



## Disaster donations arrive from far and wide

LAKE CHARLES – Generous citizens of Southwest Louisiana continue to drop off disaster assistance items to Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana a pattern that also has seen contributions from local industry and a restaurateur from Alabama the week following Hurricane Harvey.

Catholic Charities staff, along with regular volunteers, and youth from various churches, such as St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Martin de Porres to name a few, were helping to unload donations.

On Tuesday, August 29, Catholic Charities Assistant Director Jessica Watson received a phone call from a representative of LyondellBasell, one of the largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies in the world, with a facility in Westlake. Watson was told that an 18-wheeler, which had been en route to Houston but couldn't make it, was coming to Catholic Charities, having been directed by Lake Charles mayor Nic Hunter's office. The mayor told them that Catholic Charities was providing food and supplies to several shelters that had been opened in the city, including the Lake Charles Civic Center. These shelters were only "comfort stations" for evacuees before they moved on to more permanent shelters in central and north Louisiana.

"It was a welcome surprise for us," said Sr. Mary Vianney Walsh, RSM, director of Catholic Charities. "We were overwhelmed by the generosity shown by the LyondellBasell. The \$15,488.86 worth of perishable and other supplies was used to feed those evacuees being housed locally. This food will be such a blessing to all who are experiencing a hardship at this time due to the flooding."

The donation consisted of steaks, ground meat, chicken breasts, orange juice, hot dogs, hot dog buns, and loaves of bread, cheese, cereal, milk eggs, chips of various kinds, butter, cookies, onions, and potatoes.

Frozen and refrigerated goods were stacked in freezers and refrigerators in the Catholic Charities warehouse as were breads loaded with cases of bottled water placed in a secondary warehouse.

Bishop Glen John Provost and Msgr. James Gaddy made a stop at the Lake Charles Civic Center on Thursday, August 31, and visited many of the evacuees there. The Bishop spoke with people from Victoria and Orange, Texas; as well as those that had been flooded out of their homes in Iowa.

Bishop Provost offered a prayer before the noon meal at the Civic Center and Msgr. Gaddy helped fold napkins. They also made a stop at Catholic Charities a little later and were taken on a tour of the facility, being shown the many contributions that had been delivered through the generosity of the community.

The facilities warehouse was filled as well as many of the rooms in the office building were being used to house overflowed goods.

Donations needed include mop buckets, small hammers, heavy duty work gloves, square-toed shovels, flat pry bars, Lysol wipes, heavy duty trash bags, spray disinfectant with bleach, Gatorade, brooms, mops, Pine sol, Lysol, liquid dish soap, sponges, cleaning brushes, disposable face masks, mosquito repellent, manual can openers, flashlights with batteries,



ies, round laundry baskets, snack and non-perishable foods. Drop off at Catholic Charities, 1225 Second Street. Call Jessica at 337-912-8937 for more information or to make arrangements for large and/or special donations.

"Our thoughts are with those who have felt the effect of this devastating storm," said Shawn Cullen, site manager of LyondellBasell's Lake Charles Polymers Plant. "We are partnering with Catholic Charities to help provide meals to those in need, we hope this donation brings comfort to them while they are dealing with so much."

Later in the week, a restaurateur from Mobile, Alabama, with family ties to Southwest Louisiana - Jeff LaCour and staff of his restaurants - dropped off a 26-foot long rental truck filled with supplies, including water, diapers, and cleaning supplies, at Catholic Charities. LaCour, who owns several Moe's Southwest Grill locations in Alabama, received pictures of the flooding in Houston by members of his family. Restaurant staff had posted the need for donations on social media.

After a slightly slow start, at least in LaCour's eyes, on the first day, contributions picked up and nearly 1,000 pounds ended up being trucked to Lake Charles.

Originally, LaCour wanted to drive to Houston but with roads still impassable in many areas due to flooding particularly Interstate 10, Lake Charles and Catholic Charities became the final stopping point.

