



## FIRST TIME IN 40-YEAR HISTORY OF DIOCESE

# Four ordained to priesthood, one to transitional diaconate

By Pamela Seal  
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — God's call to five men overcame many twists and turns in recent months leading up to the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Saturday, June 27, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The ordinations of the Rev. Samuel Bond, Rev. Joseph Caraway, Rev. Andrew DeRouen and Rev. Levi Thompson to the priesthood — the largest number of priests to be ordained at one time in the 40-year history of the Diocese of Lake Charles — was a reminder that God's grace always prevails, even amidst a pandemic.

Joining these four men on his own priestly journey was Rev. Mr. Michael Beverung as he was ordained a transitional deacon. With God's grace, he will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021.

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the ordaining prelate for the invitation-only Mass that was streamed live on social media and through the diocesan website. In his homily, Bishop Provost stressed the importance of Wisdom from the Book of Sirach.

"A priest must be humble enough to admit his weakness, courageous enough to act on the truth, prudent enough to judge when he must speak, and patient enough to know when he must be silent," he said. "All of this requires Wisdom, a Wisdom which you do not possess, that comes from God, and that remains a gift.

"A priest needs this Wisdom in abundance," Bishop Provost continued, "especially in this challenging world. ... The greater the challenge, the more is required of your response. This is the work of Wisdom."

He also reminded the

ordinands of the important role prayer plays in their vocation.

"As Pope Benedict in the Year for Priests reminded us, people look to the priest to be an expert in prayer," said Bishop Provost. "Through his example of prayer and personal relationship with God, the priest informs us that God is not some philosophical abstraction but a deeply personal God who touches our hearts, minds, and souls."

At the conclusion of his remarks, Bishop Provost expressed what a happy day it was for the Diocese of Lake Charles saying, "United with family and friends, with bishop and priests, deacons and religious, we all rejoice in the graces that will flow at the opening of Wisdom's arms and the embrace of Christ, the bridegroom of his Church."

The parents of the four priests were among those rejoicing.

Thinking about what a gift a parent of a priest receives, Marty DeRouen said he and his wife Julie are not giving Andrew away but instead getting so much back in return. "The world just pours love on him, and we get a bigger family through his priesthood."

Father Bond's mother, Mitzi, said she had a hard time identifying what she was feeling emotionally before Saturday's ordination. "I could not explain it, but during the ceremony, I was overcome with emotions of happiness," she said. "I could not stop crying." Bond's father Joseph said with enthusiasm, "All things are possible with God."

Frank Thompson compared his experience of attending the Mass of Ordination with the visit to Rome he and his wife Eva shared while Levi was studying there. "I feel like the Heavens are rejoicing. It was unbelievable," he said. "It was really in-



Bishop Glen John Provost is joined by the four priests and one transitional deacon ordained during the June 27 Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Shown, from left, are Rev. Andrew DeRouen, Rev. Levi Thompson, Bishop Provost, Rev. Joseph Caraway, Rev. Samuel Bond, and Rev. Mr. Michael Beverung.

spiring to see your little child that you raised since he was an infant become a priest."

Born on the same day as Hurricane Audrey in 1957, Julius Caraway III said his son Joseph could not have given him a better birthday gift. "I feel like I am going to explode from the inside. It is overwhelming" he said standing alongside his wife, Ladonna. "I don't feel like I am touching the ground. Nothing can top this."

In addition to the role parents play in planting seeds and cultivating a life of prayer for these young men, priests also serve as mentors during their discernment process. To honor them, the ordinands each choose one priest to assist with vesting.

Deacon Beverung was assisted by the Rev. Whitney Miller. For Father Bond, it was the Very Rev. Ruben Buller, V.G.; for Father Caraway, it was his cousin, Rev. Michael Caraway; for Father DeRouen, it was the Very Rev. Edward Richard, V.F.; and for Father Thompson, it was Rev. Roland Vaughn.

