The Diocese of Lake Charles Icdiocese.org

Catholic

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St. Joseph Church in Welsh celebrates 75th anniversary

WELSH - Bishop Glen John Provost was the celebrant of the Sunday, August 28 Mass in St. Joseph Catholic Church honoring the 75th anniversary of the founding of the parish, as well as installation of its new pastor, Rev. Vincent Vadakkedath – its 18th.

St. Joseph Parish consists of St Joseph Catholic Church in Welsh and its mission church in Iowa, St. Peter Claver Church. "One parish where they worship one and love all." Following the mass during the reception in the parish hall, Welsh Mayor Carolyn Louviere presented a proclamation naming August 28, 2016 as "St. Joseph Catholic Parish, Welsh" day in the Town of Welsh.

The parish was canonically established in 1941 by The Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette, and entrusted to the care of the priests of the Society of St. Joseph. It was the second parish established for the Black Catholic population in what is now the Diocese of Lake Charles, the first being Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lake Charles in

The Society first undertook missionary work in Louisiana in 1897. 1n 1920 the Order began to staff St. Theresa Parish in Crowley, which served African American Catholics throughout the area, including Breaux Bridge, Rayne, Church Point, Jennings and

By 1926, the population had grown large enough for the organization of a council of the Knights of Peter Claver, through the encouragement of the Rev. August Baudizonne, pastor of Our Lady of Seven Dolors Parish. The Knights constructed a meeting hall in Welsh, and priests from Our Lady of Seven Dolors began to celebrate Mass there.

The Rev. John O'Connell, SSJ, was the founding pastor of St. Joseph and the first mass was celebrated on February 8, 1942 in that hall built by the Knights of Peter Claver. Bishop Jeanmard also added the mission church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to the care of Father O'Connell.

Father O'Connell's first task was to build a church. Several lots were donated by Miss Katie Unkel, a member of a pioneer Welsh family. Another gift of \$5,000 from an anonymous priest in the North made the building possible. Work was immediately begun on a 76' by 34' church building, which was completed in time for the celebration of Mass on Christmas

Additional lots were purchased from Miss Unkel to complete the block, and two additional lots across the street. There were two houses on these lots and one of them became Father O'Connell's rectory.

In 1961, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Jennings was elevated to a canonical parish and the mission of St. Peter Claver in Iowa came under the parish's care.

A \$10,000 donation and a loan of a like sum provided the opportunity to build a modern rectory for the parish in 1962 as well as a church for St. Peter Claver mission.

In 1963, the church was remodeled and enlarged through the generosity of a grant from the Catholic Church Extension Society and the offerings of the parishioners, using their special and unselfish skills. In addition, pews were refinished, floors carpeted, and the exterior of the church brick veneered.

In 1980, the Diocese of Lake Charles was established, and St. Joseph became a part of the new diocese.

By 1984, with Rev. Joseph LeFrois, SSJ as pastor, it became obvious that the 43-year old building needed replacement.

Several fund drives were conducted and the Rev. Lowell Case, SSJ, who became pastor in 1985, approved the final plans and saw the project to completion. In June of 1986, ground was broken for

the new church and hall. The first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day, and on April 22, 1987, Bishop Jude Speyrer, dedicated the church and parish hall.

The sanctuary of the new church has a seating capacity of 250, and the entire structure cost \$375,000 at the time.

Priests who have served the faith community of St. Joseph include: 1941 - Rev. John F. O'Connell, SSJ; 1962 - Rev. John R. Timpay, SSJ; 1965 - Rev. Vernon P. Moore, SSJ; 1967 -Rev. Thomas R. McKenna, SSJ; 1974 - Rev. Joseph N. Begay, SSJ; 1982 - Rev. Charles Moffatt, SSJ; 1983 - Rev. Joseph G. LeFrois, SSJ; 1985 - Rev. Lowell D. Case, SSJ; 1989 - Rev. Robert P. Zawacki, SSJ; 1991 - Rev. Calvin Sinclair, SSJ; 1992 - Rev. Joseph Macek, SSJ; 1993 - Rev. George W. Burden, SSJ; 1995 - Rev. Donatus Anosike, MSP; 1997 - Rev. Alfred Umagu, MSP; 1997 - Rev. William D. Hogan, SSJ; 2004 - Rev. Celsius Offor; 2014- Rev. Rojo Koonathan, HGN; and 2016 - Rev. Vincent Vadakkedath.