Youth of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings took some of their time off, with schools closed early

In photo 1, a volunteer of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana unloads a pallet of donations from the LyondellBasell Polymers Plant in Westlake that was dropped off at the 1225 Second Street location of Catholic Charities. Nearly \$15,500 worth of perishable and non-perishable food was contributed. Local residents also made an enormous impact with their own contributions, some small, some large, but all appreciated and needed. In photo 2, Jaren Dubois, a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, came with her children to drop off bedding, towels, diapers, and other goods to Jessica Watson, assistant director of Catholic Charities. Bishop Glen John Provost, in photo 3, visited with many evacuees, some local and others from as far away as Victoria, Texas at the shelter at the Lake Charles Civic Center before praying grace before the midday meal. Youth from Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings took only seven hours, using social media to advertise the need, to fill up an 18-wheeler with contributions for Catholic Charities. Shown in photo 4, the group poses among many of the donations in St. Mary's Center in Jennings.

in the week, to help their brothers and sisters in need. The group met at St. Mary's Center in Jennings and using social media to advertise the needs, needed only seven hours to receive enough contributions to load an 18-wheeler to deliver to Catholic Charities. The truck and driver that brought the donations supplies to Lake Charles came through the further generosity of Port Aggregates, Inc. of Jennings.

## Bishop's Golf Classic Oct. 6 at The National

WESTLAKE -- The 2017 Bishop's Golf Classic will be played Friday, Oct. 6, at the National Golf Club of Louisiana, 2801 Louisiana Way. The four-person scramble tournament will feature an afternoon round with a 1 p.m. shotgun start, following lunch. Registration begins at noon.

The field will be limited to the first 36 teams. Deadline for registration is Monday, Sept. 29.

Fees are \$500 per team, and prizes for first, second and tenth low gross. Prizes for the longest drive and closest to the hole will also be given and a \$5,000 cash prize goes to the first golfer to score a hole in one.

Tee box sponsorships are \$150, green sponsorships are \$300 and banner sponsorships are \$1,000.

Presenting sponsors for the tournament are City Savings Bank of DeRidder and Alfred Palma LLC of Lake Charles as well as Bubba

Oustalet Automotive Group of Jennings.

Proceeds from the event provide financial assistance to the Seminarian Education Fund and the Priest Retirement Fund.

Educating the men who are studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles is an expensive task. 13 men are currently in various stages of their education and training at four different seminaries.

The Diocese provides 55 percent of a seminarian's educational cost at the college/philosophy level with the students responsible for the remainder. At the theological seminary the Diocese obligates itself to pay 100 percent of the educational costs.

At the opposite end of priestly life is the retired priest. We must see to the care and welfare of these men who have given their lives to spreading the Gospel message in the faith

communities of Southwest Louisiana.

Currently 15 priests are in this category. The Diocese will expend over \$300,000 on the welfare of these wonderful and holy men during the next fiscal year. The depth of their sacrifice to the Faith is reason enough to aid them for the remainder of their days.

Registration forms will be available at area golf courses and the offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles, 414 Iris Street.

Payment of fees and registration using a credit card or e-check is available on the Diocese of Lake Charles website. - lciocese.org. Click the "Event Registration" button, then "Bishop's Golf Classic" and follow the easy steps to register your team or become a sponsor.

Contact Larry DeRoussel at 337-794-8339 or e-mail lderoussel@lciocese.org for more information.

## Youth garage sale Oct. 19-21

LAKE CHARLES -- The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the diocese is committed to form the young church by supporting and empowering youth leaders and their teens to be Christ in the world. It will host a Youth Garage Sale from Thursday, Oct. 19, to Saturday, Oct. 21, at 411 Iris Street.

The office provides parishes of the diocese and their young people with the opportunity to attend solid Catholic events such as the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

"It is an event in which Catholic teens and adults

come together to pray, learn, and grow in their faith," said Milissa Thibodeaux, director of the office. "In addition to opportunities to receive the sacraments of the Eucharist and penance, participants attend general sessions with amazing music and keynotes as well as breakout sessions on topics relevant to living as a disciple of Christ in today's world. They also have the opportunity to visit with organizations that provide resources and other support to youth and youth ministry, spend time in personal and communal prayer, and engage in service to others.

