



Dedication

For The Glory of God

Historic ceremonial dedication rite honors restoration work, those who made it possible

By Pamela Seal

(Reprinted with permission)

“Temple. House. Presence. Prayer.”

These are the words that come to mind when we dedicate the church,” said the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, as he presided at the Solemn Dedication of the newly restored Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Aug. 31.

“What was established in the early Jerusalem, we see here and now in this artistic creation of the new holy city,” Bishop Provost said in praising the massive project accomplished in the Cathedral, located at the corner of Kirby and Bilbo streets in downtown Lake Charles.

The Rite of Dedication included the anointing of the altar and walls of the church with Sacred Oil of Chrism. The use of Sacred Chrism is significant in that it is only used a few times in the life of the Church — baptisms, confirmations, Holy Orders and the dedication of a church, according to the Very Rev. Ruben J. Buller, Vicar General of the Diocese.

“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,” said Father Buller. The altar is new and was dedicated for the first time.

Bishop Provost spread the Sacred Chrism by hand completely over the top of the altar, then walked around the interior of the church anointing the walls with the Chrism by rubbing the sign of the cross with his thumb on every place there was a candle on the wall. The incensation of the altar and the church followed to signify the prayers of the people rising to God.

Concluding the dedication rite was the lighting of the altar and the church.

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard the great Voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling of God is with men.’” — **Revelation 21: 2-3a**

The four transitional deacons of the Diocese, who will be ordained to the priesthood in 2020, assisted in dressing the altar with cloths, lighting the altar candles, and lighting each candle on the walls throughout the Cathedral. In doing so, the lit candles signify the presence of God.

The sprinkling of water was also performed by the bishop as he blessed new Holy Water that was used to bless the church edifice as well as the congregation.

Bishop Provost brought to mind the story of Zacchaeus, who climbed the sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus. He said that Monsignor Hubert Cramers, pastor of Immaculate Conception in 1910, and the people of Lake Charles were much like Zacchaeus, who wanted Christ present in their midst.

Dating back more than a century, the existing structure of the Cathedral, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was dedicated for the first time in 1913. The Great Fire of 1910 destroyed many of the buildings in downtown Lake Charles, including the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception. Monsignor Cramers assumed the task of rebuilding the church, which has gone through minor changes throughout the decades.

The Cathedral is the third structure to house the Catholic parish in downtown Lake Charles. The first was named for Saint Francis de Sales in 1869. A parker on the Kirby Street side of the property marks its location. It was damaged by a hurricane in 1879. The Rev. Michael Kelly, 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.

One of the goals of the “Return to the Lord” capital campaign was to restore the historic nature of the Cathedral and to ensure the longevity of the structure. From the beginning, the project has always been a restoration rather than a renovation.

“While removing the acoustical tiles which covered the walls of this church for longer than anyone could remember, the workers discovered a treasure,” explained Bishop Provost.

The discovery revealed a Latin inscription stenciled in 1939. The prayer, written across the upper walls of the Cathedral, comes from the fourth century prayer *Tota pulchra es*, translated “You are all beautiful, Mary” referring to the Virgin Mary. It speaks of her Immaculate Conception, taking some text from the book of Judith (Chapter 15) and some text from the Songs, (Chapter 4).

Paying homage to the Blessed Mother, Bishop Provost said, “All of this was made possible because a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph said yes. All the brick and mortar, the wood and marble, the stained glass and plaster, fell into its predestined place, because someone said yes; someone believed.

“She had faith. They had faith. We have faith,” continued Bishop Provost. “All of this developed to its climax in the present restoration because God wanted to maintain his dwelling in us. There was nothing accidental here, nothing superficial. It was quite intentional,” he said of the extensive restoration efforts, made possible through contributions to the capital campaign fundraising efforts initiated in 2016.

Bishop Provost made note of the charity, enthusiasm and interest in the faithful of the Diocese, including the pastors of each church parish. “Without them and the involvement of their (campaign) leaders and their pastors, we would never have begun the project,” he said. “Their generosity was an inestimable contribution.”

He also offered his “heartfelt gratitude” to Edward “Buzzy” Ribbeck, project manager, and his staff; Conrad Schmitt Studios, design consultant; and subcontractors, some of whom showed great favor. Bishop Provost spoke in Spanish as he extended a special message of appreciation to the many construction workers in attendance. Credit was also given to Emil Frei and Associates who completed restoration work on the stained glass windows, which were installed in the 1930s. Their family goes back several generations in the history of the Cathedral.