Father Vincent Vadakkedath, left, reads the Gospel during the Mass celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the founding of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Welsh. Bishop Glen John Provost, right, the celebrant of the Liturgy listens to the scripture. Bishop Provost also installed Father Vadakkedath as St. Joseph's new pastor - the 18th in the church's history.

Spring course offerings at Center for Catholic Studies

Diocese of Lake Charles has announced three classes for the Spring Semester 2017 through the Center for Catholic Studies at the Catholic Student Center of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 221 Aqua Drive.

Students receive college credit through these courses for the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans. Courses may also qualify as electives in many McNeese State University degree programs.

Theology 104: Origins Of the Catholic Faith is a three credit hour course that is an explanation of faith, morals. and doctrines in the Catholic tradition presented through the Nicaean-Constantinople Creed. Topics such as divine revelation, virtue, Church history, Christ and the Triune God will be covered by instructor Deacon Glenn Viau, M.Ed., M.P.S. Classes will be

held from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, beginning Janu-

Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow will teach Theology 290: History of Blacks in The American Catholic Church. This three credit-hour course will examine the historical, cultural and religious development of the Catholic Church in the African American community. Included will be a focus on the active participation of Louisiana Black Catholics in the life of the Church. Among important contributions are those made by black religious communities, Catholic educators, and civil rights leaders. The class, which takes place from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, begins January 17.

The final course offering for the Spring, taught by Father Nathan Long, is Theology 290: Spiritual Theology. Prayer, Mystical Union, and the Ascetical Struggle, Meditation and Contemplation, the Three Ages of the Spiritual Life, Dark Nights, and the Battle for Purity. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning January 17, from 12:30 a.m. to 1:50

Registration forms are available through the Diocese of Lake Charles - Office of Religious Education and the Newman Center as well as at www.lcdiocese.org by clicking on Forms on the front page, scrolling to Center for Catholic Studies to access the registration form and the application form.

Registration deadline for all courses is December 22.

For more information, contact the Diocese of Lake Charles, Office of Religious Education for Susan Borgman at 439-7400, Ext. 309.

Sixth 'Run with the Nuns' slated Sept. 24

CHRISTUS St. Patrick Foundation is gearing up for the sixth annual Run with the Nuns Charity Ride and Cookoff, which will take place on Saturday, September 24, at the Lake Charles Civic Center Amphitheatre, beginning at 9 a.m. This year's ride is dedicated to the memory of local coaching legend Coach "Max" Caldarera.

Caldarera coached in Southwest Louisiana since 1972 and as head coach of Westlake High School from 1977 until his retirement in 2011. He died in March of a cardiac-related event, which is why the Charity Ride and

the first hybrid surgical suite for cardiovascular services in this region, giving our community access to the absolute best in cardiac care.

A family fun celebration will also be held at the Civic Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in conjunction with the ride, including music by local singers; kid-friendly activities like face painting, a photo booth and fun games; free health screenings; performances by local high school organizations; and a food truck festival.

This year's ride offers a new twist, as the ride is open to both motorcycle and Jeep



riders. Registration is \$30 for each driver and \$20 for the first passenger and includes an event t-shirt for registration by deadline, lunch, medal and door prize ticket. This year's 96-mile ride will depart at 9:00 a.m. escorted by the Blue Knights and local law enforcement agencies.

There will also be a rice and gravy cook-off during the Run with the Nuns event. The entry fee is \$150 per team and includes meat, rice and water for cooking.

For more information or to register, visit www.stpatrickfoundation.org or call (337)

Saint Charles Center events

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 Fri-

day, 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

MOSS BLUFF – Saint and presented by Sr. Camille is \$20 per person and regis-Charles Center events during Martinez, S.E.C. This silent tration deadline is Monday, the fall of 2016 will include retreat is open to any and all Sept. 26.
Father Whitney Miller and women who choose to partici-

> 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

October events start with an Evening of Reflection -"Practicing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy" with Sr. Diane Depwe on Tuesday, Oct. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. The suggested donation is \$20 per person and the registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 7.

