



Bishop's Gala set Saturday, December 9

LAKE CHARLES – The Sixth Annual Bishop's Gala, aiding the communications ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will be Saturday, Dec. 9, in the Lake Charles Civic Center. Tickets remain available at the Diocesan Administration Building (The Chancery - 414 Iris Street) and on-line at the website of the Diocese under the Event Registration logo at the left of the front page.

The night's entertainment will feature The Ron Renfrow Big Band and the special "orange dance" near the end of the evening. Numerous special gifts will be available to bid on in the silent auction.

Tickets are \$125 per person with a table for 10 at \$1,250. A number of special sponsorship opportunities are still available as well - Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Crystal. For information call 337-439-7400, Ext. 220.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for a VIP social with general admittance at 6:30 p.m. The silent auction begins at 6:30 p.m. and concludes at 9 p.m.

Ministries supported by this event include the con-

tinuing evangelization efforts of the diocesan Office of Communications, including the production of the Catholic Calendar in the American Press, on the third Friday of each month and twice a month in December and the month of Easter. Additionally, donations help provide for the maintenance and updating of the diocesan website - www.lcdioocese.org - and the 9:30 a.m. broadcast of the Holy Mass each Sunday from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on KLCL-AM 1470 and KJEF-AM 1260.

Renfrow, Houston's popular on-air personality at KQUE Radio for 21 years, will bring his "Ballads, Blues and Classic Swing, Too." He and his orchestra have performed in venues throughout the state of Texas and surrounding areas. The band doesn't get trapped in any one style, performing your favorite dance music from their wide-ranging repertoire that plays to any age and taste with dynamic, visual impact and dramatic flair. This is swinging music, bound not by era or genre but by quality.

Cowboy Catholics joins #Giving Tuesday initiative

LAKE CHARLES — Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church and the Cowboy Catholics has joined #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities, and organizations to encourage philanthropy and celebrate generosity worldwide by on-line giving.

#GivingTuesday, is held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, this year November 28, and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday to kick off the holiday giving season and inspire people to collaborate in improving their local communities and to give back in impactful ways to the charities and causes they support.

The mission of the Catholic Student Center and Cowboy Catholics is to form lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ: men and women who live out the Gospel well into their professions and families after leaving McNeese State University. The future is being shaped by these same students who

are being launched into the workforce and who are directly impacting the community of Southwest Louisiana in just a few short years.

"Imagine your church full of young, energetic converts or "reverts" to the faith who have intentionally left the world behind to follow Christ radically. This is our dream, we hope you would dream with us," says Fr. Nathan Long, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

By linking arms with #GivingTuesday, generous donors have the opportunity to support an organization that is directly impacting the lives of college students and helping change lives.

Those interested in joining Cowboy Catholic's #GivingTuesday initiative can visit the Cowboy Catholic Facebook Page or just send their donation amount in a text message to 337-514-4350 for Text-to-Give.

For more details about the #GivingTuesday movement, visit www.givingtuesday.org, Facebook or Twitter account (@GivingTues).



Bishop Glen John Provost presided over the prayer service and in the groundbreaking, Photo 1, for "The Lodge" at Camp Karol of Saint Charles Center on Sunday, Oct. 22. This first and major part of Camp Karol is located at 1087 Bozo Road, off Sam Houston Jones Parkway (La. 378). Aiding the Bishop in "turning the first shovels of earth" are Champeaux, Evans, and Hotard architects Bridget V. Evans, AIA, NCARB, and Stephen C. Hotard, AIA, along with structural engineer Nathan Jordan. In addition, Father Whitney Miller, director of Saint Charles Center, puts his hand to the shovel along with David Grove, the former president of Camp Karol, Inc., the non-profit corporation that initially developed the idea of building a youth camp in Moss Bluff. The concept had been fostered by a large number of individuals, including Grove and his late wife, Tammy. The non-profit group had previously divested its assets, including property, cash, etc., to the Diocese. "The Lodge" will feature a dining hall for 144 guests/retreatants/camps, a large conference/meeting area, a full service kitchen with large pantry, cooler, freezer and dish washing room, office, staff conference room, a small interior chapel that can be reconfigured into a large exterior chapel for outdoor gatherings, restrooms, storage space and mechanical rooms. The entrance gate for the camp was completed earlier this year and "this gives visitors a sense of what is to come," said Father Miller. "Various building materials were used in the design and construction of the gate, which has the logo of Camp Karol and the affiliation with the diocese and Saint Charles Center." Father Miller also noted that the "hopeful" date of completion for "The Lodge" is summer, 2019. "With the Lodge complete, other buildings and facilities will be added as funds and programming dictate," Father Miller said. "These could include cabins for overnight lodging, snack shop, caretaker residence, infirmary/guest cabin, maintenance supply/storage building, indoor gym, archery range, ropes course, climbing wall, canoeing wharf, outdoor amphitheater, zip line, and other possibilities." In Photo 2, Bishop Provost stands with members of the Diocesan Youth Core Team, who attended the ceremony. These young people, who will be some of the first to benefit from the youth camp, provide aid and assistance to the Office of Youth Ministry in preparing programming for events, such as the Diocesan Youth Conference, the summer Christian Leadership Institute, and other youth rallies each year in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament

LAKE CHARLES – Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Lake Charles, concludes November in the South Deanery.

Devotion will be in the parishes of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Creole, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron and St. Eugene in Grand Chenier on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-

24, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, and on Saturday, Nov. 25, from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Contact any of the churches for more information.

Adoration at Christ the King Catholic Church will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily on Tuesday, Nov. 28 through Thursday, Nov. 30, and on Friday, Dec. 1 from noon until 5 p.m.

For the month of December, Adoration will

be in churches of the East Deanery.

St. Lawrence in Raymond will be the site on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Dec. 4, 5, 6 and 7 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

St. John the Evangelist Church in Lacassine will host Adoration on Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on, Dec. 13, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fenton will be the

site on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The final site of the month of December will be Our Lady of the Lake in Lake Arthur from Tuesday, Dec. 19 to Saturday, Dec. 23. Please Phone: 337-774-2614 for hours of adoration.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Thanksgiving holiday hours

LAKE CHARLES – The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles are open Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 20-22 and then closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24.

Offices reopen for normal business hours on Monday, Nov. 27.

Perry Ministries Building Office Hours revised

LAKE CHARLES -- Operational hours for the Perry Ministries Building of the Diocese of Lake Charles, located at 411 Iris Street, have changed with the building closed from 12 noon until 1 p.m. for lunch daily. Offices open at 8:30 a.m. close at noon, reopen at 1 p.m. and close for the day at 4:30 p.m.

Pope Francis, Bishop Provost Prayer Intentions

The prayer intention of Pope Francis for the month of December is that the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Bishop Glen John Provost's monthly intention is for all parents and guardians, that the holy Season of Christmas will inspire them to deeper faith and resolve in leading the children entrusted to their care in ways of love and hope.

Prayer Cards, Rosaries being sought

LAKE CHARLES – The Stella Maris Seafarers' Center at the Port of Lake Charles is in need of prayer cards and rosaries to provide to visiting seafarers.

Cards and rosaries may be dropped off at the Center at 150 Marine Street or arrangements can be made to the items to be picked up.

Seafarers' Center Seeks Ship Visitor/Driver

LAKE CHARLES -- The Stella Maris Seafarers' Center, located at the Port of Lake Charles, is accepting applications for Ship Visitor / Driver position, according to Deacon Patrick LaPoint.

The paid position will be part-time at 25 hours per week. Duties include visiting ships, and driving the Center's van or bus to transport sailors. Working hours, for the most part, will be 2 to 10 p.m. The successful applicant must have a current Class D Louisiana Chauffeur driver's license.

To apply contact Deacon LaPoint at 337-436-1315 or e-mail stella.maris@lcdioocese.org

Men's Prayer Breakfast Dec. 1

LAKE CHARLES – The Men's Prayer Breakfast with Bishop Glen John Provost will take place on Friday, Dec. 1, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral office complex. There will be no Ladies Luncheon with the Bishop during the month.

The breakfast begins with the celebration of the Holy Mass at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral with meal and presentation following.

Call 337-439-7400 to register for breakfast.

"Work of Human Hands Sale" Dec. 2-3

LAKE CHARLES – There will be a CRS/Fair Trade – "Work

of Human Hands" sale at Christ the King Catholic Church on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3 at the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday and the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. liturgies on Sunday

There will be beautiful ornaments, holiday décor items along with a variety of Divine chocolate bars. To learn more visit www.crsfairtrade.org/crafts.

