



Trey Ange ordained to Diaconate

LAKE CHARLES – Deacon Sam Anthony Ange III, known more familiarly as Trey by family and friends alike, was ordained a deacon by Bishop Glen John Provost on Wednesday, Aug. 10, the feast day of St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr.

Deacon Ange is a Lake Charles native, a graduate of St. Louis Catholic High School, and is currently serving at St. Theodore Catholic Church in Moss Bluff, under the tutelage of Father John Huckaby. He will return for his final studies in theology at Notre Dame Seminary in late October.

Even torrential rains could not stop the deacon's many friends and family from being a part of this important step on his journey to the priesthood. With God's grace, he is scheduled for priestly ordination on Saturday, June 3, 2017. As a transitional deacon, Ange was ordained with a commitment to celibacy.

The ministry of a deacon is similar to but different from that of a priest or bishop. A deacon is ordained and missioned by Christ through the bishop to minister to the needy and the poor and to be a minister of Word and Sacrament, working in obedience to his bishop and in close fraternal cooperation with priests. While all Christians are called to serve others, the deacon is an official sign of this service and he solemnly promises to be a living example of such service for others.

In Bishop Provost's homily, given with Ange seated before him, he spoke of the story of Deacon St. Lawrence.

"The 4th Century Roman Christian poet, Prudentius, tells us that the deacon, St. Lawrence, went to his martyrdom in 258 A.D. praying for the conversion of pagan Rome. The Emperor Valerian had issued edicts of persecution against Christians, which consequently brought about the death of Pope St. Sixtus II and four days later the ultimate sacrifice of St. Lawrence.

"From St. Ambrose we hear the famous story of how St. Lawrence was bound and placed on a grill over a slow fire," the Bishop continued. "According to St. Ambrose, he turned to his executioners and said with a cheerful smile, 'Let my body be turned; one side is broiled enough.' After further torment over the flames, he again spoke, 'It is cooked enough. You may eat.'"

Indeed St. Lawrence embodied the "grain of wheat," that food of which our Lord speaks in the Gospel for this Feast. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." It is this fruit that is eaten and feeds us still.

"For the grain of wheat is the Lord Himself. He gives His own flesh up to death so that we might share it at His altar. Partaking of it, we have life, and in shining in it we learn the important lesson of identifying with Him. 'Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.'"

Continuing, Bishop Provost said, "Our Lord gave His life for us. The grain of wheat died to yield much fruit. It was planted so that from the soil could spring new life, not just once but through the ages until our present time. Death and Resurrection — this is the lesson our Lord teaches us and the Paschal mystery that the Deacon Lawrence, as servant, lived.

"Are you willing to live the Paschal mystery? Are you ready to follow our Lord as servant? This is the question that must be asked. Being a servant has implications. A servant offers himself completely to the will of the master. The servant works over and above the call of duty. Are you ready? It is not easy to be grilled alive, to be stretched over the slow fire of persecution, to face with courage even death to self.

"Are you ready to be something different? To give your life as the ransom of the many? As I said earlier, Prudentius writes that St. Lawrence prayed for the conversion of Rome. From that time, pagan worship declined in Rome. Even St. Augustine recognized that St. Lawrence had left behind a significant witness. The grain of wheat had died to produce an abundant harvest. Where will the continuing witness of that martyrdom be in your own life? The answer to that question is hidden in God's Will and in your willingness to cooperate with whatever He has decided for you. Be obedient, be open, die to self, and live as a servant."



Bishop Glen John Provost ordained Lake Charles seminarian Sam Anthony "Trey" Ange III as a transitional deacon on Wednesday, Aug. 10, in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Moss Bluff until his return to Notre Dame Seminary in October. In photo 1, Ange stands with his parents – Evette Caraway Ange and Sam Ange Jr. as the procession of priests and deacons enter the church. The Bishop's homily for the Mass, with Ange listening intently in photo 2, and deacons to the seminary as well as to those in consecration. Photo 3 shows Bishop Provost, as he holds his hands above Ange's head, praying the Prayer of Consecration. In photo 4, Deacon Garrett Caraway, a deacon of St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Westlake and Deacon Ange's grandfather, exchanges the Kiss of Peace with the newly ordained.



