



Bishop Provost's Lenten Pastoral Letter 2018

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." John 6:56

My Dear People of God,

"At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet 'in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us'" (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, 47, cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1323).

This is the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. It is nothing new. It expresses the doctrine of the Church as found in the Sacred Scriptures, abundantly resourced in the Gospels and in the writings of St. Paul particularly (Mathew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26). It is found in the earliest writings of the Fathers of the Church stretching back to the first centuries of Christianity (e.g. St. Justin, *Apologia* 1, 65-67, circa 155 A.D.). It is what we believe as Catholics. It is what we hold dear to us, what we express, celebrate and commemorate when we participate in each and every celebration of the Holy Mass.

When I visit our Catholic schools and catechism classrooms, I ask our second graders what important sacrament they will receive for the first time during the year. They answer, "The Holy Eucharist" or "First Holy Communion." They express to me how excited they are to receive this great sacrament. They know the sacrament's importance in their lives. They are genuinely prepared, in their own innocent and childlike way, to receive Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

However, how sad it is to hear an innocent child say to me that he or she wants to go to Mass but "my parents will not bring me."

Often, I think, we do not realize how great a gift we have in the Eucharist. We treat this gift as we would some duty or obligation. We take vacations from duties and obligations. We frequently neglect duties and obligations.

This sad circumstance prompts me to reflect on the words

of St. John the Baptist. Although our Lord said of St. John the Baptist that no one born of woman was greater than he was (Mathew 11:11), when pressed by the Pharisees to identify himself, St. John the Baptist said that our Lord was "the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie" (John 1:27). If one as great and privileged as St. John the Baptist saw himself humbled before our Lord, how much more should we.

As our Lord said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water" (John 4:10). Yet our Lord gives to us His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, born itself from His sacrifice upon the Cross, and we ignore it. We neglect this needed gift which we have done nothing to deserve.

How true it is that gifts of love are the ones humans most often neglect. Whether in parental love or spousal love or that of close friendship, these sacrificial gifts of oneself to another sometimes go unappreciated and unrecognized for what they really are. Every gift of love is born of sacrifice. Perhaps this is why we find it difficult at times to acknowledge the gift. We simply forget the sacrifice. The same is true of the Eucharist.

In an age where sacrifice is shunned, avoided, and not easily understood as a necessary attribute for love, it is worth remembering that the Eucharist is inseparable from the sacrifice of the Cross of Jesus Christ. For this reason in the same letter in which he recalls the institution of the Eucharist, St. Paul writes, "[W]e proclaim Christ crucified" (I Corinthians 1:23). Later the Apostle to the Gentiles will conclude, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes" (I Corinthians 11:26).

Sacrifice lies behind the gift of the Eucharist. The Eucharist apart from sacrifice is inconceivable. Without sacrifice, there is no Eucharist, only a fellowship or convivial meal. There is praise for sacrifice as, though few, sacrifice gives definition to the Eucharist because the sacrifice of the Cross brings about redemption. The Letter to the Hebrews speaks eloquently of this redemptive gift of Jesus Christ: "But

when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he 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 9:11-12). By Christ's sacrifice we are redeemed, and the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass makes that one and only sacrifice present to us here and now. As expressed by the Second Vatican Council, the sacrifice of the Cross is perpetuated throughout the centuries (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, 47).

Nothing, apart from illness or physical impossibility, should prevent us from attending Mass. The gift is too great, our participation too necessary, our redemption too important.

I leave you with these modest reflections which I pray will move your hearts and minds to a deeper appreciation of the mystery we celebrate at each and every Holy Mass. May the Lord, who offered Himself upon the altar of the Cross for our salvation, bring you ever more closely to His gift of love made visible in the Holy Eucharist. May we receive Him worthily. May we not neglect to share this profound love with our children and pass on to them the living conviction that where Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given.

