



An Easter Message from Bishop Glen John Provost

*"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."
John 10:10*

Easter is all about the life that Jesus Christ came to give us. In the natural world life ends with death. But in the Kingdom of God, the new world that God recreates from the ashes of the old, life does not end with death. Instead, the tomb is empty and death becomes the beginning of a new life. This monumental shift is felt in the earthquake that Mary Magdalen and "the other Mary" experience at the tomb on that first Easter Sunday (Matthew 28:1-2).

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). These words of our Lord reverberate in our ears as the angel tells the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said" (Matthew 28:5). This proclamation is not just surprising. It is revolutionary. There is something unheard of here, entirely new and transformational in its power. It is an event as earthshattering as an earthquake.

Jesus promised this. He foretold that this victory over death would take place. His death on Calvary was not really

a defeat or even a temporary setback. The crucifixion was a sacrifice, and in the vocabulary of God a sacrifice is an act of worship. As a sacrifice, the crucifixion followed the rules of offering. The difference here lies in what is offered. The Letter to the Hebrews instructs us that "we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). Through the blood of Christ we are reconciled to God. Jesus "entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:12). The abundant life our Lord promised is a share in God's life that He makes possible for us through the powerful sanctifying grace that leads to redemption. It is in this that we rejoice at Easter, because the Resurrection is a confirmation of everything our Lord promised. There is great reason to hope. The tomb opens to reveal life, not death. Therefore, we must live as people who have hope.

Long ago a great Pope of the 5th Century, St. Leo the Great, wrote these words and they are just as appropriate now as they were then: "Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of

whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom."

The Christian is a person of Resurrection hope, and someone with Resurrection hope does not live debased, and wallowing in sin, self-indulgence, hypocrisy, and fear. No, the Christian with Resurrection hope is like Mary Magdalen or Peter or John, startled at first by the magnitude of the moment but gradually overcome with joy at the possibilities. Imagine the marvel and wonder that the disciples felt when they heard Mary Magdalen announce to them, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). How could they return to their former way of life? How could they remain in fear? Theirs was the hope that only their Lord could give, the Lord who had passed from death to life.

May our lives reflect the reality of what happened on that first Easter Sunday. Let us remember our dignity and "not forget that [we] have been rescued from the power of darkness, and brought into the light of God's kingdom."

Cathedral schedule for Good Friday and Easter Vigil

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost continues the celebration of the Sacred Triduum today, April 14, with the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion at 3 p.m. and on Saturday, April 15, with the celebration of the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night starting at 8 p.m., all in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Today's 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 and silent departure from the Cathedral.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper was celebrated on Holy Thursday with the Bishop commemorating Christ washing the feet of His Apostles.

Bishop Provost will celebrate the Easter Vigil liturgy, beginning outside the Cathedral with the Service of Light followed by procession into the Cathedral and the Mass.

Cathedral Mass times for Easter Sunday, April 16, are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m. Bishop Provost will celebrate the 9 a.m. Mass in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on Easter Sunday.

Saint Charles Center events in April, May

MOSS BLUFF - Events at Saint Charles Center include Good Friday Meditations today, April 14, with Father Miller from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The time 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.

Other events scheduled in May have Michael Sartori, M.Div. presenting "The Lord's Prayer" Evening of Reflection on Tuesday, May 9, from 6 to 9 p.m.; "On Eagles' Wings" offered by Sr. Diane Depwe on Tuesday May 16 from 6 to 9 p.m.; and a "Domestic Church" Married Couples Retreat from Thursday, May 25 to Sunday, May 28. "Domestic Church" is an officially recognized lay movement that provides life-long formation for sacramentally married couples for the sake of achieving sanctity together, growing in mutual love and providing an environment where children can thrive and grow in union with Christ so they may truly be called a Domestic Church! For information and/or to register, please call Blaine or Denise Wyninger at (337) 764-1562.

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

Reservations are being accepted for the Bishop Jude Speyer Hermitage House on a "first call, first served" basis. Contact Mrs. Michelle Monceaux at (337) 855-1232, Ext. 202, or email michelle.monceaux@lcediocese.org.

For priests, deacons and religious women a free will donation upon departure will be accepted. If the guest chooses to eat in the Private Dining Room of the Saint Charles Center when there are other groups present on the campus, the following rates for meals are provided

as a guideline for the donation: breakfast \$10.00; lunch, \$14.50; dinner/supper, \$15.50 or all three meals, \$40.00 per day

Guests of the Hermitage House can also choose to bring their own food and make use of the kitchen, provided within the residence. Dishes, pots, pans and the basic necessities for food preparation are also available.

For all other guests, the suggested rate for the Hermitage House is \$75.00 per day.

