parishes and their parishioners; may we continue to build up the People of God, inviting them to a more full communion with Christ in His Church," Bishop Provost concluded.

KC Youth Leadership scholarships awarded to two diocesan youth

BATON ROUGE -- Mark Hollier, a senior at Jennings High School, and Breanna Guidry, a senior at Hathaway High School, received \$500 scholarships from the Knights of Columbus - Louisiana State Council - as finalists in this year's

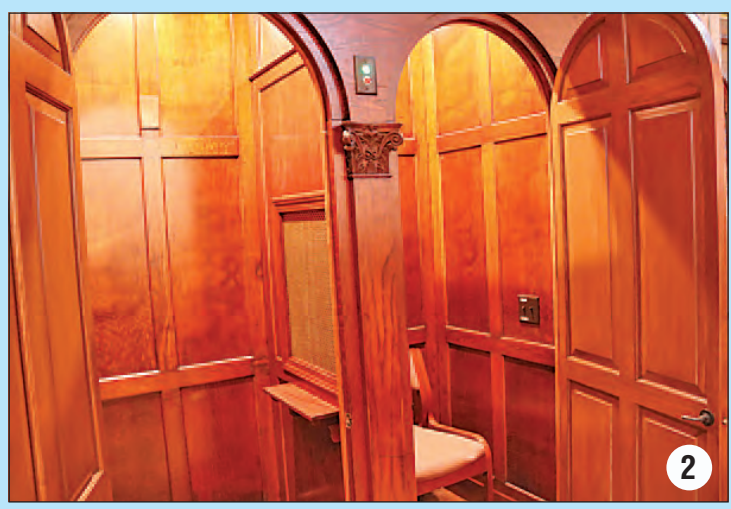
Catholic Youth Leadership Award (CYLA) Scholarship Program.

A total of \$25,000 in scholarships was awarded at the State Finals. Fourteen outstanding Catholic Youth from the seven Catholic dioceses of Louisiana competed.

These young men and women were judged based on spiritual, academic, athletic, community and social activities during their four years of high school. They began the competition by submitting an eight-page application to a local KC council in January. Each KC council selected a top boy and girl applicant to send to the Diocesan level competition during February. At this level, a panel of diocesan area KC judges reviewed and scored applicants from among hundreds of applications!

The final round consisted of a separate panel of judges, including 2 past CYLA winners.

The CYLA program began in 1959 by the Louisiana Society Knights Columbus to recognize outstanding Catholic senior boys. In 1971, the scholarship program began including outstanding Catholic senior girls.



Cathedral Confessionals Restored

Bishop Glen John Provost blessed (1) the two newly restored confessionals in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception during the Octave of Easter on April 1, prior to the start of the Cathedral's noon-day liturgy. The work began with the hope of its completion in time for Divine Mercy, Sunday April 3, according to Reverend Rommel Tolentino, pastor. "It has been fully funded by donations from generous parishioners and benefactors alike," Father Tolentino said. "The north confessional, which had been used for a number of years as a closet (2) was restored and will be used generally as a secondary confessional for special occasions like the Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School's First Reconciliation, Divine Mercy Sunday, Penance Services, etc. when we need more than one Confessional." The scope of the work to the north confessional includes: installing confessional indicator lights, restoring the confessional wall with screen, making the doors swing outward to give more room inside, according to Father Tolentino. "The south confessional, because it is bigger, will remain the primary Confessional," Father Tolentino continued. "It will still have the option to kneel or sit. The scope of work there included: removing the wallpaper, skimming the ceiling to smooth with the finish, installing recessed lights, replacing the Confessioning indicator lights, building a confessional wall with screen, painting the walls and ceiling, removing the carpet to replace it with a new floor. Father Ruben Buller, Director of Liturgy, said, "The sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance is an important aspect for every Christian man and woman. Therefore, the confessional should match this importance. In his consultation with me, Father Tolentino made every effort to design a confessional that is both functional for the number of penitents that the Cathedral serves on a daily basis and reminds us of the dignity of the sacrament."

CHRISTUS St. Patrick Celebrates Anniversary

LAKE CHARLES -- CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital celebrated its 108th anniversary on St. Patrick's Day with Mass in the Convent Chapel and the annual Grace Gardens Brick Dedication and Blessing Ceremony following.

The hospital's anniversary marks 108 years of delivering dignity, integrity, excellence, compassion and stewardship in healthcare through a mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Grace Gardens Brick Dedication and Blessing is celebrated annually on the hospital's anniversary. Located near the Convent Chapel, Grace Gardens is a quiet, green space with fountains and benches where people can sit meditate and experi-

ence God's healing presence and love. The CHRISTUS St. Patrick Foundation offers the community the opportunity to honor or remember loved ones by purchasing etched bricks that are placed in Grace Gardens and presented to the community during the dedication ceremony.

