



Historic ordinations of four men to priesthood June 27

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — The highly anticipated ordinations of four men to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 27, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop, will be the ordaining prelate with the Very Reverend Ruben J. Buller, Vicar General, serving as Master of Ceremonies.

During this 40th anniversary year of the Diocese of Lake Charles, the Sacrament of Holy Orders for Deacons Samuel Bond, Joseph Caraway, Andrew DeRouen and Levi Thompson will mark the largest group of men in the history of the Diocese to be ordained to the priesthood at one time.

Due to the historic number of ordinands, attendance will be by invitation only. The Mass will be streamed live for viewing on www.youtube.com/lcdioocese and www.facebook.com/lcdioocese.

The past several months have been anything but ordinary for these men as their time in the seminary was cut short in early March while the entire nation began necessary precautions amid the global pandemic. Extra time back in their home diocese afforded opportunities not usually experienced in a seminary setting.

"I think, in God's providence, there's something valuable about that anomaly which we shouldn't overlook, namely the formative capacity of parish life," said Deacon DeRouen, the 27-year-old son of Marjorie and Julie (Cocchiara) DeRouen and parishioner of the Cathedral. "It's not that we don't understand this in a seminary setting, but we typically don't get to experience it so personally and tangibly until after ordination."

Deacon DeRouen has been assisting in the parish of St. Pius X in Ragley under the guidance of Father Jeffrey Starkovich, Director of Vocations.

Setting the record straight for anyone who thinks that seminary life is boring or uneventful, Deacon Thompson said it has been a complete adventure requiring radical trust and openness to God.

"Now in the COVID situation, I've seen how sad it can be when people are deprived of the Sacraments, the power of prayer for each other amid this time, and the treasure and gift of the Eucharist," said the 28-year-old son of Frank and Eva (Pettefer) Thompson and parishioner of St. Theodore Catholic Church in Moss Bluff. "God has enabled the Church to grow through persecutions and plagues throughout the centuries. I hope that he will also enable the Church to grow today amid the pandemic through my future priesthood."

Deacon Thompson has been assisting in the parish of Our Lady Queen of Heaven under the guidance of Monsignor Daniel A. Torres, Vicar General.

Seeing the pandemic as an opportunity to help people focus on what is truly important in their lives, Deacon Bond finds meaning for his future priesthood.

"When things are out of our control, it is the time to not be afraid but to put our trust in God and His providence for us," said the 30-year-old son of Joseph and Mitzi (Trahan) Bond and parishioner of Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in DeQuincy. "The priest preaches Christ who both entered into our human sufferings and was victorious over human death by rising from the dead. I look forward to offering this message of hope as a future priest."

Deacon Bond has been assisting Bishop Provost with the Office of Worship under the guidance of Father Buller.

Fully aware of unexpected and difficult situations on his priestly journey, Deacon Caraway is sure of one thing. "Through challenges, God brings about great fruit. I hope to be a frequently used instrument of God to bring about that fruit," he said.

Caraway is the 29-year-old son of Julius III and Ladonna (Ange) Caraway and parishioner of St. John the Evangelist in Lacassine, a mission of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Fenton. He has been assisting at St. Henry Catholic Church under the guidance of the Very Reverend Matthew Cormier, Vicar Forane of the Central Deanery.

Becoming a priest was never about Caraway knowing he wanted to be one, but more about realizing that Christ wanted him to be a priest.

The youngest of four, Caraway said, "When I finally made an act of faith and said, 'yes' and moved out of the stage of saying 'maybe' and being uncommitted, I felt a great freedom and joy."

For DeRouen, a calling to the priesthood was quite simple. He said he knew more or less that God called him in high school, but he wanted something else for himself — a career in architecture.

"It (architecture) was ultimately not enough to satisfy my thirst for fulfillment," said DeRouen, the oldest of two. "God worked through my stubbornness and used the desire for beauty and meaning to call me to Himself as a priest. I exhausted every excuse before I finally admitted that God's call wasn't against these good desires, but rather an invitation to their attainment. And then I wanted to be a priest."

