



Return to the Lord raises over \$21 million in pledges, contributions

LAKE CHARLES – The Diocese of Lake Charles *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign, which began in October 2015, reported that on December 31, 2016, a total pledged amount for the campaign of \$21,269,855.00 – more than \$5,000,000 above the original goal of the campaign.

That \$16,000,000 goal was determined following a three-month campaign planning study by the Steier Group, a professional fundraising consultant from Omaha, Nebraska. Following the study Bishop Glen John Provost met with numerous consultative bodies of the diocese to assist him in determining the direction the diocese should move, including the goal.

“That said it couldn’t be done,” Bishop Provost said. “But many contributed sacrificially and generously to far exceed our projected goal. For this I am personally very grateful to our Heavenly Father, campaign leaders, pastors, parishioners, and the Steier Group. The campaign is a resounding success thanks to a great deal of hard work, cooperation, and generosity.”

The overwhelming success of the pledge phase of the campaign will have significant effects in the diocese for years, perhaps decades to come.

“Return to the Lord was a community event,” the Bishop said. “The campaign brought many people together for a common cause, a cause around which our Catholic people could rally.

“As I said when we began the campaign, there is a spiritual dimension which I will address in my Lenten Pastoral Letter,” he continued. “Return to the Lord is an opportunity to meet on common ground and move into the future confidently and positively for the good of the Church and those whom we serve.”

Garnering the kind of financial support from the faithful of the diocese was a tremendous effort and Bishop Provost spoke positively of those individuals and families who did not participate, “Generosity is contagious. I am very confident that others who, for whatever reason did not pledge, will step forward once they see the work we have to accomplish proceeding nicely and to a constructive goal. We have already begun to address our goals. They will take time, as with Camp Karol and the restoration of the Cathedral, but we are moving ahead with every due diligence and with God’s help.”

The campaign began in February 2016 with the “silent phase” and continued with a five-parish pilot wave. The remaining 22 parishes opened their efforts in two waves – 21 running from May to October and 14 from July to December.

The Very Reverend Ruben Buller, the Chief, “It is incredible to see what we as the local church of Lake Charles can do when we put our minds to it. When we first started all of this, particularly many people had great doubts about even reaching the 16 million. It would have been easy to give up then. What we have seen with just the people who have pledged, there is great belief in the leadership of the diocese. Each person seeing, with the small part or the large part that they have given,

how much they can and do contribute to the furtherance of spreading of the Gospel in the diocese.”

Bishop Provost appointed the Pastoral Advisory Council, consisting of the Pastoral Msgr. James Gaddy, Rev. Timothy Goodly, Rev. Msgr. Ronald Groth, Very Rev. Aubrey Guilbeau, Rev. John Huckaby, Rev. Keith Pellerin, Rev. Edward Richard, M.S., Rev. Msgr. Daniel Torres, and Rev. Alan Trouille. This nine-member group provided the Bishop with assistance during the campaign, provided guidance, helped set campaign policies and procedures, helped determine goal allocations and was his primary source for advice during the effort.

Numerous lay individuals from parishes and communities large and small around the diocese agreed to serve as leaders in this historic effort - six General Chair couples, 30 Honorary Chairs, and 30 members of the Campaign Cabinet.

Campaign goals included \$3.2 million for the Priest Retirement Fund, \$3.2 million for the Seminary Education Fund, \$2.4 million for Cathedral Restoration \$1.6 million for Camp Karol, and \$800,000 for Catholic Charities.

In addition, a parish share was adopted, which would return 20 percent of what a parish raises up to the parish goal and then return 80 percent of contributions raised over that goal.

“Over 50 percent of our parishes exceeded their goals,” the Bishop said. “This is extraordinary. Our very competent consultants from Steier Group, who have vast experience with diocesan campaigns, tell us this result is virtually unprecedented.

“The 80/20/20/80 share between diocese and parish makes individual parish initiatives very possible. I think pastors and parishioners are encouraged with the potential and the means are encouraged with their dreams.”

Father Buller also pointed out that we must look beyond capital campaign. “Is the Lord calling me to give something and if he is, do I trust that he will make it enough,” he said. “Whatever we give, if we give it in generosity, the Lord can multiply it. God can do great things with anything that we give.”

