



Bishop Provost to preside at re-dedication of Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, M.A., D.D., Bishop of Lake Charles, will preside at the Solemn Dedication of the restored Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets in downtown Lake Charles, at a 10 a.m. Mass on Saturday, August 31.

Priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles will con-celebrate the liturgy and deacons of the diocese will also take part in the Mass. The Bishops of the Province of New Orleans have also been invited to participate.

The restoration was made possible through the contributions to the capital campaign – Return to the Lord and representatives of each parish of the diocese have been asked to be in attendance along with their pastors.

In reflecting on the vision that inspired the restoration project, Bishop Provost said, “The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is perhaps one of the most historic and artistically well designed buildings in the area. The parish goes back 150 years.

“The structure itself was created over a century ago, at a time when architects and contractors were acutely aware that permanence was important both in the quality of construction and the architectural style” the Bishop continued. “Inspired by the historic design of the Cathedral, characteristic of the Piedmont region of Italy, of supreme importance to me was a preservation in keeping with the original intent of the builders and the aspirations of thousands of faithful who had worshipped there over the last century and would worship there in the future.

Bishop Provost noted that the Cathedral is a parish church but pointed out that no Cathedral is “merely parochial.”

“It is also the seat of the Bishop in his diocese. As chief liturgist, the Bishop in his ceremonies is required by tradition and law to set the standard for every other liturgical celebration that takes place in the Diocese. With all of this in mind, I concluded that whatever restoration took place must be part of a diocesan-wide initiative. For this reason, as in every other diocese in the nation embarking on a cathedral restoration, the project required inclusion in the capital campaign.”

Further he noted, “If someone were to ask about my vision for the restoration, I would answer that it must be Catholic. To achieve this end extensive collaboration and consultation was necessary with experts in the field of liturgy, art, historic restoration, and construction. With the superb assistance of Mr. Buzzy Ribbeck and his staff and the personnel of Conrad Schmitt, we were able to discuss and deliberate with representatives of the Cathedral Parish and Father Rommel Tolentino, the Pastor.

“Also, I appointed my diocesan liaison to the project, Father Ruben Buller, who is the diocesan director of liturgy and now a Vicar General,” Bishop Provost said. “In so doing, we remained in constant, if not daily, communication with the contractor, architect, and craftsmen. There was also research and the input of firms that had enjoyed a long history with the Cathedral in Lake Charles. One of these was Emile Frei and Sons, who originally created and installed the stained glass and who painstakingly repaired, cleaned and re-mounted the glass in this project. All of these gracious and knowledgeable individuals were indispensable for the successful completion

of the restoration.”

In concluding, the Bishop said, “The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is a work of art. Any true work of art, especially if it is classic, endures. Built in the past, it speaks to the present and remains an inspiration for the future. As the ‘house of God and gate of heaven,’ to quote the Sacred Scriptures, the Cathedral imparts a message of love, devotion, fidelity, perseverance, and beauty that is our legacy and our privilege to proclaim.”

In a discussion with Father Buller, who serves as Master of Ceremony to the Bishop, about the Rite of Dedication, he pointed out that, “Because there has been major construction in the church, the consecration of the altar with the Oil of Chrism is called for along with the consecration of the walls of the church.

“We will also be burning incense on the altar,” Father Buller continued. “The idea of a dedication in that shows the building has been set aside for God and the worship of God.”

The use of the Oil of Chrism in the ceremony is significant. “Chrism is only used a few times in the life of the Church – baptisms, confirmations, Holy Orders, and the dedication of a church,” Father Buller said.

“Interestingly, people will notice when they walk into the church that no candles will be lit,” he continued. “The reason being, when candles are burning it is a recognition that the Church is now a place where there is the presence of God – candles signify the presence of God.”

Father Buller noted that recently he was “visiting with a friend from out of state and he (the friend) said, ‘you know your ancestors should be very proud of this.’ That is our goal, for those ancestors in our Faith who went to Mass there and who, God willing are in heaven, will look down with pride when they see now their children, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren in this newly restored Cathedral.

“Church buildings are important because, theologically, they stand as a sign of the people’s faith,” he said. “This is why we can say that in the middle ages we see these huge monuments of a church that took hundreds of years to build but the people wanted to take their time in doing this because they wanted to do this for the glory of God.”

