



Grace Gardens Brick Dedication

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the 2019 Heritage Day Mass in the Convent Chapel of Christus St. Patrick Hospital on Friday, March 15, the Friday of the First Week of Lent. Father Brian King, Pastoral Care Director for the hospital, and Father Charles Okorougo, hospital chaplain, concelerated.

Following the Mass, Bishop Provost took part in the annual anniversary celebration and dedication of the Garden Wall of Grace Gardens, located by the Convent Chapel, Grace Gardens. It is a quiet, green space with fountains and benches where people can sit, meditate and experience God's healing presence and love.

The names of all those individuals and couples for whom friends and loved ones honored or memorialized with the purchase of a brick through the CHRISTUS St. Patrick Foundation were announced.

According to Kay Barnett, CFRE, Executive Director of Development for CHRISTUS Ochsner Southwestern Louisiana Foundation, "This unique opportunity allows people to give back to programs that provide comfort, care and healing to others – what a meaningful way to celebrate and remember loved ones as well as help others throughout the year.

The anniversary celebration commemorates the healing heritage of CHRISTUS Health. For more than 150 years, its sponsoring congregations, The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston and of San Antonio and The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, have answered Jesus' invitation to serve in response to the needs of others, particularly individuals and families who live in

poverty and are the most vulnerable.

CHRISTUS Health honors the healing legacy entrusted to us by our sponsors and remembers the history and heritage of our founders, sponsors and individuals who chose to answer the call "to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ."

Locally, CHRISTUS Ochsner Southwest Louisiana Health has been serving Southwest Louisiana for 110 years, during which time the charitable support from this community has made a major impact on both CHRISTUS and local families.

Because of this community's generosity, the health system has made significant strides in the medical technology and essential healthcare services provided to this region, including improving pediatric medical care services and health education opportunities through the nationally recognized Children's Miracle Network program.

The CHRISTUS Ochsner Southwestern Louisiana Foundation oversees the philanthropic efforts of the CHRISTUS facilities in this region, including annual fundraisers, special events, major gift fundraising, capital campaigns, and planned giving. The Foundation provides an opportunity for the community to give to an area of care where the donor wants to make the most impact. Areas of support include the John & Sylvia Stelly Regional Heart Center, the Regional Cancer Center, Women's Health Services including our newly established James W. Gardiner Breast Center, Neurosurgery and Orthopaedics, Children's Services, Behavioral Health, and more.



Bishop Glen JOHN Provost, left, blesses the walls of bricks located in Grace Gardens in March 15. Reverend RUBEN OCHSNER, center, and Reverend BRIAN KING, right, assist the Bishop. The Bishop celebrated the Heritage Mass in the Convent Chapel before taking part in the hospital's annual anniversary celebrations and the dedication of the Garden Wall in Grace Gardens.

Child sex abuse called 'serious and pervasive' issue in U.S. society

By Julie Asher
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Child sexual abuse in the United States is at epidemic levels.

More than 60,000 children are reported to have been abused every year, outnumbering those killed by guns or cars. Those who survive are often left not only with physical wounds, but also with psychological wounds that may never heal. These wounds exact both a profound personal and social cost.

Much attention has been focused on the issue of child sexual abuse and the Catholic Church, and rightly so. Allegations of abuse by clergy and church workers as well as cover-ups and bureaucratic mishandling by bishops,

dioceses and religious orders have caused terrible pain for survivors of such abuse and their families. It also has resulted in disillusionment on the part of ordinary Catholics. The cost of this abuse and its aftermath totals more than \$4 billion so far, according to the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection.

While the Catholic Church continues to struggle with this legacy, it has instituted a wide variety of steps to improve oversight, identify abusers and protect children.

One under-reported fact from the recent, highly publicized Pennsylvania grand jury report is that for all of the many horrors it identified, the good news was that it appeared to document the decline in current cases.

As Jesuit Father Tom Reese told America magazine in its Dec. 24 issue, every one of the accused priests in the report was either deceased or had been removed from ministry, "and only two had been accused of abusing a child in the last 20 years."

During these same 20 years, however, an estimated 1.2 million children in this country were abused nationwide in schools, organizations, churches and families.

Understanding the plague of sexual abuse in this country means going beyond the immediate headlines and understanding what experts are saying about this scourge. It also means looking not only at the Catholic Church but at all institutions and societal structures where abuse can take place.