"An event such as NCYC can get expensive so we need the support of our diocesan community," Thibodeaux continued. "In our preparation for the garage sale, we are collecting items through the end of September and the first part of October."

Donations can be dropped off at 411 Iris Street on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information or to pickup a donation, call 337-439-7400, Extension 301.

Thibodeaux also noted that no clothing will be taken except for nice children's clothes and jackets/coats.



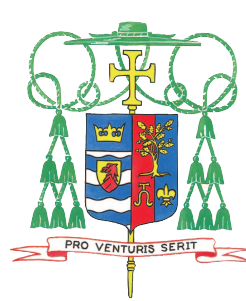
*Need the Call of Christ*



DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES  
BISHOP'S SERVICES APPEAL  
2017 - 2018

2017-2018 Bishop's Services Appeal collection on weekend of October 7-8

# Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

September 15, 2017

## Day of reflection of prayer, praise, and worship with Tony Melendez Oct. 7, at Our Lady Queen of Heaven

LAKE CHARLES – In conjunction with the 60th anniversary of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church and the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, all are invited to a day of reflection of prayer, praise, and worship with Tony Melendez on Saturday, Oct. 7.

A Salute to God's Gifts schedule of events begins in the main church of OLQH at 7:45 a.m. with a Rosary meditating on the Glorious Mysteries, led by the Lay Carmelites and at 8:30 a.m. with Mass of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The site moves from the church to the Family Life

Community Center gym, 3939 Kingston Street, at 9:15 a.m. starting with praise and worship music with Melendez and the Toe Jam Band. Melendez will also share his unique testimony. Fr. Jeffrey Starkovich will make a presentation at 11 a.m. followed by another talk at 11:30 a.m.

At noon, food trucks (Sloppy Taco and Mr. Gatti's), Kona Ice, and a Concession Stand will be available for lunch.

Starting at 2 p.m. there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Prayer, and Music at 2 p.m.; Benediction at 3:30 p.m. in the gym; with the celebration of the Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

in the main church and followed at 7 p.m. with Melendez presenting a concert, sharing his story, which includes an encounter with St. John Paul II. Tony's brother Jose' will provide an introduction.

Tony Melendez was born without arms and wore artificial arms until he was ten. He disposed of them at that time, because he could use his feet so much more. His proficiency with his feet extended to more areas than just day-to-day care. He remembers that "at first, I started playing push-button organ. Then in high school I began playing around with the guitar and harmonica."

He also began writing his own songs. Whether it was "playing around" with music or merely adjusting to a normal high school routine, Tony never let his handicap get in his way. For more about Tony and the Toe Jam band visit [www.tonymelendez.com](http://www.tonymelendez.com).

Confessions will be available in the Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CD's, books, and t-shirts will be available for sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Life Center kobbyy.

For more information and a detailed schedule, visit [www.olqh.org](http://www.olqh.org) or call the OLQH Church office at 477-1236.



Tony Melendez

### 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

## Sixth Annual Bishop's Gala on Dec. 9

LAKE CHARLES – The Sixth Annual Bishop's Gala will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 in the Lake Charles Civic Center from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.. Tickets will be available September 1 in the parishes of the Diocese, at the diocesan Chancery (414 Iris Street) or on-line at [www.lcdioocese.org](http://www.lcdioocese.org), for this special event.

The Ronnie Renfrow Big Band will provide the night's entertainment. Tickets are \$125 per person or a table for 10 is available for \$1,250. A number of special sponsorship opportunities are available as well - Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Crystal. Multiple numbers of each of these sponsorships will be offered. For information on them, 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 always anticipated silent auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m.

Proceeds netted from the event aid in the continuing evangelization efforts of the diocesan Offices of Communications, including the production of the *Catholic Calendar* – the print arm of diocesan communications, as well as the preparation and publication of the *Catholic Calendar* in the American Press, on the third Friday of each month with the exceptions of the month in which Easter falls and December, when the *Catholic Calendar*

will appear on the first and third Friday. Additionally, funds realized from the Gala provide for the maintenance and updating of diocesan website – [www.lcdioocese.org](http://www.lcdioocese.org) – and the broadcast of the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on two local radio stations – 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, per-

forming 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.