Regarding the image of St. Agatha in the narthex (see [Bishop Provost’s reflection on this historical painting below and the image at lcdioocese.org](#)), Father Buller said, “It is important to consider the patronage and how appropriate it is for the Cathedral to be under the patronage of Our Blessed Mother.

“Because the Church is the vessel where the Christian faithful are fed, and the church building is where the body of Christ is made manifest to use in the Eucharist, where the Word of God is proclaimed and to see this connection because of the fact that our Blessed Mother Mary was the instrument through which God chose to make his body manifest in the world, to touch people, to heal people, to feed people and to proclaim his Good News. In that sense we could say that Mary becomes essential for that part of the Incarnation because Christ would have had to find another way to come into the world.”

The Great Fire of 1910 destroyed many of the buildings of commercial and government use and the Catholic Church of the Immacu-



The artisans of Conrad Schmitt Studios created a magnificent image of Our Lady, located in the apse of the Cathedral.

late Conception. The church would be rebuilt in 1913.

Monsignor Hubert Cramers, a Dutch priest who was the pastor of the structure. He selected the New Orleans architectural firm Favrot and Livaudais to design the new edifice. Work on the building began in January 1913 and was completed by December of the same year.

The church building that occupies the southeast corner of Bilbo and Kirby streets is the third I structure to house the Catholic Parish in downtown Lake Charles. The first named for Saint Francis deSales. A marker on the Kirby Street side of the property marks its location. It was damaged by a hurricane in 1879. The Reverend Michael Kelly, its pastor at the time, repaired it and requested that it be rededicated to the Immaculate Conception in 1881. This was the structure that was destroyed in 1910.

After the current structure was completed in 1913, subsequent pastors added to the beauty of it. In 1922, the main rear altar and

the two side altars, all carved from Carrara marble, were purchased and installed. In the 1930s, the stained-glass windows were installed. Monsignor Louis Boudreaux, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish from 1940 through 1974, replaced the wood floors with terrazzo, added the wainscoting throughout the structure, replaced the damaged wooden ambo with a marble ambo, and installed the current organ.

Minor changes took place throughout the subsequent decades. These included the addition of a front altar of sacrifice following the Second Vatican Council where Mass is currently celebrated.

In 2013 to mark the occasion of the centennial of the Cathedral structure, Bishop Provost obtained permission of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to have the statue of the Immaculate Conception that is located above the high altar crowned. This was done on August 22, 2013 by The Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò, then-Papal Nuncio to the United States.

Painting of St. Agatha: A Personal Reflection

By Bishop Glen John Provost
(See the image of St. Agatha at [lcdioocese.org](#))

The painting of St. Agatha which now graces the narthex of the Cathedral began its journey to us several years ago when Mr. Ronald L. McGinley contacted me to donate the historic work to the Diocese of Lake Charles. The painting was part of the succession of Brent Wickliffe Fenet to her daughter, Brent Fenet McGinley, Mr. McGinley’s beloved wife. The painting is donated in memory of Mrs. McGinley and her mother and enjoyed a long history in the Wickliffe family. Having been part of the estate of Mrs. McGinley’s grandparents, the Honorable Robert Wickliffe, United States Congressman, and his wife, Lydia C. Wickliffe, the painting could have been the personal property of Robert C. Wickliffe, Governor of Louisiana from

1856-1860. Whether the painting hung in the Governor’s St. Francisville plantation has yet to be confirmed. Regardless, it is my opinion that the painting could very well have been purchased in Europe on a *grand tour*, which was such common practice in the 19th Century.

Before the painting of this historic and important martyr of the early Church could be received, significant restoration was necessary. For this purpose, I recommended to Mr. McGinley the conservationists at John Canning and Company of Cheshire, Connecticut. This company entrusted the restoration to the noted Fine Arts Conservator, Gianfranco Pocobene of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Mr. Pocobene visited us in 2016 and commented on the historic importance of this work of art.

In his professional judgment and that of the Canning Company, the painting is by a yet-unidentified Italian artist of the late 17th or early 18th Century. It is oil on canvas. The restoration involved the removal of grime and yellowed varnish layers and some subsequent inferior restorations, as well as re-lining, repairs to cracking in the surface, and extensive efforts to stabilize the piece. In the restoration the antiquity of the fabric making up the canvas was confirmed, which helped in dating the painting. In summary, the painting over the centuries has undergone previous restoration and even re-painting.

