



Bishop Provost highlights two issues from USCCB Assembly

Editor's Note: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops met in a virtual format June 16-18 for their Spring General Assembly. The following is a report from Bishop Glen John Provost of the Diocese of Lake Charles.

I would like to share with you, the faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles, some reflections on the recent Spring General Assembly of the USCCB, conducted via remote means, and to clarify an issue that excited much discussion and media attention.

Teaching document on reception of Eucharist

One item involved approving the request of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine to proceed with the drafting of a formal statement on the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. The bishops of the Committee on Doctrine judged this document timely, because of the return of the faithful to regular church attendance following the pandemic lockdowns. As well, the Committee was concerned that various surveys indicate a substantial deficit in the faithful's understanding of the Eucharist.

There was some opposition to drafting this document. It was, however, apparent to many of us that to argue over the contents of a document which had not yet been written, for which only a draft outline existed, was premature. The Committee assured us that the intention of the document was to instruct. I was very much in favor of the Committee continuing with its work.

An issue surfaced, receiving disproportionate emphasis by the media and overreactive commentators, concerning the denial of Holy Communion to those "who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin" (Canon 915). The Canon Law of the Church which governs the behavior of Her members is clear in this matter. There is a procedure to be followed, in consistency with the Gospel mandates (cf. Matthew 18:15-18) and the apostolic teaching of St. Paul (cf. I Corinthians 11:27-29). All is done to assist with the conversion of heart which is necessary for the communicant in the Eucharist. The approach is truthful, honest, and forthcoming. For those of us from Louisiana old enough to remember, Archbishop Joseph Rummel of New Orleans in 1962 excommunicated a public official who had in a "manifest" way stood in opposition to the desegregation of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese. The Archbishop's actions are still viewed as heroic.

Advancement of cause for canonization for Southwest Louisiana priest

The example of heroism also came to the USCCB with a request from Bishop Douglas Deshotel of Lafayette. I had the privilege of endorsing, along with Archbishop Timothy Broglio, an effort by the Bishop of Lafayette to advance the cause for canonization for the Servant of God, Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur. Bishop Deshotel initiated this request for the support of the Catholic bishops of the United States, a measure required by the canonical process.

I joined my endorsement to Archbishop Broglio's because for eight years as a young priest, I was assigned to the parish where Father Lafleur served exemplarily in the late 1930's. When the bishop assigned me to the parish in the 1970's, there remained certain older parishioners who recalled with great affection Father Lafleur's service to the parish.

Before the bombardment of Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into World War II, Father Lafleur entered the chaplaincy to the armed services. The Japanese incarcerated him as a prisoner of war, where this young priest from Southwest Louisiana endeared himself to the other prisoners, never abandoning them, caring for them, sharing his rations, and comforting them in prayer. In transfer on an unmarked Japanese ship, he died trying to rescue prisoners when the vessel was sunk by a torpedo. He posthumously received some of the highest decorations, including the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Medal. He was truly a heroic priest and an example of what it means to give up one's life for the sheep.

Other items appeared before the Conference, but I thought these two would be of particular interest to you. Please keep the bishops in your prayers. These are challenging times which require great discernment. In remaining open to the authentic teaching of the Church and to the Holy Spirit which guides us still, I am confident that we will constructively address these challenges.

FROM CANCUN TO THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES Ricardo Ruvalcaba begins role as Spanish Pastoral Assistant

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

Little did Ricardo Ruvalcaba know when he entered the seminary at the age of 14 that his journey toward the priesthood would eventually lead him to the Diocese of Lake Charles, but not as a priest. God had something else in mind for the Cancun native.

Ricardo, now 35, married and a father with two daughters, was appointed on May 21 by Bishop Glen John Provost to serve as Spanish Pastoral Assistant at St. Henry Parish with pastoral services to the Diocese as liaison to the Hispanic community.

Having served in the seminary for 10 years — nine of those years with the Legionaries of Christ — Ricardo had been discerning for a while if God was calling him to be a priest.

"I entered the seminary very young. After nine years, my spiritual director asked me to spend one year in my diocese, the Diocese of Cancun-Chetumal," he recalled. "Many people think it is hard to enter the seminary, but I think it is harder to go out than to enter. Why? Because people already have expectations of you. I prayed for three years, talking with my spiritual director before making my decision. A priest's life is beautiful, it's wonderful; but it was not for me."

Ricardo's wife, Badiha Galeazzi, had also pursued the possibility of religious life, studying for seven years with the Misioneras del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). She was inspired to enter the convent after hearing a talk given by Ri-

cardo to confirmation students. Neither one of them knew each other at the time.

"When I left the seminary, I prayed to Jesus to help me find a woman with my same goals," Ricardo said. "When I met Badiha, she was no longer studying to be a nun, and I was no longer in seminary. Two years and two months later, we married on October 26, 2012. Now that I am married, I can't imagine my life without her and my two princesses, Badiha Alessandra, 6, and Lineth Badiha, 4."

