



## Lenten Pastoral Letter 2017: *Return to the Lord*

*"How can I repay the Lord for all the good done for me?" Psalm 116:12*

My dear People of God,

Having completed our pledges for *Return to the Lord*, I wish to express my gratitude for your open-hearted generosity in this endeavor providing for the future needs of the Diocese of Lake Charles. All of our parishes contributed. Over fifty percent of them offered their goods. Approximately 33 percent of all registered families participated. *Return to the Lord* greatly exceeded our expectations.

Now we must address the ends for which the campaign was intended: to provide for a stable funding of priests retirement and seminarian education, begin the restoration of our Cathedral, expand the services of Catholic Charities, and build a Catholic youth center—these will be our tasks in the coming years. As we continue over the next three years to fulfill our pledges to *Return to the Lord*, I encourage you to remember this on-going work in your prayers. Most significantly, however, our *Return to the Lord* campaign also had a spiritual dimension, and I would like to pursue this topic with you in my Pastoral Letter for Lent.

When we began our Capital Campaign, I mentioned that the title, *Return to the Lord*, was inspired by Psalm 116:12, which reads, "How can I repay the Lord for all the good done for me?" The Psalm provides the answer to that question: "I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people" (Psalm 116:13-14). Thus, what we return to the Lord is clearly our spiritual offering. Material things already belong to Him. And while we return these earthly goods back to Him as faithful stewards, we also make a spiritual offering to the Lord which involves a creative act of cooperation with His Grace; thereby, something new, as it were, comes into being.

As Psalm 116 implies, this spiritual offering consists of two things. On one hand, it involves an act of worship—the cup of salvation and calling upon "the name of the Lord." On the other hand, this offering is a good life lived within the community—fulfilling our promises made to the Lord. In both senses we return to the Lord.

First, worship is what we offer to God as His due. The precepts of the Catholic Church remind us of this offering. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* the first precept reads as follows: "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor" (CCC, #2042). This precept is not merely an obligation.

Worship is an orientation of the heart, soul and mind to God. When asked which commandment was the greatest, our Lord answered, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). The practice of religion is never entirely a private and personal affair. For this reason our Lord adds the second commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). The heart, soul and mind oriented to God points us in the direction of dedicated love and service. Love of neighbor most perfectly flows from one who loves God first and foremost.

Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the basic premise for our devotion to God. Through this act we demonstrate both our love for God and our desire to love Him even more, for we can never love Him enough. In this attendance at Mass we join the community of persons who are also striving to increase their love for God. In those around us we recognize the ones whom we should love as our neighbor. With them at every Mass we ask pardon for sins, listen to God's Word, offer our prayers of petition, and join in the Holy Sacrifice of Calvary for our redemption. How can we abstain from this perfect act of worship, much less deprive our children of the same advantage? It is a privilege and a joy, not something to be rushed through or treated in a casual and perfunctory manner. The Letter to the Hebrews admonishes us, saying, "We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another" (Hebrews 10:25). In speaking to the early Christians, St. Paul describes their worship in these terms: "[Y]ou have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel" (Hebrews 12:22-24).

When we worship, we turn towards the object of our adoration—God. This turning towards God is both a spiritual and physical reality. I would wish to pursue this subject of directing ourselves to God a little further.

Sacred Scripture permeates our Catholic worship. Not long ago (i.e. Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent) the first reading for Mass was taken from Isaiah 45. The passage struck me profoundly. The verse read, "Turn to me and be safe" (Isaiah 45:22). The reading continued, "To me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear" (Isaiah 45:23). Clearly a physical orientation was implied (So in my effort to grasp the meaning of this passage more fully, I consulted scriptural scholarship concerning the connotation of the original Hebrew word in the version translated here as "turn." What I found was quite revealing.

Being a graphic language, Hebrew has no less than 17 different words that imply or mean "turn." The most common is transliterated as *shub*. But in this passage from Isaiah the word used in Hebrew is not *shub* but *panah*, a Hebrew word whose root is the noun meaning "face," as in "face to face." Literally Isaiah meant, "Face me and be safe," a fitting admonition for not only Advent but any moment we enter the Lord's presence. This orientation to the Lord is reflected throughout the heavenly worship recorded in the Sacred Scriptures, whether it be the worshippers before the throne of "one whose appearance sparkled like jasper and carnelian" (Revelation 4:3) or the Lamb (Revelation 14), or the Seraphim before "the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne" (Isaiah 6:1), or the congregation at the Temple on the Day of Atonement (Sirach 50). Orientation has meaning not only for worship but also for our daily living, and this

brings me to the other implication of *Return to the Lord*.

