



Catholic

Catholic schools open August 24

LAKE CHARLES –Catholic schools of the Diocese of Lake Charles located in Calcasieu Parish will begin the 2020-2021 school year with the return of students for both in-person and virtual instruction on Monday, Aug. 24, while Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings opened last week, according to Kimberlee Gazzolo, superintendent of Catholic schools.



John "Hank" Douglas
New OLS principal

"About five percent of our students will be participating in virtual learning, Gazzolo said, "At the elementary level we are utilizing our partner Fuel Education. Students will also be receiving religious education, may participate in extracurricular activities and will be receiving support services and ongoing contact with school personnel.

"All guidelines set forth by LDOE, CDC and LPH are being followed and there will be temperature checks daily for students, staff and visitors. Face coverings and protocols

have been set for quarantining in the event of positive cases."

John "Hank" Douglas will take over as principal of Our Lady's Master of Sulphur. He has a Master of Education from McNeese State University and completed the Alternative Teacher Education Program, also from McNeese.

Other schools and their principals include St. Louis Catholic High School, Mia Touchet; Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, Christi Jarreau; St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Wendy Wicke; Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Trevor Donnelly; and Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Dr. David Dupuis.

School holidays include Labor Day, Monday, September 7; Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11; Thanksgiving, Monday - Friday, November 23-27; Christmas, Monday, December 21 through Friday, January 1; Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 18; Mardi Gras, February 12 through Tuesday, February 16; and Easter, April 2 through Friday, April 9.



Leslie R. and Elizabeth S. Richard

DIOCESE RECEIVES LEGACY

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has announced the receipt of a sizeable legacy, perhaps the largest contribution ever made to the Diocese of Lake Charles, from the estate of Elizabeth Singletary Richard and her late husband, Leslie R., both longtime residents of Cameron Parish.

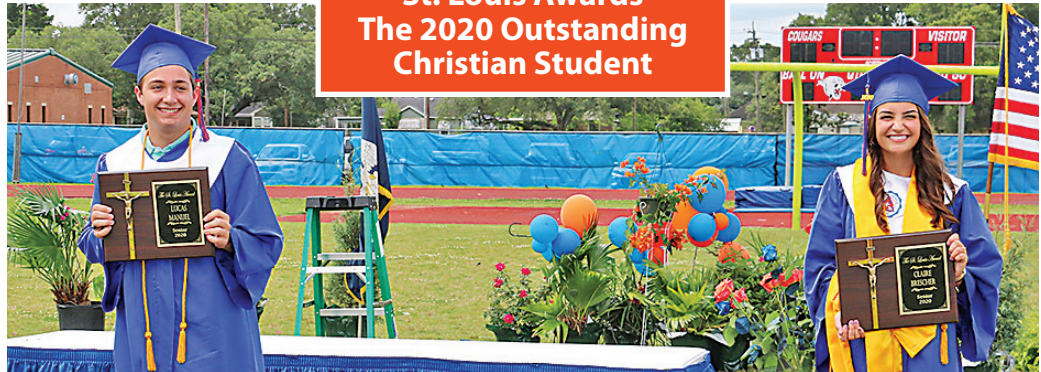
Mr. Richard was one of a number of far-sighted businessmen that formed Cameron State Bank in 1966. He served as its first president when it opened and later became chairman of the board, a position he held until his death in 1997.

The Richards were generous philanthropists over their lifetime, and after Elizabeth's death in 2019, this largesse continued with a vast majority of their estate, more than \$20 million, given to both national and local charities including religious organizations.

The couple resided in Cameron Parish for many years and were parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. Leslie served, for a short time, as a deputy sheriff then became chief deputy tax assessor until he was elected tax assessor. He was also involved in cattle ranching and a partner in the Cameron Insurance Agency providing local services to the residents of Cameron Parish.

Following his retirement, the couple moved to Lake Charles where they were parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church along with being staunch supporters of Villa Maria Retirement Center and other charitable causes.

