



Cramers Assembly presents annual honors banquet

LAKE CHARLES – Msgr. Cramers Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus 71st Anniversary Banquet honored Vice Supreme Master Russell Ruh of the Bienville Province recently along with the Assembly handing out eight other annual awards.

Sir Knight of the Year was presented to Lewis Gaudet, Assembled Family of the Year was given to John and Nila Halloran, and Sam Battaglia was named the John W. O'Reilly Sr. Memorial Award winner for 2015-2016.

Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso was honored with the Lawrence Touns, Jr. Memorial Award while Jeanne LeBato was presented with the Diocese of Lake Charles Citizen of the Year Award.

The Anthony J. Abate Memorial Award was presented this year to Rev. Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church, Vicar Gener-

al of the Diocese, and director of seminarians and vocations.

The Howard Jaubert Award was given to Jack O'Reilly and the Charles C. Jaubert Memorial Award sent to James M. Cliff McCain of Keithville, La.

Sir Cliff Ruh spoke about the importance of the military chaplaincy program in the United States Armed Forces.

"Those service men and women might go months at a time without seeing a minister of any denomination, not just Catholic," Ruh said. He also pointed out the Knights of Columbus offer full scholarships to seminarians with the caveat that when they are ordained they sign up for four years as a Catholic chaplain."

Faithful Navigator Peter Snatic of Msgr. Cramers Assembly Fourth Degree welcomed those in attendance and Sir Knight Bill Marcantel served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Trey Ange diaconate ordination

LAKE CHARLES – Trey Ange, a native of Lake Charles and a third-year theology seminarian at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans is scheduled to be ordained to the transitional diaconate, the penultimate step to priestly ordination, on Wednesday, August 10 at 6 p.m. in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

Bishop Glen John Provost will be the ordaining prelate.

A parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Ange graduated from St. Louis Catholic High School in 2002 after completing St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School. He entered McNeese State University and graduated in 2006 with a B.A. in Mass Communications. During his time at the University, Ange worked for the Calcasieu Parish Government Access Channel (C-Gov).

He moved to Austin, Tex. in 2007 and worked for the Catholic Diocese of Austin un-



Trey Ange

til 2011 when he returned to Lake Charles.

As a seminarian of the Diocese, Ange attended St. Joseph Seminary College, graduating in 2013 and is now at Notre Dame. He will graduate in 2017.

Ange served as an intern in the Office of Communications of the Diocese during the summer of 2014.

Ange is one of five first cousins – Joshua Page, Adam Richard, Joseph Caraway, Michael Caraway – studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Teen leadership training July 7-13

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) and Advanced Christian Leadership Institute (ACLI) are set for Thursday, July 7, through Wednesday, July 13, at Camp Mary Hill, 600 Mary Hill Road, Pineville, La.

CLI and ACLI are weeklong training experiences sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles focusing on developing and sharpening leadership skills in a Christian manner that can be used in every aspect of their lives. The focus of the training includes the following:

- Effective communication skills
- Facilitation skills
- Decision making skills
- Consensus seeking skills
- Temperament and leadership styles
- Male/female leadership styles
- Living the Catholic Faith
- Call to ministry

The training involves experiential learning and is reinforced by hands-on activities and small group challenges. The young people themselves play a part in shaping the routine activities of each day from waking up in the morn-

ing, to setting the environment and planning prayer for meals, morning and evening prayer, the evening liturgy and the evening socials. ACLI takes the skills learned at CLI and continues to sharpen the skills and planning process on a larger scale. It is an exciting and transforming experience!

This year there is a 150 teen limit, 75 boys and 75 girls, for the camp and registration is on a first come first serve basis, according to Milissa Thibodeaux, director of Youth Ministry.

"To guarantee a spot, a completed registration form and the \$150 deposit must be turned into the diocesan office at 411 Iris Street by Thursday, June 2," Thibodeaux said. "Cost of the camp is \$450, which includes meals, lodging, leadership materials, transportation to/from the camp, ropes course fees and t-shirt."

Once all the spots are filled, teens will be placed on a waiting list by gender.