Bishop Provost comments on the need for conversion

By Bishop Glen John Provost, M.A., D.D.
We need a prophetic call to conversion. Horrific acts of violence and terrorist attacks only seem to increase around the world, in our nation, and in our communities.

I touched upon this topic and our response to it in my pastoral letter on Friday abstinence last year (September 4, 2015). In this letter, I mentioned that many good people request that we have a "day of prayer and fasting" in response to some tragic event. For Catholics, every Friday should be a day of prayer and fasting. We should not think of God as we do an insurance policy, only when we pay our premium or collect benefits.

The failures of the human condition are an ever-present reality. We cannot ignore them. God, on the other hand, has given us a remedy and a hope in His Son Jesus Christ. Our Lord called us to repentance, to acknowledge our sins, seek forgiveness, and change our lives. This is the fundamental message of the Gospels; if we forget this, we risk descending even further into this mire of incomprehensible chaos.

The call to conversion is on-going. We cannot relax our efforts, nor can we forget the need for God and His abiding presence in our midst, particularly in His Church and in Her Sacraments. Focus groups, sensitivity work-

shops and humanistic and secular solutions, as well-intentioned and somewhat effective as they may be, will not solve our problems, for the root of the problem is our alienation from God.

If we continue to ignore God, both His mercy and His justice, refusing to recognize Him as a personal God who abides with us, then I fear we will continue to see, as one commentator recently described it, our country at "half-mast".

We need to stop thinking of God only when we need Him or in response to some tragedy. We cannot allow ourselves to compartmentalize religious faith, thinking of it only on Sundays or at church and then going about business as usual.

Faith in Jesus Christ is a program for life, guiding our every action, inspiring our thoughts, and moving us to live morally. The reminder about Friday Penance in my letter of September 4, 2015, was an attempt to bring to our attention certain truths – that is, we are not perfect, we need to repent, God is always there for us and the day on which Jesus suffered and died is a good day to recall these truths. If ever there existed an age that needed conversion, it is this one.



At the recent 101st Annual National Convention of the Knights of Peter Claver and the 86th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, Assemblies #6 and #22 of the Diocese of Lake Charles received the Good Neighbor Award. This award is given each year to three assemblies in recognition of service to "Church, Mankind, and Community." Pictured here with the award are, from left, John Roland Thomas, Herman J. Guidry, and Captain Milton Bellard of Assembly #22, Supreme Captain Daniel Santos, center, and from Assembly #6 Captain Craig Guillory along with Supremel Comptroller Steven Randle and Past Deputy Supreme Knight Paul Jones.

Flood Relief Donation



Bishop Glen John Provost presents a check for \$5,000 to Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana to assist flood victims in Southwest Louisiana by providing them with gift cards through Catholic Charities. "Let us never forget to pray for those affected by the flooding, so that their faith and hope strengthens them now and into the future as they rebuild," Sr. Mary Vianney said.

Father Buller named Chief Financial Officer

LAKE CHARLES -- Bishop Glen John Provost has appointed the Very Reverend Ruben Buller as Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

In this capacity, Father Buller also serves as *ex officio* chair of the Diocesan Finance Council. In accord with the mandates of Canon Law the Bishop received the input of the College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Council in making this appointment.

The Bishop also wishes to express his appreciation to Monsignor Harry Greig for his devoted service both as Secretary for Administration and Chief Financial Officer and congratulates Father Buller on assuming both of these positions.

Three pastoral appointments announced

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, made the following assignments on August 19, 2016. The three appointments will become effective October 15.

The Rev. Albert Borel voluntarily resigns as Pastor of Saint John Bosco Parish in Westlake. Father Borel is appointed Parochial Vicar of Saint Theodore Parish in Moss Bluff.

The Rev. Edward Brunner, MS, resigns as Pastor of Our Lady of LaSalette Parish in DeQuincy, and is appointed Pastor of Saint John Bosco Parish in Westlake for a term of six years.

The Rev. Edward Richard, MS, is appointed Temporary Administrator of Our Lady of LaSalette Parish in DeQuincy.

The appropriate documents were signed by Bishop Provost and Deacon George Stearns, diocesan chancellor.