As I said, religious faith is never purely personal or private. Recall the second commandment (Matthew 22:39): Loving our neighbor requires virtue on our part. This virtue must be practiced and comes with effort. It is a good habit. We hear many, with good reason, complain about the lack of civility in our society today. Acts of violence, rage, crudity and vulgarity abound. But when was the last time we spoke to our children about virtue of any kind or the fruits of virtue—patience, prudence, chastity, self-restraint, discipline, courtesy, kindness? When was the last time an employer spoke to his employees or a teacher to her students about these qualities? When was the last time we encouraged our children to live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2447)?

These works of mercy should be memorized, not as an academic exercise but to be lived. The opposition which often some mistakenly create between dogma and practice is false. Dogma is an expression of truth, and truth is never in opposition to what is good. We must love what is good, and we cannot love what we do not know. And what we do not know we cannot live. The exercise of virtue is not a magic act. It just does not simply happen without conscious application. A return to virtue and the fruits of a virtuous life are long overdue.

What I am saying here has been the constant teaching of the Catholic Church since the beginning. This message is nothing new. The teaching comes from the Sacred Scriptures and is reiterated in our Sacred Tradition. What we are experiencing in society, however, is a low-point in moral behavior. If society is not to sink more deeply into this mire of confusion and disaffection, then it is time to "return to the Lord." To do so requires an orientation to the Giver of every good gift.

God has blessed us with an overwhelmingly successful capital campaign. I am certain that He expects more of us, beginning with a heartfelt and spiritual "return to the Lord." May this Lent be the start of something new, built on an already well-established foundation.

As I express my gratitude, dear and generous faithful, asking God's blessings on you for spiritual growth and renewal, I remain

Devotedly yours in our Lord,

†Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

## CRS Rice Bowl: Build a Culture of Encounter

BALTIMORE -- In his Lenten message this year, Pope Francis encourages the faithful to participate in Church Lenten campaigns and promote the culture of encounter.

"I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favor the culture of encounter in our one human family," said the Pope.

CRS Rice Bowl's theme for 2017 is Encounter Lent, encouraging Catholic families in the United States to encounter ourselves, our neighbors, and our God anew. For more than 40 years, CRS Rice Bowl has served Catholic families, parishes and schools by offering a rich array of resources -- stories, prayers, recipes, videos, a daily calendar and now an app, to deepen their experience and observance of Lent.

Twenty-five percent of all contributions here in Southwest Louisiana stay in the Diocese of Lake Charles to support our own hunger and poverty prevention programs. The remaining 75 percent goes to support CRS' humanitarian and development programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ," Pope Francis said. "Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love."

"CRS Rice Bowl is about people and the hope we have for each other. It's about our ability to encounter our neighbors no matter where they live, to love them as God loves us," said Joan Rosenhauer, Executive Vice President of U.S. Operations for CRS.

"At a time when there is so

much conflict in the world, this Lenten program gives people of all ages a way to respond to human suffering with compassion and action. To learn the names and stories of our brothers and sisters, to include them in our prayers, to contribute our Lenten sacrifices so they can live better, healthier lives; this is the way we deepen our faith, building a culture of encounter and holding up the dignity of each and every one of us," Rosenhauer said.

With CRS Rice Bowl, each week of Lent is a new opportunity to meet a family from a different country overseas, hear their personal stories, learn about their culture and experience a meatless meal they serve at home.

Each Lenten story illustrates a principal of Catholic social teaching -- an essential element of Catholic faith that says every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is

invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.

"We want to meet people where they are in their day-to-day lives, in schools, in parishes, and on the go. CRS Rice Bowl is an easy to use tool that helps people deepen their Lenten journey by participating in our Lenten traditions -- prayer, fasting and almsgiving - in a time and way that suits them best. For some families this means following the Lenten calendar at home, for others it means downloading the app, or making the Lenten recipes, or watching the Lenten Stories of Hope on their tablets -- any way people choose is a good way to make this Lent a season to encounter ourselves, our neighbors and our God and serve the poor around the world," said Beth Martin, CRS Rice Bowl program director for U.S. Operations.



Rice Bowl: Encounter Lent

## Gazzolo named to Accountability Commission

LAKE CHARLES -- Mrs. Kimberlee Gazzolo, superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles, has been appointed as the nonpublic representative on the Accountability Commission of the Louisiana Board of Secondary Education (BESE).