St. Louis Awards The 2020 Outstanding Christian Student



The St. Louis Award, the most prestigious award of the school, goes to the male and female senior student voted as the outstanding Christian student by their peers and approved by members of the faculty. The 2020 recipients, seen above are, from left, Lucas Manuel and Claire Brescher. The awards, made possible by the Lake Charles Serra Club, go to the students who have shown Love of God and Neighbor, Strong Moral Character, Desire to Serve Community, Courage to stand up for Christian Principles, a Daily Christian Lifestyle, and Proper Use of God-Given gifts.

La. Bishops support "Love Life" Amendment

On July 16, 2020, the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the following statement indicating their support of the "Love Life" Amendment that will be on the Louisiana ballot during the November 3rd election.

"The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops strongly supports the Love Life Amendment, which would successfully amend the Louisiana constitution and thereby continue to strengthen our commitment to end abortion in the state. Citizens of our state will have the opportunity to affirmatively state that they "Love Life" on November 3 — the same day as the United States presidential election — by favoring this amendment.

As Catholics, we are called to ensure that life is indeed valued and that the dignity of all is upheld. This is the foundational principle of our social teaching and must be intentionally considered in all that we do.

Passage of the Love Life Amendment would have a dual effect. Primarily, it will ensure that the state of Louisiana cannot establish a right to abortion

at present or if Roe v. Wade is overturned in the future. Secondly, it will prohibit the funding of abortion through taxpayer dollars within our constitution. Without such an amendment, the invalidation of the many anti-abortion laws we have all advocated so strongly for in Louisiana remains a possibility.

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops therefore enthusiastically supports the Love Life Amendment, and encourages all to approach this initiative with a formed conscience and a commitment to defend the sanctity of human life and uphold the dignity of all people."

The Louisiana Conference

of Catholic Bishops Board of Directors includes: The Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans; The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles; The Most Reverend Michael G. Duca, Bishop of Baton Rouge; The Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre, Bishop of Houma-Thibodeaux; The Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, Bishop of Lafayette; The Most Reverend Francis I. Malone, Bishop of Shreveport; The Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall Jr., Bishop-Elect of Alexandria; and The Most Reverend Fernand J. Cheri, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans.

Couples honored for marriage anniversaries

LAKE CHARLES – One couple has been honored by the Bishop Glen John Provost and the Diocese of Lake Charles on the celebration of their Platinum Wedding anniversary. Loris and Wilbert Berry, Sr., parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Oberlin, were married more than 70 years ago on February 11, 1950.

The pair was one of 30 couples celebrating significant jubilee anniversaries during 2020. Due to Covid-19 precautions the liturgical celebration and reception normally held to honor long-married couples was forced to be cancelled. Sponsored annually by the Office of Family Life, those honored received certificates lauding their milestone anniversaries of Christian marriage, signed by Bishop Provost, along with the book "Long Time, No Sheen," a collection of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's best jokes from his radio and television programs, which aired in various formats from 1930 to 1968.

Two couples were honored for celebrating 65 years of marriage - Genevieve & Warren LeBlanc, St. John the Evangelist Church (Lacassine) and

Sybil & Jerry Wilburn, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church (Sulphur).

Couples married for 60 years included Jo Ann & David Tilbury, Christ the King Church (Lake Charles); Mary & Joseph Cook, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, (Lake Charles); Joycia & Johnny Guillory, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Lake Charles); Lou Anna & Clarence August, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, (Lake Charles); Burline & Merlin Fontenot, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church (Lake Charles); Judy & Winfield "Bubby" Hundley, Our Lady of the Lake Church (Lake Arthur); and Sandra & Millard Verret, St. John the Evangelist Church (Lacassine).

Fifty-five year anniversaries were celebrated by Lula & Lawrence LaFleur, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (Lake Charles) and Laura & Lincoln Richardson, Immaculate Heart of Mary (Lake Charles).

