



Rev. Michael Beverung ordained to priesthood for Diocese of Lake Charles

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — The ordination of Reverend Michael Beverung to the priesthood on Saturday, May 22, was a timely reminder of God's promise to remain with us through the sacraments — a reminder many could use after being battered by historic flooding just days earlier.

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the ordaining prelate for the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. In his homily, he noted the "unprecedented difficulties" many are facing from several natural disasters in less than a year's time.

When friends from elsewhere ask how things are going in Louisiana, Bishop Provost said the answer escapes him, which drew a chuckle from the congregation as many can relate to how he feels.

"With two hurricanes simultaneous to a pandemic, an ice storm and now flooding, I am challenged to find adequate words," he said; however, "this inadequacy is exactly what the Lord wants because He will provide the words. All we must do is listen."

"There comes a time when disaster strikes," Bishop Provost continued.

"Something terribly unpleasant happens and we are devastated as never before.

We run to the Lord and ask, 'Why?' What do we do next? We listen. We return to the Blessed Sacrament, and we listen. The Lord is calling us to obedience, to hearken to His voice, a voice found in silence. ... As stubborn human nature would have it, sometimes only catastrophes can unstop our ears to listen."

Father Beverung is evi-

dence of someone who has listened and been obedient to God's voice.

"I remember spending many hours in the Adoration chapel at Our Lady Queen of Heaven during high school," said the newly ordained priest. "That is where I felt God's call the most."

His parents, Steven and Patsy Beverung, remember well their only son's closeness to the Lord during his teenage years and were somewhat expecting his interest in the seminary.

"When Michael first told me that he wanted to be a priest, I was not surprised," his mother said. "I could tell by his involvement with the youth group and always wanting to go to Mass or spend time in the Adoration chapel. I know Michael must be feeling relief after being ordained because this is something he has wanted for a long time. Both his father and I are very proud of him."

His mother said that listening is a strength of Michael's that will serve him well in his vocation as a priest.

"Michael has the ability to be able to listen to people and always be fair," Patsy said. "He also knows how to make others feel calm and comfortable. Many people have told me these are positive traits they see in him."

Father Beverung said he has been blessed with wonderful priest role models in his life, one especially who served as a mentor during his discernment process. The Very Rev. Ruben J. Buller, V.G., assisted Michael with vesting, which is customary as a way to honor a mentor priest.

Before the vesting, every priest in attendance laid hands on Michael as a symbol of unity among the brother priests. The collective gathering of priests was a visible reminder

of their selfless vocation in service to others and their obedience to God.

Expressing his gratitude to Bishop Provost for allowing him to study as a seminarian for the Diocese of Lake Charles, Father Beverung said he is thankful for the bishop's strong support of priestly formation. He also conveyed appreciation to Monsignor Daniel Torres, his first vocation director and pastor at his home parish of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, as well as his parents, family and friends who have always been there for him through his journey to the priesthood.

Bishop Provost extended his best wishes and blessing to those gathered.

"It is a joyful day in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Indeed, we need a little joyful celebration in the midst of our woe," he said. "Our Lord gives us these moments so that we can participate in the joy that He has promised us at the end of the age when He will come again. We are confident and hopeful always, and this ordination is a sign of hope."

Before the final blessing, Deacon George Stearns, diocesan chancellor, announced several pastoral assignments, including Father Beverung's first priestly assignment as Parochial Vicar to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur.

For the complete text of Bishop Provost's ordination homily, visit <http://www.lcdioocese.org/3-news/3183-bishop-provost-s-2021-ordination-homily>



Bishop Glen John Provost is joined by Reverend Michael Beverung following his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday, May 22, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

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

Three St. Louis High graduates accepted to seminary for Diocese

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

Three new seminarians for the Diocese of Lake Charles have been accepted by Bishop Glen John Provost, according to the Office of Vocations.

Michael DesOrmeaux, Julian Jones, and Liam Leonard — all from the St. Louis Catholic High School Class of 2021 — will begin their studies at St. Joseph Seminary College in Saint Benedict near Covington in the fall. With the new additions, this brings the total to eight men in various stages of formation for the priesthood in the diocese.

Michael is the 18-year-old son of David and Courtney DesOrmeaux of Moss Bluff, and his home parish is the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles. He is the oldest of five children.

