



A Letter from Bishop Provost to the People of the Diocese

December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent

My Dear People of God,

In Southwest Louisiana we are not strangers to dangerous situations. We have faced hurricanes and the catastrophes they bring with perseverance and courage. Should we not face accompanying challenges in the Church with the same determination? With God's help we certainly can.

I think of this when we meet internal and external threats to the Church. From within there is evidence of infidelity to Church teaching, gross immorality, and violations of trust on a scale that defies comprehension. This is particularly disconcerting for those of us who grew up in an environment in the Church that, while experiencing challenges, strived to maintain standards and unity. Of course, the Church remains the Body of Christ. Its teachings, which come from our Lord Himself, have not changed. They still point the way to heaven for us. The Church is still both a human and Divine institution which possesses a coherent philosophical, theological, spiritual, and cultural foundation that lifts humanity toward God and away from self-destruction. When individuals in the Church forget or ignore this, they are laying the groundwork for great harm.

From outside, we have forces that seek to discredit the credibility of the Church, if not destroy it. Let us be honest. The Church's teachings are not in sync with many prevailing notions in fundamental areas like life, death, and marriage. Many have succeeded in marginalizing the Church in society. In certain instances some within the Church have even helped accomplish this goal.

And the world that the Church faces and to whom it seeks to preach the Gospel is shaken by its own formidable challenges. Technological advances, changes in communications, political upheaval, and forceful ideologies rise up to bring us invasion of privacy, terrorism, political unrest, uncivil discourse, and confusion. All things considered, we could easily become disillusioned, but this is not God's way.

I think of the night that began our Lord's Passion. Just before He entered the Garden of Olives, when all circumstances pointed to an ominous conclusion, He said, "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33). This is Christ's message to us in the midst of scandals and confusion.

With this in mind and following months of prayer and reflection as your bishop, I have decided to issue the decree attached to this letter. The Church did not help construct the civilization of the last two thousand years by ignoring our behavior within society. We in the Church either transform society by witnessing to it or risk being absorbed by society through acquiescence. We in the Church either act as a pro-active force for good or retreat into irrelevance. For these reasons, this decree seeks to implement in our diocese a program of prayer and worship that moves us more closely to being who we are as Catholics. In this way, God might more easily work through us to give good example to our neighbors and build up the kingdom of God. Of one thing I am certain: We cannot continue to live as passive bystanders. A change is necessary, and it begins with the way we worship and pray. It is a humble step, but I think a positive one.

Much of what I propose in the decree involves parish life and our daily lives as Catholics. In the case of the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, originating with Pope Leo XIII in 1886, and Eucharistic processions, we are reaching into the rich treasure of Catholic prayer and practice. With the Ember Days, we are touching upon a tradition that was sustained within the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council (cf. *General Normals for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar* March 21, 1969, #45). These proposals lay the groundwork for changes in the life of our parishes that, I pray, will be beneficial for a deepening of Catholic life. This is a beginning; more will follow, and we shall see where the Grace of God leads us.

The Devil and the forces of evil, which this iniquitous spirit unleashes, are not resisted with a "business-as-usual" attitude, nor has what some would call a "Catholic-lite" approach ever proved effective in facing challenges to the Church and the Gospel. When the disciples of our Lord complained that their attempt at combatting a demon was ineffective, they asked, "Why could we not drive it out?" (Matthew 17:19, Mark 9:28). To which our Lord answered, "But this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting" (cf. Matthew 17:21, Mark 9:29).

May our Blessed Mother intercede for us. May God bless our labors, increase our faith, and strengthen our resolve. May we patiently, hopefully, and confidently rise to face this moment of crisis.

With my prayers and blessings, I extend also my gratitude for your support, as I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

✠ Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Whereas the Second Vatican Council affirms, "Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth," and "to carry out such a task, the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel" (*Gaudium et spes*, 3 and 4);

Whereas, in the present moment, the Catholic faithful and their shepherds, the Bishops, are keenly aware that the Church must be fortified by grace to live its mission of proclaiming the truth of the Gospel;

Whereas it falls to the diocesan Bishop to give suitable guidance in such times and, when necessary, to draw from the rich spiritual patrimony of the Church to equip those entrusted to his care with the spiritual tools necessary to meet the needs of their time;

Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

DECREE

1. That the Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel be recited following every Mass;
2. That every parish church conduct one hour of Eucharistic Adoration each week, excluding the week of 40 Hours Devotion assigned to the parish;
3. That in addition to the intention for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Diocese, 40 Hours Devotion include prayers in reparation for sins contrary to the Sixth Commandment, the healing of all victims of sexual abuse, and the conversion of sinners;
4. That, in order to foster a further devotion and love for the Most Holy Eucharist, each parish once a year conduct a Eucharistic procession on an appropriate day, such as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*), the Solemnity of Christ the King, the patronal feast day of the parish, the feast day of St. Peter Claver, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady (the Patroness of Acadiana);
5. That the faithful follow the universal law of the Church that all Fridays of the year are days of abstinence from meat; although, on Fridays outside of Lent, one may choose another suitable penance;
6. That Catholics are urged to observe the time honored tradition of Ember Days as days of prayer and fasting; Ember Days are the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday following the First Sunday of Lent, Pentecost Sunday, September 14 (the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross) and December 13 (the Memorial of St. Lucy);

Given at the Chancery of Lake Charles, Louisiana, on the First Sunday of Advent in the year of our Lord 2018 and effective 1 January 2019.

Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles



George Stearns
Chancellor

Diocesan Briefs.....

Catholic mission trip July 5-14

LAKE CHARLES – The *Abrazado Cristo* Mission Trip for 2019 will be July 5-14 to Puerto Rico, according to Monsignor Daniel Torres.

The cost of the trip will be \$2,200, which covers all air and ground transportation, meals, lodging, trips, taxes, retreat, and mission shirts.

For an information packet/registration form contact Felicia Borel at 337-477-1236 or by e-mail at Felicia.borel@lcdioocese.org.

A \$300 non-refundable deposit with the registration form is due by Jan. 12 to secure a seat. Only 25 seats are available.

Fully Alive Community seeks young adults

LAKE CHARLES – Young adults and non-students, ages 18-39, are invited to become part of the Fully Alive Community in the Diocese of Lake Charles, according to Father Trey Ange.

"The Fully Alive community of Catholic young adults is on fire," Father Ange said. "There have been many fruits from this community, thanks to your prayers and communication! We want to extend the invitation to make sure young adults at all parishes know about this awesome community. They will NOT be taken away from their parish - on the contrary, parish fidelity is valued and encouraged.

"Enjoy spiritual growth, service in the community, social events to meet new people," Father Ange continued. "Connect with us at www.fullyalivelakecharles.com, Facebook @ FULLY ALIVE! Lake Charles, text "Fully" to 84576, and at fullyalivelakecharles@gmail.com

Events at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF –The remaining program for 2018 at Saint Charles Center will be the Advent Penance Night in the Chapel of the Assumption Tuesday, December 18, from 5 to 7 p.m.

There is no need to call for pre-registration for the Penance Night and there will a number of area priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Chapel of the Assumption.

Saint Charles Center stands as a place apart, offering an atmosphere of serenity and peace, where one can deepen one's relationship with God and achieve spiritual renewal and growth." Join us for this sacrament of God's mercy and joyful peace!

For additional information on any of these events or future programs e-mail michelle.monceaux@lcdioocese.org, deborah.faul@lcdioocese.org, or call 337-855-1232.

Pilgrimage to Italy in 2019

LAKE CHARLES – Visit Rome, Monte Cassino, San Giovanni Rotondo, Lanciano, Manoppello, Loreto, Tolentino, Assisi, Orvieto, Florence, Padua, and Venice with Spiritual Director Father Rommel Tolentino, on September 16-27, 2019.

The 12-day pilgrimage is \$3879 per person with double occupancy. The price includes round trip airfare from Houston, \$450 government taxes and airline surcharges, accommodations in first class hotels, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing, daily Mass, and more.

For a brochure and more information, call 337-436-7251 or email rommel.tolentino@lcdioocese.org. Space is limited!

Holy Spirit Women's Retreat

LAFAYETTE – Msgr. David Toups, Deacon Larry and Andi Oney will be featured at the annual Holy Spirit Women's Retreat Jan. 25-27, 2019, at the DoubleTree by Hilton.

The prophetic theme is "For Such a Time as This." The liturgies, music, prayer, teaching and fellowship will bring encouragement to all those who love the Lord and the Church.

Weekend and Saturday commuters are welcome. Early bird savings until noon December 3. Register online at www.ccrno.org or call (504) 828-1368.

Center for Catholic Studies class schedule

LAKE CHARLES – Father Nathan Long will teach on the Letters of St. Paul Course Title: The Letters of Saint Paul on the Tuesdays of January 29 and February 12, 19, 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Student Center at McNeese.

The course description is as follows: "St. Paul is notoriously misunderstood. St. Peter admitted as much in his own letter (2 Peter 3:15-16). Yet, understanding St. Paul is critical if we are to take seriously the call to evangelize. After all, Paul was the first world-wide evangelizer. Moreover, his epistles are read throughout the year in the Sacred Liturgy. Few pay much attention, and they are rarely given attention from the pulpit. In the interest of making the most of a short time, the approach in this course will be to take 8 keys/keywords to recall the central ideas and themes in Paul. By developing an understanding in these topics, it will better equip the participant to hear and understand the sections of Paul's epistles as they are read at Mass."