Ever since Thompson was a young child, he said there was always a certain "nudge" on his heart to love God with his whole being.

"This invitation grew to a desire to give my life to God, which required prayer and docility," said Thompson, who is the third of four siblings. "Just like a tree that slowly grows from a small seed, my initial desires grew into my desire for priesthood, to give myself to Christ and His Church."

The youngest of three boys, Bond recognized early on that priests believe that what they are doing is helping people understand that their ultimate purpose in life is to grow in relationship with God.

"From an early age I can remember hearing about the stories from missionary priests and some of the amazing things that they endured, and I can remember thinking, that's what I want to do," said Bond. His advice to someone discerning priesthood is listening to the advice of wise people you look up to, pray daily and not be afraid to reach out if you have a "persistent tug at the heart."

Caraway agrees that prayer is important during the discernment process, but he cautions one to not pray in a selfish way.

"Prayer about the priesthood should not be, 'Lord, do I want to be a priest?' Instead, the prayer should be, 'Lord do you want me to be a priest?' In today's world, it is tempting to seek our own interest," said Caraway, "and this can influence our prayer, but the priesthood is about Jesus' interest."

Thompson echoes the importance of prayer along with other suggestions.

"Pray. We cannot hear the call if we do not stop and listen," said Thompson. "God may be calling you now, but it may be lost if you do not listen. Talk to a vocation director. Get to know other young men who may be discerning." He also recommends daily Mass and frequent confession to prepare one's self to receive the call.

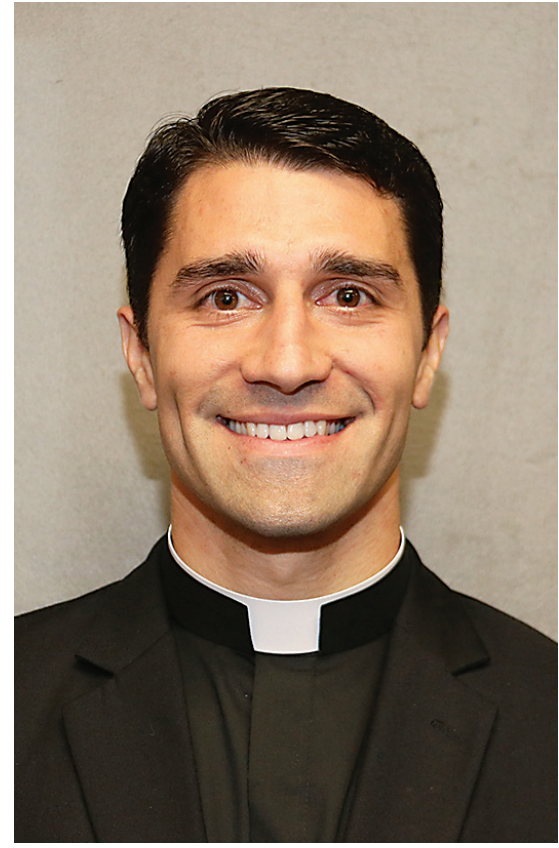
For anyone who is just not sure about the priesthood as a vocation, DeRouen encourages them to just give the seminary a try.

"Do it because you love Jesus, and even if you don't stay, you will not regret being formed into the man you were called to be," DeRouen said.

Several books that proved helpful during the discernment process for these seminarians include the Bible, A Priest is Not His Own by Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, To Save a Thousand Souls by Father Brett Brannen, Priests for the Third Millennium by Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Milk Night of the Soul by St. John of the Cross; Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis



Deacon Samuel Bond



Deacon Joseph Caraway



Deacon Andrew DeRouen



Deacon Levi Thompson

de Sales, Imitation of Christ by Thomas à Kempis, Abandonment to Divine Providence by Jean-Pierre De Caussade; and Man, The Saint by Jesus Urteaga.

