



## Couples honored for marriage jubilees

LAKE CHARLES – Lucy and Calvin Foreman, parishioners of St. Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa, celebrate their 70th anniversary of Christian marriage this year, were among 35 couples honored by Bishop Glen John Provost during the annual marriage jubilee Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, June 11.

The Foreman's were married on December 21, 1947 at St. Raphael Church.

Two couples were honored for 65 years of marriage - Ramona and Chilton Harless, of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, married November 23, 1962, at St. Margaret and Shirley and Ray Lavergne, parishioners of Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in Sulphur, married June 14, 1952 in Fallon, Nevada, at St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Diamond anniversary couples - 60 years of marriage - included Lucinda and Sam Ange, Sr., Marjorie and Ricardo Baca, Gail and Charles Mackey, Liz and John Marcon, Edith and Leonard Payne, Janet and Joseph Stoma, and Rose and Amilcar Torres.

Four couples were honored for 55 years of Christian married life - Verline and Darrell Duplechain, Patricia and Paul Fontenet, Mary and Earl Lemell, and Betty and George Rachal.

The annual event is sponsored by the Office of Family Life. Bishop Provost presented each couple with a special certificate honoring their long-time Christian commitment.

In his Trinity Sunday homily, Bishop Provost noted that, "The Catholic Church is perhaps one of the only institutions left in our society today that defends the beauty of married life. As Jesus tells us in the Gospel, it all begins with Adam and Eve. They are the summit of His Creation. They are made in His image."

Using the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Bishop continued. "The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of

man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. God who created man out of love also calls him to love—the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love."

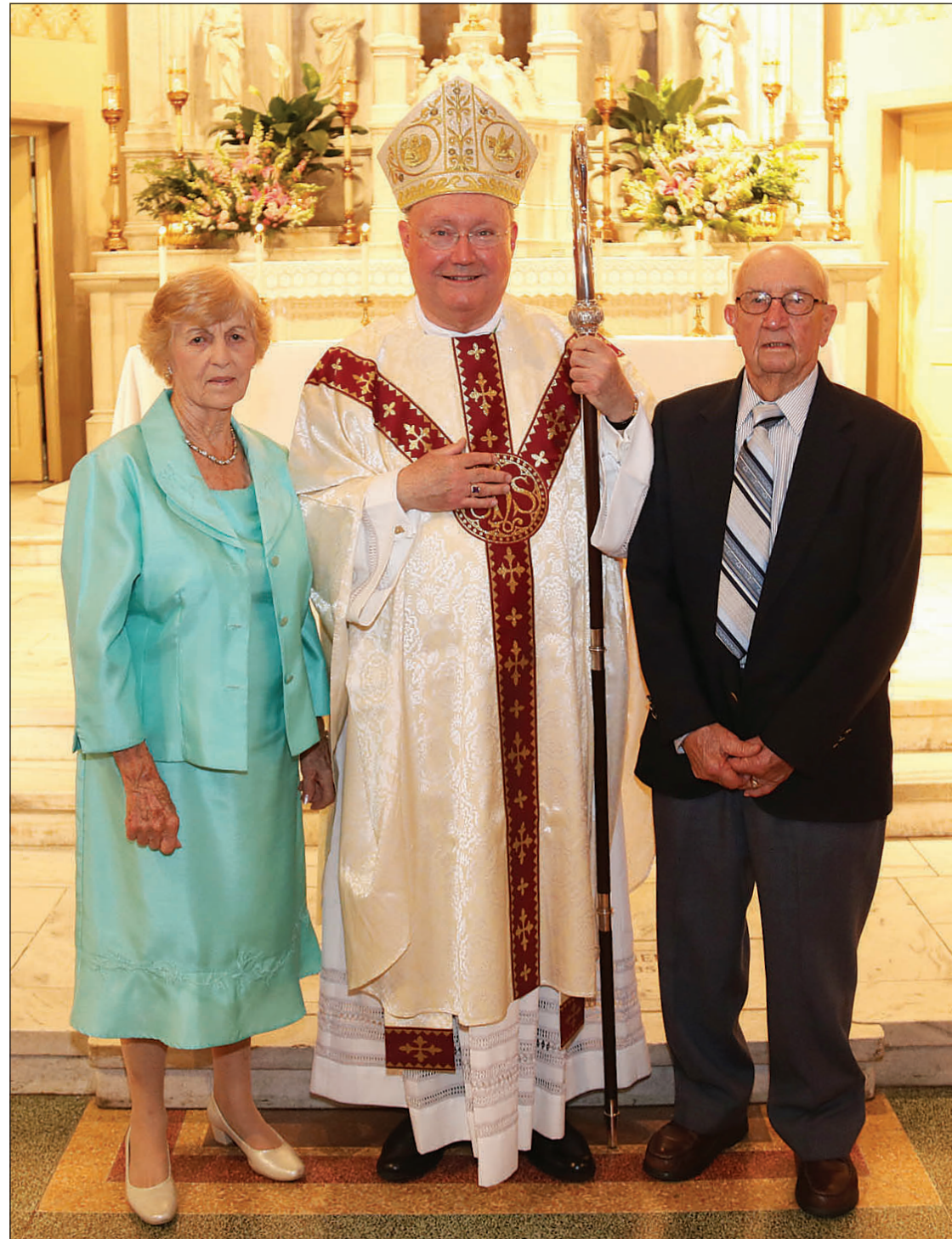
"We speak of the couple both complimenting one another and completing one another," the Bishop said, "This is especially true of Christian marriage. The Catholic Church teaches us that the union between husband and wife is like the union between Christ and His Church. God wills the Church into being for a purpose. Simply there is no Church without Christ, and God uses this mystical union between His Son and His Bride, the Church, to bring His salvation into the world. Christian married couples share in this work."