Praying God's blessings on each and every one of you, I remain

Devotedly yours in our Lord,

†Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Saint Charles Center event schedule

(Read more at www.lcdioocese.org)

MOSS BLUFF – Sr. Diane Depwe will present "I Believe in Jesus Christ/The Creed" from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

This evening of reflection will address the reasons and purposes of God's relationship with us as humans. Deadline to register is Friday, Feb. 23, and the suggested donation is \$20.00 per person.

A "Lenten Private Directed Retreat" with Msgr. Ronald Groth, Fr. Whitney Miller, Fr. Marshall Boulet, Judy Savoie and Gloria Villegas will be Monday, March 12 to Sunday, March 18. This form of silent retreat is based on the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, and focuses on the personal prayer of the individual. The retreatant may choose to make a three or five day retreat. To register, all must contact the Center directly at 337-855-1232, as online registration is not available. The

suggested donation is \$350.00 for three days or \$475.00 for five days. Scholarship information is available upon request for those in need of assistance.

A "Lenten Introduction to the Directed Retreat" will also feature Msgr. Groth, Fr. Miller, Fr. Boulet, Dr. Savoie and Ms. Villegas from Thursday, March 15 to Thursday, March 18. This will help retreatants learn the prayer technique and prepares the person for a longer retreat. Registration must be done by calling the Center at 337-855-1232, as it not available online. The suggested donation is \$350.00 per person. Scholarship information is available upon request for those in need of assistance.

"An Evening of Mercy and Forgiveness" will be Tuesday, March 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available for all who choose to come by the Center and spend some time in prayer and spiritual preparation during this holy

season of Lent. At 5 p.m., the Blessed Sacrament will be enthroned on the altar of the Enthroned Chapel, for those wishing to spend a Holy Hour in this sacred space. Priests will be on hand for the Ministry of Reconciliation (Confession) until 7 p.m. when Benediction will conclude this blessed opportunity of Lenten worship and praise. Pre-registration is not required for this event.

"When You Pray the Our Father," a Women's Lenten Silent Retreat, will be presented by Fr. Steve Kimmons, S.J., PhD, from Friday, March 23 to Sunday, March 25. This silent retreat is sponsored by the women of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, but is open to any and all women who choose. The suggested donation is \$190.00 for a private room, \$170.00 for shared accommodations and \$75.00 for commuters. Contact Elaine Trahan at 337-474-0178 or the Center at (337) 855-1232 or visit stcharlescenter.com for registration. Scholarship

information is available upon request for those needing assistance.

"The Creed/The Holy Spirit," presented by Sr. Diane, will be Tuesday, March 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 23, with a suggested donation of \$20 per person.

Father Miller presents "Good Friday Meditations" on Friday, March 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A brief meditation by Fr. Miller will be given on the hours of 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. with a contemplative silence observed by all participants until the next hour of meditation. If attending, bring your own lunch and beverage, if desired. There is no fee for this event but pre-registration is appreciated. Deadline is Monday, March 26.

Share the journey with Rice Bowl

BALTIMORE -- As Pope Francis asks us to "Share the Journey" with migrants and refugees around the world, Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl offers Catholics in the United States a way to encounter Lent, to encounter the causes of migration and displacement, and to learn about the challenges faced by families around the world in their dioceses, parishes and homes.

CRS Rice Bowl, the agency's flagship Lenten program now in its fifth decade, began once again on Ash Wednesday – February 14 – giving Catholics throughout the country an opportunity to encounter the stories of people in need around the world.

"From CRS' work in more than 100 countries, we know that people do not want to leave their homes, that they do so because they feel they have no other choice," said Joan Rosenhauer, executive vice president of Church Engagement. "Lenten sacrifices contributed through CRS Rice Bowl help give them that choice by providing sustenance and livelihoods in communities around the world."

Started as an ecumenical effort in the diocese of Allentown, PA in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl soon spread across the country as it called on Catholics to perform a simple act of Lenten sacrifice.