Labor Day Office Hours

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles, including the Chancery, the Office of Catholic Schools, the Bishop Perry Building, Catholic Charities, and Saint Charles Center will be closed on Monday, September 5, for Labor Day. Offices reopen on Tuesday, September 6, for regular office hours, which will continue through the remainder of the week.



Bishop Braxton pens article on 'Moral Leadership'

BELLEVILLE, Ill. -- The Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, Ph. D., S.T.D., the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois and the second Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles, has been one of the most outspoken voices of the Church about the recent violence around the nation. His most recently published work is *Moral Leadership in Action: All Lives Really Do Matter*, which can be read in its entirety at lcdioocese.org.

He has been asked to speak at a number of meetings and conventions of Catholic organizations around the country, including recently at the 101st National Conference of the Knights of St. Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary (KPC) held in New Orleans. His works have appeared in numerous other publications including *The Messenger*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Belleville; the *National Catholic Register*; and the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston, *The Boston Pilot*.

In *Moral Leadership*, Bishop Braxton speaks of his distress at the violent eruptions of violence toward law enforcement officers in Dal-

las and Baton Rouge, following the shooting deaths of African-American men at the hands of white police in Baton Rouge and Falcon Heights, Minnesota – Alton Sterling and Philando Castile and the massacre of young people at an Orlando club.

The Dallas ambush cost the life of five police officers while the Baton Rouge shooting took the lives of three law enforcement officers.

Bishop Braxton discusses the racial divide in America, also the topic of two pastoral letters written by him "The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015" and "The Catholic Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement: The Racial Divide Revisited." He also speaks of the continuing discussion regarding Black Lives Matter and its relationship to the importance of all lives. He also noted that "Black Lives Matter should not be silent about the significant number of young African-American males who die at the hands of other African-Americans, or the alarmingly high number of abortions that bring abrupt ends to nascent Black lives that matter."

He points out that it will only be by the commitment of all people to prayer, listening, thinking and acting in the presence of the Holy Spirit that the active demonstration of moral leadership as servant leaders, doing so without ambiguity, that all lives really do matter.

Bishop Braxton's Pastoral Letters can be found at www.diobelle.org while writings and homilies during his time here in the Diocese of Lake Charles are also available at www.lcdioocese.org.



Bishop Edward K. Braxton



During the month of August, Bishop Glen John Provost was quite busy with the installations of recently appointed pastors to various parishes in the Diocese. In these photos, new pastors are shown during various points of their installations. The rite begins following the Gospel when the Bishop introduced each pastor to his flock and invited parishioners to express their approval. Photos here come from five of the installations. Newly installed pastors include Father Rojo Koonathan, HGN, St. Charles Borromeo, photo 1; Father Jeffrey Starkovich, St. Henry, photo 2; Father Jenesh Joseph, HGN, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale, photo 3; Father Jose Vattakunnel, MOC, St. Paul and St. Joseph, Elton, photo 4; and Msgr. Daniel Torres, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, photo 5. Following his homily, Bishop Provost presented other priests, deacons and parish officials such as trustees, pastoral council and finance council members to each pastor-elect as people who will assist him in the care of the parish; in turn, the pastor-elect pledges to seek their guidance. Each priest led their congregation in the Profession of Faith and recited an Oath of Fidelity with his hand placed on the Bible.

September events at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF – Saint Charles Center has released its fall schedule of programs and events. September events begin with a men's Silent Retreat weekend running Friday, Sept. 9 to Sunday, Sept. 11, presented by Father Stephen Ellis, LC.

This silent retreat is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and is comprised of guided meditations, private reflection, Mass, Adoration, opportunities for Confession, and Spiritual Direction.

To register please contact Michael Istre at (337) 515-7164 or e-mail michaelwistre@gmail.com or call the

Center offices for more information at (337) 855-1232.

"Letting Go of Resentment and Hurts...Replacing with Forgiveness and Mercy" is presented by Sr. Diane Depue on Tuesday, September 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. Suggested donation is \$20 per person and the deadline to register is Friday, September 9.