Special thanks was given to Father Buller, liaison to the restoration project, as well as the Very Rev. Rommel P. Tolentino, rector of the Cathedral and pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Also in attendance for the historic dedication were visiting bishops from Louisiana and Texas, including Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, priests and deacons of the Diocese of Lake Charles, representatives from church parishes, public officials, and parishioners of the Cathedral.

The anniversary of the dedication will be celebrated each year on Aug. 31 with the rank of Solemnity in the Cathedral itself and the rank of Feast in the other churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

One of the goals of the ‘Return to the Lord’ capital campaign was to restore the historic nature of the Cathedral and to ensure the longevity of the structure.



Bishop Provost has blessed new Holy Water, which he uses to bless the church edifice and the people. He is aided by Deacon Andrew DeRouen. (Photo by Allie Livingston)



Following Bishop Provost’s Litany of the Saints, the Bishop pours the Oil of Chrism on the surface of the altar. He is assisted, from left, by Reverend Ruben Buller, Deacon DeRouen, and Deacon Joseph Caraway. (Photo by Allie Livingston)



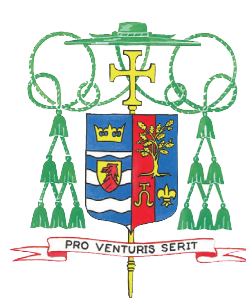
Using his hand, Bishop Provost spreads the Oil of Chrism to every square inch of the altar, then going out into the Cathedral to anoint the walls with Chrism, signifying Christ. Pictured with the Bishop, center, at the altar are, from left, Deacon Levi Thompson, Father Buller, the Deacon DeRouen, and Deacon Joseph Caraway. (Photo by Allie Livingston)



Incense is brought forth and placed on the altar. Here, Deacon DeRouen and Deacon Caraway begin the incensation of the altar and continued throughout the Cathedral incensing the building and the people. (Photo by Allie Livingston)

TOTA PULCHRA ES

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

September 20, 2019

Fall events announced at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF – Fall events scheduled at Saint Charles Center include Cultivating the Harvest of Spiritual Happiness: A Work Day Seminar for the Garden of the Soul presented by Fr. Whitney Miller on Saturday, October 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those wishing to attend should register by Wednesday, October 9, with the suggested donation set at \$20 per person.



SAINT CHARLES CENTER

Registration for most events, unless otherwise noted, can be achieved by calling 337-855-1232 or visiting stcharlescenter.com. Additional information on events is available at the website as well.

Sr. Diane Depwe will present Emotional Blackmail / Emotional Sobriety on Tuesday, October 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring their bible and register by Friday, October 11. The suggested donation is \$20 per person.

Eucharistic Miracles led by Deacon Brian Soileau with Fr. Miller is Saturday, October 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please register by Wednesday, October 23. The

suggested donation is \$20 per person.

Women's Spiritual Exercises Retreat presented by the Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi will be Thursday, October 31 to Sunday, November 3.

For more information about this retreat please contact Shila Cowart at (337) 526-4032 or call (337) 855-1232.

The Fall Private Directed Retreat will be led by Msgr. Ronnie Groth, Fr. Miller, Deacon Soileau, Judy Savoie and Gloria Villegas from Monday, November 4 to Sunday, November 10.

A directed retreat is a form of silent retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola focusing on the personal prayer of the individual.

There are no group activities or conferences other than the daily Eucharist and an individual daily meeting with the director. The retreatant spends about four hours in contemplative prayer each day of the retreat. The retreatant may choose to do three or five days. For more information or to register, call the Center at (337) 855-1232. For this retreat, you must call the Center to register and cannot do so online at our website. Suggested donation is \$350.00 for three days, and \$475.00 for five days. Scholarship information is available upon request for those in need of assistance.

The Introduction to the Directed Retreat will be led by the same team - Msgr. Groth, Fr. Miller, Deacon Soileau, Ms. Savoie and Ms. Villegas from Thursday, November 7 to Sunday, November 10.

