



Deacon Beverung to be ordained to priesthood on May 22

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Deacon Michael Beverung is surprised at how comfortable he is giving homilies. He knew it would be something he was going to have to get used to doing, but now says it has been one of his favorite things to do during his final year of seminary studies.

Beverung will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 22, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop, will be the ordaining prelate with Rev. Sam Bond serving as Master of Ceremonies.

"Giving homilies was something I was very nervous about, but I soon discovered that I love preaching!" Beverung said. "Once I began giving homilies after being ordained (a transitional deacon), it became second nature to me. I still get nervous from time to time but overall is something that I really enjoy."

A parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, Michael is the 26-year-old son of Steven and Patsy (Gauthier) Beverung of Lake Charles and the only brother to his older twin sisters, Jennifer Heape and Jessica Duhon. He

is a graduate of St. Louis Catholic High School and received his early education at OLQH School. He attended St. Joseph Seminary College and completed his theological studies at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans with a Master of Divinity degree.

Since first entering the seminary in 2013, Deacon Beverung has always longed to serve in a church parish. With each summer assignment, he fell in love with the ministry over and over again. This was especially evident during his diaconate internship last year at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder amid COVID-19 restrictions and catastrophic storms.

"With the pandemic and back-to-back hurricanes, it was a trying time for many people," Beverung recalled. "This made parish life look different than it usually is during any other time. It made me realize how much people need a priest to bring them the Sacraments when they are most in need. When I am in a parish setting, I am constantly reminded why the Lord has called me to this vocation in the first place."

Deacon Beverung said his internship was particularly fulfilling because of extra responsibilities.

"Being able to have a more active role in ministry than in prior summer assignments provided more challenges," he said, "and these challenges were good for me to grow into the priest that God is calling me to be."

Beverung said celebrating the Sacraments, especially the Mass, is what he looks forward to most about being a priest. He describes a time in the seminary when he was greatly encouraged on his vocation journey.

"One of the moments I strongly felt consolation in my discernment was during the summer one year at CLI (a leadership camp hosted by the Office of Youth Ministry). We were supposed to celebrate Mass, but the priest did not

show up," said Beverung. "I could see the disappointment on everyone's face when I had to tell them that we were not able to have Mass that day. It was in that moment that I desperately wanted to be a priest so that I could bring the Sacraments to those who yearned for them so much."

Even though Beverung began hearing God call him to the priesthood at an early age, he said he did not start listening to the call until he entered high school.

"God's calling became evident to me once I started deepening my faith. I remember spending many hours in the Adoration chapel at Our Lady Queen of Heaven during high school," said Beverung. "That is where I felt God's call the most."

His advice to someone beginning to discern the priesthood: "Stay close to Jesus in the Sacraments. Do not be afraid of how God is working in your life. Talk to your pastor and the vocation director. Go to the seminary. One can only fully discern the priesthood in the context of the seminary."

Several books that proved helpful during Beverung's discernment process include *Priests for the Third Millennium* by Timothy Cardinal Dolan, *To Save a Thousand Souls* by Father Brett Brannan, and *Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence.

When asked how he can be a vessel to keep the Light of Christ shining for younger Catholics in the Diocese of Lake Charles, Beverung said, "Since I heard God calling me to be a priest at a young age, it can help other young people see how God can work just as much, if not more, in their lives."

Before the conclusion of the Liturgy of Holy Orders, the first priestly assignment for Beverung will be announced.



At this year's Chrism Mass, Deacon Michael Beverung, who bows before the bishop, proclaimed the Gospel reading. Here Bishop Glen John Provost blesses him in preparation for his task of intoning the Scripture.

(Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

Local architects selected in rebuild for three schools Baton Rouge firm will design two churches

LAKE CHARLES — In a major development in its hope for hurricane recovery and a sign of hope for Catholics throughout South-west Louisiana, the Diocese of Lake Charles announced on Monday, April 26, a slate of architects selected to rebuild schools and churches destroyed by Hurricane Laura. In all, two Catholic churches and three schools will be rebuilt, with local firms selected to design the schools.

Upon announcing the selection, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, said, "We have reached a decisive moment in the recovery of the Diocese of Lake Charles. In just eight months following the devastation of Hurricane Laura, I am pleased to see that we are selecting architects. This is a positive step in the right direction. We are making real progress to return our people to the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments and our students to a permanent learning environment that benefits their formation and development."