SAINT CHARLES CENTER



Father Whitney Miller, left, is presented the 2017 Clergy Leadership Award from the Bishop Jude Speyrer Chapter of Pontifical Knights and Dames by the organization's secretary Gayle Marshall.

Pontifical Knights and Dames honor Fr. Whitney Miller

LAKE CHARLES – Father Whitney Miller, director of Saint Charles Center, has been named the 2017 Clergy Leadership Award winner by the Bishop Jude Speyrer Chapter of Pontifical Knights and Dames.

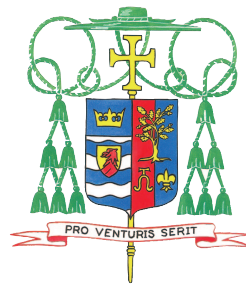
The award, given in odd numbered years, is made to the Catholic clergyman who has distinguished himself and has rendered outstanding service to the Church and to mankind. Father Miller, the first priest ordained to the Diocese of Lake Charles after its establishment in 1980, has been given the additional responsibility for Camp Karol, the youth camp being built on property near the Saint Charles Center site and named for Saint Pope John Paul II.

In a talk to the group about the project before the surprise announcement of his award, Father Miller released the new Camp Karol mission statement, devised with the collaboration of a group of young people: Seek Christ, Build Community, Live Catholic, Ignite the World!

KC's gets things rolling with cart donation



A number of Knights of Columbus Councils in the Diocese of Lake Charles joined together to donate three utility carts and two maintenance carts to Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana for use in its warehouse to distribute groceries to those in need and move items around the building. Pictured for the presentation of the carts, from left, are Jessica Watson, Assistant Director of Catholic Charities, Ken Chamberlain; Grand Knight of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Council 4562; Larry Miller of Christ the King Council 13931; Darryl Fuselier, Grand Knight of St. Margaret of Scotland Council 3208; Louis Gaudet, Knights of Columbus District 48 Deputy; Ben McDaniel, Grand Knight of St. Theodore Council 3602; Ivan Ovieda, Grand Knight of St. Martin de Porres Council 15006; and John Richard, Grand Knight of Christ the King Council 13931.



Katie Prejean McGrady to represent U.S. at Pre-Synod gathering

WASHINGTON -- Lake Charles native and St. Louis Catholic High School graduate Katie Prejean McGrady is one of three young adult delegates discerned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to represent the United States at the March 2018 Pre-Synod Gathering in Rome.

McGrady is a wife, new mother, youth minister, and a popular speaker who has been working with many youth and young adult communities across the country. The United States will participate in the special Pre-Synod Gathering, a milestone on the way to the Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.

The other young adults delegates include Br. Javier Hansen, FSC, originally from northern California, and a Brother of the Christian Schools in the LaSallian District of San Francisco-New Orleans, currently serving as a religion teacher at Cathedral High School-El Paso, Texas and Nick López, originally from San Antonio, who currently serves as the director of campus ministry for the University of Dallas. He is also a guest columnist for the Catholic News Service column, In Light of Faith, focused on millennials.

This spring gathering, from March 19 to 25, 2018, has been convened by the Holy Father Pope Francis, along with the Office for the Synod of Bishops, as a way to listen directly to the voices of young adults around the world in advance of the 2018 Ordinary Synod (which will take place in October 2018 at the Vatican). The Holy See has also received input on the Synod topic through a questionnaire sent through episcopal conferences and movements, which was sent to Rome in October 2017, and an online survey for young people that was open from June to December 2017.

These individuals were chosen by the USCCB because they have both local and national connections to the life of the Church. Not only are they young adults, but they work with other young people, representing the cultural and vocational diversity of the Church in the U.S.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, commented on the upcoming Pre-Synod Gathering in Rome, saying, "We are delighted that Br. Javier, Nick, and Katie have accepted

the invitation to represent the youth and young adults of the United States at this important gathering in Rome. We hope that all Catholics will join us in praying for them and for all the young delegates from around the world, participating in the Pre-Synod Conference. Their coming together is a wonderful opportunity for the Church, to hear the perspective of young people pertaining to the key themes which will be discussed in the 2018 Synod of Bishops: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment."