Before the vesting, every priest in attendance lays hands on each ordinand one at a time. This symbol of unity among the brother priests was especially poignant as Rev. Trey Ange and Rev. Michael Caraway laid hands on Joseph Caraway. All cousins to one another, Joseph is the third among them to be ordained to the priesthood since 2017.

The collective gathering of priests, including several retired servants of God, was a visible reminder of their selfless vocation in service to others.

Bishop Provost expressed his congratulations to all the families of the newly ordained saying that the call to priesthood issues forth from family life by creating a fertile ground of prayer. He also acknowledged the cler-

gy in the Diocese of Lake Charles thanking his brother priests for all their good work.

The four newly ordained priests offered blessings individually to Bishop Provost. They will each take up their assignments as parochial vicars effective July 1, as announced by the Very Rev. Ruben Villarreal:

- Father Bond at the Cathedral in Lake Charles
- Father Caraway at St. Henry Parish in Lake Charles
- Father DeRouen at St. Theodore Parish in Moss Bluff and St. Pius X Parish in Ragley
- Father Thompson at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Lake Charles
- Deacon Beverung will serve his diaconate internship at St. Philip Neri Parish in Kinder.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

To read Bishop Provost's homily in its entirety online, visit [www.lcdioocese.org/3-news/2953-bishop-provost-s-ordination-homily](http://www.lcdioocese.org/3-news/2953-bishop-provost-s-ordination-homily). To view the Mass of Ordination, visit [www.youtube.com/lcdioocese](http://www.youtube.com/lcdioocese) and click on Ordinations to the Priesthood and Diaconate.

## 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 Very Reverend Anthony Fontenot – **Pastor**, Saint Raphael Parish in Iowa and its mission, Saint Joseph in LeBleu Settlement

The Reverend Jom Joseph, HGN – **Pastor**, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Fenton and its mission, Saint John the Evangelist in Lacassine

The Reverend Rojo Koonathan, HGN – **Pastor**, Christ the King Parish in Lake Charles and Dean of the South Deanery

The Reverend Mr. Michael Beverung – **Diaconate Internship**, Saint Philip Neri Parish in Kinder

The Reverend Samuel Bond – **Parochial Vicar**, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles, and continuing theological studies at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill.

The Reverend Joseph Caraway – **Parochial Vicar**, Saint Henry Parish in Lake Charles

The Reverend Andrew DeRouen – **Parochial Vicar**, Saint Theodore Parish in Moss Bluff and Saint Pius X Parish in Ragley and part-time assistant to the Diocesan Director of Communications

The Reverend Levi Thompson – **Parochial Vicar**, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Lake Charles

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

\*Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

The Reverend Deacon George Stearns  
Chancellor

## St. Louis graduates recognized for achievements

LAKE CHARLES — Several St. Louis Catholic High School graduating seniors from the Class of 2020 were recognized for their academic and athletic achievements as their senior year culminated in May.

**Katherine Jester** earned a \$3,200 scholarship from the National Honor Society. She applied for the award through the St. Louis Catholic's school chapter of NHS. Jester plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in chemical engineering. Jester also earned recognition to the LHSAA Composite All-Academic soccer team for her perfect 4.0 GPA, and she also represented Southwest Louisiana on the LHSSCA West All-Star soccer team.

Athletic achievements included two seniors signing letters of intent and four others receiving LHSAA All-Academic Composite Team honors for maintaining a 4.00 unweighted GPA throughout their high school careers.

Golfer **McKenzie LeDuff** signed her letter of intent at home this year, but still made her commitment to Alabama State University official despite the atypical circumstances surrounding COVID-19. Track and field athlete **Luke Benoit** signed his letter of intent with the University of Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns.

Seniors **Maggie Bruchhaus** (tennis), **Ethan Hebert** (tennis), **Carson Mixon** (baseball), and **Sophie Stine** (track & field) received All-Academic Composite Team honors for 2019-2020 from LHSAA for at least a second time this year. To earn Composite Team honors, a student-athlete must have an unweighted 4.00 GPA and cannot have a 'B' on their transcripts. Bruchhaus (basketball), Hebert (cross country and soccer), Mixon (football) and Stine (volleyball) earned recognition for their academic and athletic achievements at prior LHSAA state events during the school year.