The following local architecture firms have been selected to design new Catholic schools:

- St. Louis Catholic High School, Lake Charles — Champeau Evans Hotard + RHH Architects, APAC, A Joint Venture
- St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Lake Charles — PorchelMay Architects + Domain Architecture, A Joint Venture
- Our Lady's Catholic School, Sulphur — Vincent-Shows-Gautreaux Architects APALLC

And for the following churches, the architect will be Hoffpauir Studio, LLC from Baton Rouge, a firm with extensive experience designing churches and other houses of worship:

- Christ the King Catholic Church, Lake Charles
- St. Pius X Catholic Church, Ragley

"We are very pleased to announce that after reviewing outstanding qualifications of the firms who were selected as finalists and participating in two rounds of interviews with the pastors and

principals of Our Lady's School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School and St. Louis Catholic High School, the Diocese of Lake Charles is engaging all local firms to design these schools," said Father Ruben Buller, Chief of Recovery and Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese. "The level of expertise and experience brought to the table was incredible and I am confident these selections will result in facilities to serve our Catholic School families well for many decades yet to come."

"Likewise, the firm of Hoffpauir Studio has extensive experience with churches and church facilities and will produce equally outstanding work for the parishioners of Christ the King and St. Pius X," Father Buller continued. "Enhancing these structures will be the work of Michael Raia, Design Consultant with Studio io in Austin, incorporating liturgical catechesis in the design of all of our new structures. Moving forward with retaining our architectural firms and liturgical designer is a giant step forward in the recovery of the Diocese of Lake Charles, as we remain 'One Diocese ... One Church'."

These architects are tasked with meeting with stakeholders immediately to begin the design process for these projects. With regards to St. Louis Catholic High School, FEMA has completed its site visit to the severely damaged campus, and has found the damage report prepared by the Diocese in alignment with its onsite assessment.

In total, the Diocese has 505 damaged structures on 68 diocesan properties. Repairs on many of these are completed, already underway, in the process of being combined into zones to enhance efficiency, or are in the scoping process.



Deacon Michael Beverung

Legion of Mary tree dedication



To mark the Centenary Year of the founding of the Legion of Mary, a tree dedication ceremony was held Saturday, April 17, in the prayer garden of Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in Sulphur. The event precedes the main celebration of the 100th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, Sept. 7, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Kitty Roberts, president of the Most Holy Rosary Curia in the Diocese, said that members decided to plant a tree as a loving gratitude to, as well as a way of hope for the growth of the Legion of Mary A Southern Magnolia tree was chosen because of its everlasting qualities and symbolism to purity. Parishes with a Legion of Mary praesidium (basic unit at each church parish) in the Diocese of Lake Charles include Our Lady of LaSalette and Our Lady of Prompt Succor, both in Sulphur; Our Lady of LaSalette in DeQuincy; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus in Carlyss; and Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings. Father Andrews Kollannoor, M.S., is the spiritual director for the Most Holy Rosary Curia. From left, are: Jasper Lyons, Rev. Kollannoor, Kitty Roberts, Brenda Delino, Marcia Wiley, Carolyn Clark, Janie Pago, Lerline Babineaux, Fay Barton, and Ray East.

(Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

Sr. Mary Noel Pereira, RSM named principal at ICCS

The Diocese of Lake Charles Office of Catholic Schools has announced the new principal for the Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Sister Mary Noel Pereira, RSM, a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan.

Sister Mary Noel was born outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and has lived in Brazil, Chile, and Michigan. Her father is from Nicaragua, her mother is of British descent, and she has one younger brother. Her undergraduate work is in Theology and Psychology from

the University of Notre Dame. Active in Campus Ministry, she worked as a Mentor-in-Faith for Notre Dame Vision, which is a series of faith-based conferences for high school students. Sister Mary Noel has also completed her Master of Arts in Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

Most recently, Sister Mary Noel led the restructuring and revitalization of young adult ministry in the Diocese of Knoxville Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. She catalyzed the start of various

parish young adult groups, helped to restructure the diocesan young adult group, and led young adult ministry leadership formation. Fluent in Spanish, she assisted in Pastoral Juvenil Hispana.

While working at the chancery for the Diocese of Knoxville, Sister Mary Noel met the Religious Sisters of Mercy. She discerned a call with their community and entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy in 2019. She has completed one year of postulancy, and in July, will have completed her canonical

novitiate.

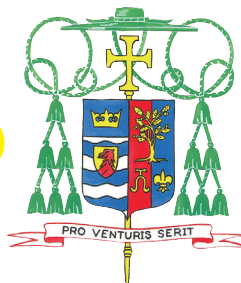
The Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, a pontifical religious institute, have been serving in the Diocese of Lake Charles since 2014 in various Diocesan and school positions, at the invitation of Bishop Glen John Provost.

Originally founded in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland by Venerable Catherine McAuley, it was reinstated after the Second Vatican Council in 1973. The Religious Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse is in Alma, Mich-

igan. There are 15 convents in the United States and four international convents. The charism of the community is mercy. God's abundant mercy transforms the Sisters' own misery into a healing grace and impels her to dispense this mercy to others in service to the Church. Sister is excited to meet the Immaculate Conception Cathedral School community to lead the students in their growth of spirit, mind, and body.