Paula Hunter will teach Theology of the Body and the Interior Life on the Tuesdays of March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Student Center.

"In this course, the student will develop a basic understanding of St. Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, and also of St. Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises. We will explore the profound meaning of being human--our purpose and fulfillment. The lecture and discussion topics include but are not limited to: The Truth of Trinitarian love Scripture and Church documents about the nature of the Human Person Some key affective states we experience as we move closer to--or further away from--our ultimate destiny as Human Persons. The most typical resistances men and women feel in personal and/or friendship relationships."

Cost is \$50 per person for each course. Registration is available online at lcdioocese.org by clicking the Event Registration button.

For more information, or to be placed on a list for future announcements, call 337-439-7400, Extension. 308 or e-mail marlie.mudd@lcdioocese.org.

Pontifical Mass schedule announced

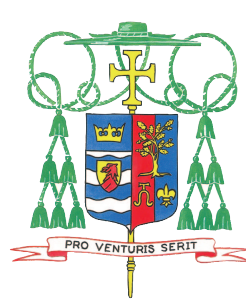
LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Pontifical Mass in the Extraordinary Form on Friday, Dec. 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, at 5:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The schedule of pontifical masses in the Cathedral during 2019 has also been set - Thursday, August 1, Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest, 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 29, Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, 11:15 a.m.

The next issue of the
Catholic Calendar
will be published on
Friday, December 21.

Offices of the Diocese will be closed
from December 21 through January 1
and reopen on January 2.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

December 7, 2018

Distinguished Catholic named

LAKE CHARLES -- Wylace Vincent Jr., a member of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder, was named the "Distinguished Catholic of the Year" by St. Peter Claver Court and Council #168 of St. Henry Catholic Church at the 2018 Sapphire and Ice Gala fundraiser. Bishop Glen John Provost was present and greeted the evening's guest speaker, Bishop Shelton Fabre of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

Bishop Provost offered his personal congratulations to Mr. Vincent on his fine accomplishments.

Vincent has been a faithful and devoted Catholic his entire life. Married to Margaret Ann Richard Vincent since November 3, 1961, the couple has three daughters and sons-in-law along with seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

He has served the church as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a Lector, an Usher and a member of the Pastoral Council and was the co-coordinator of the first Parish Renewal at St. Philip Neri. Vincent is a member of the East Deanery Serra Club, a recipient of the Devoted Service Medal from the Diocese of Lake Charles, a Sir Knight Commander of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1959 serving as Grand Knight of Council 2893 for two years, and a member of the Msgr. Cramers Assembly of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus since 1987.

Vincent served his country in the United States Navy and Naval Reserve. He has also been a member of the Alvin L. Nevil Post 9933 in Moss Bluff, Woodmen of the World, the Allen Parish Cattleman Association, and the United Bradford Breeders Association.

He is a former councilman of the City of Kinder, Past President of the Kinder Jaycees, officer with the Lions Club, the Kinder High School Athletic Association, served as a coach for elementary football and girls Little Dribblers basketball teams, and as a "band Dad" for the Kinder High School Band.

He has enjoyed activities with his family, to which he is tirelessly devoted, and friend. Vincent maintains contact with and support for St. Philip Neri Church, the Knights of Columbus,

Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

He also enjoys his life's dream as owner and operator of Rocking V Ranch.

Other nominees were Robert J. Richard of Christ the King Catholic Church in Lake Charles and Joseph Citizen of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

Bishop Fabre serves as the chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. He spoke of the new pastoral letter from the bishops entitled, "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism," which was passed later in the month at the autumn conference of the bishops, which was held in Baltimore.

Bishop Fabre spoke of previous pastoral letters from the bishops on the sin of racism.

"At significant times in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, leaders of the Church have written pastoral letters of concern over the sin of racism," Bishop Fabre noted. "In 1958, the bishops of the United States issued *Discrimination and Christian Conscience* to condemn the blatant forms of racism found in segregation and the "Jim Crow" laws. Ten years later in the spring of 1968, the bishops again penned a letter entitled *National Race Crisis* to condemn the scandal of racism and the policies which led to the violence that had erupted in many major cities across our nation.

"In 1979, the bishops wrote *Brothers and Sisters to Us*, a pastoral letter addressing how racism was still affecting so many, highlighting the structural and institutional forms of racial injustice evident in the economic imbalances found in our nation," Bishop Fabre continued. "These three documents directly addressed issues concerning race within our nation's borders. It demonstrates that during the turbulent sixties and seventies, the Catholic Church was aware of the persistent evil of racism."