Fifty year jubilee couples included Margaret & Donald Cabbage, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church (Sulphur); Carolyn & Jack Kaleel, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (Oakdale); Sue & Albert Duplantis, Christ the King Church (Lake Charles); Patricia & Don-

ald Taylor, St. Joan of Arc Church (Oberlin); Annette & Harold Dyke, Christ the King Church (Lake Charles); Betty & William Caraway, Our Lady Help of Christians Church (Jennings); Connie & Mattheu Myers, Jr., St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church (Carlyss); Janie & Gerald Doucet, St. Raphael Church (Iowa); Glynda & Michael "Tony" Dougherty, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus (Carlyss); Bobbie & Donnie LeBlanc, St. Raphael Church (Iowa); Charlotte & Keith Ellender, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church (Carlyss); Delora & Everett Lovejoy, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (Oakdale); Kathleen & Willie Ashford, St. John the Evangelist Church; Linda & Larry Guidry, St. John the Evangelist Church (Lacassine); Joann & Albert Simien Sr, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Lake Charles); Lynette & George Henry, Our Lady of the Lake Church (Lake Arthur).

Lauded for 25 years of marriage were Christy & Marshal Cormier, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church (Sulphur) and Michelle & Bryan Keller, St. Raphael (Iowa).

Ruth Institute honors three

LAKE CHARLES — A former "fake-news" journalist for Cosmopolitan, a urologist expelled for the integrity of the medical profession, and an attorney devoted to promoting the dignity of the human person were all honored for their efforts to promote family values.

Recipient of this year's **Public Witness of the Year Award** was Sue Ellen Browder for her book, *Subverted: How I Helped the Sexual Revolution Hijack the Women's*

Movement. Browder also served as the dinner's keynote speaker via video. Listen to her story at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjPdFw48VU0>.

Receiving the **Professional Integrity Award** virtually was Dr. Paul Church. He was expelled from the medical staff at Harvard Medical School in Boston in 2015 when he challenged hospital superiors to be more truthful about the health consequences of high risk LGBTQIA+ sexual behavior.

The **Public Activist Award** was presented in person to Cathy Cleaver Ruse who said the "condescending" attitude of the Fairfax County School Board in Virginia is all it took to light a fire under her when she learned her local school board voted to allow transgender bathrooms.

Read the full story at <http://www.lodiocese.org/3-news/2966-ruth-institute-honors-three-for-promoting-family-values>.



LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSURE

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in celebration of Labor Day, reopening at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8, with regular office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday.

The next Catholic Calendar will be published on Friday, Sept. 18.

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:

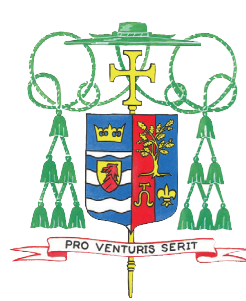
O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children.

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



Rachel's Vineyard offers hope, healing after abortion

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

No matter what side of the abortion issue you are on — pro-life or pro-choice — one thing is certain. The life of a child is lost every single time.

Whether the abortion took place last week, last year or even 30 years ago, Marjorie Long wants people to know something else that is certain: forgiveness and healing through a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

"Healing is out there. It is available," said Long, the licensed site leader for Rachel's Vineyard in the Diocese of Lake Charles. "We are going to take them (retreatants), love them, welcome them, and serve them the best way we know how."

A worldwide ministry for Priests for Life and sponsored locally by the Diocese, the weekend scripture-based retreat is for anyone struggling with guilt, depression, regret or other emotions brought about from an abortion. The step-by-step process provides "therapy for the soul" in a safe, strictly confidential, non-judgmental environment.

"The salvation of souls is what I am after in these retreats," said Long. "If their soul is truly healed and they feel forgiveness from God's mercy and love, they will have the power to work through all the pain," she said. "It's not going to happen with just one weekend, but they will have what it takes to continue on their journey of healing."

This summer marks 10 years for Rachel's Vineyard in the Diocese of Lake Charles with Long having completed 18 months of training and preparation before that first retreat in July 2010. The following year, Long began scheduling two retreats per year and has done so ever since with Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff as the setting.