So far, no grand jury, congressional committee or law enforcement organization has undertaken a broad societal investigation of what is happening to children in public schools as well as private, in sports and other youth-oriented programs and organizations, in pediatric facilities and perhaps most common, in families. (In Australia, a Royal Commission investigation of child abuse in nongovernmental organizations took five years.)

(Read more at www.lodiocese.org)

Bishop Provost to preside at Sacred Triduum in St. Margaret

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will celebrate the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil - in St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church. He will also celebrate the 10 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass in St. Margaret.

The Bishop will bless palms prior to the 10 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass at St. Margaret on April 14.

Bishop Provost will celebrate the Chrism Mass at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, at St. Margaret, with the priests of the Diocese concelebrating. It is at this Mass that the Holy Oils used throughout the year by the priests are prepared and blessed.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated on Holy Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. The Bishop will conduct the commemoration of His Apostles during the liturgy.

The celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place on Good Friday, April 19, 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 their only hope of salvation. The celebration concludes with Holy Communion.

The Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 20, begins at 8 p.m. St. Margaret with the Service of Light.

Other Cathedral Mass times for Easter Sunday, April 21, are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and at 5 p.m. (Extraordinary Form).

Lenten REGULATIONS

Every Catholic, to enter more deeply into the life of Christ, is to participate in some way in the spiritual and penitential disciplines of Lent. The regulations for the Catholic Church in the United States are as follows: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstention from meat.

The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting one's self to one full meal and two lighter meals during the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those younger or older are encouraged to voluntarily embrace these disciplines in so far as they are able.

Divine and Natural Law holds that all the faithful are morally bound to do penance.

The Fourth Precept of the Church obliges Catholics to observe the penance of fasting and abstinence for Lent.

Fridays outside of Lent are also days of penance and spiritual discipline. Abstaining from meat is the traditional way of observing these days of penance. The Bishops of the United States have granted permission for abstinence from meat on Fridays outside of Lent to be replaced with some other self-denial or personal penance. However, Friday remains a day of some penitential practice. As Bishop Provost stated in a recent pastoral letter: "The idea of sacrificing something is countercultural to which 'throwaway' mentality that plagues us today and of which Pope Francis has time and again warned us" (September 3, 2015).

Fasting should never endanger one's health. Avoiding some form of permissible entertainment or performing sacrificial acts of charity, for example, could replace the fasting when health is a consideration.

Finally, with any penitential discipline, both the letter and the spirit are to be maintained. For example, replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with penitential practice. Also, the increasingly popular practice of hosting "crawfish boils" and entertainments on Good Friday is highly inappropriate. Good Friday remains an extraordinary and solemn day on which we recall the suffering and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Good Friday should remain a day of fasting, abstinence, prayer, penance, and interior and exterior quiet.

The next
Catholic Calendar
will be published on
Good Friday, April 19.

The Offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Holy Thursday and Good Friday, April 18 and 19, as well as on Easter Monday, April 22. Regular office hours will be observed on Monday through Wednesday, April 15-17, and from Tuesday, April 23, onward.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Mass and Adoration for Healing April 11

CARLYSS — The celebration of Holy Mass and Adoration for Healing will be Thursday, April 11, in St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church, 4822 Carlyss Drive.

Rosary and Communion will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 6 p.m. followed with Eucharistic Exposition with Prayers for Healing and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7 p.m.

Bishop's breakfast, luncheon dates

LAKE CHARLES -- The next Ladies Prayer Luncheon will be Wednesday, April 10, in the Assembly Room.

Women should send a check for either or both luncheons in the amount of \$15, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Victoria Walter, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and include a stamped self-addressed envelope with payment.

The final presentations of this series with Bishop Glen John Provost at the First Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast and the Ladies Luncheon will be Friday, May 3, for the former and Wednesday, May 1, for the latter.

These two dates conclude this series of presentations until fall.

The breakfast will be preceded by Mass beginning at 6:30 a.m. in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral Office Complex with breakfast in the Assembly Room of the Chancery, 414 Iris Street, at 7 p.m. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register.

Big Cash Giveaway for Abrazando Cristo

LAKE CHARLES — The Abrazando Cristo Mission Program's "Big Cash Giveaway Fundraiser" features a chance to win the top prize of \$5,000.

