



Michael Caraway conferred the Ministry of Acolyte

ROME – Diocese of Lake Charles seminarian Michael Caraway was one of 63 men studying at the Pontifical North American College conferred the Ministry of Acolyte in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the College by His Excellency The Most Reverend David Kagan, Bishop of Bismarck, North Dakota.

Caraway, one of four men studying for the priesthood for the diocese in Rome, is in his second year of theological formation and a parishioner of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings.

Bishop Kagan, an alumnus of the College and the celebrant of the Mass, reminded the students in his homily for the Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, that their new responsibility of serving at the altar, their second-to-last step before being ordained priests, is one to be taken on with a spirit of humility.

“Remember that your service is never to be about you.....for the people of God whom you will serve look to you to model fidelity, devotion and humble joy in your service to Almighty God, and what a privilege you have in

this vocation,” the Bishop said.

The seminarians, currently in their second year of formation for the priesthood, would have two additional years of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

As part of the rite, the Bishop placed the paten, which contains the hosts for the celebration of Mass, in the hands of each candidate and said, “Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church.”

The Pontifical North American College serves as the American seminary in Rome. Founded in 1859 by Blessed Pius IX, the college has formed over 5000 priests near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses around the United States, Canada, and Australia. The College strengthens the bonds between Rome and local Churches worldwide, and it allows its students to study the Church’s rich religious and cultural heritage at close range.



Bishop David Kagan of Bismarck, North Dakota, at left, places the paten in the hands of Michael Caraway, right a seminarian of the Diocese of Lake Charles, during the rite conferring the Ministry of Acolyte to Caraway, a second year theology student in Rome. (Photo courtesy of the Pontifical North American College)

Good Friday Collection April 14

The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America is the home of a worldwide Commissariat of Friars Minor and monasteries who function as bridges between the Holy Land and Christians all over the world. The Commissariat offices at the Monastery in Washington, D.C. coordinate the vital support for the work of the Franciscans who work in Holy Land.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. It is vital that we care for the Christians living in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence in a land that is filled with a majority Islamic and Jewish population.

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them during this special day in the Church and our life of faith.

Pope Francis has asked the faithful of the Diocese



of Lake Charles to support Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

With a contribution to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, the donor becomes an instrument of peace in a troubled land. In these challenging times in the Middle East, your support means that our church will conduct parish ministry, provide Catholic education, feed the hungry, build housing for Christians, maintain shrines and operate refuge centers in the Holy Land.

Christians, along with all of the clergy and religious who serve in the Holy Land, will deeply appreciate prayers and financial help! The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is applied to the following programs: Faith, Memory & Culture – The Holy Places, Social and Charitable Activities, Educational and Scientific Activities, Pastoral Activities; Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs.

Catholic Charities distribution of Second Harvest food baskets

LAKE CHARLES – The distribution schedule of Second Harvest food baskets for eligible clients by Catholic Charities at its 1225 Second Street location will take place on the second and third Fridays in April.

The distribution on April 14 is for clients with last names ending in A through L, starting at 9 a.m. and concluding at 11 a.m. The second

food distribution day falls on April 21, also from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for those clients whose last names end in M through Z.

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 in-

come for the household: Food Stamp letter, SSI, TANF, Social Security, Child Support Letter, retirement, unemployment, Veterans benefits, proof of residency - a utility bill.

• Proof of the number of persons in the household.

Call Catholic Charities at 337-439-7436 for more information.

Bishop Provost to preside at Sacred Triduum in Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will celebrate the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil - in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

On Palm Sunday, April 9, Bishop Provost will bless the palms before the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral.

The Bishop will also be the celebrant of the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13, along with the priests of the Diocese as concelebrants. At this Mass, the Holy Oils used

during the year are prepared and blessed.

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper is celebrated on Holy Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m. The Bishop will conduct the commemoration of Christ’s washing the feet of His Apostles during the liturgy.