Because of the circumstances surrounding her martyrdom, the Church considers St. Agatha the patroness of women with breast cancer. She is also a major patroness for Sicily. Since the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is inspired by a style of architecture found in the Romanesque churches of the Piedmont region of Italy, it is quite appropriate that the image of this martyr, whose intercession is so highly regarded by the people of Italy, should greet the visitors and worshippers who enter this sacred edifice. The painting joins other features of the Cathedral of Italian origin, such as the superb Carrara marble altars and historic railing and the hand-sculpted bas-reliefs above the doors.

In the future, I would hope to share with you more information on the artistic discoveries made during the extensive restoration that we were privileged to oversee.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2019, the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed in 1957 by The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey:

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.

The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of the land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, and overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

The Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder
Second Bishop of Lafayette

Breakfasts, luncheons with Bishop return

LAKE CHARLES – The fall and spring cycle of Bishop Glen John Provost’s presentations at the Men’s Prayer Breakfast and the Ladies Luncheon will return with the first luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 4, and the opening breakfast on Friday, Sept. 6, with the scripture topics - First and Second Thessalonians, First and Second Timothy, and Titus.

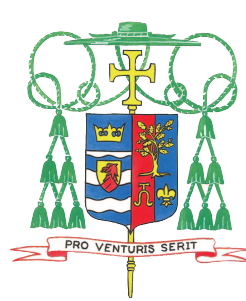
Each event is held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral

Office Complex on the southeast corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets.

For more information and to register for the breakfast or purchase a \$15 luncheon ticket, contact Victoria Walter, 411 Iris St., Lake Charles, LA. 70601

Prior to the breakfast, Bishop Provost celebrates Mass the Cathedral at 6:30 a.m. followed at 7 a.m. with the presentation.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

August 16, 2019

Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrating its Centennial

(Read about Sacred Heart's history at lcdiocese.org)

LAKE CHARLES – Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church commemorates its 100th anniversary of establishment this year. Much has come in the early months of 2019, but the culmination will be on the weekend of October 5 and 6.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, M.A., D.D., will celebrate the Centennial Mass at 11 a.m. on Sunday, October 6 in the church. The homily will be delivered the Reverend Robert Boxie III of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Father Boxie is a former parishioner of Sacred Heart Church and the most recent man to be ordained to the priesthood from the parish.

Concelebrants for the Mass will be Reverend Richard Uche Adiukwu, pastor, and Father Boxie. The Sacred Heart Male Chorus will provide music with director Ms. Cheryl Riley. A reception in the Sacred Heart gym will follow the liturgy.

The church's Centennial Banquet will be Saturday, October 5, in the Buccaneer Room of the Lake Charles Civic Center beginning at 6 p.m. with a wine and cheese meet and greet along with a silent auction. The banquet begins at 7 p.m. with the Honorable George C Hanks, Jr. of Houston, United States Federal Judge and former Sacred Heart Church parishioner, as the featured speaker.

Dr. Loren J. Blanchard, the executive vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the California State University - the largest and most diverse four-year public higher education system in the nation - as well as a former member of Sacred Heart will serve as the master of ceremonies.

Special honor will be given to parishioners 90 years old and above for their service to the Church at the banquet as well as

the drawing of the winner of the centennial raffle, who will receive a 2019 Toyota automobile. Raffle tickets are still available at various businesses around the city and at the parish office.

In June, the parish held a Memorial Procession on the grounds of the church and on surrounding streets, memorializing the trek of parishioners from Mill and Pine streets to downtown Lake Charles to attend Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. After attending Mass, the future Sacred Heart parishioners would then travel back down Mill Street and to their homes.

Following the procession, parishioners spent an hour of thanksgiving before the Blessed Sacrament in Sacred Heart Church.

A parish family picnic was also held in June with over 1000 members attending Mass and then joined for the picnic fun.