On his radio show, Renfrow plays everything from Frank Sinatra to Norah Jones, with knowledge about each song and singer, and the backstories.

On several occasions over the past decades, Renfrow has won accolades from the radio community including being named "Best Radio Personality" by the Houston Press.

## Father Ikkaramattom & Father Minz Installed



During the month of August, Bishop Glen John Provost installed two new pastors at their respective parish, Rev. Gijo Ikkaramattom, HGN, of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sulphur and Rev. Arvind Minz, HGN of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry. The rite begins following the Gospel when the Bishop introduces the pastor to his new flock and invites parishioners to express their approval. Following his homily, Bishop Provost presents parish leadership, such as deacons, trustees, pastoral council and finance council members who will assist him in the care of the parish. In turn, he pledges to seek the guidance of such leadership. In the photo at left, Father Gijo, who previously led his people in the Profession of Faith, and here recites an Oath of Fidelity with his hand placed on the Bible. At right, Father Minz greets the parish leadership of St. Peter the Apostle.



## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Pope Francis, Bishop Provost Prayer Intentions

The prayer intention of Pope Francis for the month of October, for Workers and the Unemployed, is that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

Bishop Provost's monthly intention is for our medical professionals, that their work of healing and quality care increase for the benefit of the sick and dying and that their service be an example to us all of God's loving protection.

### September 40 Hours Devotion

LAKE CHARLES – Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Lake Charles, continues in the East Deanery during the remainder of September.

Adoration at Sacred Heart of Jesus Oakdale is Sunday, Sept. 17, from 2 to 6 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Sept. 18-Sept. 20, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

### Pro-Life banquet Oct. 3

LAKE CHARLES – The 27th annual New Life Counseling pro-life banquet is Tuesday Oct. 3 in the Coliseum of the Lake Charles Civic Center with guest speaker Ryan Bomberger.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with the banquet beginning at 6:30 p.m. For tickets or more information call 337-474-7003 or email [nlcbanquet@gmail.com](mailto:nlcbanquet@gmail.com). Ticket deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017.

Ticket prices include Friend of Life single ticket, \$75. Numerous sponsorship opportunities also exist.

### October breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES – The women's luncheon with Bishop Glen John Provost and the Men's First Friday prayer breakfast are slated for Wednesday, Oct. 4, and Friday, Oct. 6, respectively, in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral office complex.

The scriptural topic for the year - the Letter of St. James, the First and Second Letters of St. Peter and the Letter of St. Jude - continue with the third and fourth chapter of St. James.

Women should send a check in the amount of \$15, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Bishop's Luncheon, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, 70601. A stamped self-addressed envelope should be included with payment and.

The men's breakfast begins with the celebration of the Holy Mass at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with breakfast immediately after, followed by the presentation.

Men should call 337-439-7400 to register.

### Devotional luncheon at St. Joseph Mission

LEBLEU SETTLEMENT -- St. Joseph Mission Chapel will host Father Wayne LeBleu, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, in the presentation "The Mass Explained" at a devotional luncheon Saturday, September 30, at 11:30 a.m., in the church at 2110 Claude Hebert Road.

Tickets are \$15. For more information or tickets contact Laurie Vidrine at 292-9669 or Lonnie Vidrine at 337-532-4450.

### Sacred Heart of Jesus bazaar Oct. 14-15

LAKE CHARLES – Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

will host its annual bazaar on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14-15, on the church grounds, 612 Louisiana Avenue.

Festivities will take place Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Barbecue chicken dinners along with rib dinners will be featured in addition to sweet potato pies, popcorn balls, and other delicious food items. There will also be games, rides, and music on Sunday.

There will be bingo on Sunday, starting at 3 p.m. Raffle tickets, which features two \$1,000 prizes and two additional prizes, available at the church office at 337-439-2646.

### 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.

### 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.