CHRISTUS St. Patrick was the first hospital in Lake Charles and was dedicated on St. Patrick's Day in 1908 as St. Patrick Sanitarium, with 50 beds, an operating room and a sterilizing room. The name was later changed to CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital, which has continued its tradition of dedication and quality medical care for these past 108 years.



Rev. Brian King celebrated Mass in the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word at CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital on St. Patrick's Day marking the 108th anniversary of the founding of the hospital in 1908 as St. Patrick Sanitarium. Concelebrants at the Mass included Msgr. Charles Dubois and Father Charles Okorougo. Following the liturgy, Father King, aided by Donald Lloyd II, hospital administrator, blessed the Grace Gardens of the hospital.

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 this weekend - 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

tee 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, seminary education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry, and other essential pastoral programs for dioceses in need.

Bishop Provost visits Catholic Schools



Each year, Bishop Glen John Provost visits each Catholic school in the Diocese of Lake Charles to speak with the students and view their progress. Schools visited during the 2015-2016 school term were Our Lady Immaculate in Jennings, Our Lady Queen of Heaven in Lake Charles, Our Lady's School in Sulphur, Holy Family in Moss Bluff, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Louis Catholic High School, all in Lake Charles. The Bishop takes questions from students at Our Lady Immaculate in photo 1, while in photo 2, he visits an advanced Spanish language class at St. Louis, and in photo 3, Bishop Provost makes the sign of the cross with young students at St. Margaret before offering a Hail Mary for the intentions of their parents.



Diocesan Briefs.....

May prayer breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The final Men's Prayer Breakfast and Ladies Luncheon for this session with Bishop Glen John Provost will be 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.

Marriage Preparation class on June 18

LAKE CHARLES -- Openings for the Saturday, June 18,

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 going to Marriage Preparation under the forms link on the website.

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

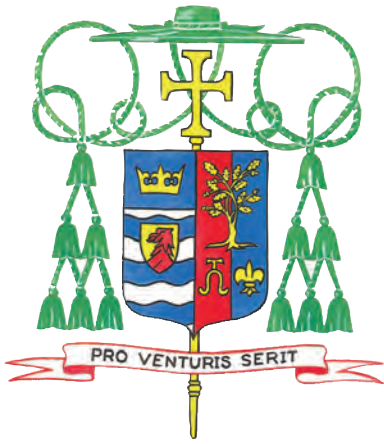
To purchase a ticket, send your check payable to Abrazando Cristo Mission for the number of tickets you wish to purchase at \$100.00 each and mail to Abrazando Cristo Mission Program, Attn: Monsignor Daniel Torres, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. The ticket stub(s) will be mailed back to you.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

April 22, 2016



April 22, 2016
Friday

My dear People of God,

May the graces of this joyful Easter Season be yours in abundance!

Our Lord taught us in the Gospel, “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more” (Luke 12:48). We are to be good stewards.

With these treasures in mind and in a spirit of openness, I wish to present the accompanying financial statements of the Diocese of Lake Charles for your review.

An independent accounting firm conducted an audit of our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. If you would desire greater detail or have any questions, please feel free to contact our diocesan Office of Administration (439-7400).

Please note that, in keeping with established practice, this financial statement does not include the financial reports of individual parishes within the Diocese. Each pastor is responsible for reporting publicly the financial statement of his parish in the parish bulletin.

I appreciate your continued support, especially to the Bishop’s Services Appeal. Many less fortunate rely on your generosity. Only with your assistance can we address their needs.

With gratitude and blessings to you, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

THE SOCIETY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2015
(With comparative totals as of June 30, 2014)

	2015	2014
Assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 8,588,957	\$ 8,073,024
Investments and securities	986,413	964,268
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$0	148,673	144,271
Grants and contributions receivable in less than one year, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$0	471,866	169,311
Loans receivable	81,494	89,595
Cash value of life insurance policies	627,862	600,168
Prepaid insurance and other expenses	381,716	388,976
Property, equipment, and improvements, net	8,686,669	8,599,504
Investments pledged as collateral	100,000	100,000
Beneficial interest in securities held in trust	1,914,434	2,000,239
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 21,988,084	\$ 21,129,356
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 497,382	\$ 686,021
National collections and other payables	267,049	150,396
Accrued insurance claims	184,048	158,961
Contributions payable	78,389	117,090
Deferred revenue	30,225	34,125
Contingent liabilities	-	400,000
Total liabilities	\$ 1,057,093	\$ 1,546,593
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$ 8,988,233	\$ 8,395,749
Designated for specific purposes	8,532,810	7,750,239
Total unrestricted net assets	17,521,043	16,145,988
Temporarily restricted	1,850,605	1,895,822
Permanently restricted	1,559,343	1,540,953
Total net assets	\$ 20,930,991	\$ 19,582,763
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 21,988,084	\$ 21,129,356