Members of the Centennial Committee, which began their work in 2018, include Father Adiukwu; Charles Honoree, general chair; and Roxanne Boxie, Freda Stokes, and Deborah Carrier, assistant chairs. The subcommittee chairs were Joan Garland, parish directory; Deacon Erroll Deville and Barbara Batiste, 100 Hours of Family Devotion; David Semien, Raffle; Cheryl Riley and Deacon Edward Lavine Mass; Deneen Sweet and Jackie Semien Guillory, Parish Picnic.; Kenneth and Earline Marchand, Banquet and Auction.; Ina Delahoussaye, Anniversary Book; and Robert P Boxie, Jr, Memorial Project.



Bishop Provost



Rev. Robert Boxie III



Honorable
George C. Hanks, Jr.
U.S. FEDERAL JUDGE



Dr. Loren J. Blanchard

Judge George C. Hanks biography

Judge Hanks was appointed as a United States District Judge by President Barack Obama on April 22, 2015. Prior to his appointment he had served as a United States Magistrate Judge, a Justice on the Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas and as the judge of the 157th District Court in Houston.

In private practice, Judge Hanks specialized in commercial and medical malpractice litigation.

Prior to graduating from LaGrange High School in 1982, Hanks served for two years in Washington, D.C. as a United States Senate Page for the late Senator Russell Long and as a United States House of Representatives Page for then-Congressman John Breaux. While living in Washington, D.C. he attended the United States Congressional Page School located in the Library of Congress.

In 1986 Hanks graduated first in his class from Louisiana State University, receiving the University Medal for Highest Academic Achievement and his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, *summa cum laude*. While attending Louisiana State University, he served as a legislative aide to the late State Senator William McLeod and spent a year studying international economics at the University College of Swansea in the United Kingdom.

In 1989 Hanks graduated from Harvard Law School,

where he received the Legal Defense Fund/Earl Warren Scholarship and was an editor of the Harvard Blackletter Law Journal. Following graduation, he served as a law clerk for United States District Court Judge Sim Lake. Judge Hanks later received his Master of Laws degree from Duke University School of Law.

Judge Hanks is a published legal author and a lecturer at judicial and legal education programs and law schools throughout the country. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute and the American Board of Trial Advocates and has taught at the University of Houston Law Center as an adjunct professor. Judge Hanks is passionate about public service and has served on numerous legal, civic and charitable boards throughout his career. He is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

Judge Hanks holds an airplane private pilot's license and is a master scuba diver. He is an avid runner and has completed over 35 full marathons, including all six of the World Marathon Majors (Boston, New York, Chicago, London, Berlin and Tokyo.) Judge Hanks has been married to his wife Stacey Lawrence Hanks for 24 years and together they enjoy traveling the world.

Diocesan Briefs.....

Holy Mass and Adoration for Healing

LAKE CHARLES — Come and experience the healing power of Christ in the Eucharist on Tuesday, August 27, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets in downtown Lake Charles.

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

St. Charles Borromeo Bazaar

FENTON -- The St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church annual country bazaar will be held Sunday, September 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds.

There will be rides and games, a silent auction, country store, bingo, and sweet shop. Auction action will begin at noon. Pork dinners will be served as well as hamburgers.

Red Mass set for September 13

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will preside at the annual Red Mass at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 13, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Red Mass has as its purpose invoking God's blessings of those responsible for the administration of justice as well as on all public officials. It is celebrated in honor of the Holy Spirit as the source of wisdom, understanding, counsel and fortitude. All gifts that shine forth preeminently in the dispensing of justice in the courtroom as well as in the individual lawyer's office.

The Red Mass will be celebrated on the second Friday following Labor Day each year.

Ember Day Mass September 21

SULPHUR – The Reverend D.B. Thompson, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole and Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron, will celebrate a Solemn Ember Day Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 21, in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, 1109 Cypress Street.

The mass is being celebrated in part for reparation and sanctification of the clergy.

Cathedral sesquicentennial history book

LAKE CHARLES - To commemorate the 150th anniversary of Immaculate Conception Church, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is planning a 150th Anniversary history book and the book committee is in need of materials on a variety of topics.