Second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. Only 750 tickets will be sold for the event at \$100 each. The drawing will be Sunday, June 16.

Proceeds benefit the ongoing work of the missions in Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.

To purchase a ticket, mail your check, payable to Abrazando Cristo Mission Program to 617 West Claude Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605. A ticket stub will be mailed to you.

Call Felicia Borel at 337-477-1236 with questions.

Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf

LAKE CHARLES — The annual Johnnie Thibodeaux Memorial Golf tournament will be Saturday, May 18, at Mallard Cove Golf Course.

For more information call Johnnie and Susan Thibodeaux at 337-478-4095 or Will Fruge at 337-540-0410.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit several of the projects of the Abrazando Cristo Mission Program in Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.

Mass on Radio Maria

ALEXANDRIA — The celebration of the Mass can be heard at 8 a.m. Monday through Friday, 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday on Radio Maria (91.1 FM) and on www.radiomaria.us.

The previously mentioned website will provide you the location as well as by calling 1-888-408-0201.

Pontifical Masses scheduled

LAKE CHARLES — Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Pontifical Mass in the Extraordinary Form on Thursday, August 1, Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest, at 5:30 p.m. in

the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Bishop is also scheduled to be the celebrant on Sunday, December 29, Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, at 11:15 a.m.

Catholic schools open August 9 and 12

LAKE CHARLES — The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles will begin the 2019-2020 school year with the return of students to classes on Friday, August 9, at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings and on Monday, August 12, at the six schools located in Calcasieu Parish.

This is according to calendars for the 2019-2020 school term that were recently released by the Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Schools in Calcasieu include St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School in Moss Bluff; and Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur.

Holidays during the school year - days the students are not in attendance - include Labor Day, Monday, September 2; Fair Day (Our Lady Immaculate) Friday, October 4; Veterans Day, (Calcasieu schools) Monday, November 11; Thanksgiving, Monday, November 25 to Friday, November 29; Christmas, Monday, December 23 to Friday, January 3; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday January 20; Mardi Gras, Friday, 21 to Tuesday, February; and Easter, Friday April 10 to Friday April 17.

In-service days for teachers and staff in Calcasieu schools include October 14 and March 16. Our Lady Immaculate will have service days on August 6-8, October 3, February 15, and February 26.

Wedding jubilee celebration May 19

LAKE CHARLES – The Diocese of Lake Charles Office of Family Life will sponsor the annual Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, May 19, at the 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church.

Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant and homilist. Couples celebrating Silver (25 years) or Gold (50 years) anniversaries as well as those with milestone celebrations in multiples of five years, such as – 55, 60, 65, 70, and 75, etc. will also be honored.

Bishop Provost will present special certificates to the couples honoring them for their longtime Christian marriage commitment.

A reception will be held for the couples and family members in the St. Margaret Family Life Center gymnasium.

Contact your church parish office to register by Monday, May 6.

For more information, email Victoria Walter at victoria.walter@lcediocese or call 337-439-7400.

Celebrating 70 Years



ADRIENNE & ORGY BROUSSARD



DAISY & HODGES HARMON

Bishop Glen John Provost, center in both photos, celebrated the annual jubilee Mass for couples married for 25, 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70 years of Christian marriage last year in the Cathedral of the Immaculate conception. The longest married couples – celebrating 70 years in 2018 – were Adrienne and Orgy Broussard (left photo) of St. Raphael Catholic Church of Iowa and its Mission of St. Joseph in LeBleu Settlement and Daisy and Hodges Harmon (photo at right) of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Welsh. The 2019 Jubilee Mass is Sunday, May 19, in St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church.

Programs, events at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF – Spring events at Saint Charles Center continue with “Sisterhood of Saints: Guidance and Inspiration from Holy Women Along the Way of Christ’s Passion, Death and Resurrection,” the Annual Women’s Lenten Silent Retreat, sponsored by Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish and presented by Fr. Miller, on Friday, April 12 to Sunday, April 14.

Suggested donation for the retreat is \$225.00 for a private room and \$205.00 each for shared accommodations. Contact Andrea Blanchard at (337) 794-9679, the Center at

(337) 855-1232, or at stcharles-center.com to register.