"On Grace and Mercy," an Evening of Reflection presented by Sr. Janelle Sevier, SNDdeN, is Tuesday, October 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. Suggested donation is \$20 with registration deadline of Friday, Oct.

Call (337) 855-1232 for more information on any of these programs and to register or go to stcharlescenter.com.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Magnificat Women's Day of Reflection

JENNINGS -- The Magnificat - Lake Charles Chapter hosts a Women's Day of Reflection at John Windt Hall of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on Saturday, September 17.

Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 2: p.m. The theme of the retreat will be "Come Walk this Way: A Journey of Love" presented by Pat Fox.

There is no charge for the day but a love offering will be accepted. Lunch will be provided.

Call Sharla Prejean 337-246-0620, Phyllis Nash 337-802-3021, or Sherree LaBouve 337-247-2419 to RSVP, or email sharlaprejean@yahoo.com.

St. Eugene Alligator Festival

GRAND CHENIER -- The 30th Annual Saint Eugene Parish Alligator Festival is Sunday Oct. 2, on the Mermentau River at Grand Chenier Park beginning at 9:45 in the morning. The festival includes the Little Mr. and Miss Alligator Festival Pageant, the South Cameron High School Dazzlers Dance Line, live music with Teardrops, a big prize raffle, live and silent auction, Barbecue Chicken and Beef Dinners and of course Fried Alligator and more. Call 538-2245 for more information.

Luncheon, breaktast dates slated

LAKE CHARLES -- The next Women's Luncheon and Men's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John provost will take place on Wednesday Oct. 5, and Friday, Oct. 7, respectively, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Office Building. The topic for the current cycle of presentations is St. Paul's

Letter to the Romans. The Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, which is available at Crossroads Bookstore, is of great assistance with the talks.

cese of Lake charles, to Gaynell Carrier, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and included a stamped self-address enve-

Women should send a check for \$15, payable to the Dio-

lope in which the tickets will be returned. The breakfast starts at 7 a.m. and is preceded by Mass be-

ginning at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral. Men should call 337-439-

Marriage Preparation class in October

LAKE CHARLES - Openings for the Saturday, October 15, Marriage Preparation class offered by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles remain.

The class is 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.

Mary and the Rosary set Sept. 24

LEBLEU SETTLEMENT - Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, will be the guest speaker for Mary and the Rosary, a chapel building fund raising event, for the St. Joseph Mission Chapel's Ladies Devotional Luncheon on Saturday, September 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets for the presentation and a light lunch are \$15. There will be door prizes.

Call Faye Humphery at 337-582-6882 or Laurie Vidrine at 337-292-9669 for tickets or more information. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, September 18.

Biblical Walk through the Mass set

LAKE CHARLES - Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church sponsors "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass" - Discover the Riches of the Mass - a five-part Bible study featuring Dr. Edward Sri on Monday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Registration for the event, which takes place in the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Community Center Activity Room, 3939 Kingston St., is \$20, which includes book and workbook.Registration and payment at www.olqh.org by Sept. 14. Call Felicia with questions at 477-1236.

Sacred Heart of Jesus bazaar Oct. 8-9 LAKE CHARLES - Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church hosts its annual bazaar Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8-9, on the church grounds.

Festivities are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5

Barbecue chicken and rib dinners, sweet potato pies, and popcorn balls will be sold both days with fried chicken wings, hamburgers, and a variety of other foods as well as games, rides and music on Sunday.

Bingo is Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets for the raffle, with two top prizes of \$1,000 each, can be purchased by contacting the Sacred Heart office at 337-439-2645.

Lite in the Spirit Seminar

LAKE CHARLES -- St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church will host a Life in the Spirit Seminar from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 29, in the Granger/Vincent South Meeting

The Seminar is an invitation to renew and ignite the power of the Holy Spirit received at baptism and confirmation. It promotes a deep personal commitment to Jesus Christ in openness to the Holy Spirit and His gifts and charisms. It is a great "next step" for those who have attended an ACTS retreat or who have been involved in an on-going bible study program.