Father Whitney Miller will present the Spiritual Book Club on Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The fall selection is "Beautiful Mercy: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love So that We Can Share It with Others," a collection of essays on mercy by such noted authors as Pope

Francis, Matthew Kelly, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Fr. Larry Richards, Dr. Scott Hahn and many others. Suggested donation is \$20 per person with a deadline of Friday, September 16.

St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Bell City presents "God's Beloved," its Women's Fall Retreat Weekend Friday, Sept. 23 to Sunday, Sept. 25 with Sr. Camille Martinez, S.E.C. This silent retreat is open to any and all women who choose to participate.

Suggested donation for this retreat is \$170 for a private room and \$150.00 each for shared accommodations. Call Julie Racca at (337) 622-

3255, (337) 452-1418 or the Center Office at (337) 855-1232 for registration or go to our website at stcharlescenter.com Scholarship information available upon request for those in need of assistance.

"The Nicene Creed: Living Mercy through Our Faith's Foundation," an Evening of Reflection presented by Michael Sartori, M. Div., is Thursday, Sept. 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. Suggested donation is \$20 per person and registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 26.

Clergy, religious jubilee anniversaries to be celebrated

LAKE CHARLES – The annual celebration of the Mass honoring priests, deacons, and religious celebrating significant anniversaries this year, hosted by the Knights of Columbus and St. Henry Catholic Church, is set for 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, in St. Henry Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue. Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant.

Following the liturgy, a luncheon in the St. Henry Family Center will fete those celebrating their special year.

Father Lawrence Kohler, M.S., leads the group with the celebration of 55 years as a priest on Sept. 24. He is in residence at Our Lady of LaSalette Church in Sulphur. Father Fred Russi, a retired priest of the diocese, celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination on Dec. 17.

Two other recently retired priests of the diocese, Father Marshall Boulet and Father Roland Vaughn celebrate 45 years of priestly service having been ordained on the same day – Dec. 21, 1971.

Msgr. Harry D. Greig, pas-

tor of St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake, will celebrate 40 years a priest on Dec. 21.

Father Albert Borel, pastor of St. John Bosco in Westlake, was ordained on June 6, 1981, and celebrates his 35 years of priestly ministry.

Father Edward Richard, M.S., pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur, is a native of DeQuincy and celebrates 25 years a priest (ordained Jan. 12, 1991) as does Father William Miller, ordained on May 28, 1991.

Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, Vicar General of the dio-

cese and pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, was ordained on May 25, 1996 while Father Richard Adikwu, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lake Charles, was ordained Jan. 12, 1991. Both celebrate 20 years as a priest.

The Very Reverend Anthony Fontenot, pastor of Christ the King Church and Dean of the South Deanery, celebrates 15 years. He was ordained on June 2, 2001.

Priests celebrating 10 years of priesthood are St. Peter the Apostle Church pastor Rev. Gijo Ikkaramattom,

HGN, (ordained December 27, 2006) and Father Bino Poovannikunnel, SVD (ordained November 11, 2006), Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur.

Those priests celebrating five-year anniversaries are Father John Huckaby, pastor of St. Theodore Church in Moss Bluff, and Father Jeffrey Starkovich, pastor of St. Henry. Both were ordained on June 11, 2011.

Deacons celebrating significant anniversaries of their ordination to diaconal service include Deacon Fred

Reed (St. John Bosco, Westlake) 40 years (February 1, 1976) and Deacon Maurice Serice 20 years (December 21, 1996). Honored for their 15 years of service will be Deacon Joseph Bushnell, Deacon Wayne Chapman, Deacon Dale Deshotel, Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Deacon Bennett McNeal, Deacon Raymond Menard, Deacon Roy Nash, and Deacon Michael Tramel. All were ordained December 1, 2001.



Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles opened during August with Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings having its first day on Wednesday, August 10. Shown in the photo above at left, Father Charles McMillin, pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church observes parents taking "first day" snaps of their children. In the photo at right above, the foyer of Immaculate Conception Cathedral School was a beehive of activity on Wednesday, August 17, as it opened for its first day of class. In the seeming melee were parents, students, teachers, and Cathedral pastor Father Rommel Tolentino, at right. First day enrollment figures stood at 2,600, an increase over last year's opening day number.