"Thank all of you who have so beautifully lived your marriage in fidelity and perseverance," he concluded. "May God continue to allow you, like a fine work of art, to reflect something of His beauty, truth and love to the world."

Golden Anniversary couples were Theresa and Sam Daigle, Jr., Jackie and Jerry Duhon, Karen and Michael Fills, Carol and Eddie Fontenet, Carolyn and Steven Fontenet, Susan and Ralph Foreman, Elsie and Roy Frank, Jane and Alvin Fruge', Geraldine and Fredman Hardy, Linda and Russell Leonard, Sr., Theresa and Richard Michels, Thail and Herbert Pete, Mandy and Jack Robichaux, Joetta and Gene Vizena, and Nancy and Gayle Zembower.

Silver anniversary couples were Marla and Michael Baldwin, Beth and Warren Buller, Jennifer and David Bushnell, Tara and Carlos Metoyer, Liwliwa and Rodolfo Ramos, and Stefanie and Gerard Viator.

Bishop Provost's homily can be read and downloaded from [www.lcdioocese.org](http://www.lcdioocese.org) - by clicking on "Our Bishop" and then Homilies.



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, stands with Lucy and Calvin Foreman, parishioners of St. Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa, at the conclusion of the annual marriage jubilee Mass honoring couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries. The Foreman's were married in St. Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa on December 21, 1947 and celebrate 70 years of Christian marriage.

## Camp Karol 'End of Summer' Family Day



With the initial construction project for Camp Karol, its entrance gate complete, join Saint Charles Center and the Diocese of Lake Charles for the first Camp Karol "End of Summer" Fun and Family Day scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 13 at Camp Karol. There will be a speaker from the Domestic Church, August on the topic of Catholic Family Life, live praise and worship music, pony rides for the kids; large balloon bouncer and slide, food, and fellowship. Everyone is invited to come out and see the progress and about other plans for the facility, including "The Lodge," the first of the planned buildings to be constructed on the site. To reach Camp Karol, turn south onto Reeves Road off Sam Houston Jones Parkway (Highway 378) and then right on Bozo Lane. Continue to the end of the road - 1087 Bozo Road - and there it is, the entrance gate of the future site of the soon to be constructed youth camp of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

## Saint Charles Center events

MOSS BLUFF - August events at Saint Charles Center will include A Catholic Journey Through Grief presented by Joan Grouff on Tuesday, August 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Blessings from the Fall with Sr. Diane Depwe on Tuesday, August 8, also from 6 to 9 p.m.