To register, contact deborah.faul@yahoo.com or call 337-478-3845. Cost of the seminar is \$15 and a light lunch will be

'Work of Human Hands" sale at Christ the King

LAKE CHARLES - A Catholic Relief Services/Fair Trade "Work of Human Hands Advent Sale" is December 1 to December 6 at Christ the King Catholic Church.

The sale will be following each Mass on the weekend of Dec. 3 and 4 in the parish hall and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1; Monday, Dec. 5, and Tuesday, Dec. 3, as well as from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, Dec. 2.

Christ the King Catholic Church is located at 7680 Gulf Highway and the church office may be reached at 337-478-0213.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost Bishop of Lake Charles

September 16, 2016

Bishop's Services Appeal begins this weekend

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Bishop's Services Appeal, the fundraising campaign that aids with annual operating funds for various ministries and programs of the Diocese of Lake Charles, begins this weekend, Sept. 17-18, in the 39 church parishes of the Diocese.

The 2015-2016 campaign raised \$828,477.10 in contributions from the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese -100.56 percent of the \$800,000 overall goal. The 2016-2017 goal remains at \$800,000.00 and the Appeal continues through the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2017.

This year's theme is "There is work to do and now is the time to do it" and uses the scripture reference found in Luke 12:37 – Blessed are those servants the master finds vigilant on his arrival."

With weekend presentations in each parish, people should have heard the annual audio message from Bishop Glen John Provost.

The Bishop, in making his case for the annual appeal, points out the need to maintain such an appeal while the "Return to the Lord" capital campaign is also ongoing.

"Many have asked me this question," Bishop Provost said. "This is a good question, and I would like to answer it. When parents face the demands of raising a family, they deal with many issues. These concerns fall into two categories: present and future. Present needs include employment and housing. Parents are concerned with income to put food on the table, meet monthly bills, and provide for immediate needs like clothing and medical care. This is the present, and it requires good management

and flexibility.

"The other concerns are future," the Bishop continued. "Parents must save for their children's college education. They must also plan for their own retirement and unexpected.

This is the future, and the future requires planning. A diocese is no different. The Diocese is a family, and like a family we face the needs of the present and the future together. The Capital Campaign is about the future. The Bishop's Services Appeal concerns the present.

The Bishop noted that like good parents it is the responsibility of the diocese to provide for ordinary, everyday needs of the essential Diocesan ministries. "These are made possible by you through your faithful, annual support," Bishop Provost continued. "Some of these ministries that are funded by this annual Appeal include: Catholic Education, Youth Ministry, the Office of Vocations, Catholic Charities, Family Life, the Seafarers Center, Evangelization, and Communications. They are all important and we cannot dispense with them.

"For over fifty years the Diocese of Lake Charles has sponsored and supported a Seafarers' Center, " he said. "The Seafarers' Center provides assistance for sailors and merchant marines away from home. With the expansion of the Port of Lake Charles and demands of security, the Seafarers' Center has done an admirable job of adjusting its priorities and adapting to the needs of seafarers from across the globe. While Seafarers' Centers in other dioceses have had to cut back on services, if not entirely shut down, our Seafarers' Center not only continues to function but also to expand and adapt.

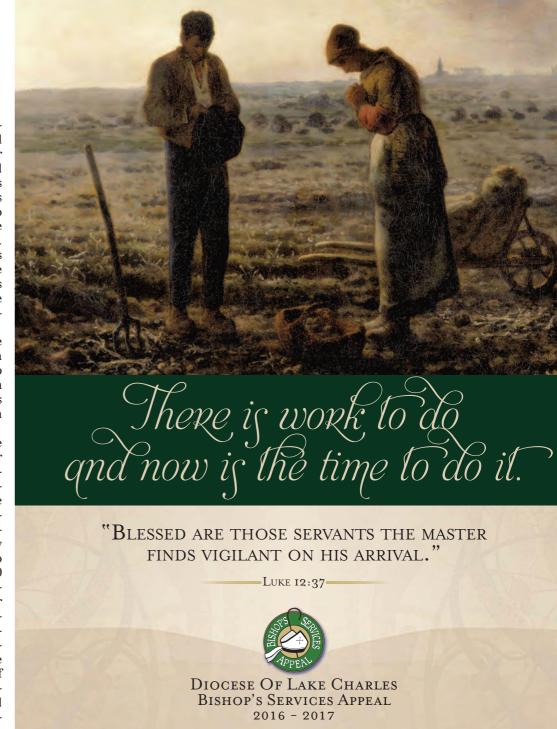
"Every day seafarers far away from home and working under demanding conditions benefit from your generosity, Bishop Provost said. "God is blessing the people in our area. The economy here is growing and people are moving into our communities. More and better jobs are available with better salaries. Parents have more available to them for their children in