The Accountability Commission meets regularly to study and make recommendations to the Louisiana Department of Education and BESE regarding school, district and state accountability. In the past, the Commission has made recommendations on a wide range of pressing issues related to Louisiana's teacher, leader, school and district accountability systems, such as:

- The school and district accountability formula and star rating system
- Policies for the transition to higher academic

expectations

- Revisions to Louisiana's teacher evaluation system (Compass)

Meeting agendas can be accessed at [LouisianaBelieves.com](http://LouisianaBelieves.com) and meetings are livestreamed.

Mrs. Gazzolo also serves on the BESE Non-Public School Council, LDOE Special Education Advisory Panel (representing non-public schools) and on the Board of Directors for Families Helping Families Southwest Louisiana. She is a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the mother of four and grandmother of two.

"I am honored to have been selected by BESE to represent the non-public schools in the state of Louisiana and will work to assist in making accountability recommendations that are fair and equitable for all stakeholders," she said.

## Golden Jubilee Catholic Charismatic Renewal

NEW ORLEANS -- The annual Southern Regional Conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal scheduled for March 31 - April 2, 2017, will be held at the Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel in Metairie, Louisiana, with the theme "Current of Grace", marking the Golden Jubilee of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church.

Conference speakers include world renowned Sr. Brieghe McKenna, OSC and Fr. Kevin Scallon, CM, who have exercised a ministry of evangelization and healing for almost 50 years. Sr. Brieghe's book, *Miracles Do Happen* is

a worldwide best-seller. Patti Mansfield will also speak and minister. She was present at the retreat in 1967, which sparked the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and her Golden Jubilee book, *As By A New Pentecost*, will be available at the Conference. Also on the program are Deacon Larry and Andi Oney from the Archdiocese of New Orleans along with other dynamic teachers and authors.

Conference sessions will take place in the Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel Ballroom. To book a room for the weekend, go to [www.ccrno.org/bookhotel](http://www.ccrno.org/bookhotel) or call 504-888-9500 and mention the Catholic Charismatic Conference to receive the special rate.

The conference begins on Friday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. and concludes on Sunday, April 2, with an 11 a.m. Mass. Everyone is welcome to attend the conference for a single session or for all weekend.

Seating is limited and early registration is encouraged. Discounts are available for pre-registration. All priests, religious brothers and sisters, deacons and their families are invited to attend the

conference at no charge, but pre-registration is requested. Fees are: individual adult \$60 (\$70 on site); married couple \$80 (\$90 on site); family same household \$90 (\$100 on site); single sessions \$25 on site; youth participation to age 30, apart from family registration, \$20; all day Saturday \$50. Registration online is encouraged. For additional information on the schedule, contact the Conference Office at P.O. Box 7515, Metairie, LA 70010-7515; telephone (504) 828-1368; email: [info@ccrno.org](mailto:info@ccrno.org), or go to [www.ccrno.org](http://www.ccrno.org).





## Saint Charles Center events for March

MOSS BLUFF – March events at Saint Charles Center include “Knowing God’s Will: The Spiritual Practice of Discernment,” presented by Sr. Diane Depwe is Tuesday, March 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. Lenten Private Directed Retreats with Fr. Whitney Miller, Fr. Marshall Boulet, Judy Savoie, and Gloria Villegas can be scheduled Monday, March 20 to Sunday, March 26.

A directed retreat is a form of silent retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola focusing on the personal prayer of the individual. Retreats of three or five days are available. Information and registration can only be achieved by calling 337-855-1232. Online registration may not be used.

Fr. Miller, Fr. Boulet, Savoie, and Villegas also offer “An Introduction to the Directed Retreat” from Thursday, March 23 to Sunday, March 26. Registration is

only available by calling the Center at 337-855-1232

“An Evening of Mercy and Forgiveness” on Tuesday, March 28, from 6 to 9 p.m., will take place in the Assumption Chapel beginning with the enthronement of the Blessed Sacrament for any wishing to spend a Holy Hour in this sacred space. Priests will be on hand for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) until 8 p.m. at which time Benediction will be celebrated to conclude this blessed opportunity of Lenten worship and praise. Pre-registration is not required for this event.

Saint Charles Center stands as a place apart, offering an atmosphere of serenity and peace, where one can achieve spiritual renewal and growth – rediscovering life’s meaning in quiet reflection.



In the photo at left, workers pour concrete for the driveway of the gate at Camp Karol of Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. The project, which began in late December, continues on the Camp Karol site. The photo at right shows the completed cement driveway into the property that will become the diocesan youth ministry facility.