Saint Charles Center accepting applications

MOSS BLUFF -- Saint Charles Center is accepting applications for a part-time cook.

Interested applicants need to be available for immediate employment and previous work in the kitchen is preferred. Applicants need to be flexible and available to work various hours during the week 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.

If interested, contact Michelle Monceaux at 337-855-1232.

Sr. Brieghe McKenna Healing Service Dec. 9

METAIRIE -- Sr. Brieghe McKenna, who has an international ministry of praying for healing, will hold an Evening of Healing on Saturday, December 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Benilde Church, 1901 Division Street.

An offering will be taken and doors open at 6 p.m. with no celebration of Mass. For more information, contact CCRNO at 504-828-1368 or info@ccrno.org.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

November 17, 2017

THE SOCIETY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

Income Report for 2015/2016

Parochial Tithe:	\$	2,653,823
Diocesan Assessment:		6,494,702
Appeals:		80,574
Contributions and Bequests:		223,234
Grants:		125,561
Special Programs:		825,526
Assets Released from Restrictions:		2,165,144
TOTAL REVENUE:		\$12,614,260

Expenses Report for 2015/2016

Clergy Life and Welfare		
*Seminar Education, Priests' Retirement, Hospital Chaplaincies, etc.:	\$	(1,020,300)
Christian Formation		
*Saint Charles Center, Pro-Life and Marriage Preparation, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Religious Education, Communications, Catholic Schools, Office of Youth Protection, etc.:		(2,097,839)
Pastoral Services		
*Catholic Charities, Seafarer's Center, Prison Ministries, Etc.:		(1,735,045)
Insurances		
*Health Insurance, Flood Insurance, Liability Insurance, etc.:		(5,355,877)
Administration		
*Fiscal Affairs, Tribunal, Bishop's Office and Charities, Etc.:		(1,049,799)
Fund Raising Fee		
*Capital Campaign Costs:		(782,456)
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$	(12,041,316)

FINAL REPORT 2015/2016

Revenue:	\$	12,614,260
Expenses:		(12,041,316)
Assets Total at the End of 2015:		17,521,043
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR (2015/2016):	\$	18,093,987

Return to the Lord campaign projects continuing forward

The receipt of the annual audit with the significant injection of Capital Campaign funds provides perfect timing for a snapshot of the Diocese of Lake Charles' inaugural attempt at a diocesan-wide campaign.

Parishioners across the diocese are observing the fruits of their generosity as the projects funded by the *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign are underway. Restoration work to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception that serves the entire diocese is quickly forward moving.

Sound panels within the church have been removed to assess and repair water damage. Plans are in place to address leaks from the stained glass windows and water-damaged flooring has also been removed. Not so visible repairs are also underway that address the basic infrastructure of the building.

The gate to Camp Karol rises distinctly and will provide an appropriate entrance to a facility that will serve the young people of our diocese as they grow in their spiritual lives.

An August "Back to School" event attracted hundreds and the recent groundbreaking for "The Lodge" was a well-attended anticipatory event. Under the direction of Father Whitney Miller, the facility is well planned to meet the specific needs of housing and hosting youth events.

The thirteen seminarians of the diocese are thriving in their various educational institutions and the existence of funds will assure that level of preparation will continue as other young men discern and seek the priesthood, under the guidance of Father Jeff Starkovich, Director of Seminarians and Vocations.

The concern for the futures of retiring priests has been alleviated, to a great degree, with the knowledge that funds are providing for the

comfortable years of retirement that they so deserve, after years of service to God's people.

Catholic Charities continues to grow in its mission of serving those in need. The recent weather disasters, coupled with the numbers of unemployed and their families moving in to southwest Louisiana to seek employment, have challenged the typical annual funding of the organization that knows no boundaries. Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, R.S.M. and her staff have strategically planned for the best use of Catholic Charities' share of the *Return to the Lord* funds to serve others.