This weekend introduction helps the retreatant learn the prayer technique and prepares the person for a longer retreat. For this retreat you must call the Center to register and cannot do so online. Suggested donation

STATEMENT OFFERING GUIDANCE ★ TO CATHOLIC VOTERS 2019 ★

Among candidates for elected office, the choices for voters can be perplexing. A Catholic has a moral duty to vote and is obligated to vote according to the judgment of a well-formed conscience (commonly called an "informed conscience"), understood as true knowledge of good and evil applied to one's concrete actions. Catholic voters are guided by these principles:

- The Catholic voter's conscience must be informed by Church teaching found in authentic and definitive sources, such as Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the Catholic voter must know the positions held by candidates and their party platforms.
- The authentic teachings of the Catholic Church are the legitimate expression of the teachings of Jesus Christ, and when lived out, define us as Christians.
- The more fundamental the issue, like human life or marriage, the more importance that issue has in the judgment of conscience.
- The exercise of an informed and morally upright conscience requires that a Catholic vote for that candidate whose positions best correspond to the Church's moral teaching on such fundamental issues.
- Voting contributes to accomplishing a candidate's goals and makes the voter a co-operator with those goals.

This statement is made without prejudice to any candidate or political party. It is intended rather to remind the Catholics of this Diocese that voting is not to be taken lightly and can have immediate as well as eternal consequences. Ultimately, we will stand before God for the decisions we made and the actions we took.

✠ Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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

is \$350.00 per person. Scholarship information is available upon request for those in need of assistance.

Do This in Remembrance of Me (The Importance of Anniversaries & Memories in Our Lives) will be presented by Fr. Miller, Deacon Soileau and staff on Monday, November 11, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Held in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of The Saint Charles Center Fr. Miller and Deacon Soileau with the staff will recount fond memories of the "Holy Ground" of The Saint Charles Center, sharing memories together seeking to understand their significance in our lives and their importance in our spiritual well-being. Please register by Friday, November 8. The suggested donation is \$35.00 per person.

Co-dependency According to Scripture presented by Sr. Diane Depwe will be Tuesday, November 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. Deadline for registration, with a suggested donation of \$20, is Friday, November 8.

The Way We Were: A Trip

Down Memory Lane of the Saint Charles Center with Fr. Miller, Fr. Don Piraro, Deacon George Stearns and Morris LeBleu will be held on Tuesday, November 19, from 6 to 9 p.m.

This Evening of Reflection will provide the opportunity to lovingly turn back the hands of time to 1995 and the early days of the formation and construction of the Saint Charles Center. Deadline to register is Friday, November 1, and the suggested donation is \$35.00 per person.

Fr. Miller and Deacon Soileau will present an Advent Family Eucharistic Adoration Evening of Reflection on Tuesday, December 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. The evening includes an introduction and explanation of Eucharistic Adoration for the children followed by Adoration for the family as well as opportunity for Confession. A sandwich, chip and cookie smorgasbord will remain available throughout the evening for family fellowship, sharing and visiting. Deadline to register is Friday, November 29,

and the suggested donation is \$35.00 per family.

"KISS (Keep It Sane and Simple) Life" will be offered by Sr. Diane Depwe on Tuesday, December 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. Deadline to register is Friday, December 6, with a suggestion donation of \$20 per person.

The "Advent Evening of Reflection: Art as a Path to a Holy Encounter" will be presented by Doug Smith, Alex Torres, and Keith Faul on Tuesday, December 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. Registration deadline, with a suggested donation of \$20, is Friday, December 13.

In 2015, these three companions of faith presented an Evening of Reflection on the spiritual themes of believing, beholding and becoming as revealed through inspired artwork, in 2017, during the Season of Advent the three reflected upon the artwork of Mary as she Kissed the Infant Jesus, Kissing the Face of God. Now they will consider selected pieces of art as a path to holy encounter during the Advent Season.

Diocesan Briefs.....

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 Catholic Church 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.

Center for Catholic Studies course

LAKE CHARLES – The Center for Catholic Studies, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of Lake Charles, offers the course Theology of the Body and the Interior Life, taught by Paula Hunter, beginning September 24 and continuing on each of the five following Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the McNeese Student Center, 221 Aqua Drive.

The registration fee is \$50 and those interested can register online or by visiting the Diocese of Lake Charles Facebook page. For more information, call the Office of Religious Education at 337-439-7400.

St. Joseph Mission Devotional Luncheon

LEBLEU SETTLEMENT – Rev. Samuel Orsot, parochial vicar of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, will be the guest speaker at the luncheon, which is a St. Joseph Mission Building Fund Event, with his presentation of The Four Last Things The Journey of our Souls at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 28, at St. Joseph Mission, 2110 Claude Hebert Road.