**Alex Yokubaitis** had a stellar wrestling career with the Saints, racking up four state titles. He added another accolade to his repertoire in May when he earned an All-American Honorable Mention by Wrestling USA, the only wrestler from Louisiana to do so. In addition, Yokubaitis was nominated for the Dave Schultz High School Excellence Award by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Presented annually to a high school senior, this award is based equally on outstanding wrestling success, scholastic achievement and citizenship or community service. Yokubaitis is headed to Oklahoma State University in the fall.

## 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

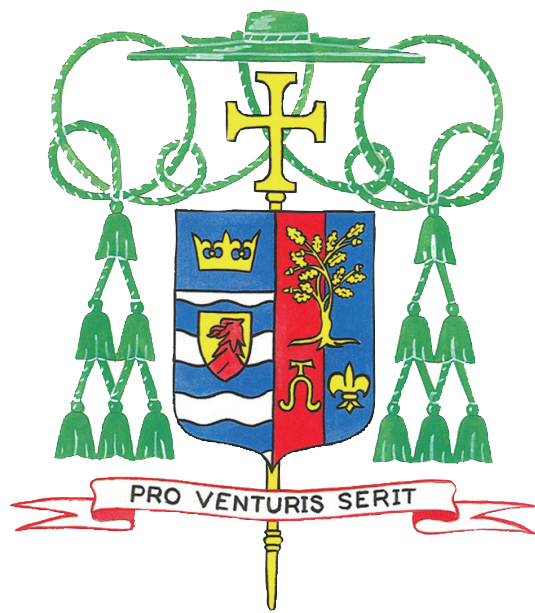


# Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

July 17, 2020



July 1, 2020  
Wednesday

My dear People of God,

Last month, we rejoiced at the ordination of four native sons to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. This is the product of much effort. Thirteen years ago, I issued a challenge to pray for vocations to the Priesthood for the Diocese. For these thirteen years, our parishes have responded with the Forty Hours of Devotion. In addition, you responded with your generosity of treasure when the Lord in his fidelity called men to discern a call of service.

With these treasures in mind and in a spirit of openness, I wish to present the accompanying financial statements of the Diocese of Lake Charles for your review which tells of the efforts of the Local Church of Lake Charles educating seminarians, evangelizing the area, caring for those in need, giving solace through our retreat center, and many other ministries.

An independent accounting firm conducted an audit of our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards as determined by State and Federal Laws. If you would desire greater detail or have any questions, please feel free to contact our diocesan Office of Administration (337-439-7400) or visit the Diocesan website (www.lcdioocese.org).

Please note that in keeping with established practice, this financial statement does not include the financial reports of individual parishes within the Diocese. Each pastor is responsible for reporting publicly the financial statement of his parish in the parish bulletin.

I am deeply moved each year through your generosity. The Bishop's Services Appeal and the Return to the Lord Capital Campaign reflect the generosity of the people of this Diocese. These days of medical crisis and social upheaval have impressed upon my heart and mind that the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles are willing to assist the Lord in making his message known through a giving of their time, treasure, and talents.

With humble gratitude, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

✠ Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

## THE SOCIETY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

### Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 14,674,156	\$ 20,727,487
Investments	1,306,292	939,078
Accounts receivable, net	466,160	421,407
Grants receivable	67,500	72,500
Pledges receivable, net	5,489,573	8,533,214
Loan receivable	48,389	48,389
Cash value of life insurance policies	699,987	715,123
Prepaid insurance and other expenses	827,301	403,518
Property, equipment, and improvements, net	10,301,192	7,963,282
Investments pledged as collateral	100,000	100,000
Deposit in self-insurance pool	285,116	285,116
Beneficial interest in securities held in trust	1,948,375	1,9304,980
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 36,214,041</b>	<b>\$ 42,140,094</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,440,006	\$ 540,073
National collections and other payables	195,877	142,374
Accrued insurance claims payable	291,086	276,014
Contributions and benefit payables	148,960	84,080
Due to parishes	1,622,207	1,561,933
Deferred revenue	18,276	15,438
Other post employment benefits payable	4,835,404	4,172,402
Contingent liability	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 8,551,816</b>	<b>6,792,314</b>
Net assets - without donor restrictions	10,047,628	13,437,716
Net assets - with donor restrictions	17,614,597	21,910,064
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$ 27,662,225</b>	<b>35,347,780</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 36,214,041</b>	<b>\$ 42,140,094</b>