Sr. Mary Noel Pereira, RSM



District Students of the Year for non-public schools

Three students were awarded Student of the Year district honors for 2020-2021 for non-public schools in Southwest Louisiana earlier this year. They are: **Campbell LeBlanc**, grade 5, Bethel Christian School in Jennings; **Madeleine Person**, grade 8, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings; and **Taylor Myers**, a senior at St. Louis Catholic High School. The trio of winners advanced to the regional round of statewide competition.

Individual winners were:

Grade 5 level — **Mary Margaret “Meg” Austin**, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Lake Charles; **Mya Fontenot**, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings; **Kiley Spicer**, Our Lady’s Catholic School, Sulphur; **Logan Biven**, St. Margaret of Scotland Academy, Lake Charles; **Lauren Young**, First Baptist Christian Academy, Moss Bluff; and **Campbell LeBlanc**, Bethel Christian School.

Grade 8 level — **Owen Schwem**, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Lake Charles; **Laney Durio**, Our Lady’s Catholic School, Sulphur; **Abbie Mire**, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Lake Charles; **Noah Myers**, Bethel Christian School, Jennings; **Breelie Buckner**, First Baptist Christian Academy, Moss Bluff; and **Madeleine Person**, Our Lady Immaculate.



Madeleine Person
OLI 8th Grade

Taylor Myers
St. Louis Senior



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, asks for the intercession of Our Lady Star of the Sea at the Historic Shrine in Cameron for protection from all storms following the Mass to Avert Storms in 2020. The annual Mass will take place this year on Tuesday, June 1, beginning at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Big Lake, and conclude with blessings and prayers at The Shrine in Cameron.

(Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

Mass to Avert Storms takes on different format

Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant of a votive “Mass to Avert Storms” on Tuesday, June 1, the first day of the 2021 Hurricane Season. This year’s event will take on a different format due to destruction from Hurricane Laura last year at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron.

The annual Mass will begin at 4 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, 11054 Highway 384,

in Big Lake, followed by a vehicle procession to the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea, 135 Our Lady Road, in Cameron.

At the Shrine, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto, blessings, and the Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season will be recited at 6 p.m. The Shrine has been granted the privilege of inserting the invocation of “Star of the Sea” in the Litany.

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. The pilgrimage provides a plenary indulgence with the fulfillment of certain requirements, including recent confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayers for the Holy Father, and the recitation of the Creed.

This “spiritual bond” was granted — at the request of

Bishop Provost — by His Eminence, Santos Cardinal Abril y Castellò, the Cardinal Archbishop of the Basilica and His Eminence, Emmanuel Cardinal Montero de Castro, the Cardinal Apostolic Penitentiary following Bishop Provost’s 2012 ad limina visit to the Holy See.

June 1 is also to be observed as a “Day of Prayer and Fasting at the Beginning of the Hurricane Season” in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Diocesan Briefs...

Mass of Thanksgiving planned for Msgr. Torres

LAKE CHARLES — A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 25, for Monsignor Daniel A. Torres, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, 3939 Lake Street. The Mass is in honor of his 25 years of priestly ministry. All are invited. For the safety of everyone, masks are to be worn and social distancing is requested.

CLI Summer Camp planned July 26-August 1

The Diocese of Lake Charles Office of Youth Ministry will host Diocesan Leadership Institute — a Catholic youth leadership camp — Monday, July 26 through Sunday, August 1, at the Dry Creek Retreat Center. CLI is a weeklong training experience for graduating eighth-graders through graduating high school seniors focusing on developing and sharpening leadership skills in a Christian manner that can be used in every aspect of their lives.

The cost for the week is \$450 with \$150 deposit due with registration form. Register online at <https://dolcyouth.org/cli> or with your parish minister. Mail check made payable to Diocesan Youth Office, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. Registrations are due by Thursday, June 17.