Twenty parishes achieved 100 percent or more of their goal and four others bettering 90 percent. A total of 7,602 individuals (33 percent of registered parishioners) participated in the campaign in some way and 6,104 (22 percent) made a contribution - an average gift of \$3,485.

“My heart is filled with gratitude to the campaign leadership, the pastors, the donors, and the many volunteers who made this accomplishment possible,” Bishop Provost said. “The success of Return to the Lord is an answer to prayer, the prayers of many.

“During the first year of the campaign, I visited one of our Catholic schools and there the children were participating in the capital campaign by offering their prayers, the spiritual bouquets, and good works,” he said. “Then I knew the campaign would be a success.”



The success of the *Return to the Lord* campaign can be seen as the work continues on the entry gate to Camp Karol of Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. In photo 1, forms were built and readied for the pouring of concrete in late December. In photo 2, the work continued to the point where each side of the gateway were constructed and, as seen on the right entryway, bricks begin to adorn the bottom portion. In photo 3, workers continued placing the bricks, here on the backside of the left entryway. Preliminary plans are being discussed for the future construction of the main building at Camp Karol, to be named The Lodge.

Training, renewal for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

LAKE CHARLES -- A training video for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles can now be accessed on the website of the Diocese of Lake Charles under “Video Specials” in the Main Menu on the front page.

A two-DVD set is also available for purchase through the Office of Communications of the Diocese for \$25.00. Call

337-439-7400 or e-mail beth.buller@lcdiocese.org

The Very Reverend Ruben Buller, Secretary for the Ministry of Administration and Director of Liturgy, is featured in the training video.

Once the video has been viewed, the pastor or parochial vicar of the parish that has been designated by Bishop Glen John Provost, will commission the newly trained and renewed Extraordinary

Ministers of Holy Communion for a three-year period, valid only between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2019.

The training is mandatory for all those not in Holy Orders or Instituted Acolytes who assist at Mass, in institutions (hospitals or prisons), or to the homebound with the distribution of Holy Communion.



Bishop Glen John Provost stands with the young people and their caregivers following the celebration of a Special Needs Mass at St. Louis Catholic High School at which the Bishop conferred the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Receiving Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation were: John Taylor Carpenter, Ryan Ecker, Nickolas Jordon, Dylan Ecker, Turner Robertson, and Rose DeDominicis; Confirmation: Garrett Roach; and First Eucharist, Confirmation: Christopher LaFleur. Special needs masses have been scheduled in 2017 for 11 a.m. on the Sundays of Feb. 5, April 30, July 2, and Oct. 22 in St. Louis Catholic High School. For more information call Karen Duhan at 337-478-0243 or Shari Cormier at 337-478-0043. All are welcome to attend the celebration, which is offered as an opportunity to worship despite difficulty, embarrassment or frustration.

CHRISTUS St. Patrick names John Greene Martin Award Recipient

LAKE CHARLES -- David Buttross III, M.D., is the 2016 John Greene Martin Compassionate Care Award for CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital.

Dr. Buttross is a Board Certified Adult Psychiatrist at Lake Area Psychiatry, LLC and has been on the CHRISTUS St. Patrick Medical Staff for 20 years. He is the Medical Director for CHRISTUS St. Patrick Behavioral Health Services and has served on

many committees, currently serving on the PIQC Committee.

Dr. John Greene Martin was the founding physician of St. Patrick’s Hospital in 1908 with the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. The honor is annually bestowed upon a current physician by secret vote of the Medical Staff and associates for excellence in care, patient-centered kindness, leadership, stewardship and service.



Dr. David Buttross III

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

January 20, 2017

Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29-Feb 3; CSW Mass Feb. 1

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant of the annual Catholic Schools Week Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Eighth grade students from Catholic schools in the diocese will join St. Louis Catholic High School students for the liturgy.

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration, since 1974, of Catholic education in the United States. It starts Sunday, January 29, and runs through Saturday, February 4. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2017 is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Daily themes for the week are: Sunday - In Our Parish; Monday - In Our Community; Tuesday - In Our Students; Wednesday - In Our Nation (National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools); Thursday - In Our Vocations; Friday - In Our Faculty, Staff and Volunteers (Teacher Appreciation Day); and Satur-

day - In Our Families. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Open houses at the schools include on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Our Lady's Catholic School starting at 6 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 30, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School hosts its open house beginning at 5 p.m.