Statement of Activities

Year Ended June 30, 2015
(With comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2014)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2015 Totals	2014 Totals
Support and Revenue:					
Parochial tithe	\$ 2,648,767	-	-	2,648,767	2,446,705
Diocesan assessments	6,414,013	137,000	-	6,551,013	6,271,353
Diocesan appeals	73,728	218,046	-	291,774	239,824
Contributions and bequests	132,124	896,988	-	1,029,112	957,058
Grants	55,226	862,391	-	917,617	591,812
Investment income	97,217	80,357	18,390	195,964	284,018
Loss from disposal or impairment of property	(7,088)	-	-	(7,088)	(3,447)
Special programs and other revenues	1,029,565	-	-	1,029,565	1,039,637
Less: cost of direct benefits to donors	(59,904)	-	-	(59,904)	(50,558)
Net assets released from restrictions	2,239,999	(2,239,999)	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 12,623,647	\$ (45,217)	\$ 18,390	\$ 12,596,820	\$ 11,776,402
Expenses:					
Program expenses					
Clergy life	1,018,077	-	-	1,018,077	920,579
Christian formation	2,321,012	-	-	2,321,012	2,454,869
Pastoral services	1,551,976	-	-	1,551,976	1,381,877
Health care and casualty insurance	5,139,827	-	-	5,139,827	5,267,986
Supporting Services					
General administration	1,099,914	-	-	1,099,914	1,107,645
Fund raising	117,786	-	-	117,786	133,996
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,248,592	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,248,592	\$ 11,266,952
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 1,375,055	\$ (45,217)	\$ 18,390	\$ 1,348,228	\$ 509,450
Net assets, beginning of year	16,145,988	1,895,822	1,540,953	19,582,763	19,073,313
Net assets, end of year	\$ 17,521,043	\$ 1,850,605	\$ 1,559,343	\$ 20,930,991	\$ 19,582,763

How the capital campaign fits into the diocesan budget

As stewards of a multi-million dollar operating budget, the Diocese of Lake Charles is just able to fund its ongoing missions and obligations. However, given that revenue the diocese receives is already earmarked each year, it is difficult for the diocese to invest in needed strategic priorities without an extraordinary effort.

The Bishop’s Services Appeal and parish assessments provide a base level of funding that allows the diocese ministries, offices and programs to do their good work from year to year. The *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign will focus on long-term, strategic priorities that can only be addressed through an extraordinary effort. Together, the two efforts will strengthen our parishes and ministries this year and for years to come.

The goals of this campaign would take decades, if ever, to complete within the regular budget process. That is why extraordinary support is needed. The diocese is dedicated to making sure parishioners are confident that all funds the diocese receives, whether through the Bishop’s Services Appeal, *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign or any other gifts, will be used prudently and effectively as the diocese has an independent party conduct annual audits.

Reverend Ruben Buller, Secretary for the Ministry of Administration of the diocese, said, “The one-time gifts and payments on pledges we receive for the capital campaign are going into a separate designated fund, not the general fund of the diocese. That way we can ensure transparency and accountability when it comes to things such as crediting parishes for all of their gifts

or making sure a donor that designates their gift to go to only one or two of the campaign’s goals are respected. This isn’t an easy task for a small staff like ours, but it’s necessary to respect the will of the donors and ensure the goals are funded appropriately.”

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 has been provided 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.



April 24 is Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for abused children

PORT ISABEL, Texas – This Sunday, April 24, is the Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for Abused Children, which is always held on the final Sunday of April - Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Over 1,600 children die annually as victims of child abuse with most under the age of three and victims of

neglect. The majority of victims are boys and most of the deaths were caused by family members

Each year six million children become new victims of abuse. Additionally two-thirds of those in drug treatment as adults reported being abused as a child. Eight percent of the prison popula-

tion were once in foster care and within one year of aging out of foster care, 66 percent will be homeless, in jail or die

The day is called Blue Sunday, because blue is the accepted “memorial ribbon” color for honoring the victims of child abuse.

National Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for Abused Children began in 1994 with 20 churches but has grown to include over 7.4 million participants on five continents. All that is asked is that we all take a moment to pray for abused children and for those who rescue them.