For any guest of the Bishop Speyer Hermitage House, there is a five-day limit for the length of stay. Any requested occupancy beyond five days requires the approval of the Director of the Saint Charles Center.

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.



Bishop Glen John Provost blesses the newly installed memorial bricks in the Garden Wall of Grace Garden of CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital following the St. Patrick's Day Mass in the Convent Chapel. The hospital has celebrated its 109th anniversary of providing a healing ministry in Southwest Louisiana. Several priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles - Monsignor M.J. Bernard, Monsignor Curtis Vidrine, and Rev. Archimandrite Herbert J. May (brick shown in inset) - were honored with bricks this year.

CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital celebrates 109 years of ministry

LAKE CHARLES - On Friday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day - the CHRISTUS St. Patrick Foundation celebrated the 109th anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick's Hospital with the blessing and dedication of engraved bricks on the Garden Wall, located in Grace Garden.

The hospital's anniversary marks 109 years of delivering dignity, integrity, excellence, compassion and stewardship in health care through a mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. It was the first hospital in Lake Charles, dedicated on St. Patrick's Day in 1908 as St. Patrick Sanitarium, with 50 beds, an operating room and a sterilizing room. The name was later changed to CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital.

Bishop Glen John Provost led the dedication of new bricks with Father Brian King, Manager of Spiritual Care Services at St. Patrick's - The Garden, a quiet, green space with fountains and benches for people to sit, to meditate, or to relax for a few moments in tranquility, was created in 2005 and is located near the Convent Chapel.

Every year on St. Patrick's Day bricks are blessed and dedicated to families honoring or remembering a loved one. The Garden Wall represents those special people who have made a difference in our lives. It is a permanent way to recognize them for generations to come.

Those in attendance were welcomed by Donald H. Lloyd II, President and Chief Executive Officer of the CHRISTUS St. Patrick Health System. Kay C. Barnett, CFRE, Executive Director of Development, CHRISTUS St. Pat-

rick Foundation, introduced the event's sponsor - Flavin Realty in memory of William J. "Bill" Flavin and Father William "Bill" Condon.

Bricks were dedicated in memory of: Charley Pierre Abshire, Helen Anthony, Julio P. Baizes Sr., Ronald W. Berglund, Rev. Msgr. M.J. Bernard, Andrew J. Betz, Veda Orsot Biagas, Rev. Francis I. Bischof, William "Billy" Dows Blake, Sharon "Sherry" Bonell Blount, Joe Alvin Bowers, May Brignac, Gloria Bumpus, Margaret "Peggy" Huber Caire, Frank M. "Coach Max" Calderera, Dr. Milton Lee Carleton, George Noel Chauvin, Larry Keith "Pop" Chitty, Timothy Owen Coffey, Reverend William F. Condon, Thomas "Tommy" George Coyne, Richard J. Daley, Randy Davis Sr., Barbara Salter Demarie, Joseph "Silton" DeVillier, Wilbert Joseph DeVille Sr., James Willis "Bill" Dimmick, Charles P. Doyle, Paul Shepard Draughn, Francis Arden Dressler, Robin Dean Driscoll, Lilly Nelson and James H. Duffre Sr., Geniveve S. "Genny" Dupin, Betty Marie Field, Nola Gayle Fisher, Thomas Alward Flanagan Jr., Mary Ida Futrell, and Yvonne Yongue Guidroz.

Also, Margaret Huber Heard, Archie Samuel Herbert Sr., Robert Dale Hebert, Ph.D., Arthur "Art" Hollins III, Mark Steven Huber, Margaret "Maggie" Bahnsen Husters, Kenneth Joseph Istre, Lois Joubert, Nancy Lee Keating, Dr. David Allen Kestel, Sam Mattison Kilman and Melanie Wilkinson Kilman, Beryl Kaufman Kober, Mary Valentine Boudreaux LaBove, Jeni-Su Lee Lacoste, Vanessa Elizabeth Luchon-Landry, F.J. Lungaro, Edward

"Ed" Gene Martin Sr., Reverend Archimandrite Herbert J. May, J.C.L., Johnson Mbataru, Michael A. "Mike" McCall, Mona Lee Martin McRae, Joseph Godfrey Miller, Annie Broussard Miller, Sergeant Tracy A. Morgan, Eloise Moses, Laura Kaufman Myrick, Catherine Montalbano Navarra, Charles Vincent Niel Sr., Jeannette Aida Christ "Dena" Nodier, and Charlie and Edward Onxley.