The \$22,241,854.86 in pledges far exceeded the \$16,000,000 goal that was projected after a carefully executed Planning Study in 2015. Father Ruben Buller, who among his various administrative duties, also serves as Chief Financial Officer for the diocese, attributes the overwhelming response to "the fact that our Catholics in the Diocese of Lake Charles are aware that the Bishop and those who collaborate with him are serious about the future. From that vision of building for those who will follow after us, the faithful, lay and clergy alike have responded in an unprecedented and generous way to fulfill a desire to truly 'Return to the Lord' and make the Diocese of Lake Charles a viable and lasting institution in Southwest Louisiana for years to come.

"It is incredible to serve such a generous people! I would have never thought that we would be able to, at this stage, have begun work on Camp Karol and the Restoration of the Cathedral as well," Father Buller said.

To date, just under \$1,000,000.00 has been paid to the parishes within the Parish Share component. Those

payments will continue at the close of each fiscal year and will grow tremendously with time, as the majority of donors have not yet paid a full first year of multi-year pledges.

While the first payment was actually received in December of 2015, ahead of the official kickoff in 2016, the majority of the first installment of payments was received from the last quarter of 2016 through the second quarter of 2017, as the roll-outs of each phase of the campaign were executed.

The Parish Share payments are applied to the specific projects within each parish that were agreed upon with parishioner input prior to each parish's campaign kickoff. Additionally, as promised by Bishop Glen John Provost, parishes who exceed last year's Bishop's Service Appeal quota at 105 percent or greater have had the excess applied to their *Return to the Lord* account. These funds are now included in the 20 percent parish share and also positions parishes closer to receiving an 80 percent share for pledges paid above their parishes' goals.

In reflecting on the campaign, Stephanie Rodrigue, Director of the Office of Development, shares, "It was an honor, a privilege and certainly an educational experience to work with Deacon Glen Bertrand to manage the *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign. Deacon Bertrand's vast knowledge of finance contributed to a large extent to the management of the campaign. With Bishop Provost's blessings, we tread uncharted waters and we stayed afloat! The overwhelming success of the campaign was due significantly to the men and women of the Diocese of Lake Charles who were truly leadership icons, responding to the requests



November 1, 2017
Tuesday

My Dear People of God,

May this day of the Celebration of All Saints bring you joyful hope in the Resurrection!

Each year, the Diocese of Lake Charles submits a public statement of its Financial Situation. It is a duty that we take very seriously. Because of the internal workings of the "Return to the Lord" Capital Campaign, we were delayed in submitting this report. However, we are very pleased today to submit the audit report to you so that you, the good people of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will know of our stability and a separate report concerning the present situation with our Capital Campaign.


The first item is a report with the Financial Situation and the Financial Activities as of June 30, 2016. We are a very active and vital Diocese, as I hope you will note from the activities detailed. I am especially impressed in the activities that are reflected in the Expenses noted as "Pastoral Services" and "Christian Formation." "Pastoral Services" is the response that the local Church of Lake Charles makes to our Lord through Catholic Charities, the Seafarers' Center, and our Prison Ministry just to name a few. "Christian Formation" is the arm of our Diocese which assists with the direct formation of our faithful through Religious Education, Youth and Young Adult Activities, Preparation for Christian Marriage, and the Saint Charles Center (one of our greatest jewels in the Diocese of Lake Charles).

An independent accounting firm conducted an audit of our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. If you would desire greater detail or have a particular question, please feel free to contact our Diocesan Office of Administration at (337)439-7400.

Please note that, in keeping with established practices, this financial statement does not include the financial reports of individual parishes within the Diocese. Each pastor is responsible for reporting publicly the financial statement of his parish in the parish bulletin.

I would like to continue to thank you, the good people of Lake Charles. Without you, we would not be able to respond to the Lord's Call in this local Church of Lake Charles. With gratitude and blessings to you, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,



✠Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Return to the Lord					
Capital Campaign Report as of October 1, 2017					
	Pledged	Collected		Pledged	Collected
	22,236,520.37	8,596,560.12	Cathedral Restoration	813,079.81	397,426.93
Total Expenses		480,275.66	Seminar Education	881,424.33	441,022.01
Parish Share 02.2017		95,038.78	Priests' Retirement	1,516,777.40	590,485.26
Parish Share 07.2017		852,243.31	Catholic Charities	353,672.88	157,499.82
	Current Collected Balance	7,169,002.37	Camp Karol	780,391.45	363,100.79
			Unspecified Pledges	17,891,174.50	6,647,025.31
				22,236,520.37	8,596,560.12