



## Abrazando Cristo Mission fundraisers scheduled

LAKE CHARLES — The annual fundraisers for the *Abrazando Cristo* Mission program - The Big Cash Giveaway and the Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf Tournament - have been set, according to Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, director.

Tickets for the Big Cash Giveaway are \$100 each with only 750 being sold. Prizes are \$5,000 for the top winner, \$1,000 for second place, and \$500 for third. The drawing will be held on Sunday, June 17, at the rectory of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church 617 West Claude Street.

For more information on the giveaway call 337-439-7400. Tickets may be purchased by mailing your check to *Abrazando Cristo* Mission Program, Attn. Msgr. Daniel Torres, 617 West Claude, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

The golf tournament will be Saturday, May 19, at Mallard Cove Golf Course. For information, contact Johnnie or Susan Thibodeaux at 337-478-4095 or Will Fruge at 337-540-0410. Check local golf courses for registration forms.

Proceeds from the events benefit the ongoing work of current and future mission projects in Nicaragua.



Each year, the Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. Locally, the Diocese of Lake Charles Catholic Committee on Scouting observed Scout Sunday by inviting all scouts from around the Diocese to attend Mass at the Cathedral with Bishop Glen John Provost, according to Rev. Matthew Cormier, the chaplain of the Catholic Committee on Scouting. Eighty scouts and their families participated, including Cub and Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, and Little Flowers Girls Club.



## The meaning of a word is important

ICHTHUS is the Greek word for "fish." Jesus tells us to, "Come follow me. And I will make you fishers of men!"

We often see a fish in Christian art. During Lent many parishes enjoy a "fish fry." In the early Church, this word was used as a "symbol," an acronym, a word formed from the first letter of several words.

I C H T H U S stands for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior." This has often been expressed as, "Jesus Christ is the Son of God our Savior."

Thus, with this simple image, or drawing Christians could profess their faith in times of persecution.

- I = *Iesous* = Jesus
- Ch = *Khristos* = Christ
- Th = *Theou* = God's
- U = *Huios* = Son
- S = *Soter* = Savior

The sign of the fish in early times was used by Christians as a secret symbol that all who believed that Jesus was the Christ would recognize, whether scratched on walls, rocks, or sand.

So, as a Catholic, you can express the heart of our faith throughout a holy day by simply praying with one word. ICHTHUS, or even FISH.

## Annual Vocation Drawing Contest to be conducted

LAKE CHARLES - This year's Vocation Drawing Contest will be conducted in the Diocese of Lake Charles in preparation for World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday, April 22.

Every student in grades second through 12th is invited to create a drawing on an 8 1/2 X 11 inch white sheet of poster board or paper depicting awareness of the vocation to the priesthood in southwest Louisiana, according to Father Jeffrey Starkovich, director of vocations for the diocese.

All drawings must be turned in to Connie Perkins in the Office of Vocations at 414 Iris Street by noon on Thursday, April 5, 2018. The drawing must be in a large envelope *unfolded*. On the back of the drawing, the name of the artist, age of the artist, grade of the artist, contact phone number and home address, church parish attending/city and name of school attending must be printed. Also, indicate on the envelope that it is an entry in the Vocation Drawing Contest.

Announcement of the winners will be faxed to all by Friday, April 13, according to Father Starkovich. The first place winner will receive a \$200.00 prize with second place getting \$100.00, and



Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich

third place \$50.00.

The first-place winner will also have their drawing reproduced on prayer cards in observance of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. These cards will be handed out to those attending the 10:30 a.m. Mass on April 22 at St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

Each of the parishes will also receive a quantity of the cards for distribution to parishioners. For more information, call Connie Perkins at the Office of Vocations, 337-439-7400.

## Providing care to Christians in the Holy Land

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them during this special day in the Church and our life of faith. This year the collection will be on Friday, March 30, in the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America is the home of a world-wide Commissariat of Friars Minor and monasteries who function as bridges between the Holy Land and Christians all over the world. The Commissariat offices here at the Monastery in Washington, D.C. coordinate the vital support for the work of the Franciscans who work in the Holy Land.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy

Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. It is vital that we care for the Christians living in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence in a land that is filled with a majority Islamic and Jewish population.

The Holy Land Friday Collection is applied to these programs below.

### Faith, Memory & Culture – The Holy Places

Holy Land Franciscans staff and maintain the Holy places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their faith and their spiritual and cultural connection to Salvation history.

### Social & Charitable Activities

In order to assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody



builds thousands of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical assistance is provided for the needy.

### Educational & Scientific Activities

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for students to prepare them to get jobs and remain in the Holy Land as part of living Catholic communities. Funds are distrib-

uted to young men studying to become Franciscan priests or brothers. Finally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Land discovering historical artifacts.