### Statement of Activities Year Ended June 30, 2019

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	2019 Totals
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>			
Parochial tithe	\$ 2,682,331	\$ -	\$ 2,682,331
Diocesan assessments	6,820,102	260,064	7,080,166
Diocesan appeals	-	163,822	163,822
Contributions and bequests	217,924	1,511,785	1,729,709
Grants and subsidies	-	1,090,993	1,090,993
Investment income	224,598	84,727	309,325
Gain from disposal of property	190,998	-	190,998
Special program and other revenues	1,087,641	10,839	1,098,480
Net assets released from restrictions	7,417,697	(7,417,697)	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ (18,641,291)</b>	<b>\$ (4,295,467)</b>	<b>\$ 14,345,824</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
<b>Program expenses</b>			
Clergy life	1,914,374	-	1,914,374
Christian formation	2,307,751	-	2,307,751
Pastoral services	2,249,928	-	2,249,928
Health care and casualty insurance	5,923,920	-	5,923,920
<b>Supporting Services</b>			
General administration	9,426,863	-	9,426,863
Fund raising	208,543	-	208,543
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 22,031,379</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 22,031,379</b>
<b>(Decrease) in net assets</b>	<b>(3,390,088)</b>	<b>(4,295,467)</b>	<b>(7,685,555)</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>13,437,716</b>	<b>21,910,064</b>	<b>35,347,780</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 10,047,628</b>	<b>\$ 17,614,597</b>	<b>\$ 27,662,225</b>



Abel Findley



Bella Findley



Michaela LaFleur



Emma Findley



Sydney Thomas



Visa Newman



Jacob Ardoin

## 'True Presence' contest winners announced

Winners were announced recently for "True Presence: The Eucharist in Art" contest presented by the Diocese of Lake Charles.

This was the first year for the contest as a way for students in grades K-12 as well as adults to creatively portray their Catholic belief in the Eucharist, according to Sister Marirose Rudek, R.S.M., diocesan director for the Office of Reli-

gious Education and Evangelization.

The idea behind the contest came from a challenge by Bishop Glen John Provost to those who instruct students on the Eucharist.

"Bishop Provost wanted teachers to emphasize the True Presence more in the religious education classes in our Catholic schools, especially for young people," Rudek said. "I thought the contest

would be a good way to get people thinking about the Eucharist and how they represent it to others."

Contest categories were original artwork and original writing (poetry or creative writing) for the following age groups: grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, grades 9-12, and adults 18 and older. Winners are:

**Artwork:** Grades K-2 — Abel Findley, first place;

Emma Harrell, second place; and Owen Findley, third place; Grades 3-5 — Bella Findley, first place; and Ty Pham, second place; Grades 6-8 — Michaela LaFleur, first place; Scarlet Reeves, second place; and Jacob Istre, third place; Grades 9-12 — Emma Findley, first place; Amelia Thomas, second place; and Bain Jones, third place; Adult

— Sydney Thomas, first place; and Sister Anne Miriam Crouche, R.S.M., second place.

**Writing:** Grades K-2 — Visa Newman, first place, creative writing; and Grades 6-8 — Jacob Ardoin, first place, poetry; Connor Lyons, second place, poetry; and Ethan Nguyen, third place, poetry.

Sister Marirose said she hopes the contest gave par-

ticipants a chance to reflect personally on the gift they receive in the Eucharist.

"I think it is very important for us to express our Catholic faith to others and not be afraid to talk about what we believe," she said.

Cash prizes were given to all who placed. Their artwork or writings will be published in future issues of the *Catholic Calendar*.