While each journey has been filled with joys and sorrows for these four men, when asked what has been the best part of their seminary experience, they summed it up with the same sentiment: the friendships made with like-minded men, while being challenged as they learn how to be servants of Christ.

What do they all look forward to most about being a priest?

- Deacon Bond: Celebrating the Mass and hearing confessions. I owe everything I am and have because of the grace of God poured out in the sacrifice of the Mass and the forgiveness in reconciliation.

- Deacon Thompson: Celebrating the Sacraments, especially the most Holy Eucharist, consecrating God within my own hands, and hearing confessions, as an instrument of God's mercy.

- Deacon DeRouen: I look forward to being surprised by God, and little by little, discovering His will in all things.

- Deacon Caraway: Celebrating the Sacraments for the people of God, especially

the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Masses of Thanksgiving — the first ones to be celebrated by newly ordained priests in their home parishes — will take place in the following churches: Caraway, St. John the Evangelist Mission in Lacassine; DeRouen, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; and Thompson, St. Theodore Catholic Church in Moss Bluff — all on Sunday, June 28; and Bond, Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in DeQuincy, on the evening of Saturday, June 27.

Deacons Caraway, DeRouen and Thompson are each working towards diplomas from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Caraway's degree is in Thomistic Studies; DeRouen's degree is in Moral Theology; and Thompson's degree is in Dogmatic Theology.

Deacon Bond continues his studies toward a Licentiate in Sacramental Theology (S.T.L.) from the Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill. He graduated from Notre Dame Seminary in May with a Master of Divinity degree.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy of Holy Orders, assignments for the newly ordained will be announced.

Beverung to be ordained transitional deacon

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — On the same day as the historic ordinations of four men to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles, Michael Beverung will advance one step closer on his priestly journey when he is ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Glen John Provost.

Beverung, the 25-year-old son of Steven and Patsy (Gauthier) Beverung of Lake Charles, said this is an interesting time for our Church and the entire world.

"Now more than ever, it is evident that we need people to step up and give their lives for the people God," he said. "During this pandemic, the hunger for the

Eucharist has never been made ever present to us. As my time in the seminary comes to a close, this hunger for the Eucharist that the people of God are experiencing gives me much hope for the future and my ministry."

With one more year to go at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans ahead of his anticipated ordination to the priesthood in 2021, Beverung said as he was developing a prayer life in high school, he knew that following the Lord's will for his life would ultimately bring him the most joy.

"As I began to hear the Lord call me toward the life of priesthood, I knew that I had to conform my will to His," said Beverung, the only brother to his older twin sisters.

Reflecting on the most encouraging moments during his time in the seminary thus far, Beverung thinks back to his various parish summer assignments.

"When I am in a parish setting, I am constantly reminded why the Lord has called me to this vocation in the first place," he affirmed.

His advice to someone discerning priesthood is to be attentive to prayer, especially in silence. "This silence is where God speaks to us and reveals His will for our lives."

A book that served Beverung well during his discernment process was An Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis de Sales. Another great resource, he said, was To Save a Thou-

sand Souls by Father Brett Brannen, as well as Priests for the Third Millennium by Timothy Cardinal Dolan.

A parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, Beverung is a graduate of St. Louis Catholic High School and received his early education at OLQH School. He attended St. Joseph Seminary College and is currently a

student at Notre Dame Seminary where he will continue his studies following his diaconate internship.

On Sunday, June 28, Beverung will assist as a newly ordained deacon at the Mass of Thanksgiving for Andrew DeRouen in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



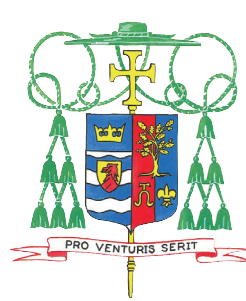
Michael Beverung

The next publication of the *Catholic Calendar* is scheduled for Friday, July 17.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the Fourth of July commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, which solidified the American colonies' resolution to fight for independence from Britain.