### Pastoral Activities

The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land offering Worship, Christian Formation, youth and family programs.

### Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs

The Franciscan Media Center tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages. The friars organize Liturgical Celebrations for the local Christians and Pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing Ecumenical cooperation.

## Bishop Provost to preside at Sacred Triduum in Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will celebrate the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil - in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Bishop will also be the celebrant for the 11:15 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass in the Cathedral.

The Bishop will bless palms before the 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass in the Cathedral on March 25.

Bishop Provost will celebrate the Chrism Mass at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 28, in the Cathedral with the priests of the Diocese as concelebrants. At this Mass, the Holy Oils used during the year are prepared and blessed.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated on Holy Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m. The Bishop will conduct the commemoration of Christ's washing the feet of His Apostles during the liturgy.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place on Good Friday, March 30 at 3 p.m. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross by the faithful recognizing the "Cross of Christ" as

## 2018 Pro-Life Fundraiser



Young and old alike came out to sample the wares cooked up at the Pro-Life Clergy fundraiser for the Office of Pro-Life that took place at the Arcade Amphitheater at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Of eight competing teams, the group from St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder, led by Fr. Keith Pellerin won, serving a savory white chili con carne that drew the most votes from the crowd. Their prize of \$500 for the victory was generously donated back to diocesan Pro-Life ministries. This fun-filled, family day, offered not only some of the warmest temperatures January temperatures of the winter, but provided live music from Fr. Edward Richard, M.S., and his Bluegrass Band along with the St. Louis High School Band. Many families came and enjoyed each other's company over plenty of food and treats while the younger children played in the two jump castles. The funds from the event will help support the diocesan Pro-Life ministries for 2018, which includes Rachel's Vineyard, helping people heal from the wounds of abortion; Grief to Grace, a program for anyone who has suffered from different forms of abuse; and Natural Family Planning.

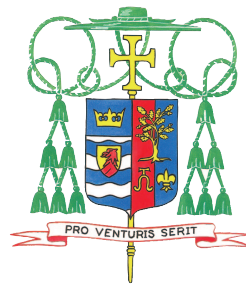
their only hope of salvation. The celebration concludes with Holy Communion.

The Easter Vigil, Saturday,

March 31, begins at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral with the Service of Light.

Other Cathedral Mass

times for Easter Sunday, April 1, are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and at 5 p.m. (Extraordinary Form).



## The Celebration of the Catholic Schools Week Mass



Bishop Glen John Provost is shown with students from the seven Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles in the photograph at left above before the celebration of the Catholic Schools Week Mass. With the Bishop center first row the students are, Joshua Savoit, Our Lady's Catholic School, Sulphur; Julian O'Brien; Julia O'Brien, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings; Juliet Riviere, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Lake Charles; and Spence Nixon, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Lake Charles; Second Row: Cane Moore, Holy Family Catholic School, Moss Bluff; Emeline Watson, St. Louis Catholic High School; John Noble, St. Louis Catholic High School, Lake Charles; and Alyssa Morton, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Lake Charles. Students in the Catholic schools across the Diocese participated in a unified spirit dress day where they were encouraged to raise money for Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana. Each school presented a check to Sister Mary Vianney Walsh, R.S.M., the director of Catholic Charities, in an effort of showing support for our Catholic organizations. A total of \$1,559.90 was presented to Sister Mary Vianney with the students at the Catholic School Week Mass in the photo at right.



Dr. Thomas Baril

Dr. Jennifer Morse

### Newman Lecture Series

LAKE CHARLES -- Following the mission of Cowboy Catholics of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church - to make lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ - the Catholic Student Center will offer the opportunity for students and members of the community to be enlightened and enriched through a series of lectures given by professors, notable Catholic academics, and other knowledgeable men and women in the coming weeks. These lectures challenge the current culture spiritually and academically. Recently, Barbara Wyman, instructor of Latin and English at McNeese State University, gave a lecture titled *Faith and Certitude: Cardinal*

*Newman's Grammar of Assent*, in which she gave some background information about Newman's life, as well as some general information about some of his writings that were instrumental in her own conversion.

Upcoming lectures will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel at the Catholic Student Center, 221 Aqua Drive.

On Tuesday, March 20 at 6 p.m., Dr. Jennifer Morse will present *Sexual Ethics and the Sexual State - Why the Church was Right and the Government is Wrong*.

On Tuesday, April 17 at 6 p.m. Dr. Thomas Baril will speak on *How Killing Patients Became Medically Moral*.