Prayer for the Recovery of the Diocese of Lake Charles after Hurricane Laura

Heavenly Father, Who willed that the fallen hut of David be rebuilt; that Your people return from exile to repopulate their lands, rebuild Jerusalem and restore the Temple; that Your Son, Jesus Christ, would be the new temple and that He would build a new Jerusalem, firmly set on the twelve apostles of the Lamb; look, Gracious Creator, upon our devastation now in the Diocese of Lake Charles and along the coast; rouse up in the hearts of many good and faithful workers the courage, perseverance, and fortitude to bring Your task to a successful completion, where fortis overcomes will give Your name glory and be protected from the onslaught of the Devil; put to flight lethargy of spirit and wharfeness of our wills so that the good works of Your beloved people will be seen as fulfilling Your work; grant us understanding, God of all light and reason, so that we will comprehend Your ways and see in every suffering and tribulation an occasion to embrace Your will and grow in love for You. Grant, loving Father, through that same Jesus Christ, our Lord, all these prayers by the intercession of Our Lady Star of the Sea, You, who live and reign in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles
On the occasion of Hurricane Laura
August 27, 2020*

Catholic Charities grateful for extra help from volunteers

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

As executive director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, Sister Miriam MacLean, RSM, welcomes extra help from volunteers as the community continues to see an increased demand for assistance since last year’s hurricanes and this year’s winter storm. Many people had already been struggling because of COVID’s negative impact on employment.

“We rely on outside groups a lot especially as we work to stabilize our volunteer program to sustain the increased needs with eight additional food distribution sites,” said Sister Miriam. “The Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Mich., sent their pre-postulants to assist for a couple of weeks, and two Americorps teams were a tremendous help as well as many high school students volunteering during their spring breaks.”

Sister Miriam is especially grateful for the extra manpower received from the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the Bronx, N.Y. Several brothers were here for a little more than four weeks assisting throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles.

During the month of April, Catholic Charities served nearly 3,000 people with 217,000 pounds of donated food and supplies through the Diocese’s five-parish region.

“It is because of our community partners, local parishes, donors, and volunteers that we can come together to serve the community,” said Sister Miriam.

An essential part of living the life of a friar is their apostolic work of serving the poor. They relate to what it is like being dependent on the generosity of others. From food to clothing to paying bills, the friars beg for everything.

“Part of our poverty is to be in solidarity with the poor,” said Brother Daniel Morrissey, CFR. “I really enjoy being able to give of myself in this way. I fell in love with living poorly and serving the poor after going on a missionary trip to Calcutta, India, and working with the Missionaries of Charities.”

The Community of Franciscan Friars was begun in 1987 by eight Capuchin friars. As consecrated religious, the friars embrace poverty, chastity, and obedience. And they do it with joy.

Brother Moses Weakly, CFR, said there is a real grace with wearing the habit (gray colored robe). “People may not know what our robes mean, but they know that we have to do with God. Something inside them responds to that,” he said.

“People generally let down their walls. They feel safe and can speak their needs, their sufferings, and struggles without any judgment.”

One of the most fulfilling parts of being a friar, for Father

Giles Barrie, CFR, is making great friends amongst the poor and the volunteers. “I enjoy seeing the Lord in all aspects of not only my life, but also my brothers, through the poor, and how powerful the Lord works,” he said. His approach to poverty is never, “what’s the most I am allowed, but always with the mindset of “what’s the least I need?”

Last week the Franciscan Friars returned to Our Lady of the Angels Friary where they can tell their brothers about their first time eating boiled crawfish in Louisiana.

“When I was a boy, I saw a crawfish boil on a ‘Scooby Doo’ movie,” recalled Brother Moses. “Ever since that time, I wanted to go to a crawfish boil, so this was the fulfillment of my childhood desire bucket list,” he said with a boisterous laugh. Other foods tried for the first time and really enjoyed were cracklins, boudin, fried alligator, chicken and sausage gumbo, and Blue Bell ice cream.

You can view the food distribution schedule for the remainder of May at www.catholiccharitiesswla.com. If you would like to help with volunteer efforts, please call 337-439-7436.



Sister Miriam MacLean, RSM, executive director of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, is assisted by Brother Daniel Morrissey, CFR, during a recent food distribution event outside the nonprofit agency in Lake Charles. Several Franciscan Friars from Our Lady of the Angels Friary in the Bronx, N.Y., spent more than four weeks helping with relief efforts throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles.

(Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

June Food Distribution Schedule

Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana announces the food distribution schedule for the month of June:

- **Tuesday, June 8:** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 1100 St. Mary Street, Elton
- **Wednesday, June 9:** 11 a.m. to noon, 184 E. Creole Highway, Creole
- **Thursday, June 10:** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Pius X Catholic Church, 16816 US-171, Ragley
- **Friday, June 11:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Catholic Charities, 1225 Second Street, Lake Charles
- **Tuesday, June 15:** noon to 1:30 p.m., Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, 710 N. State Street, Jennings
- **Wednesday, June 16:** 11 a.m. to noon, Saint Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, 11054 LA-384, Big Lake
- **Friday, June 18:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Catholic Charities, 1225 Second Street, Lake Charles
- **Tuesday, June 22:** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 504 Fourth Avenue, Kinder
- **Wednesday, June 23:** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1502 Industrial Street, Vinton
- **Thursday, June 24:** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1125 Blankenship Drive, DeRidder