Prejean McGrady says it is a great privilege to attend the gathering. "It is easily one of the greatest honors of my life," says Katie. "While there, I am greatly looking forward to the chance to learn through dialogue and discussion, how other countries uniquely lead young people into an authentic and personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and to bring this information home to share with our bishops, priests, and lay men and women working in ministry."

This will be the first time that Br. Javier Hansen will be traveling to Rome. "I believe I offer the perspective of many young religious in this country and those who are currently discerning religious life," says Br. Javier. "I not only will represent the people of my generation but also the young people I interact with every day in the classroom."

Lopez says the gathering for him will also be an opportunity to present the needs of his American and Latino brothers and sisters, "In particular, I hope to be able to offer some successes and viewpoints from my life as a minister, including interfaith relations, integrating popular culture effectively in ministry, and the Latino/Hispanic American experience."

In addition to the in-person meeting of delegates, the Holy See will be inviting young people from around the world to participate in the Pre-Synod Gathering digitally via social media. With this opportunity, more youth and young adult voices can contribute to the dialogue. Details on how young people can engage the process in this manner will be available in the coming months.

The official Vatican website for the Synod, which is inclusive of this Pre-Synod Gathering, is <http://www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html> (this links to the English language version). The official USCCB web page for the Synod is www.usccb.org/synod-2018.



Katie Prejean McGrady, a native of the Diocese of Lake Charles and graduate of St. Louis Catholic High School, has been chosen by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as one of three young adult delegates representing the U.S. at the March 2018 Pre-Synod gathering in Rome. She is pictured above with her daughter Rose.

Lenten Regulations

Every Catholic, even children and older adults, should participate in some way in the spiritual disciplines and penitential practices of Lent in order to go up to Jerusalem with Jesus. These are the regulations for the Church in the United States.

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and we have only one full meal. Concerning the Good Friday fast, the Second Vatican Council teaches: "let the Easter fast be kept sacred. let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with a clear and uplifted mind."

- The other Fridays of the season of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines. But Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health.

The Fridays of the year outside of Lent are also days of penance. Abstaining from meat is the traditional way of observing these days of penance. However, each person is free to replace the traditional abstinence from meat with some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance. It is obvious that abstaining from meat is meaningless for vegetarians, who must choose some other form of abstinence. It is equally obvious that replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with the spirit of Lent. Abstaining from meat may be replaced on Fridays during the year with abstaining from some other food. It may also be replaced with time spent reading and studying the Scriptures, special prayers, such as the rosary or visits to the Blessed Sacrament, acts of thoughtfulness and charity to those in need, or acts of personal witness to one's faith, such as teaching a religion class or speaking out on the sinfulness of abortion, euthanasia, racism, and other social evils.

- While the season of Lent is the primary period of Catholic penitential practices, these regulations are not intended to limit the occasions for Christian penance. The practice of spiritual discipline is always appropriate during periods of special need for the individual and the larger community. The Catholic faithful should be reminded of the teaching of Pope Paul VI concerning the seriousness of being faithful to Lenten disciplines. He said that the obligation to follow these disciplines in solidarity with the Church is a serious one. However, Catholics should not become scrupulous in this regard. Failure to observe individual days of penance is not considered a serious matter. However, the faithful should look for ways to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed, and works of religion and charity on the Fridays outside Lent, should be considered a minimal response to the call of Jesus to go up to Jerusalem with Him in order that we might experience true Christian conversion in our lives.

Rite of Election Sunday

LAKE CHARLES -- The Rite of Election, the recognition of God's choice to call Catechumens for Initiation into the Church, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 18, the First Sunday of Lent, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will preside while accepting and greeting those who will celebrate the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, Saturday March 31.

The Rite of Election closes the period of the Catechuminate, and begins the preparation for baptism at Easter. Catechumens who undergo this rite are called the "Elect" during the period of purification and enlightenment.