Attendees may make the first of the two final payments of \$150 by Thursday, June 16 and the final payment of \$150 by Thursday, July 7.

Contact the Youth Ministry Office at 337-439-7400, Ext. 301 for more information.



The 71st Anniversary Banquet for Msgr. Cramers Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus was held recently. The meeting was dedicated to Vice Supreme Master Russell Ruh (1) from Baton Rouge. Honors at the event went to (2) Lewis Gaudet, Knight of the Year; (3) Sam Battaglia John W. O'Reilly, Jr., Memorial Award; (4) Jeanne LeBato, Diocese of Lake Charles Citizen of the Year; (5) Rev. Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, Anthony J. Abate Memorial Award and (6) James Cliff McCain, The Charles C. Jaubert Memorial Award.



Flooding tests faith of Abbey, Seminary

ST. BENEDICT, La. -- The day had begun like most. Heavy rain before dawn on Friday, March 11 had dissipated by morning prayer for the seminarians at Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College. Although the rain had stopped, the Bogue Falaya River continued to rise.

By 11 a.m., Fr. Jude Israel, O.S.B., dean of students, had begun asking students to begin moving cars from the flooded back parking lot. Just an hour later, he announced that all cars had to be moved because the entire campus was becoming submerged. Soon the entire campus would be under two feet of water.

Seminarians and monks on ground floors began to scramble to higher ground.

Seminarian Josue Vasquez-Weber said many seminarians on the first floor of Vianney Hall began to lift belongings off the floor in their rooms.

"None of our efforts were quick enough. By 1 p.m., we had water trickling into the building. By 2 p.m., we had a foot or two of water showing through the glass door, and it was rushing in through the cracks of the door. A little after that, we had to evacuate because the water kept rising and it wasn't safe to be there," Vasquez-Weber said.

Nobody was hurt, but 31 buildings took on water, including the basement of the chapel, damaging electrical and air conditioning systems crucial for maintaining the integrity of the chapel's murals by artist Dom Gregory de Wit. Clean up, remediation, and mitigation/renovation of the campus is expected to take quite some time and preliminary estimations exceed \$30 million.

Nine seminarians of the Diocese of Lake Charles are studying at St. Joseph College, including Addison Pitre, St. Joan of Arc, Oberlin; Andrew DeRouen, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Lake Charles; Michael Beverung, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Lake Charles; Eric Gruspier, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Lake Charles; Olin Chester, St. Joseph, Vinton; Josh Page, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Sulphur; Adam Richard, Christ the King, Lake Charles; and Alec January, St. Philip Neri, Kinder.

President-Rector of the Seminary College, Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., says the students and the monastic community have come back together stronger than ever as a community.

"Years from now, these young men probably won't remember the football game they won, that bad grade they made on an exam or the sleep they lost studying for finals, but they'll remember how this flood brought them closer to their fellow brothers and gave them the opportunity to really become a better priest and a better man. God sometimes presents us with unexpected opportunities to grow in faith. It's not always given to us in a pretty package," Boquet said.

Cleanup started immediately the day after the flood. Students left the following week, returning after Easter. Thanks to the hard work of faculty and staff, they will finish on time this semester.

However there is still much to be done, and Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., is humbled by the generosity he has witnessed since March 11.

"The outpouring of support has been a blessing. Even as others are still dealing with their own issues from the devastating effects of the flood, many still have asked how they can help. It's truly a testament to how strong the bond is between the Abbey and the community," said Abbot Brown.

If you are interested in finding out more about the flood and want to help, visit helptheabbey.com.



Unprecedented flooding took its toll at St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College in early March. Lake Charles seminarian Eric Gruspier (1) stands in nearly thigh high water taking a break from sandbagging operations (2) being handled by other seminarians. Damage to the St. Joseph Abbey Church (3), above one of 31 buildings affected by the flood, was significant.



Capital Campaign to Assist Priestly Vocations

One of the primary components to the upcoming Return to the Lord Capital Campaign will be to ensure young men contemplating a life in the priesthood have the support they need throughout their formation process. The campaign is dedicating 20 percent - \$3,200,000 of the \$16,000,000 total goal - to the Seminarian Education Fund.