education and job opportunities. We should all be grateful for these blessings. As your Shepherd, I am deeply moved by your generous heart. This openness to present needs is what motivates me to bring to your attention once again the Bishop's Services Appeal. Generosity is our work. This is what we do, when we love God, His Church, our families and children, the needy, the stranger, the ill, the homebound, and our neighbors."

Once again this year, the Bishop's Guild will offer a special way to join Bishop Provost by supporting him as he guides you and others throughout the diocese on the journey of faith.

Deacon Glen Bertrand, the director of development for the Diocese said, "Your willingness and readiness to become a special partner in the annual Bishop's Services Appeal makes a profound statement for others to follow. Any individual and/or family who responds with a gift of \$1,000 or more to the Bishop's Services Appeal in a given year will be a member of the Bishop's Guild. Those in the Bishop's Guild form faithful partnerships to provide valuable resources for the services of the diocese. Your participation in the Bishop's Guild demonstrates your willingness to be a leader in your parish and our diocese."

To make a contribution to the Bishop's Services Appeal contact your own church parish or send a check, made payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Bishop's Services Appeal, P. O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602-3223. This year individuals will also be able to make contributions using a credit card or e-check online at lcdiocese.org. Click the "Support the Diocese" button on the opening page of the site, then the Bishop's Services Appeal link. Call 337-439-7400, Ext. 213, for more information



Bishop's Golf Classic Oct. 7 at The National

WESTLAKE -- The 2016 Bishop's Golf Classic will be played Friday, Oct. 7, at the National Golf Club of Louisiana, 2801 Louisiana Way. The four-person scramble tournament will feature an afternoon round, following lunch, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The field will be limited to the first 32 paid foursomes.

Presenting sponsors for the tournament are City Savings Bank of DeRidder and Alfred Palma LLC of Lake Charles as well as Bubba Oustalet Automotive Group of Jennings.

Fees are \$500 per fourperson team, with prizes for first, second and tenth low gross. Prizes for the longest drive and closest to the hole will also be given and a \$5,000 cash prize goes to the first golfer to score a hole in one.

Tee box sponsorships are \$150, green sponsorships are \$300 and banner sponsorships are \$1,000.

Proceeds from the event provide financial assistance to the Seminarian Education Fund and the Priest Retirement Fund.

Fourteen men are studying for the priesthood for the Diocese this year in four different seminaries and the cost of educational expenses will exceed \$600,000. In August, Deacon Trey Ange was ordained to the transitional diaconate, the penultimate step to ordination to the priesthood. With God's grace, Deacon Ange will be ordained a priest of the Diocese next year. The Diocese currently has 14 retired priests and it will expend nearly \$500,000 to maintain their health and welfare this year. Several others are nearing retirement or could retire due to health issues during the next several years.

Registration forms will be available at area golf courses and the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Payment of fees and registration using a credit card or e-check is available on the Diocese of Lake Charles website – lcdiocese.org. Click the "Event Registration" button, then "Bishop's Golf Classic" and follow the easy steps to register your team or become

register your team or become a sponsor. Contact Larry DeRoussel at 337-794-8339 or at Ideroussel@laia.com for more infor-



Bishop Glen John Provost opens the 2015 tournament with prayer at The National Golf Course in Westlake.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2016 the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed in 1957 by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey:

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.

The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned

to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of the land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, and overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread

chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder Second Bishop of Lafayette