Register for these events by calling Saint Charles Center at 337-855-1232 or visit [stcharlescenter.com](http://stcharlescenter.com). Deadline for the Aug. 1 program is Friday, July 28, while the August 8 deadline is Friday, August 4. The suggested donation for each program is \$20 per person.

Later in the month will be Growing in Prayer: What to

Do AFTER the Mountaintop Experience of a Retreat, presented by Fr. Whitney Miller, on Tuesday, August 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. Registration deadline is Friday, August 18 and the suggested donation is \$20 per person.

The Married Couples Retreat, God Created Us, Man and Woman, is scheduled for Friday, August 25 to Sunday, August 27. The retreat will be based on the theme that God created us for each other.

Topics of consideration will include communication, spousal differences, and theology of the body. Throughout the weekend retreatants will experience daily Mass,

meditations, couple spiritual direction, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, presentations, Eucharistic Adoration and the renewal of wedding vows.

Sponsored by *Regnum Christi*, the retreat is open to any and all couples wishing to participate. The donation per couple for the weekend is \$385.00 and a \$25.00 non-refundable deposit to reserve your space. For more information please contact Mark or Shila Cowart at (337) 905-2032 or e-mail [shilacowart@camtel.net](mailto:shilacowart@camtel.net).

For information on future programs, call 337-855-1232 or go to [stcharlescenter.com](http://stcharlescenter.com).



Bishop Glen John Provost, center, stands with men high school from freshmen to age 25 discerning God's will in their lives at the recent Quo Vadis Days retreat at Saint Charles Center sponsored by the Office of Vocations.

## Quo Vadis Days draws 18 men

MOSS BLUFF - Eighteen men attended the recent Diocese of Lake Charles "Quo Vadis Days" Retreat held at Saint Charles Center and sponsored through the Office of Vocation.

"The three-day retreat helps young men discern the will of God in their life," Father Jeffrey Starkovich, director of vocations and seminarians said. "The group of young men from across the diocese attending this year, joined a number of priests and the seminarians to learn about seminary and the priesthood. Each day, there were conferences that explored a different aspect of priestly formation.

"Prayer, too, plays a central role," Father Starkovich continued. "Everyone gathered to pray the liturgy of the hours, a daily rosary, a holy

hour before the Blessed Sacrament, and daily Mass. In between the conferences and prayer times, there were also opportunities for recreation and fraternity."

Bishop Glen John Provost was the celebrant of the closing mass held in the Chapel of the Assumption of Tabor Retreat House.

"Everyone is called to holiness, and that vocation to holiness is lived out in the particular vocations of marriage, priesthood, or religious life," Father Starkovich said. "Throughout the retreat, the men are taught the best practices for discernment and are equipped to hear the voice of God calling them to pursue their vocation."

Contact Fr. Starkovich at 337-436-7223 or Fr. Nathan Long at 337-477-1434 about the next Quo Vadis Days Vo-

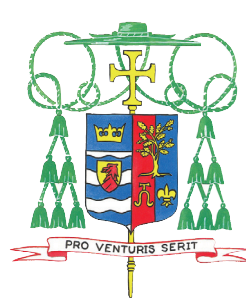
cation Camp, offered free of charge by the Diocese of Lake Charles. Interested Catholic men, freshmen in high school to 25 years old, can also check the website of the Office of Vocations at [www.lcvocations.org](http://www.lcvocations.org) for future dates.