Founded in 1995 by psychologist Dr. Theresa Burke, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries has grown to more than 1,000 retreats annually, at 375 sites, held

in 49 states and 70 countries.

The weekend offers an opportunity to examine the abortion experience and identify ways that the loss has impacted the persons involved. Having worked in a pregnancy crisis center for 10 years, Long had seen firsthand the effect abortions can have on the mothers of unborn children. It is all too common for them to experience feelings of emptiness, low self-esteem, self-hatred, depression and low self-worth, she said.

Acknowledging that what she witnesses weighs heavily on her heart, Long said she knows without a doubt that God wanted this ministry in the Diocese; he just needed a servant. When she hears people say that abortion is not really their concern, her response is: "It's all of our concern. It affects everyone because that is a life not here that God intended to be born."

Long emphasizes that Rachel's Vineyard is for anyone who has been affected by an abortion or anyone who played a part in the abortion decision. She said for every abortion, multiple lives are affected — including mothers, fathers and family members of aborted children, as well as those who have been involved in the abortion industry — and it doesn't matter how long ago the abortion took place.

"Grief hits different people at different times. Certain things trigger their lives," she said. "They are not just dealing with the loss of the baby. Some people will also have triggers from the physical part of the abortion," Long continued. "It might be a smell, something that connects to the trauma that took place at the abortion clinic."

While we are all called to forgive one another, sometimes the hardest thing to do is to forgive ourselves for our own sins. Rachel's Vineyard wants to help the retreatants uncover what led them on their journey to making the decision to abort their baby, and then help them forgive them-

selves.

"It's hard for them to let go of the guilt," Long said, "because the guilt is all they have left of the child they don't have anymore. Most of them have gone to confession over and over even before coming to the retreat," she continued, "but they are still trying to live with their decision. You cannot get through it until you go through it. They can go through it at Rachel's Vineyard."

Long said the retreat gives them permission to own their actions, to let it go, to give it to God, and to allow themselves to accept forgiveness.

"We want them to understand, you are not a bad person. People can get caught in the devil's trap," said Long. "They begin to see where they were blinded. What was going on in their life that led them to the decision of abortion?"

There is an opportunity during the retreat for the mothers to reconnect with their babies on a spiritual level. This is a chance to give the unborn children honor and dignity through a memorial service on the final day of the retreat. Because of the nature of the pregnancy loss, the baby was never held or properly buried, Long explained.

A memorial service presents a time for mothers and fathers to place a bereavement doll in a "Moses" basket. Long said by doing so, this is another way to release the pain and heartache and place their baby in the arms of the Creator. It brings comfort, allowing to let go.

In addition to discussions and spiritual exercises, the weekend includes the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Mass of Entrustment, and Exposition of the Holy Eucharist. A monstration designed especially for Rachel's Vineyard retreats is hand carved in the form of the Blessed Virgin Mary, cradling the Eucharist.

Retreatants are invited to kneel at the altar with the Blessed Sacrament and express out loud to Jesus what they are feeling as they gaze their eyes upon Christ.

"At the end of the road, when this part of their life is healed, the retreatants will have what it takes to live life," said Long. "They are putting their relationship back together with God. He never left."

The retreat format used in the Diocese of Lake Charles is Catholic-based, but any denomination is welcome to attend. Team members consist of a licensed counselor, women and men who have experienced abortion, compassionate volunteers and a priest. Retreat sizes are small, usually 8-10, so participants can receive individual care as needed. Nothing is forced on anyone during any time of the retreat.

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat dates in 2021 are Feb. 12-14 and Oct. 22-24.