## Abbey Youth Fest returns for 2017

COVINGTON - Following last year’s severe weather-related cancellation, Abbey Youth Fest, the largest youth event within the Archdiocese of New Orleans, returns to the beautiful grounds of Saint Joseph Abbey next month. Abbey Youth Fest (AYF) takes place Saturday, March 25th with the theme “Be It Done Unto Me” in honor of that day’s feast, the Feast of the Annunciation. AYF is open to teens and young adults ages 13 or older. Saint Joseph Abbey is located at 75376 River Road in Covington, LA 70457. Visit [www.abbeyyouthfest.com](http://www.abbeyyouthfest.com) for more information, including registration.

AYF provides young people with an opportunity to experience a day of prayer and faith formation with an exposure to the Benedictine tradition. Its focus is evangelization and vocational discernment by means of liturgy, prayer, worship, music and education.

For the first time in its 16-year history, last spring’s AYF, scheduled a day after the March 11th flood, was cancelled. Even as crews were still assessing the damage, many of the 5,000-plus registered attendees asked how they could lend a hand.

“Amidst the flood that wreaked so much havoc across the state, I can’t help but smile when I think about how everyone stepped up and made a commitment to

ensuring AYF returned this year. It’s a testament to how important it is for Catholic youths to have the opportunity to strengthen their faith and be surrounded by others who share their passion for the Gospel,” said Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., President-Rector of Saint Joseph Seminary College.

Thankfully, nobody was hurt during the flood, but Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College was inundated with floodwaters. Thirty-one buildings were damaged, including the Abbey Church and the monastery. Total losses will exceed \$35 million.

New this year at the 2017 festival will be a special profile component, as AYF welcomes Catholic, pro-life advocate and speaker, Stephanie Grey, who will address issues concerned with the sanctity of life. Louisiana Right to Life’s PULSE youth leaders will play a special part in the day alongside Teen C.R.O.S.S. leaders from across the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Additional 2017 presenters and musicians include: national Life Teen speaker David Calavitta; award-winning Christian rock group the Josh Blakesley Band; Louisiana Catholic speaker Katie Prejean McGrady; Christian singer-songwriter Dave Moore; homilist and pastor from Baton Rouge, Fr. Joshua Johnson; and emcee and “media nun” Sr. Tracey Matthia Dugas of the Daughters of St. Paul who preach the Gospel through all forms of media, especially social media.

In addition to teens and young adults, priests, deacons and seminarians are invited to AYF free of charge. Registration for youth and adult laity is \$40 per person. Online, pre-event registration is open now through March 10th. On-site check-in and registration begins at 8 a.m. on March 25th. The AYF field will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Information and online registration can be found at [www.abbeyyouthfest.com](http://www.abbeyyouthfest.com).

## Lenten Regulations

Every Catholic, even children and older adults, should participate in some way in the spiritual disciplines and penitential practices of Lent in order to go up to Jerusalem with Jesus. These are the regulations for the Church in the United States.

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and we have only one full meal. Concerning the Good Friday fast, the Second Vatican Council teaches: “let the Easter fast be kept sacred. let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with a clear and uplifted mind.”

\* The other Fridays of the season of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines. But Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health.

- The Fridays of the year outside of Lent are also days of penance. Abstaining from meat is the traditional way of observing these days of penance. However, each person is free to replace the traditional abstinence from meat with some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance. It is obvious that abstaining from meat is meaningless for vegetarians, who must choose some other form of abstinence. It is equally obvious that replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with the spirit of Lent. Abstaining from meat may be replaced on Fridays during the year with abstaining from some other food. It may also be replaced with time spent reading and studying the Scriptures, special prayers, such as the rosary or visits to the Blessed Sacrament, acts of thoughtfulness and charity to those in need, or acts of personal witness to one’s faith, such as teaching a religion class or speaking out on the sinfulness of abortion, euthanasia, racism, and other social evils.

\* While the season of Lent is the primary period of Catholic penitential practices, these regulations are not intended to limit the occasions for Christian penance. The practice of spiritual discipline is always appropriate during periods of special need for the individual and the larger community. The Catholic faithful should be reminded of the teaching of Pope Paul VI concerning the seriousness of being faithful to Lenten disciplines. He said that the obligation to follow these disciplines in solidarity with the Church is a serious one. However, Catholics should not become scrupulous in this regard. Failure to observe individual days of penance is not considered a serious matter. However the faithful should look for ways to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed, and works of religion and charity on the Fridays outside Lent, should be considered a minimal response to the call of Jesus to go up to Jerusalem with Him in order that we might experience true Christian conversion in our lives.

## Black and Indian Mission Collection set this weekend

LAKE CHARLES – The churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles will take part in the annual Black and Indian Mission Collection this First Weekend of Lent - March 4-5.

Mandated by the III Plenary Council in 1884, the National Collection for Black and Indian people continues as the embodiment of the Church’s concern for evangelizing the Black and Indian peoples of the United States. The funds are distributed as grants to dioceses throughout the United States, supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which otherwise would cease.