The material can be history, personal anecdotes, photos, names of leaders, notable functions, etc.). Among those are Altar Society, Rebuilding of Church Organ, Choir and Music History, History of the Altar, Local Knights of Columbus Chapter, Church Bell Tower, Stained Glass Windows, Ave Maria Hall History, Serra Club, Seminary Burses sponsored by or in the

name of Immaculate Conception Cathedral parishioners, Old Catholic Cemetery, Latin Mass, Priests and Deacons since 1991, New St Francis de Sales Statue and St. Peter Claver Statue (history and pictures), Episcopal Ordinations (Speyrer, Braxton and Provost), Some account of persons named as stained glass window donors, before and after Cathedral Restoration Photos, stories about the workers, processions, and 150th Anniversary Celebration functions

Please send an email describing your materials to Pamela Seal at sealproperties@mac.com or contact her at 540-6388 or 433-0891. The book committee will arrange to have the materials collected, copied and returned to you.

"Beat the Heat" Air Conditioner Program

LAKE CHARLES -- Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana and the Fourth Degree Knights of Peter Claver, Assembly 22, with the help of the City of Lake Charles are once again offering air conditioner units for elderly and disabled low-income individuals.

Call 337-439-7436 on Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., if you are in need of an air conditioner unit.

Immaculate Heart Bazaar Oct. 5-6

LAKE CHARLES – The Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Fall Bazaar, a family friendly event, will be Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6, from 10 a.m. each day at the church, located at 2031 Opelousas Street.

The 66th Anniversary Event will feature food, raffles, live and silent auctions, a sweet shop and a kid's zone.

Chicken and pork steak dinners will be available along with hot dogs, chili dogs, hamburgers, funnel cakes, and a plethora of other tasty delicacies.

Four raffle drawings, with prizes of \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000 will be held. Raffle tickets, \$100 each, can be purchased at the Church Pastoral Center 2031 Opelousas Street, Monday through Friday during regular business hours – 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The silent auction will be both Saturday and Sunday with the live auction to begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The kid's zone will feature a dunking booth bingo and more.

Cathedral Gala November 16

LAKE CHARLES – The Gala celebrating 150 years of the Tradition, Faith, and Community of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will be Saturday, November 16, at the Historic Calcasieu Marine National Bank, located on the northwest corner of Ryan and Pujo streets.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with a social hour, a wonderful meal, and outstanding entertainment. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased at the Cathedral's office.

For more information call 337-436-7251.

Fully Alive community seeks young adults

LAKE CHARLES -- Young adults in the Lake Charles diocese area, 18-39 years old, and non-students in the working

world: FULLY ALIVE is a community just for you!

To connect, visit the website: www.fullyalivelakecharles.com & join the Facebook group: "FULLY ALIVE! Lake Charles" - email fullyalivelakecharles@gmail.com or text the word "Fully" to 84576.

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 Mass scheduled

LAKE CHARLES — Bishop Glen John Provost will celebrate a Pontifical Mass in the Extraordinary Form on Sunday, December 29, Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, at 11:15 a.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Women sought to join Theresians

LAKE CHARLES – Catholic women are being sought to join a monthly faith-filled spiritual community, especially to form a new Theresians group in the Westlake, Sulphur, Vinton and Carlyss areas, according to Cookie Phillips, outreach coordinator for the Theresians International Organization.

To learn more about the Theresians call 337-474-9205 or email cookiephil@suddenlink.net.

"Theresians gather in small groups around the world to prayerfully nurture, affirm and empower each other to live a Gospel-centered life through Five Dimensions: Spirituality, Education, Community, Vocation and Ministry," Phillips said.

"Grief to Grace" retreat May 13-17, 2020

LAKE CHARLES – Registration for the next Grief to Grace retreat experience being offered by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Lake Charles, has opened according to Marjorie Long, site leader.

The retreat will be held May 13-17, 2020 at Tabor Retreat House of Saint Charles Center.

The first retreat - "Grief to Grace: Healing the Wounds of Abuse, Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity" – took place in May.

According to Long, it was a psychological and spiritual journey providing safety and support for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect. Others assisting in this first retreat are Father Whitney Miller, Courtney Kerlegon, and other members of the diocesan team.

The cost is \$1,500.00, which includes a private room, meals and all materials. Scholarship assistance is available upon request for those in need of partial aid.

All inquiries are confidential. To register, call (337) 489-2473 or at griefftogracelouisiana@lcdiocese.org.



The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Monday, September 2, in celebration of Labor Day.

Beginning Friday, September 6, the offices will return to regular hours of operation each Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., from the summer schedule.

The next *Catholic Calendar* will be published Friday, September 20, 2019.