In the Cathedral on Sunday, February 25, at 2:30 p.m., Bishop Provost will greet the candidates -- those preparing for full reception into the Catholic Church -- for the Rite of Continuing Conversion.

The next
Catholic Calendar
will publish March 9

2018
Diocesan Youth Conference

ROAD TO FULFILLMENT

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Diocesan Briefs.....

Theresians hosting Day of Reflection

LAKE CHARLES -- The Fleur de Lis Theresians of Southwest Louisiana Women's Day of Reflection will be held, from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, in St. Louis Catholic High School.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. There will be a light breakfast.

Speakers include Msgr. Rev. Arthur Calkins, a Mariology Specialist and Kellie Comeaux of the Community of Jesus Crucified.

Call 337-794-6338 for further information or visit LouisianaTheresians.com.

Child's Spiritual Workshop at St. Henry

LAKE CHARLES -- This spiritual workshop will introduce participants to the deeply rich spiritual life of the three to six year old child introduced with beautiful hands on materials and guided prayer by Sr. Mary Rose Bingham, OP.

Attendees will meditate on the rich themes of liturgy and scripture for the young child. It is ideal for teachers, religious instructors, parents, grandparents, and those yearning for some quiet moments of renewal and revitalization.

Scheduled for St. Henry Catholic Church, 1021 8th Avenue, sessions will be held February 22-24, March 22-24, and April 19-21, from 3 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays and Sundays.

The course fee is \$325.00. For more information, contact Dru Ange at dru.star@gmail.com or call 337-794-0562.

Mass for individuals with special needs

LAKE CHARLES -- Very Reverend Ruben Buller will celebrate a Mass for individuals with special needs and their families on Sunday, April 29, at 11 a.m. in St. Louis Catholic High School.

Masses will also be celebrated on July 8 by Reverend Whitney Miller; and on Sunday, Oct. 7, by The Most Reverend Glen John Provost.

All are welcome to attend the celebration, which is offered as an opportunity to worship despite difficulty, embarrassment or frustration.

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

Altar Society Day of Reflection

LAKE CHARLES -- Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church's Altar Society Day of Reflection will be Monday, February 19, with Father Ruben Villarreal, Ph.L, J.C.L., a Canon lawyer and judge for the Diocese Tribunal celebrating Mass at 8:30 a.m., at OLQH and the presentation concluding between 11-11:30 a.m.

Soup with Spiritual Sustenance

LAKE CHARLES -- The Very Reverend Marcus M. Johnson, VF, Dean of the Central Deanery and Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church will present a Lenten Reflection with Lunch on the Thursdays of Feb. 22 and March 22.

The presentation begins at 11:30 a.m. in the St. Margaret Family Center East Room.

Please call 337-439-4585 to register.

OLQH Lenten Mission Feb 26-28

LAKE CHARLES -- Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers will be the featured speaker at the 2018 Lenten Mission of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church Monday, Feb. 26, to Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m. each day.

Topics will include on Monday - The Pursuit of Happiness: Finding True Joy in the Catholic Faith; Tuesday: Apologetics 101: Seven Truths of the Church You Must Know To Defend Your Faith; and Wednesday: Living a Eucharistic Faith: The Big Deal About Mass and Why It Matters.

He will preach at all Masses on Sunday, Feb. 25. For more information, call Felicia at 477-1236.

Mission Night at St. Philip Neri

KINDER -- David Kauffman, a prolific artist who has written many songs for A.C.T.S. retreats worldwide and co-wrote the NPM Award Winning Mass of Renewal will be the speaker for the Lenten Mission Night at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder on Saturday, March 3, starting at 6 p.m.

Fr. Goodly to celebrate Silver Jubilee

MOSS BLUFF -- The Reverend Timothy Goodly, pastor of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood during Mass at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, in St. Theodore Catholic Church, 785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway.

A reception will follow at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.