Fearing persecution from the Roman emperor, an ancient tradition says that St. Peter decided to flee for his life. After leaving the walls of Rome, he encountered Jesus carrying his Cross in the direction of the city. St. Peter asked Jesus, "Quo Vadis, Domine?" (Where are you going, Lord?) Jesus answered, "I am going to Rome to be crucified again." With that, St. Peter turned around and followed Jesus as he led him to Rome where he continued his apostolic ministry and faced his martyrdom with courage.



Missionaries of the Abrazando Cristo program who made the recent two week journey to work with the neediest of the needy in Nicaragua returned recently. Missionaries included Deacon Glen Bertrand, Beverly Castillo, Daniel Michael Corcoran, Mary Kay Corcoran, Linda Marie Percefull Daigle, Joyce A. Dippery, Charles Walker Ehlers, William Fruge, Christopher Jude Klein, Jamie Elizabeth Klein, Gregory Laborde, Melissa Navarra, Leah Elizabeth Moore, Adam Blake Richard, Debra Faye Richard, Luke Michael Richard, Thomas Jude Black, Sr., Thomas Jude Richard II, Mary Jane Stine, Shanna Marie Thibodeaux, Rev. Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, and Robert James Ward.





## Two honored by Catholic Charities of SW Louisiana

LAKE CHARLES – Two individuals were honored at the 2017 Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana Jazz Brunch for their generous contributions of self and resources to aid those most in need of assistance in Southwest Louisiana.

This year's winner of the Caritas Award, given to someone in the community who exemplifies a life of selfless giving, was Esther Vincent while the Saint Peter Claver Award was presented to Reggy Saxon. This award is given to someone in the community who demonstrates particular concern for those in need.

Vincent has been a life-long advocate for the community of Southwest Louisiana, beginning her career as a teacher then as a counselor and a principal. Throughout her career in the public school system her motto was "Children are our first priority" and she was dedicated to the education and the well-being of her students.

Following retirement from the public school system after more than 30 years, she began a second career as Director of Community Development and Services with the City of Lake Charles and in her current position oversees a wide range of programs. She collaborates with other community organizations on many issues such as the needs of children in foster care, young adults aging out of foster care, assisting persons who have been released from prison to help them re-enter the community, affordable housing, and homeless prevention issues.

Then-Mayor Randy Roach hired her to direct the department due to her leadership skills, organizational skills, honesty, and the heart and compassion she has for everyone in our community. She has been a tireless advocate for homeless persons and low income families in our community when it comes to providing affordable quality housing. She has the strength, courage, and faith to deal with all types of problems and situations while always being just and compassionate to the public that she serves.

A life-long member of Reeves Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and currently its Treasurer and Choir Director, her faith has given her the insight, desire, and ability to help the community and families in our neighborhoods. As a leader, Esther Vincent always advocates collaboration, creativity, hard work, and vision in order to solve our problems and make Southwest Louisiana a great place for all who live here.

Saxon worked 19 years as a machinist before transitioning to the engineering field in 1988. In 1995, Saxon with two others founded ReCon Management Services, Inc., focusing on the proper placement of professional personnel to support the project needs of the local industries.

Since his retirement from the business, his life is devoted to service work and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior to the community and everyone he meets. He has been an active supporter of the pro-life movement and board member and officer of New Life Counseling. He is a member of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief team and he is a deacon and active member of Trinity Baptist Church. He travels around the United States and Canada to assist communities ravaged by disasters and to help assist new churches with building projects.

With the Sabine River flooding of 2016, Saxon has worked tirelessly with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Team to oversee the relief efforts in Vinton, Starks, and surrounding areas. He has also assisted with the flooding in Baton Rouge, Welsh, and Jennings.

He is currently with Catholic Charities as the Volunteer Project Manager for Disaster Restoration Program. He has worked diligently to help restore the homes and spirits of the families that were devastated by the flooding.

Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, director of Catholic Charities, presented her annual report. Catholic Charities Services and Assistance provided in 2016 included: Rent/Mortgage Assistance/Homelessness Prevention Program \$144,143;

Utility Assistance \$38,974; Funeral Assistance \$8,200; "Beat the Heat" A/C Program \$21,620; Prescription Assistance \$11,021; Adopt a Senior/Headstart Child Christmas Project \$18,000; Transportation Assistance \$2,329; Employment/ID Assistance \$5,955; Food Assistance \$224,635; and the Debbie Warshaw Fund Assistance \$2,530. More than 3,484 persons were assisted and a total of \$477,407 was given in assistance.

Disaster Assistance was given for those in need during and after the March and August 2016 floods. An estimated 3600 persons were assisted and a total of \$300,000 has been given in assistance. Catholic Charities continues to help the victims of the flooding to recover through its Long Term Disaster Recovery Program.

Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana is located at 1225 Second Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, by telephone at 337-439-7436, or e-mail: mary.vianney@lcediocese.org

Catholic Charities board leadership includes Stephanie Rodrigue, chair; Anthony Bartie, vice chair; Hahn Vu, secretary; Deacon Glen Bertrand, Larry DeRoussel, Bianca Gonzales, Cindy McGee, and Rev. Msgr. James Gaddy. Bishop Glen John Provost and Sr. Mary Vianney serve as ex-officio members of the board.

Catholic Charities staff includes Sr. Mary Vianney, director; Jessica Watson, associate/assistant director; Shirley Walker, caseworker; and Gloria Hypolite, administrative assistant.



Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana honored two individuals for their unselfish contributions to those in most need of assistance in our area at the organization's annual Jazz Brunch. The awardees for 2017 are Esther Vincent, Caritas Award winner and Reggy Saxon, St. Peter Claver Award recipient. Pictured above, from left, are Rev. Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, Vicar General; Vincent; Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, director of Catholic Charities; and Saxon.

## Deacon Viau named interim principal at St. Louis

LAKE CHARLES – Deacon Glenn Viau is now serving as the interim principal of St. Louis Catholic High School for the 2017-2018 school year, according to the Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Deacon Viau, currently Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, will serve until the installation of a new permanent principal.

A native of New Orleans, Deacon Viau was ordained a permanent deacon on June 9, 2000 by Bishop Jude Speyrer.

He began his educational ministry in 1977 in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and serving 14 years as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. He was part of the administrative staff at St. Louis from 1991 through 2001 and 2002 through 2007, serving as Academic Assistant Principal (1991-1998), Campus Minister (1998-2001), and Academic Administrator (2002-2007). During the 2001-2002 school year, he was an interim principal for Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings.

Deacon Viau is a 1977 graduate of Loyola University in New Orleans, where he earned a B.S. in Secondary Education. He has graduate degrees from Loyola, an M. Ed. in Secondary Education and an M.P.S. in Pastoral Studies. In 2004, he completed the Spiritual Directors program of the Diocese of Lake Charles and has served as a supervisor of the program. He served three terms



Deacon Glenn Viau

as Chairperson of the Council of Deacon and is currently the Assistant to the Vicar for Clergy.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles located in Calcasieu Parish, including St. Louis, open for classes on Wednesday, August 16. St. Louis graduation ceremonies will be Tuesday, May 16, 2018 with school closing on Friday, May 25.

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings opens on Friday, August 11, coinciding with the opening of Jefferson Davis Parish public schools.

Principals returning to their posts for 2017-2018 Jennifer Bellon at St. Theodore Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff; Christi Jarreau at Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School; Jo Ann Wallwork at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School; and Cindy Wicke at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, all in Lake Charles, and Trevor Donnelly at Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur.

New administrators in Catholic schools include principal Rebecca Chapman at Our Lady Immaculate and Mia Orgeron as assistant principal at St. Louis.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Pope Francis, Bishop Provost Prayer Intentions

The prayer intention of Pope Francis for the month of August is that artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

Bishop Provost's August intention is for our teachers and all who instruct the young, that they impart to the young a love for truth and a respect for authority, reinforcing faith in God and a desire to help those in need.