There will a silent auction and door prizes. Tickets are \$20 each.

For more information or tickets call St. Raphael Catholic Church, 337-582-3503; Lonnie Vidrine 337-532-4450, or Laurie Vidrine 337-292-9669

Heavenly Fish Fest set September 28

LAKE CHARLES – The Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School family fishing tournament is coming up on Saturday, September 28, with weigh-in headquarters open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Calcasieu Point Landing.

Fishing can begin at 6 a.m. from any location (boat, land or pier). Visit www.olqhs.org for more information or to register.

Cathedral Chorale Concert

LAKE CHARLES – The Immaculate Conception Cathedral Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will hold a special concert of sacred music on Saturday, October 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The concert, entitled "Our Musical Heritage" is part of the Cathedral's 150th Sesquicentennial celebration and will feature music that has been sung in the Cathedral parish generation after generation since the parish was founded in 1869. The program will feature works by Mozart, Handel, Bach and other master composers as well as spirituals and works by contemporary composers. The concert is free of charge and a reception will follow in Ave Maria Hall.

St. Eugene Alligator Festival October 6

GRAND CHENIER – The Annual Saint Eugene Catholic Church Alligator Festival will be held Sunday, October 6, on the

Mermentau River at Grand Chenier Park beginning at 10 a.m.

The festival includes the Little Mr. & Miss Alligator Festival Pageant, the South Cameron High School Dazzlers Dance Line, live baby gators, live music with Teardrops, a big prize raffle, live & silent auctions with great deals for early Christmas shopping, barbecue chicken and barbecue beef dinners along with the ever favorite fried alligator and much more.

For information email steugene@camtel.net or call 337-538-2245.

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 20131 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, 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 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.

Rosary Around the Lake October 13

LAKE CHARLES – Rosary Around the Lake, a part of Rosary Coast to Coast – a nationwide day of praying the rosary – locally will be held on Sunday, October 13, beginning precisely at 3 p.m., joining other like-minded groups around the country.

Groups and individuals are asked to arrive between 1:30 and 2 p.m. to organize in the west side parking lot of the Lake Charles Civic Center. Organized by the Ruth Institute locally, the specific intention of the rosary will be the family, the most basic unit of society, which God instituted as a form from which to build all other relationships.

Individuals and teams can sign up online and get more information at RosaryAroundTheLake.com.

Cathedral Gala November 16

LAKE CHARLES – The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will celebrate its Sesquicentennial of 150 years of Tradition, Faith and Community on Saturday, November 16, with a Gala evening in the Historic Calcasieu Marine National Bank, located on the northwest corner of Ryan and Pujo streets.

Dress will be cocktail attire with doors opening at 6 p.m. for cocktails and appetizers along with entertainment by the St. Louis Catholic High School Show choir. Welcome, opening prayer and introductions will follow at 6:45 p.m.

Dinner and dessert will be served at 7 p.m. and entertainment will be magician Aaron Baca. Comedian Jonathan Perry will perform at 7:45 p.m. with music by Nichole Lanthier at 8:30 p.m. The evening will conclude with a closing prayer at 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$100 per person and may be purchased by calling the Cathedral office at 337-436-7251 or securely online through the Cathedral website. Please note in the comment section, "Gala Tickets."

CHRISTUS Hospice seeking volunteers

LAKE CHARLES – CHRISTUS Hospice, a Catholic faith-based organization, is seeking volunteers to aid in a variety of areas, according to Kelly Ieyoub, volunteer coordinator.

"Volunteers are needed to assist with patient companionship, caregiver respite, spiritual support and so much more," she said. "You can make a difference. Listen to cherished memories, pat a shoulder, give a hug, touch a heart, change a life... maybe your own."

Those interested in volunteering should e-mail kelly.leyoub@lhcgroupp.com or call 337-395-5650.

Ten Commandments class at St. Henry

LAKE CHARLES – A class on the Ten Commandments for adults, those high school age and above, will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. - October 8 through November 19, in the St. Henry Catholic Church Community Center, according to Father Matthew Cormier, pastor.

There is no charge for the class and to sign up, call the St. Henry Church office, 337-436-7223 or at sthenry.church/adult-formation.

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 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.