Churches here in the Diocese of Lake Charles along with various ministries are aided by grants from the Black and Indian Mission Office (BIMO). Those parishes receiving funding from a BIMO grant include St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church (Elton); St. Joseph Catholic Church (Welsh); Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church (Jennings); Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church; Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church; and the Office of Black Catholics, including providing for the Eleanor Figaro Scholarship Fund, which extends partial scholarships for a number of students at St. Louis Catholic High School.

In 2016, the faithful of the diocese contributed \$33,906.81 to support the Black and Indian Mission Collection.

## Rite of Election Sunday, March 5

LAKE CHARLES – The Rite of Election, the recognition of God’s choice to call Catechumens for initiation into the Church, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5, the First Sunday of Lent, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will preside while accepting and greeting

those who will celebrate the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, Saturday April 15.

Until last year, the Bishop had also met with the candidates, those previously baptized into another Christian faith, who are to be confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. For the sec-

ond year, Bishop Provost will greet the candidates for an Afternoon of Reflection, this year on Sunday, March 12, at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral.

The Rite of Election closes the period of the catechuminate, and begins the preparation for baptism at Easter. Catechumens who undergo this rite are called the “Elect” during the period of purification and enlightenment.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Vocation drawing contest entries sought

LAKE CHARLES – The call for entries to the annual vocation drawing contest for the Diocese of Lake Charles in preparation for World Day of Prayer for Vocations continues.

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

The drawings are to be turned in by noon on Friday, April 7, to Connie Perkins in the Office of Vocations, 414 Iris Street.

Each entry must include - printed on the back of the drawing - the artist’s name, age, grade, phone number, church, city, and name of school. It must be placed unfolded in an envelope marked “Vocation Drawing Contest.”

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

### Women’s luncheon date

LAKE CHARLES -- The Women’s Luncheon with Bishop Glen John Provost is Wednesday March 8 in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Office Building. The cost of the luncheon is \$15, which should be sent by check, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Women’s Luncheon Tickets, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

### “The Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide” at OLQH

LAKE CHARLES -- Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse and Sean Corcoran will facilitate “The Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide” - Helping You Find Peace, Power, and Passion After Your Divorce at Our Lady Queen of Heaven’s Family Life Community Center beginning late March.

The program will be held on the Tuesdays of March 21 through June 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. each day in the Activity Room. Registration fee of \$40 covers all materials and registration is available at [www.olqh.org](http://www.olqh.org). The deadline is March 10.

The program will help those who take part to discover how to work through the emotions of separation and divorce, experience personal healing and hope, gain wisdom and comfort from others who share your experiences, address questions of forgiveness and new family dynamics, and obtain an understanding of the annulment process.

Call 337-477-1236 for Felicia with any questions.

### St. Margaret of Scotland Lenten Mission

LAKE CHARLES -- Quick-Fixes for the Lenten Dropout, Saving “Us” From “Ourselves” during Lent is a Lenten Mission Series hosted by St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church Monday to Wednesday, March 6-8, at 6:30 p.m. each day in the church.

The mission will be presented by Rev. Jamin Scott David, JCL, a priest of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. He is the pastor of St. Margaret Church in Albany and its chapel of ease — St. Thomas the Apostle in Springfield. Fr. David is a canon lawyer for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, the Director of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate, and a Judge in the Diocesan Tribunal of First Instance.

### Next Marriage Preparation class April 8

LAKE CHARLES – Openings for the next Marriage Preparation class, offered by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese, is Saturday, April 8.

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 [www.lcdioocese.org](http://www.lcdioocese.org) by click-

ing 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.

### 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 weekday Masses and be available during confessions.

Call Felicia at 337-477-1236 with any questions or go to [olqh.org](http://olqh.org) for daily schedule and topics.

### Altar Society Spring trip set April 19

LAKE CHARLES – The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception’s Altar Society will sponsor a Spring trip to St. Francisville on Wednesday, April 19.

Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral prior to departure of the bus from the Ave Maria Hall at 7 a.m. There will be a self-tour at the Historical Grace Episcopal Church and Graveyard, a visit to the C.C. Lockwood Museum and lunch at the Magnolia Café. A tour of Rosedown Plantation and Afton Villa Gardens is also planned with return to Lake Charles by 8 p.m.

The cost is \$125. A \$50 non-refundable deposit will hold a spot.

Call Karen Fills at 304-8424 to make your reservation. Checks should be made payable to “ICC Altar Society” and mailed to Fills, 1513 Anita Street, Sulphur, LA 70663.