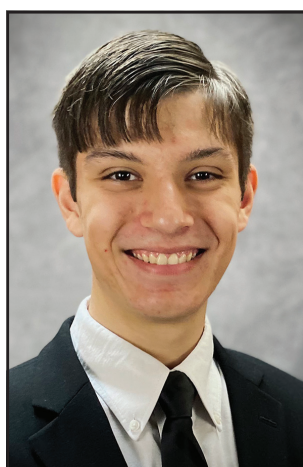
Julian, a parishioner of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, is the 18-year-old son of Dawn Walker of Lake Charles and the late Shannon Brown.

Liam is the 17-year-old son of Kevin and Cathy Leonard of Sulphur, and his home parish is Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church. He is the youngest of three children.

God's call to the priesthood for each of these young men became obvious to them in various ways.

"There were a lot of times in my life when things were hard or didn't seem like it would have a good outlook," said Liam. "Priests showed me how to rely on God. I want to be that person for others." Liam credits Father D.B. Thompson with being an influence on his decision to apply for seminary entrance.

"Just before Hurricane Laura, I was helping Father Thompson down in Creole," he recalled. "I had been think-



Michael DesOrmeaux



Julian Jones



Liam Leonard

ing about the priesthood for a while, but seeing him down in that community helping others, he had sort of a oneness with the people that really opened my heart up to the idea."

Julian grew up serving the church and was always aware of how happy priests are. He said he wanted to experience that kind of happiness. It was his sophomore year in high school when he felt the tug on his heart to discern the priesthood.

"I had the same dream twice where I was celebrating Mass as a priest," he remembers. "When I shared the dream with Father (Sam) Orsot, he told me that I should take that as a sign from God that He is calling me to be a priest. Then one day during Mass, I saw myself on the altar as a priest. I thought I was seeing things, but I took that also as a sign from God."

Michael knew he would only be happy doing God's will. It was something his parents instilled in him throughout his life. "I always had a general openness to whatever God's will was for me, but it wasn't until I made the St. Ben's Come and See Vocation Discernment Weekend during my

sophomore year when I was convinced of what God was asking of me," he said. "While I was there, I felt a deep peace overwhelm me, deeper than anything I had ever known before. Since then, priesthood has been my focus."

Liam enjoys reading, spending time with family, and learning to play the piano. He said he would do more if fishing if he was any good at it. His favorite saint is Blessed Karl of Austria. "We live in an era where leaders don't often stand for Christian values. We also live in an era where we have a decline of father figures. Blessed Karl is an excellent example of both," said Liam. "We need leaders like him in our times."

A few of Julian's favorite pastimes are photography, listening to music, and being with his friends and family. His favorite saint is St. Sebastian. "In high school and middle school, I played a variety of sports," he said. "My grandmother, Sandra Jones, told me I should pray to St. Sebastian because he is the patron saint of athletes. Over the years, I have grown to admire him."

He especially loves theology, which is one reason he is drawn to St. Thomas Aquinas as his favorite saint. "He was brilliant. To see this tremendous voice of reason and see him articulate theology so well is wonderful."

Seminarians continuing in their formation to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles are **Josh Page** from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, Sulphur; **Treville Belcher, Garrett Broussard, and Hunter LaRocca**, all from Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Lake Charles; and **Philip Seilhan**, from Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Jennings. Their summer parish assignments are: Page and Seilhan — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; Belcher — Our Lady Help of Christians; Broussard — St. Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley; and LaRocca — Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

Anyone interested in a vocation to the priesthood is encouraged to contact Father Michael Caraway, Vocation Director, at michael.caraway@lcdioocese.org.



Decree of Announcement of Pastoral Assignments

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, hereby announces the pastoral assignments for the year two thousand and twenty-one for the Diocese of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Effective July 1, 2021:

The **Rev. Alan Trouille** - Pastor, St. Philip Neri Parish, Kinder

The **Rev. Susil Fernando** - Pastor, Our Lady of Seven Dolours Parish, Welsh

The **Rev. Trey Ange** - Administrator, Immaculate Conception Parish, Jennings

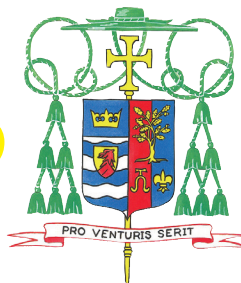
The **Rev. Michael Caraway** - Vocation Director, in residence at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish

The **Rev. Michael Beverung** - Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, Sulphur

Signed by our hand and that of our Vice-Chancellor, on day twenty-two of May in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-One

✠ Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

(Very Rev.) Ruben Villarreal
Vice-Chancellor



Bishop Provost: Answers to Questions in Troubled Times

The following has been edited from an earlier pastoral letter to the priests of the Diocese of Lake Charles in June of 2018. The Catechism of the Catholic Church had just observed the 25th Anniversary of its promulgation.