Offices reopen Monday, July 6, at 8:30 a.m.





Hurricane survivors pray for protection from storms

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

CAMERON — It's been 63 years since Hurricane Audrey awakened the Gulf of Mexico as if it were a sleeping giant. But Norman McCall, 96, can vividly recall the deadly storm like it happened yesterday.

McCall was among those in attendance at the annual Mass to Avert Storms in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church on June 1 — the first day of hurricane season.

Bishop Glen John Provost, celebrant for the votive Mass, was joined by pastors of Cameron churches including Rev. D.B. Thompson of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Creole and Our Lady Star of the Sea; Rev. Clyde Thomas of St. Eugene Parish in Grand Chenier; and Rev. Arvind Minz of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Hackberry.

Seeking the intercession of Our Lady Star of the Sea for protection from storms and destruction, McCall knows all too well the importance of turning to Our Blessed Mother for safekeeping. The former Grand Chenier resident lost his entire family when Audrey — one of the most devastating storms to ever strike the U.S. — roared ashore in the early morning hours of June 27, 1957.

"I lost my home. My wife drowned, my little girl drowned and my little boy. All three of them drowned," said McCall with a tremble in his voice. He was 33 years old at the time. His wife, Phyllis Donatelli McCall, was eventually found, but his 2-year-old son Phillip Alan and 5-year-old daughter Doreen Antonia

were among the nearly 200 people missing, never to be recovered.

The communities of Oak Grove, Holly Beach, Grand Chenier and Little Chenier bore the brunt of Audrey's fury and were almost completely wiped off the map, according to an American Press report. Death tolls recorded more than 520 dead; more than 400 were killed in Cameron Parish alone.

McCall doesn't hesitate to admit that he was mad at the world for the tremendous loss of life as well as his home.

"I had pretty well lost my faith," he recalls, even though he had been an altar boy for many years growing up. "After the storm, I had a bad attitude, but I give credit to a nun who visited me every day for a week shortly after the storm when I was admitted to St. Patrick Hospital for double-hernia surgery."

He tells the story this way:

"Somebody sent a rubber plant to my hospital room. A day or so after the surgery, a nun came to visit me. I think someone must have told her I was mad at the whole world. The nun asked me if she could take care of my plant while I was in the hospital, and I said yes.

"Every day she would come in with a little white bowl and a rag and she would wipe the leaves. When I was discharged a week later, I let her keep the plant. It wasn't too long after I gave her the plant, I read an article in the Lake Charles American Press that this nun had died, with a picture of her. I was glad I gave her the plant. She came in my room every day and talked to me and convinced me my attitude was

bad."

McCall would eventually remarry Joyce Colligan on Aug. 9, 1958, and they would give life to one daughter, Phyllis Doreen, and two sons, Henry Alan (born two years to the day after Hurricane Audrey) and Joseph Kelan.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, Bishop Provost led those in attendance in procession to the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in front of the church while praying the "Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto." The Shrine has been granted the privilege of inserting the invocation "Star of the Sea" into the Litany.

The Shrine plays a big part in bringing McCall, now a resident of Lake Charles, back to the area year after year for the annual Mass as he was instrumental in having the Shrine erected in 1963.

In the years following Hurricane Audrey, The Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of the Lafayette Diocese, visited Cameron frequently. Noting the emotional suffering of Audrey that continued, Bishop Schexnayder would eventually commission McCall and his father-in-law, Albert Colligan to raise funds for a shrine honoring the deadly storm's victims.

The Shrine depicts a 7-foot marble statue of a young woman with her left arm around her daughter's shoulders as they stare out into the Gulf of Mexico. The mother and young girl greatly resemble McCall's late wife, Phyllis and his daughter, Doreen, from a photograph provided to Enrico Randi, the sculptor.

The Shrine enjoys, with papal approval, the same spiritual privileges as would a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome, one of the four major basilicas in the Eternal City.