Also, Yolande Marie McLin Palmer, Anna Lee Broussard Patin, Robert Lynn Patrick, Anthony "Tony" Pecorino, Carlisle and Jack Pecorino, Emily Ruth Petitjean, Yvonne Vidrine Pharr, Lila Dean Robinson Phillips, Almalee Bordon Pitman, Eddie "Pete" Joseph Pitre, Edgar Blaine Rains Sr., Leonard Gene Richard, Adrienne Managan Dark Robinson, Mathius J. Russell, Sister Ann Margaret Savant, CCVI, Edwin Fred Schroeder Jr., Evelyn Moore Simon, Roxie Smith Stewart, Crystal Strawder, Vicki Vincent Stulb, Jody Gail Sylvester, Samuel "Gene" Tanner, Eula Blanche Tarver, Timothy Edward Tarver, Gaynell and Sydney Benjamin Taylor Sr., Debra Reed Terranova, Doug Thompson, Quentin C. Trahan, Rev. Msgr. Curtis S. Vidrine, Edward Sweeney "Ed" Watson, Dr. Charles Thomas White, Elizabeth "Liz" Ramona Holbrook Williams, and Maynard Maurice Woodhatch.

In addition, bricks were dedicated in honor of The- resa Ashford, Leslie B. Jones, Lorene H. Jones, Juanita Levias, and Evie Marie Reed.

Father Long named Rector at St. Louis

LAKE CHARLES - Bishop Glen John Provost has appointed Father Nathan Long as the new Rector of St. Louis Catholic High School. The appointment became effective Monday, April 3.

Father Long, who continues to serve in a number of other pastoral and administrative roles in the Diocese of Lake Charles, will take over the position held by Father Anthony Fontenot, who continues to serve as the Dean of the South Deanery and pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church. Father Long is the pastor of Our Lady of Good

Counsel Catholic Church, director of the Catholic Student Center and Vianney House, the Diocesan House of Discernment and Formation.

Bishop Provost expressed his gratitude to Father Fontenot for having served faithfully as Rector, a position to which he was appointed in July 2015.

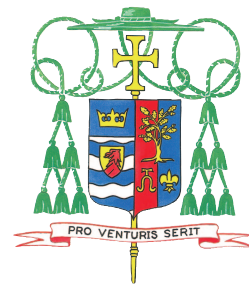
Some of the duties of rector include chairing of the school's Board of Pastors, acting as the canonical and legal representative for school matters, and representing the Bishop to the school administration, in addition to others.



Rev. Nathan Long



Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

April 14, 2017

Good Friday Collection benefits Holy Land

Today, Good Friday, a pontifical collection is taken up in every parish in the United States, including here in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Catholics will gather to contribute to the annual collection with the proceeds supporting ministries and works in the Holy Land, largely under the direction of the Franciscans.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is providing humanitarian aid to Christians and others who have been disrupted by the war in Syria.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection offers a direct opportunity for parishioners to be witnesses of peace. Their support is a sign of Christian unity, which helps protect the Holy Places and supports Christians in the Holy Land. This annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection unites all Christians with the Holy Land.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection supports parishes, Catholic schools and religious education in the Holy Land. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also preserves the sa-

cred shrines for pilgrims and provides assistance, including housing and food, for the poor and needy.

The *Custos* of the Holy Land, Father Francesco Patton, OFM, said, "It is important that the Christians all over the world support the church in the Holy Land, so we can continue our work."

Last year's Good Friday Collection provided support for the Holy Land in these ways: Provided emergency funds to the people in Syria and Iraq; supported 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, three academic institutions; helped keep 16 schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students; funded university scholarships for 295 students; provided 398 homes benefitting Christian families; helped rehabilitate over 100 homes for Christians families; provided senior care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth; Created more than 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land; preserved 74 sanctuaries and shrines from the life of Jesus and the prophets; and supported over 100 men preparing to be priests or brothers.

GOOD FRIDAY

SUPPORT CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection

A DONATION ON GOOD FRIDAY PROVIDES:

- Care for the Holy Places
- Humanitarian & Charitable Activities
- Pastoral Activities
- Educational Activities
- Archaeological Activities
- Liturgy & Ecumenical Activities
- Communication Activities

HOLY LAND FRANCISCANS
MyFranciscan.org
202-526-6800

Catholic school calendars released

LAKE CHARLES – The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles, located in Calcasieu Parish – the five elementary schools as well as St. Louis Catholic High School, will begin the 2017-2018 school term on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 and end on Friday May 25, 2018.

In addition to St. Louis, Catholic schools in Calcasieu Parish include Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff, and Our Lady's Catholic School in

Sulphur.

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School (OLI) in Jennings is the only Catholic school located outside Calcasieu Parish. The school year begins there Friday, August 11 and will close on Thursday, May 24.