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School hosts its open house on Wednesday, Feb. 1, beginning at 6 p.m. while Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings starts its open house on Thursday, February 2 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Registration for St. Louis Catholic High School will take place from Monday, Jan. 23 to Friday, Feb. 3.

Individual activities are scheduled at all of the schools and can be found by searching the various websites.



Awards given by Pontifical Knights and Dames

LAKE CHARLES – During its 2016 Christmas luncheon the Bishop Jude Speyrer Chapter of the Pontifical Knights and Dames presented two awards honoring individuals for good works to mankind and the Church.

Pearl Cole, the executive director of Abraham's Tent for the past 27 years, was presented with the Monsignor Irving DeBlanc Fellowship Award. This award is conferred upon an individual of outstanding service to the civic community and to the Church for which she has not been recognized or has been recognized only slightly.

The *Pro Deo et Pontifice* Award, which is given in even numbered years, and presented to a Knight or Dame of another diocese who has rendered outstanding service to the Church and to mankind, went to Mrs. Patsy Hotard of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

In his presentation of the award to Ms. Cole, Gayle Marshall, the chapter secretary, spoke of the history of Abraham's Tent, which began as an ecumenical effort to provide a daily hot meal for

those in need. It was prompted by the high unemployment rate in the area at the time.

After a suggestion by Bishop Jude Speyrer by Father Don Piraro, the idea made its way to the Calcasieu Ministerial Alliance and it was approved enthusiastically. A concerted effort was made to contact clergy members from all denominations to invite them to contribute their talents and efforts to the soup kitchen project.

In June of 1986, a meeting was held and the name “Abraham's Tent” was chosen, inspired from a reading from Genesis Chapter 18, verses 1-8.

Abraham's Tent began operations in the former Fisherville Elementary School on Fruge Street in October 1986.

Ms. Cole, a native of Kinder and devoted member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, was named to her current position in 1989. She had been affiliated with the Diocese of Lake Charles and served as secretary and bookkeeper for Abraham's Tent.

“She offers kind words and encouragement as of-

ten as she offers hot meals,” Marshall said. “Through her work, she has ensured that those in need will have at least one good meal a day. She, her fellow employees, and her team of volunteers have worked tirelessly over the years, even through hurricanes and holidays, to provide food for those who she considers ‘her people.’”

“She has been steadfast in her work for the poor and has unselfishly cared for hundreds, probably thousands, of Louisiana residents who have been afflicted by poverty and displacement,” Marshall continued. “Ms. Pearl is a prime example of the kind of caring and selfless giving needed in the community. She is truly an asset and a role model.”

Chapter president Gayle Zembower spoke about the winner of the *Pro Deo et Pontifice* award. “Mrs. Hotard has been a member of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic Foundation for 40 years, and has served as Co-Chair of the Annual Foundation Dinner,” Zembower said. “For 20 years, she has served as Mistress of Ceremonies

for The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Weeks before the Holy Sepulchre conference, she prepares packets for all attending the conference, takes care of all the details for the ceremonies and awards for the conference. After the conference, she is responsible for getting all the awards to those unable to attend. Among many other awards presented to Mrs. Hotard, Pope Saint John Paul II awarded her with the *Pro Ecclesia Pontifice* Award for special service to the Archdiocese and community.”

The officers of the Chapter, serving the second year of their two-year terms, were introduced: President: Gayle Zembower, Knight of St. Sylvester; Vice President/President-Elect: Willie Moreno, Knight of St. Gregory; Secretary: Gayle Marshall, Knight of Saint Sylvester; and Treasurer: Chester Jones, Knight of St. Gregory.

Catholic Charities food distribution

LAKE CHARLES – The next distributions of Second Harvest food baskets for eligible clients by Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana at its 1225 Second Street location will be Feb. 10 and Feb. 17.

The Friday, Feb. 10 distribution will be for those qualified whose last names begin with A through L, while Feb. 17 is for those whose last names begin with M through Z. Each day's distribution begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m.

All clients wishing to register or to recertify to receive food must provide [picture ID for each adult in the household; Social Security card for each person in the household; proof of one month's income for the household; proof of residency; and proof of the number of persons in the household.