The Diocese covers 40 percent of the cost for a young man in seminary training as he begins his discernment. This happens over the first two- to four-years depending on the level of education the individual has beforehand. When the seminarian student moves on towards his theology degree (equivalent to a four-year graduate school degree), the Diocese pays 100 percent of the education costs.

The Seminarian Education Fund fuels the diocese's efforts to attract quality young men to the religious life. Recent efforts for the diocese have been successful in recruiting a record-breaking number (16) of men to the seminary. Monsignor Daniel A. Torres, Vicar General and Director of Seminarian Education, believes that trend appears likely to continue. "Higher numbers of students, mean higher costs for the Diocese. But, it is a good 'problem' to have. It means we have more young men ready to fill the role of shepherd to Christ's flock throughout our diocese," said Monsignor Torres. Diocesan officials said the funds of the campaign will be endowed so interest earned can be used to help cover the \$34,375 average annual cost of educating and forming our future priests.

The support from the diocesan faithful is not lost on seminary students either. Trey Ange, a Lake Charles native, who is a third year theology seminarian at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, said "I appreciate that God has chosen me to this calling. While it is filled with challenges, the blessings of this vocation are so much more rewarding. To know that parishioners I have not even met yet have sacrificed for me is very humbling. It makes me realize that my service to them is all part of God's plan."

The diocese utilizes three main seminaries to help educate and form young priests: St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana; Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans; and the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Monsignor Torres explained how the diocese tries to take advantage of opportunities to send seminarian students to Rome for part of their education. "Not only is it an eye-opening and heart-opening experience for their mind and soul, but because the North American College provides scholarships from its own foundation to help subsidize some of the costs of our seminarians' education expenses, the North American is actually less expensive than seminaries here in the United States. It's a win-win for us and them."

The diocese uses the annual special vocations collection to meet current, ongoing costs. Special offertories and income from seminarian burses make up 39 percent of the annual costs. The rest is covered from the diocesan operating budget (from the general fund which was shared in the last issue of the Catholic Calendar). The plan for this campaign is to build the Seminarian Education Fund to generate income to make up the remaining costs and put the diocese in a stronger position to maintain a high number of seminary enrollments for the future.

Robert Boxie to be ordained in June

WASHINGTON, DC -- Lake Charles native and St. Louis Catholic High School graduate Deacon Robert Boxie is set to be ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Wash-

ington, DC on Saturday, June 25, at 10 a.m. in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (upper church).

Diocesan Briefs.....

Family Sacred Heart Mission

JENNINGS -- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church will host the Family Sacred Heart Mission from Sunday, May 15, to Wednesday May 18 in the church here.

Presenters are Reverend Fr. William Gaffney & Mrs. Gloria Anson, both Redemptorist Missionaries. Mass is at 9 a.m. on Sunday with the mission set for 6:45 p.m. each day through Wednesday.

Mass to Avert Storms June 3

CAMERON -- Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Mass to Avert Storms beginning at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, at Historic Shrine and Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron.

The Bishops of the State of Louisiana - The Province of New Orleans - have called for the day to be one of Fasting and Prayer.

The 2016 Hurricane Season begins on Monday, June 1, but the celebrating the Mass on this particular day and time may help facilitate attendance by a greater number of the faithful, including long-time residents of Cameron that have moved away because of Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

Rev. Archimandrite Herbert May, pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole, will concelebrate along with the pastors of the other coastal churches - Father Clyde Thomas of St. Eugene Catholic Church in Grand Chenier and Father Gijo Ikaramattom, H.G.N., of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry.