Calcasieu holidays, days students are not in attendance, include Labor Day, Monday, September 4; Columbus Day, Monday, October 9; All Saints Day, Wednesday, November 1; Thanksgiving – Monday, November 20 to Friday, November 24; Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Friday December 8; Christ-

mas-Wednesday December 20 (half day) to Tuesday, January 2; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday January 15; Mardi Gras, Friday, February 9 to Tuesday February 13; and Easter, Thursday, March 29 (half day) to Friday, April 6.

Special events during the school year include Catholic Schools Week, January 28 to February 2 and the Catholic Schools Week Mass, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, January 31, at 8:30 a.m.

St. Louis graduation ceremonies are on Tuesday, May 16.

OLI holidays, where students do not report to school, are Labor Day, Monday, September 4; Jennings Fair Day, Friday, October 6; Thanksgiving, November 20-24, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Friday, December 8; Christmas, Thursday, December 21 to Thurs., January 4; Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January, 15; Mardi Gras, Monday, February 12 to Wednesday, February 14; and Easter, Friday, March 30 to Friday, April 6.

Half day class schedules are on December 20, 2017 and May 24, 2018.

2017 Diocesan Youth Conference



The annual Diocesan Youth Conference, sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles, was held this year in Beaumont. Three hundred and thirty individuals attended the conference, of which 256 were youth and young adults. The three-day event was emceed by Michael Chiasson, a native of Houston who lives in Canada and is a dedicated public speaker and community leader. He exudes an unparalleled passion for encouraging and helping others. The event's keynote speaker was Joel Stepanek, who has been actively and passionately involved in ministry for over ten years. He has been involved in numerous middle school lock-ins, high school retreats, and conferences across the United States and the world and serves as Director of Resource Development for Life Teen International. Photo 1 shows the breakfast for conference attendees in the hotel's atrium. Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the Saturday early evening liturgy in the conference ballroom, shown in Photo 2. Later on Saturday evening, a presentation of the live Stations of the Cross was held in the ballroom. In Photo 3, participants prepare for Saturday's late evening session of the Conference, which included later, live Stations of the Cross.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Bible Study at Our Lady Queen of Heaven

LAKE CHARLES – "Mary, A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother" – An Eight-Part Bible Study Featuring Dr. Edward Sri – will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays, beginning April 26 and continuing until June 14, in the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Center Activity Room at 3939 Kingston Street.

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this study will place participants the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, through her joys...and her sorrows.

A fee of \$25 fee covers materials. Register and pay at www.olqh.org by today's deadline, April 14.

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

Father Jude Fernando named Interim Administrator

LAKE CHARLES – Rev. Jude Fernando, a priest of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, has been named interim administrator of Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in DeQuincy, according to Bishop Glen John Provost.

Father Fernando, a native of Sri Lanka, had, until now, served at Our Lady of Good Help Catholic Church in Verulam, South Africa.

Big Cash Giveaway underway

LAKE CHARLES – The Abrazando Cristo Mission Program has tickets available for its annual fundraiser benefitting the work of the mission in Nicaragua.

Only 750 tickets will be sold at \$100 per ticket. First prize is \$5,000.00; second is \$1,000; and third is \$500.00.

To purchase a ticket, please mail your check, made payable to Abrazando Cristo Mission Program to Monsignor Daniel A. Torres, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

The drawing will be June 18 at the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church Rectory. Call 337-439-7400 for more information.

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 second through twelfth are invited to create 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 final Women's Luncheon and Men's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost for this cycle of teachings will be Wednesday, May 3 and Thursday, May 4, 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.

Next Marriage Preparation class June 24

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

cese, is Saturday, June 24.

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.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.

Grow in Holiness in 33 Days

LAKE CHARLES – The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will offer a parish retreat – Grow in Holiness in 33 Days – in Ave Maria Hall from 6 to 9 p.m. on the Thursdays of April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18, May 25, and Wednesday, May 31.

According to Father Rommel Tollentino, pastor of the Cathedral, "we will pray, share our insights within our small groups, and watch a 30-minute DVD presentation by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

"Each week the book - 33 Days to Morning Glory - will be read and attendees will reflect on four great Marian saints: Saint Louis de Montfort, Saint Maximilian, Kolbe, Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Saint Pope John Paul II. To register, call: Immaculate Conception Cathedral: (337) 436-7251, before April 15, so an accurate number of books can be ordered.

The registration fee of \$20 per person, cash, check or money order, includes book, workbook and all materials. Scholarships are available.

Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf on May 27

LAKE CHARLES – The annual Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf Tournament will be Saturday, May 27, at Mallard Cove Golf Course.

Tournament proceeds benefit several projects of the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program in Nicaragua.

For more information, contact Johnnie and Susan Thibodeaux at 337-478-4095 or Will Fruge at 337-540-0410.