“An Evening of Mercy and Forgiveness” will be held Tuesday, April 16, from 5 – 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 the holy season of Lent with priests available until 7 p.m. At 5 p.m., the Blessed Sacrament will be enthroned on the altar of the Assumption Chapel, for any who might want to spend a Holy Hour in this sacred space. At 7 p.m., Benediction

will be celebrated to conclude this blessed opportunity of Lenten worship and praise. Pre-registration is not required for this event.

“Good Friday Meditations,” with Fr. Miller and Deacon Soileau is Friday, April 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Honor these holy hours of quiet spirit and solemn reflection throughout one of the most sacred days of the liturgical year by spending some time in prayer at the Saint Charles Center. A brief meditation will be given by Fr. Miller on the hours of 11 and 1 and by Deacon Soileau on the hours of noon and 2. Af-

ter each short presentation, a contemplative silence will be observed by all participants until the next hour of meditation. If attending, bring your own lunch and beverage, if desired. There is no fee but pre-registration, by Tuesday, April 16, would be appreciated.

A Theology of the Body Preached Retreat for Women - “On Being a Woman: Icon of Love” –led by Paula Hunter and Becky Clements will be Thursday, April 25, to Sunday, April 28. Beginning Thursday at 5 p.m. it will end by noon on Sunday and is open to all women 18 years and older.

There will be Mass and Adoration, as well as presentations, discussions, music, prayer and silence. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available. Cost is \$250 for a single room (limited number of single rooms available) and \$225 for a double room. A \$100 nonrefundable deposit is required when you register at www.icsulphur.org or call Jamie Drummond at (337) 625-9719, if you have any questions.

“A Catholic Guide to Civility” will be presented by Fr. Miller Tuesday, May 7, from 6 – 9 p.m. St. John Baptist de la Salle is the patron

saint of all teachers of youth. Throughout his own years of ministering to troubled teens and challenging students, he developed customs for character formation and laid for them a cornerstone of civility upon which the foundations of faith could be built. The suggested donation is \$20 per person with registration deadline of Friday, May 3.

“Co-Dependency According to Scripture” with Sr. Diane Depwe is Tuesday, May 14, from 6 – 9 p.m. The suggested donation is \$20 per person with a deadline of Friday, May 10.



As it happened ...

In photo 1, Bishop Glen John Provost, left, spoke to a recent meeting of young adults and non-students who are 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. 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.” The Study Day for Priests of the Diocese was held at Saint Charles Center with Father Sean Kilcawley, Director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Lincoln Nebraska. In photo 2 Father Kilcawley, a nationally recognized speaker on Theology of the Body, Human Love and pornography addiction, spoke on “Pastoral Care in a Pornified World.” The Monsignor A.J. Robichaud Hall at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder served as the site for the 2019 Spring Middle School Rally, photo 3, sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The annual Diocesan Youth Conference, held in Beaumont, found Bishop Provost, photo 4, celebrating a Saturday afternoon liturgy and providing the young people with the homily. The Bishop also answered questions from numerous youth attending the conference following the Final Blessing. Residents of the Villa Maria Retirement Center, photo 5, enjoyed French music, dancing, and a visit from a local Mardi Gras Krewe whose members passed out Mardi Gras beads to all present during its Mardi Gras party prior to the beginning of Lent. Bishop Provost celebrated Mass on Ash Wednesday at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church and distributed ashes to the faithful in photo 6. The Rite of Election took place at St. Margaret on the First Sunday of Lent, photo 7. Bishop Provost greeted all the catechumens, who will be formally admitted into the Church at the Easter Vigil and receive the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. In the photo, Msgr. Daniel A. Torres, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, stands and waits to greet and congratulate a catechumen from his parish. Many parishes in the Diocese host St. Joseph Altars on or about his feast day of March 15. Bishop Provost blessed the altar at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, photo 8. The Sicilians started the tradition of the St. Joseph Altar, when suffering a terrible famine caused by a horrible drought they pleaded to St. Joseph, their patron, for his intercession for rain to end the drought. When the rain fell, the people rejoiced and to show their gratitude, prepared an Altar table with a special assortment of foods that they had harvested. After paying honor to St. Joseph, they distributed the food to the hungry. This tradition continues around the world. St. Joseph Mission Church in LeBleu Settlement has a long history of the St. Joseph Table and Father Dismas Mauk, pastor of St. Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa, blessed the altar, photo 9, on Sunday, March 22.