### Bishop's Kickball Classic Aug. 5

LAKE CHARLES -- The Serra Club of Lake Charles hosts the Second Annual Bishop's Invitational Kickball Classic at 10 a.m. Saturday Aug. 5, on Legion Field.

Featuring Diocesan priests and seminarians battling it out to aid the Priest's Retirement Fund and the Seminarian Scholarship Fund, the priest squad is led by Father Jeffrey Starkovich, director of seminarians and vocations, with the seminarian team led by Deacon Sam Orsot, newly ordained as a transitional deacon.

A minimum of \$1,000 will be awarded. The contest is in coordination with the St. Louis Foundation, St. Louis Catholic High School, local Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

There is a \$10 donation for adults with children free. for the seminarians. On the priests' roster will be the most recently ordained, Father Trey Ange, who served as seminarian captain last year.

For more information or to volunteer assistance, call 337-274-6886.

### Saint Charles Center accepting applications

MOSS BLUFF --Saint Charles Center is accepting applications for three individuals to work part-time in the kitchen - one person as a cook and two as helpers in the kitchen.

Successful candidates must be available for immediate employment and previous kitchen work experience is preferred.

Applicants need to be flexible and available to work various hours as well as some weekends. The setting of the retreat center provides the employee a peaceful environment with a spirit of shared collaboration among cooperative staff members.

Contact Michelle Monceaux at 337-855-1232.

### Special Needs Mass Oct. 22

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Mass for Individuals with Special Needs and Their Families at 11 a.m. Sunday Oct. 22, in St. Louis Catholic High School.

Call Karen Duhon at 337-478-0243 or Geri Christ Landry at 337-433-5662 for more information.

## Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2017 the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed in 1957 by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey:

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

The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude.

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

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

The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder  
Second Bishop of Lafayette

## Father Egidio Vecchio laid to rest

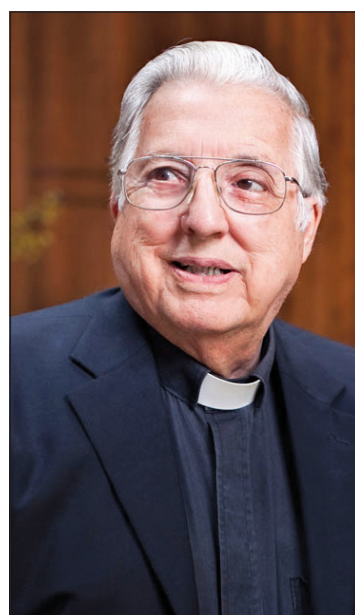
SULPHUR --Father Egidio A. Vecchio, M.S., 90, a member of the Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette, died May 25, 2017, at St. Dominic Village Nursing Home in Houston.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish in Sulphur. Burial was at Mimosa Pines Cemetery in Carlyss, La. Contributions in his memory may be made to: Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette Retirement Fund, 915 Maple Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114-2330.

He was born March 13,

1927, in Syracuse, N.Y., son of the late Anthony and Angela (Pugliesi) Vecchio. After attending grammar and junior high school in Gloversville, N.Y., he completed high school at the LaSalette Seminary in Hartford, Conn. He entered the LaSalette Novitiate on July 1, 1947, in Bloomfield, Conn., and made his first vows on July 2, 1948. He then completed his studies in philosophy and theology at the LaSalette Seminary in Ipswich, Mass. Father Vecchio was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1955 at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Norwood, Mass.

During his more than 20 years of ministry in Louisiana, he served as pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, during the time of the construction and dedication of the new parish church, complex and rectory. He was appointed dean of the Sulphur deanery, and then vicar of the West Vicariate by the Most Rev. Jude Speyrer, D.D., when the Diocese of Lake Charles was created in 1980. Father Vecchio also enjoyed his years as pastor in parishes of St. Joseph in Vinton, St. Joseph in DeRidder and the Immaculate Conception Church Sulphur.



Father Egidio Vecchio, MS

The next *Catholic Calendar* will be published in the Friday, August 18, edition of the *American Press*.