The celebration of the Lord’s Passion will take place on Good Friday, April 14, at 3 p.m. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross with the faithful recognizing the “Cross of Christ” as their only hope of salvation.

The celebration concludes with Holy Communion.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 15, will begin at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral with the Service of Light.

Cathedral Mass times for Easter Sunday, March 27, are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.

Diocesan office hours for Holy Week are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday, April 10-12. Offices will be closed on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, April 13 and 14, as well as Holy Monday, April 16.

Lent began with Ash Wednesday

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the Ash Wednesday Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on March 1, opening Lent. At the close of the liturgy, the Bishop, other clergy, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion placed ashes on the forehead of those who came forward as a visible cross.

In his homily the Bishop, asked this question. “Why do we as Catholics mark the beginning of the penitential season by receiving ashes in this conspicuous way?”

“The answer is two-fold, and rooted in the sacred scriptures,” he continued. “First, ashes testify publically that we are all in the same boat. We are all sinners, something for which we need no more proof than our daily activities and the front page of our daily newspapers.”

Bishop Provost then spoke of the second significance, saying, “There is a second connotation. Ashes are also a symbol of misfortune; they represent the state of a person’s suffering, sometimes for reasons which he cannot understand.

“Ashes are not the arrogant display of a holier than thou obnoxious and sanctimonious piety; they are instead a reminder of the reduction of sin to nothingness, a nothingness that is the embrace of our own will, rather than God’s. The pitiable con-

dition which is ours because we suffer from the sins we have deliberately and freely chosen. Ashes are a commu-

nal expression of the dust to which our sins have reduced us and the sufferings our sins have caused.”



In Photo 1, Bishop Glen John Provost blesses the ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday with Holy Water while Father Rommel Tolentino, pastor of the Cathedral, right. Assisting the Bishop is Father Ruben Buller, left, and, partially hidden, Deacon Chris Fontenot. Bishop Provost and Father Tolentino place ashes on the foreheads of the faithful in Photo 2.



Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, greets one of his catechumens at the Rite of Election on Sunday, March 5, in the Cathedral. Bishop Glen John Provost accepted and greeted over 160 catechumens and their sponsors at the event. The Rite of Election takes place at the end of the period of the catechumenate, and begins the preparation for baptism at Easter. Catechumens who undergo this rite are called the “Elect” during the period of purification and enlightenment.

Abbey Youth Fest set for March 25

COVINGTON - Abbey Youth Fest (AYF), the largest youth event within the Archdiocese of New Orleans, takes place Saturday, March 25, 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. Visit 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.

This year will be a special pro-life component, with 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.

Registration for youth and adult laity is \$40 per person. On-site check-in and registration begins at 8 a.m. on March 25. 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.



Support the CRS Collection, answer knock of *Jesus in disguise*.

LAKE CHARLES -- On the weekend of March 25-26, the Diocese of Lake Charles will join others around the United States in taking up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC), known for many years as the American Bishops Overseas Appeal. By participating in this collection, the faithful of Southwest Louisiana are responding to **Jesus in disguise** in some of the most marginalized communities in our world. The CRSC provides services for immigrants, humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters, refuge for the displaced, and advocacy for peace and justice around the world. Let us join together in this collection to support those suffering and on the

margins of society.

For example, in Niger, changes in climate in western Africa are adversely affecting poor and rural farmers. No matter how hard these farmers work, droughts are shortening the rainy season, leaving harvests too small to support families and communities. Your support of the CRSC is helping connect businesses that provide drought-resistant seeds to these communities. These new relationships are providing hope to these communities for a sustainable future.

The continued support of this collection by the local church makes a difference for so many around the world. All should prayerfully consider how to support the

collection this year. More can be learned about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Funds acquired from the CRS Collection are distributed to these six organizations: Catholic Relief Services . . . for international relief and development; migration and refugee services for refugee resettlement; Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., (CLINIC) for immigration legal services; Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development for advocacy; Holy Father's Relief Fund for emergency relief; and the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church for evangelization and ministry.

SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION



HELP *Jesus* IN DISGUISE



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Golden Jubilee of Catholic Charismatic Renewal

NEW ORLEANS - The annual Southern Regional Conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal scheduled for March 31 to April 2, 2017, will be held at the Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel in Metairie, Louisiana, with the theme "Current of Grace" and marking the 50th Anniversary 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.

All Conference sessions will take place in the Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel Ballroom. Saturday afternoon from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, there will be a Family Session in the newly renovated Copeland Tower on the 16th floor, with a panoramic view of the area. Conference attendees are encouraged to use the Landmark as their hotel for the Conference. To book a room for the weekend, go to www.ccrno.org/bookhotel or call 504-888-9500 and mention the Catholic Charismatic Conference to receive the special rate.

New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond encourages this event with these words: "I am pleased that the annual Catholic Charismatic Conference is being held in the Archdiocese of New Orleans from March 31 to April

2, 2017. The theme this year is "Current of Grace," which describes the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as viewed by Pope Francis in his address to the Charismatic Community. I wish for God's abundant blessings upon all participants and promise to remember you in my prayer."

The conference begins on Friday, March 31 at 7 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. On Friday at 3:30 p.m., there will be a pre-conference Mass of Intercession with Fr. Bill Henry of Greenville, Mississippi, and Deacon Oney as Homilist.

stage during the Conference.

The opening session of the conference will include a welcome by Deacon Oney; a greeting by Archbishop Aymond; and testimonies by Sr. Brieghe and Fr. Kevin. At 10 p.m., Late Night Worship will begin in the Ballroom, with praise and Eucharistic Adoration.

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



The Joyful Noise music ministry, led by Lynn Mondt, which has provided music at the Conference for over 20 years, will provide music. No-LoudRocks, a youth band led by Leslie Bertucci, will provide music for the Late Night Worship and Family Session. Also, Sr. Brieghe McKenna has gifted CCRNO with a large Divine Mercy image from Poland that will be venerated on

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, or go to www.ccrno.org.

Saint Charles Center events – March, April

MOSS BLUFF - Events at Saint Charles Center include the scheduling of Lenten Private Directed Retreats with Fr. Whitney Miller, Fr. Marshall Boulet, Judy Savoie, and Gloria Villegas 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" 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., takes place in the Tabor Retreat House's 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.



A Women's Lenten Silent Retreat "Walking the Way of the Passion with Jesus:"

A Journey toward Spiritual Growth, Happiness and Peace" sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church is open to all who wish to attend. Presented by Fr. Whitney Miller it takes place from Friday, April 7 to Sunday, April 9.

Good Friday (April 14) Meditations with Father Miller 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - honors the holy hours of quiet spirit and solemn reflection throughout one of the most sacred days of the liturgical year spending time in prayer at the Center. There is no fee for this

event but pre-registration is requested. If desired, participants should bring their own lunch and beverage.

"Letting Go of Resentment and Hurts and Replacing with Forgiveness and Mercy" with Sr. Diane is Tuesday, April 18 from 6 to 9 p.m.

For deadlines and suggested donations, call 337-855-1232 or go to stcharlescenter.com.

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.

Catholic Calendar publication changes

LAKE CHARLES - The next publication of the Catholic Calendar will be Good Friday, April 14, the second Friday of month rather than the first. Subsequent publication dates are April 28, May 12 and May 26.

In addition, diocesan office hours for Holy Week, finds offices open on Monday through Wednesday, April 10-12, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Offices will be closed on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, April 13 and 14, as well as Holy Monday, April 16.

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.

Luncheon and breakfast dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The Women's Luncheon and Men's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost are Thursday, April 6 and , Friday, April 7, 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, 411 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.

"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.

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.

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.

Next Marriage Preparation class May 13

LAKE CHARLES - Openings for the next Marriage Preparation class, offered by the Office of Family Life of the Dio-

cese, is Saturday, May 13.

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.

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.