Previous award recipients include Wila Golden (2017); Craig A. Guillory (2016); Tammy Welch (2015); Patrick Guillory (2014); Rosie Richards (2013); Herman Guidry (2012); Cheryl Riley (2011); and Clarence Prudhomme (2010).



Wylace Vincent, Jr., center, was named the 2018 Distinguished Catholic of the Year by St. Peter Claver Court and Council #168 of St. Henry Catholic Church at the 2018 Sapphire and Ice Gala fundraiser. With Vincent are, at left, Rev. Keith Pellerin, pastor of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church of Kinder where Vincent is a parishioner, and at right, Rev. Matthew Cormier, pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church.

Christmas Mass Schedule for the churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles

Bell City

St. John Vianney
(7120 Highway 14 E.)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Big Lake

St. Mary of the Lake
(11054 Highway 384)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Cameron

Our Lady Star of the Sea
(135 Our Lady Road)
4:00 p.m. (Eve)

Carlyss

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
(4822 Carlyss Drive)
4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Creole

Sacred Heart of Jesus
(5250 West Creole Highway)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

DeQuincy

Our Lady of LaSalette
(203 S. Grand Avenue)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

DeRidder

St. Joseph
(1125 Blankenship Drive)
5:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Elizabeth

St. Frances of Rome Mission
(204 Poplar Street)
8:00 a.m. (Day)

Elton

St. Joseph
(209 Al Woods Street)
4:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)
St. Paul
(1100 St. Mary Street)
6:30 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Fenton

St. Charles Borromeo
(804 Third Avenue)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Grand Chenier

St. Eugene
(5035 Grand Chenier Highway)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

Hackberry

St. Peter the Apostle
(1210 Main Street)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Iowa

St. Raphael
(211 S. Thomson Avenue)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:15 a.m. (Day)

Jennings

Immaculate Conception
(705 S. Lake Arthur Avenue)
4:00 p.m., (Eve); 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady Help of Christians
(710 N. State Street)

4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight, 8:30 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
(920 S. Broadway)

6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Johnson Bayou

Our Lady of the Assumption Mission
(5556 Highway 82)
11:00 a.m. (Day)

Kinder

St. Philip Neri
(607 Fourth Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Lacassine

St. John the Evangelist Mission
(306 Ann Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m. (Day)

Lake Arthur

Our Lady of the Lake
(203 Commercial Avenue)
4:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. (Day)

Lake Charles

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
(Corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets)
4:00 p.m. (Eve);
12:00 Midnight, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Extraordinary Form)
(Day)

Christ the King

(7680 Gulf Highway)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Immaculate Heart of Mary
(2031 Opelousas Street)

4:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight, 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Good Counsel
(221 Aqua Drive)

4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve);
9:00 a.m., (Day)

Our Lady Queen of Heaven
(3939 Lake Street)

4:00 p.m. (Main Church),
4:15 p.m. (Family Life Center gym); 6:00 p.m.
(Main Church) (Eve);

12:00 Midnight, 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m. (Day)

Sacred Heart of Jesus
(610 Louisiana Avenue)

4:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Henry

(1021 Eighth Avenue)

4:00 p.m. (Eve);
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,

5:00 p.m. (Bilingual, English/Spanish) (Day)

St. Margaret of Scotland
(2500 Enterprise Blvd.)

(NW Corner of Enterprise Blvd & 17th Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve);
12:00 Midnight, 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Day)

St. Martin de Porres
(5495 Elliott Road)

4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital Chapel
(524 Dr. Michael DeBaakey Drive)

9:00 a.m. (Day)

LeBleu Settlement

St. Joseph Mission
(2110 Claude Hebert Road)
8:30 a.m. (Day)

Moss Bluff

St. Theodore
(785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway)
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 11:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:30 a.m., (Day)

Oakdale

Sacred Heart of Jesus
(1208 E. 7th Avenue)
7:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Oberlin

St. Joan of Arc
(110 W. 5th Avenue)
12:00 Midnight, 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Ragley

St. Pius X
(16816 Highway 171)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Day)

Raymond

St. Lawrence
(5505 Pine Island Highway)
5:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Day)

Sulphur

Immaculate Conception
(2700 Maplewood Drive)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)
Our Lady of LaSalette
(602 N. Claiborne Street)
4:00 p.m. (Children's Mass), 8:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Prompt Succor
(1109 Cypress Street)

4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., (Eve); 12:00 Midnight,
8:00 a.m. (Extraordinary Form), 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
(Day)

Sweetlake

St. Patrick Mission
(469 Highway 27)
4:00 p.m. (Eve)

Vinton

St. Joseph
(1502 Industrial Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Welsh

Our Lady of Seven Dolors
(209 N. Adams Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Joseph
(310 N. Sarah Street)

11:00 a.m. (Day)

Westlake

St. John Bosco
(1301 Sampson Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)