Over the last few years, I have become increasingly aware of the concerns and puzzlement of Catholic Christians concerning Catholic teaching. Most of this confusion is generated by, but not confined to, exposure to the media. For any of us, who love the Church and the disconcerting teachings of Jesus Christ as found in the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition, this is the authentic teaching. That the Catholic faithful sense a lack of clarity in fundamentals of doctrine, such as the Eucharistic Presence, the indissolubility of sacramental marriage, the very definition of matrimony itself, the existence of hell, the nature of sin, the consequences of moral choice, and the authority of the Sacred Scriptures, is distressing to me, as a Bishop, and should be to any ordained cleric, catechetical instructor, or Catholic parent.

In October of 1992, Pope St. John Paul II issued the Apostolic Constitution *Fidei depositum*, on the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In the opening sentence of the document, Pope St. John Paul II wrote, "Guarding the Deposit of Faith is the mission which the Lord entrusted to His Church, and which she fulfills in every age." The Holy Father later asked in the document that "... all the Church's Pastors and the Christian faithful ... receive this catechism in a spirit of communion and to use it assiduously in fulfilling their mission of proclaiming the faith and calling people to the Gospel life. This catechism is given to them that it may be a sure and authentic reference text for teaching catholic doctrine.... It is also offered to all the faithful who wish to deepen their knowledge of the unfathomable riches of salvation (cf. Ephesians 3:8)."

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* remains an indispensable source to assist in dispelling the confusion that exists today. We should use it. When questions arise, we should consult it. When fundamental teachings are attacked, we should seek the correct answer by utilizing this rich resource.

The truths of the faith are not clarified in casual "tweets." Nor are they officially communicated by informal interviews granted to popular journalists. They are certainly not treated fairly in the speculations of dubious theologians and self-proclaimed experts. When I want a diagnosis on my health, I go to my doctor. I may consult the electronic media or inquire about the experiences of my neighbor, but when I want accuracy and truth concerning my health, I go to the expert with knowl-

edge of the illness. A doctor may give me a casual opinion or speculative assessment when we meet in the grocery store or at a social gathering. However, nothing substitutes for the professional judgment of a physician who has examined the patient, administered the appropriate tests, formulated a well-informed diagnosis and with the best interests of the patient in mind assigned a treatment. Similarly, when I want an articulation of Church teaching, I do not find it in agenda-driven journals or the opinions of malcontents, off-the-cuff remarks, or media interviews.

Furthermore, the truths of the faith do not originate in my preferences or some trend-driven discernment presumed more enlightened. The truths of the faith originate in the salvific Will of God, revealed fully in Jesus Christ, and officially taught by the Church, without prejudice and without abiding charity. St. Paul wrote prophetically to St. Timothy: "For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:3-5). St. Paul understood well, for he saw it happening in his own day, that there is always a tendency to deviate from the truth. The truth is compromised when our "own desires" take precedence. The truth is not a matter of opinion. Revealed truth by its very definition is a gift.

St. Paul felt so strongly about this teaching that he addressed a scathing condemnation to those who pervert the truth of the Gospel: "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed!" (Galatians 1:8-9).

At moments such as these in our history, we must courageously live by the truth as revealed by God in Jesus Christ and taught by His Church down through the centuries. The truths of our faith are a most prized possession. We cannot dismiss them or view them as a human invention. We should approach them with respect and reverence, as having come from the font of Divine Revelation. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a most dependable and trustworthy articulation of these revealed truths. And we have a serious obligation to ensure that the Deposit of Faith is communicated in all charity and with all the accuracy and brilliance that the truth deserves.

Faithful pray for protection from storms with annual Mass, pilgrimage to Shrine

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

Surrounded by visible reminders of Mass-to-back hurricanes in 2020, dozens of people gathered on June 1 — the first day of the 2021 hurricane season — for the annual Mass to Avert Storms, followed by a pilgrimage to the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron.

This year's votive Mass, celebrated by Bishop Glen John Provost, took on a different format because of destruction to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church where the Mass is usually held. Instead, the faithful gathered in the parish hall of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Big Lake because of extensive damage to that church from Hurricane Laura.

Bishop Provost was joined by several clergy including Monsignor James Gaddy, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish; Rev. Jerish George, M.O.C., administrator for Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish on the Coast; Rev. Arvind Minz, H.G.N., pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Hackberry; Rev. Clyde Thomas, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Oberlin; Very Rev. Ruben Buller, Vicar General; Father Sam Bond, Master of Ceremonies; Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Sr., director for the Apostleship of the Sea; and Deacon Dale Deshotel, St. Joan of Arc Parish.