May prayer breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The final Men's Prayer Breakfast and

The Most Reverend John Douglas Deshotel, 64, was installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Bishop Deshotel is a native of Basile and a priest of the Diocese of Dallas, being ordained in 1978. In 2010, Bishop Deshotel was ordained as a bishop and served since that time as the auxiliary bishop of Dallas. He succeeds Bishop Michael Jarrell, also a native of Southwest Louisiana, at Lafayette. Pope Francis appointed him to his new post on February 17. Bishop Deshotel offered a blessing to all those gathered in the Cathedral, which included more than 100 diocesan priests, deacons, and seminarians from the Diocese of Lafayette, as well as more than 150 of Bishop Deshotel's extended family and friends. Others in attendance included several clergy from the Diocese of Dallas; Catholic bishops from throughout Louisiana, (including Bishop Glen John Provost of Lake Charles), Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, and Florida; interfaith guests; civil officials; and representatives of the Diocese of Lafayette. At Bishop Deshotel's taking of his cathedra, the symbol of episcopal ministry, he was presented with the bishop's crosier or staff that belonged to Bishop Maurice Schexnayder who had ordained Bishop Deshotel in 1978.

Photo: Courtesy M. Walker Photography



Pope: No phone app for love, happiness

VATICAN CITY -- Freedom does not come from things we possess or from doing whatever we want, Pope Francis said in his homily for the recent Jubilee for boys and girls. Rather, true freedom and happiness can only be found in the love of Jesus.

"Your happiness has no price," the Pope said during Mass in St. Peter's Square. "It cannot be bought: it is not an app that you can download on your phones nor will the latest

update bring you freedom and grandeur in love.

"That is because love is a free gift which calls for an open heart," he said. "It is a noble responsibility which is life-long; it is a daily task for those who can achieve great dreams!"

Francis challenged the young teens to not "be content with mediocrity," or believe those who equate importance with the sort of toughness shown by heroes in films, or by

wearing the "latest fashions."

"Don't believe those who would distract you from the real treasure, which you are, by telling you that life is beautiful only if you have many possessions."

Delivering his homily to the over 90,000 people overflowing the Square, Pope Francis assured the teens that, because of their friendship with Christ, they are never alone.

"Even if you disappoint him and walk away from him,

Jesus continues to want the best for you and to remain close to you; he believes in you even more than you believe in yourself.

"The biggest threat to growing up well comes from thinking that no one cares about us, from feeling that we are all alone," he said. "The Lord, on the other hand, is always with you and he is happy to be with you."

Moreover, Jesus calls young people to follow him, just as he did the first disciples, the Pope added. "Jesus is waiting patiently for you. He awaits your response. He is waiting for you to say 'yes'."

The Jubilee for boys and girls, geared specifically towards young teenagers, is the latest initiative for the Holy Year of Mercy, which began on December 8. The three-day event started Saturday with the sacrament of reconciliation in St. Peter's Square -- where Pope Francis himself heard confessions -- followed by a youth rally in Rome's Olympic Stadium.

2016 Vocation Drawing Contest Winners



Bishop Glen John Provost, right, along with Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich, left, presented the three winners of the 2016 Vocation Drawing Contest following the Sunday April 17 liturgy at the Cathedral on the Immaculate Conception -- World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The first place winner - Krystal Moreau center, - is a tenth grade student of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Oberlin and her winning effort is at right. Second place went to Halle Ortego, standing in front of Father Starkovich, nine years old and parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Lake Charles while third place was garnered by Madelyn Elliott, a second grade student of Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School in Lake Charles, standing at Bishop Provost's right. Also that day, vocation directors from the parishes of the Diocese came to the Cathedral to receive candles to bring back to their home parishes praying for increases in vocations to religious life.



Artwork by Krystal Moreau, age 15, Tenth Grade, Oberlin High School, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

Ladies Luncheon for this session with Bishop Glen John Provost is 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.

Wedding jubilee celebration set

LAKE CHARLES -- The Diocese of Lake Charles Office of Family Life will sponsor the annual Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, June 5, at the 11:15 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant.

Couples celebrating their Silver (25 years) or Gold (50 years) as well as those celebrating anniversaries in multiples of five above those years -- 55, 60, 65, 70, and 75, etc. are also invited to attend.

Following the liturgy, Bishop Provost will present special certificates to the couples honoring them for their longtime Christian marriage commitment.

A reception will be held for the couples and family members in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral office complex at 935 Bilbo Street.

Contact your parish church office to register by May 27.

Marriage Preparation class in August

LAKE CHARLES -- Openings for the Saturday, August 20, 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 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.