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The Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, located at 135 Our Lady Road, is open every day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. To make arrangements for a pilgrimage to the Shrine, or if a priest would like to make arrangements for Mass, please contact Father D.B. Thompson, Rector of the Shrine, by email at SacredHeartChurch@camtel.net.

Guidelines for fall return to school

The Office of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles is taking necessary steps for the anticipated safe return of students and staff on August 13 for the 2020-2021 school year.

In a recent letter addressed to families, Superintendent Kimberlee Gazzolo said the plan is to maintain schedules that will not present a challenge to working families. All opportunities will be explored for teaching and learning to maintain academic progress throughout the year, as well as the continued commitment to provide an education focused on the Catholic faith and academic excellence.

Receiving guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Louisiana Department of Education, a focus will be on providing professional development to administrators, teach-



After processing to the Historic Shrine in front of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron, Bishop Glen John Provost is joined by clergy, including several priests from coastal parishes, at the conclusion of the annual Mass to Avert Storms. June 1 marked the beginning of hurricane season which concludes on Nov. 30.

In his homily, Bishop Provost acknowledged the people on this very spot who have shared in the Calvary of our Lord by suffering and death.

"Many at this very Shrine have pleaded with Mary, the Mother of the Church and Star of the Sea, to protect them as her children," he said. "Graciously embrace the children of your family on the Gulf Coast. Protect us from all harm."

Bishop Provost noted that two years ago Pope Francis added to the liturgical calendar a remembrance of Our Blessed Lady as Mother of the Church. This celebration is always to occur on the Monday after Pentecost.

"It is very appropriate that this year this observance falls on the first of June," said Bishop Provost, "the beginning of Hurricane Season and the day traditionally when we gather at the Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea to plead Mary's intercession to be spared all storms and destructive weather."

McCall joined the dozens of others gathered around the Shrine in reciting the Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season as the ceremony concluded, until next year.



Bishop Provost speaks with Norman McCall, 96, a former resident of Grand Chenier and the lone survivor in his family during Hurricane Audrey in 1957. McCall was instrumental in having the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea erected in 1963 in Cameron.



Decree of Announcement of Pastoral Assignments

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, hereby announces the pastoral assignments for the Year Two Thousand and Twenty for the Diocese of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Effective July 1, 2020:

The Rev. Sam (Trey) Ange — **Parochial Vicar**, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Jennings

The Rev. Bino Francis Poovannikunnel, M.S. — **Parochial Vicar**, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Carlyss

The Very Rev. Ruben Buller — **Director**, Vianney House, Lake Charles, and continuing as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

The Rev. Paul Jussen — **Pastor**, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Lake Charles

The Rev. Nathan Long — **Pastor**, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Lake Charles, and continuing as Rector of St. Louis Catholic High School

The Rev. Whitney Miller — **Pastor**, St. Philip Neri Parish, Kinder

The Reverend Deacon Brian Soileau — **Director** of Saint Charles Center with Camp Karol

The Very Rev. Keith Pellerin — **Pastor**, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Jennings, and continuing as Dean of the East Deanery

The Very Rev. Ruben Villarreal — **Judicial Vicar**, Diocesan Tribunal, and continuing as Vice-Chancellor, Secretary-Adjutant to the Bishop, and Chaplain at St. Louis Catholic High School

Signed by our hand and that of our Chancellor, on this second day of June in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.

*The Most Reverend Glen John Provost,
Bishop of Lake Charles

The Reverend Deacon George Stearns
Chancellor

Christian Leadership Institute canceled

Read more at lcdioocese.org

LAKE CHARLES — Citing an uptick in COVID-19 cases in the state of Louisiana, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Lake Charles has canceled the Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) scheduled for July 7-13 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville.

In a letter to the youth who had signed up for the week-long training experience, Milissa Thibodeaux, Director of Youth Ministry, said the decision was the prudent thing to do given the latest surge in coronavirus cases.

Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2020 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