"The people of this area and the Diocese of Lake Charles have suffered much since two hurricanes made landfall in almost the exact spot last year," said Bishop Provost. "Some remain homeless. Others are challenged to rebuild. Despite all this, we have seen the hand of God extending His protection and strength to us."



The annual Mass to Avert Storms took place in the parish hall of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Big Lake this year because of destruction by Hurricane Laura last year to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron. St. Mary of the Lake suffered its own damage when Laura ripped one side of its roof completely off the church.

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

Among those in attendance at the Mass and visit to the Shrine were Mr. J.C. Reina, 94, and his wife Madge, 88, longtime parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole and residents of the Oak Grove community between Creole and Grand Chenier. Both retirees from the Cameron Parish school system, the Reinas have never thought about living anywhere else.

"Our plan is to move back to Oak Grove. That is home to me," said Madge who is no stranger to hurricanes. "We were married in 1953 and Audrey hit in 1957. After starting over from Audrey, Rita, Ike, and now Laura and Delta, we just do what we have to do. The Blessed Mother is our guiding light, and the Holy Rosary is one of our most frequent prayers."

Madge has deep roots to Sacred Heart, the second oldest parish in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Her grandfather Boyd Nunez was involved in its founding. "Hurricane Laura makes you face reality," she said. "It was disappointing to learn some of the churches will not be rebuilt, but at the same time it is realistic to know we don't have the population or the finances to keep the churches going. I am grateful that our church is going to the Sweetlake community; it's better than no church at all."

Mr. Guy Murphy, 81, and his wife, Nelvia, 80, also parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish have witnessed many hurricanes throughout their 60 years of marriage. What is it about the area that keeps them going back after each storm?

"Our hearts are there," said Nelvia. "We have property there; we have cattle. My family loves farming. We have a daughter (Lisa Savoie) who is buried in Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery in Creole. My heart is there, too."

A teenager at the time, Guy remembers Hurricane Audrey like it was yesterday. "We made it to the Cameron courthouse through knee-deep water. I could feel the cement walls move 2-3 inches when the waves hit against the building. We saw houses pass in front of us with people on top of the roofs," he recalled. "After Hurricane Laura, Creole is like a ghost town. Laura tore everything up; barns, fences, cattle guard, cow pens, gone, just all gone."

Bishop Provost reminded the faithful that God is always present to those impacted by the storms through extraordinary acts of kindness and charity offered by people across the nation.

"I recall visiting a parish in New Orleans last year who had been considerably generous to our Catholic Charities following the storms," he said. "I thanked the pastor in the presence of some parishioners, and one of them responded, 'We cannot forget how generous the people of your area were to us after Katrina.' Charity binds us. Love enriches our lives. This is an important lesson that tragedy can teach us."

At the Shrine, which was left miraculously unscathed from Hurricane Laura, Bishop Provost led those gathered in praying the "Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto" followed by the Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season. The Shrine was erected in 1963 to honor victims of Hurricane Audrey, one of the deadliest storms to ever strike the United States.



The St. Louis Award

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 2021 recipients are Caroline Broussard and James-David Self. The announcement of the award was made during the St. Louis Catholic High School commencement ceremony Tuesday, May 18, in the Burton Coliseum. The awards, made possible by the Lake Charles Serra Club, are presented 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.

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

Ministerial Assignments for the Diocese of Lake Charles

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles makes the following ministerial assignments for the Diocese of Lake Charles:

Effective July 1, 2021:

The Reverend Deacon Brian Soileau is appointed The Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation and remains the Director of the Saint Charles Center and Camp Karol and the Assistant to the Vicar for Clergy.

Mr. Rickard Newman remains the Director of Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Sister Mary Benedicta Maier, RSM, Mr. Blaine Wyninger, and Ms. Denise Wyninger are appointed as co-directors for the Offices of Marriage, Family Life, and Pro-Life Ministries.

Effective immediately:

Mr. Ricardo Ruvalcaba is appointed Spanish Pastoral Assistant at Saint Henry Parish with pastoral services to the Diocese as liaison to the Hispanic Community.

Given this day, May 21, 2021, by our hand and witnessed by the undersigned.

His Excellency
✠ The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

The Reverend Deacon George Stearns
Chancellor of the Diocese 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 2021 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



Bishop Glen John Provost blesses those in attendance at the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron on June 1, which marked the beginning of the 2021 hurricane season.