### Saint Charles Center event schedule

MOSS BLUFF - Numerous events are scheduled at Saint Charles Center during the remaining days of the month of March, according to Father Whitney Miller, director.

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 Sunday, 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 is 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 Assumption 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., Ph.D., 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 [scharlescenter.com](http://scharlescenter.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 to register is Monday, March 26.

### Abbey Youth Festival March 17

(Read more at [www.lcdioocese.org](http://www.lcdioocese.org))

ST. BENEDICT, LA - Pre-registration for the 2018 Abbey Youth Festival (AYF) concludes today, March 9, with the Festival set for 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College.

Pre-registration price is \$40 per person (teens & chaperones) including t-shirt and back-sack with on-site registration set at \$50 per person (not including t-shirt and back-sack). Registration is available online at [abbeyouthfest.com](http://abbeyouthfest.com).

AYF is an apostolate of the seminary which offers the youth a day of evangelization and vocational discernment, by means of Liturgy, adoration, confession, music, exposure to the Benedictine tradition, and faith formation talks. All this occurs in an

outdoor field on the beautiful grounds of the monastery. Though overseen by a committee of eight seminarians, led by the Director of AYF Christine Baglow, all seminarians contribute to the immediate preparations and staff the event itself. Over the past eighteen years, AYF has turned into one of the largest youth events in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, drawing thousands of young people

from all across the South. There will be confessions throughout the day and Mass at 3:45 p.m., celebrated by New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond. AYF schedule: 8:00 a.m. - on-site registration and check in opens at Registration Barn; 9:30 a.m. - AYF field opens; 10:00 a.m. - Welcome to AYF 2018 with Emily Wilson and Luke Kirk; 10:20 a.m. - Arise! Fr. Brad Doyle.

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

*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.

*Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in July*  
LAKE CHARLES -- Rachel's Vineyard of Southwest Louisiana, sponsored by the Office of Pro-Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles, will host its next retreat on Friday through Sunday, July 6-8, at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center. The retreat is for anyone - men or women - suffering from the trauma and after-effects of abortion. A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat provides an opportunity to deeply enter the grieving process and identify all the ways an abortion may have affected you. The retreat can also help participants accept forgiveness for themselves and others. There is also an opportunity to re-connect with the children that were aborted on a spiritual level, to give them honor and dignity through special and creative spiritual exercises as well as in a memorial service. Contact Rachel's Vineyard of Southwest Louisiana at 337-439-7400, Ext. 317 or e-mail [rachel.vineyard@lcdioocese.org](mailto:rachel.vineyard@lcdioocese.org) to register or for more information.

### Holy Week Office Hours

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday, March 26-28, and closed on Holy Thursday and Good Friday - March 29-30. They will remain closed on Easter Monday, April 2, reopening for regular business hours on Tuesday, April 3.

### Diocesan Briefs.....

#### St. Mary of the Lake Good Friday Walk

BIG LAKE - Join parishioners of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church and the Mission of St. Patrick at Sweetlake for the Friday, March 30, Good Friday Walk.

The walk will take place beginning at 7 a.m. from St. Patrick, 469 Highway 27, Sweetlake to St. Mary of the Lake in Big Lake.

Things to bring include a snack or light lunch (remember it is a day of fasting) your rosary, comfortable walk clothes and shoes. Arrival is scheduled for 3 p.m. at St. Mary for the celebration of Mass.

For more information call 337-598-3101. T-shirts will be available for \$10.

#### Child's Spiritual Workshop

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 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](mailto:dru.star@gmail.com) or call 337-794-0562.

#### Come and See vocations weekend

St. Joseph Seminary is hosting a Come and See weekend on Friday through Sunday, March 23-25.

Young men at least 16 years of age and older from across the South will visit the seminary for a weekend of sports, prayer, and tips on discernment. The weekend will conclude with a beautiful Palm Sunday liturgy with the Benedictine monks and the seminarians. There is no cost to attend and transportation will be provided.

For more information or to sign up, visit <http://lvocations.com> or call Fr. Jeffrey Starkovich, director of seminarians and vocations at 337-436-7223.

#### Summer study series April 5 to May 3

LAKE CHARLES -- "Who Am I To Judge," an eight-part summer study series featuring Dr. Edward Sri, will be sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on the Thursdays of April 5 through May 13.

Registration and payment is required to attend the event in the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Community Center Activity Room at 3939 Kingston Street from 6 to 8 p.m. from April 5 - May 31, except April 26.

Registration of \$16 per person covers materials. You may also register and pay at [www.olqh.org](http://www.olqh.org), before the deadline of March 21.

Call Felicia at OLQH with any questions. 477-1236

#### 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, embarrass-