Good food, good fun, and much dancing could be found at the 2016 Bishop's Gala. Rory Partin, a locally born talent now known around the country, served as the night's entertainment for the evening as seen in photo 1. Bishop Glen John Provost was the accompanist to the singing of Christmas carols with Monsignor Daniel Torres and Father Brian King leading the crowd in photo 2. Finally, quite a few guests tried their luck in the famous “Orange Dance” in photo 3.



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, congratulates the Ms. Pearl Cole, left, and Mrs. Patsy Hotard, right, the 2016 recipients of the Monsignor Irving DeBlanc Fellowship Award and the *Pro Deo et Pontifice* Award, respectively, from The Bishop Jude Speyrer Chapter of Pontifical Knights and Dames of Pius IX, St. Gregory the Great, and Pope St. Sylvester.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Vocation drawing contest call for entries

LAKE CHARLES – The call for entries into the annual vocation drawing contest for the Diocese of Lake Charles in preparation for World Day of Prayer for Vocations has been made.

All students in grades 2nd through 12th are invited to make a drawing on letter size white poster board depicting awareness of vocation to the priesthood in Southwest Louisiana.

The drawings are to be turned in to Connie Perkins in the Office of Vocations, 411 Iris Street, by noon on Friday, April 7.

Entries must include, printed on the back of the drawing, the artist's name, age, grade, phone number, church, city, and name of school. The entry must be placed unfolded in an envelope marked for ‘Vocation Drawing Contest.’

Monetary awards will be given for first, second and third place. The first place winner will have their art reproduced on a prayer card to be distributed on Sunday, May 7, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Henry Catholic Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue.

St. Louis tuition giveaway

LAKE CHARLES – St. Louis Catholic High School continues its “Great Tuition Give-Away” with a chance to win one year's tuition at the school, though fees are not included.

Tickets, available on-line at www.slchs.org or at the school office (1620 Bank Street) are \$25 each. The tuition prize is transferable, redeemable for up to two years (August 2018), and can be gifted or donated to the scholarship fund.

Deadline to purchase tickets is Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017 and the winner, who needs not be present to win, will be chosen on

Friday, Feb. 3, 2017 at St. Louis Catholic's Grandparents Day. Contact Ann Vincent at 337-436-7275 or avincent@slchs.org for more information.

Luncheon and breakfast dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The next Women's Luncheon and Men's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost are Wednesday Feb. 1, and Friday, Feb. 3, respectively, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Office Building.

Women should send a check for \$15, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Women's Luncheon Tickets, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and include a stamped self-address envelope.

The breakfast starts at 7 a.m. and is preceded by Mass beginning at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register.

Next Marriage Preparation class Feb. 11

LAKE CHARLES – Openings for the next Marriage Preparation class, offered by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese, is Saturday, Feb. 11.

The class is 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. It can be accomplished 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.

“Mommipotent: A Book Club for Moms” in March

LAKE CHARLES -- “Mommipotent: A Book Club for Moms” Finding Peace, Balance, & Joy in Your Vocation as a Mother Is being a mother what you thought it would be? The exhaustion, monotony, mounting unfinished projects, loss of sense of self...Too many moms feel disillusioned and overwhelmed.

Mommipotent validates the dignity and importance of motherhood and will help you recognize your uniquely feminine strengths. Come join fellow moms and see how you can use those strengths to find peace, balance, and joy in being the woman God created and called you to be.

Where: Our Lady Queen of Heaven FLCC, Fireplace Room, 3939 Kingston Street When: Monday afternoons, 12:30-2:30 p.m., March 6, 13, 20, 27 Registration: \$30 fee covers journal and book Register and pay at www.olqh.org Deadline to register is February 20. Call 477-1236 for Felicia at OLQH for information.

Lenten Mission at Our Lady Queen of Heaven

LAKE CHARLES -- Fr. Thaddaeus Lancton, MIC of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, is the featured speaker at “Divine Mercy and the Blessed Virgin Mary”, the 2017 Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church Lenten Mission Monday, March 13 through Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. each day.

Fr. Thaddaeus will preach at all weekend and concelebrate week Masses and be available during confessions.

Call Felicia at 337-477-1236 with any questions or go to olqh.org for daily schedule and topics.