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For more information on Rachel's Vineyard or to register for an upcoming retreat, contact: Marjorie Long, site director in the Diocese of Lake Charles, at 337-489-2473, or email rachel.vineyard@lcdiocese.org. For a national listing of retreat dates and locations as well as testimonials, visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

"I Believe"
by Abel Findley,
first place

"The Body and Blood of Jesus"
by Emma Harrell,
second place

"Holy Communion"
by Owen Findley,
third place

"True Presence: The Eucharist in Art" winning entries

The winning artwork for grades K-2 in the "True Presence: The Eucharist in Art" contest was submitted by Abel Findley of Vinton. His artwork is titled "I Believe." The second-place entry by Emma Harrell of Lake Charles is titled "The Body and Blood of Jesus." Owen Findley of Vinton placed third with his artwork titled "Holy Communion." The contest was presented by the Diocese of Lake Charles as a way for students in grades K-12 as well as adults to creatively portray their Catholic belief in the Eucharist. More winning entries from other age groups will be published in future issues of the Catholic Calendar.

Virtual event to feature Tolton's legacy

Venerable Augustus Tolton's exemplary life of heroic virtues will be on display Saturday, Aug. 29, when Tolton Ambassadors — Louisiana along with Tolton Ambassadors from across the U.S. host a virtual event from 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual doors open at 6:30 p.m. on www.zoom.us.

A national dialogue about Renewal, Restoration and Reconciliation: God's Response (Habakkuk 2:2-4) in the Catholic Church will be featured. The theme, "Tolton's Legacy: A Roadmap to Unity — 2020 Vision," will focus on Venerable Tolton, whose Cause for Canonization advances forward.

Pope Francis declared Tolton — a former slave and the first black diocesan priest in the U.S. — as venerable on Oct. 14, 2019. The title formally recognizes he lived

the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance at a heroic level.

The online event will feature the following speakers: Archbishop Wilton Gregory of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.; Bishop Joseph Perry, chair for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops subcommittee on African American Affairs and Postulator for the Cause of Venerable Tolton; Dr. Cecilia Moore, Ph.D., American Religious History at the University of Dayton; Rev. David Jones, pastor of St. Benedict the African in Chicago; and Sister Eva Lumas, SSS, D.Min. (Sisters of Social Service), former director for the Institute of Black Catholic Studies.

Registration is free on-

line at www.eventbrite.com/e/toltons-legacy-a-road-map-to-unity-tickets-113914238554, however, a contribution of \$20 or more will serve to underwrite the event, and \$50 or more will include an event T-shirt. Donations may also be mailed to: Tolton Ambassadors Louisiana, P.O. Box 16087, Lake Charles, LA 70616. Questions may be emailed to: tolton@outlook.com.

Altha Jordan-Green and Alberto Maxwell IV are co-convenors and event co-chairs. Rev. Canon A. Gerard Jordan, O. Praem is Promoter of the Cause for the Canonization of Venerable Tolton.

To learn more about Venerable Tolton's cause for sainthood, visit <https://tolton.archchicago.org/about>.

Red Mass on Sept. 11

LAKE CHARLES — Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant for the annual Red Mass set for 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 11, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Very Rev. Edward Richard, M.S., VF, will be the homilist.

Judges, attorneys, and government officials from the five civil parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles — Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis — are invited to attend. The local St. Thomas More Society, Judge Henry Yelverton Chapter, and the Diocese sponsor the event.

The 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 shine forth preeminently in the dispensing of justice in the courtroom as well as in the individual lawyer's office.

The Mass is so named because of the color of the vestments worn by the Bishop and priests, donned in symbolism of the tongues of fire that descended on the Apostles. Additionally, Judges of the High Court of England and all doctors of law wore red robes or academic hoods.

The first recorded Red Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral of Paris in 1245. From there, it spread to most European countries. Around 1310, during the reign of Edward II, the tradition began in England. It was attended at the opening of each term of Court by all members of the Bench and Bar. The event gradually fell out of fashion until 1931, when Sydney, Australia, became the first English-speaking city to reinstitute the practice. The first Red Mass held in the United States was celebrated in St. Andrew's Church in New York City, near the courthouses of Foley Square.



A monstration designed especially for Rachel's Vineyard retreats is hand carved in the form of the Blessed Virgin Mary, cradling the Eucharist. Adorners are invited to pray for the retreatants between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Saturday of the retreat.