While traveling to Jennings several years ago to visit Badiha's mother and stepfather during the Christmas holidays, they all attended Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church. Father Charles McMillin was pastor at the time and mentioned to Ricardo that Bishop Provost was looking for someone to help in the Hispanic community. Ricardo didn't hesitate for a minute to offer his services.

"I flew back a couple of months later to discuss my proposal of what I could do if given the position. It was a big challenge for me because the entire meeting was in English," Ricardo said. "It was a long process to apply for the temporary worker visa, but here I am three years later with my family living in Jennings."

Ricardo welcomes the commute to St. Henry Parish in Lake Charles every day since it provides quality time for him to brush up on his English.

"I want to speak good English. Every day, I listen to my lesson on my way to work and back home, in addition to listening on my lunch break," he said. "In

total, I spend at least two hours a day on my lessons. I actually started several years ago when I knew I would be coming to America to work."

In his role as Spanish Pastoral Assistant, Ricardo said the priority is to follow a Spanish program for the sacraments and for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

"The goal is to follow the same program that the American community does," he said. "Sacraments are the priority. We know the sacraments are a great way to arrive to Jesus, maybe considered an easy way to arrive to Jesus."

Along with multiple degrees in marketing and business, Ricardo is on schedule to complete his Masters Degree in education in August. In addition to being an author, he also brings to the diocese seasoned acting skills. Ricardo is founder and director of Via Crucis Viviente — one of the largest live Stations of the Cross in the world.

"I love the theater, the performance, the plays. For me, it is a great way to evangelize," he said. "It is a great way to bring Jesus to the people. My hope is to eventually evangelize with performances here."

Getting acquainted with the Hispanic community is important for Ricardo as he tries to learn all the names of parishioners at St. Henry Catholic Church.

"They are a very warm people. I feel like I have known them for a long time," Ricardo said with an expression of gratitude. "I am very relaxed here, and my family is safe here. In my vocation, I am still doing what I love, and that is sharing my faith. For me, I am in Heaven."



Ricardo Ruvalcaba

Catholic Schools 2021-2022 calendar released

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles will begin the 2021-2022 school year with the return of students at the five schools located in Calcasieu Parish on Wednesday, August 18. Students at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings will make the transition back to classes over several days with girls in grades 1-8 returning on Wednesday, August 11; boys in grades 1-8 returning on Thursday, August 12; and PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten students going back to class on Monday, August 16.

Calcasieu Parish schools include St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, and Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; and Our Lady's Catholic School in Sulphur.

Holidays during the school year — days the students are not in attendance — include:

- Labor Day, Monday, September 6
- Fair Day (Our Lady Immaculate), Friday, October 8
- Thanksgiving, Monday, November 22 to Friday, November 26
- Christmas, Monday, December 20 to Friday, December 31
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 17
- Mardi Gras — Friday, February 25 to Tuesday, March 1 (Calcasieu schools); and Monday, February 28 to Wednesday, March 2 (Our Lady Immaculate)
- Easter, Friday, April 15 to Friday, April 22

In-service days for teachers and staff include October 11 and January 3 (all schools); and May 23 (Our Lady Immaculate). The last day of classes for OLI students will be Friday, May 20; and Thursday, May 26, for Calcasieu schools.

Information for the 2021-2022 school calendar was released by the Office of Catholic Schools.

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 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



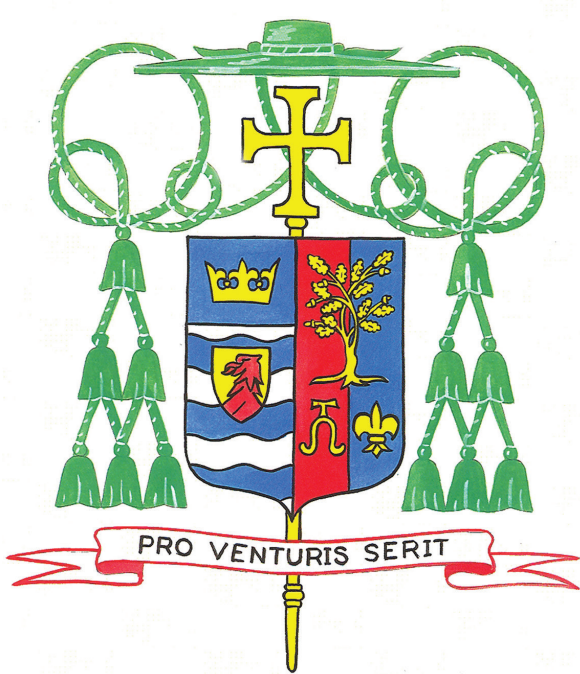
During the June 23 celebration of Holy Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Glen John Provost accepted Hunter LaRocca, right, to Candidacy for Holy Orders and installed Garrett Broussard, left, to the Ministry of Lector. The Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders offers those seeking ordination the opportunity to publicly express their intention to receive ordination as a Deacon and perhaps later as a Priest. The aspirant composes beforehand and then signs and dates before the start of the rite in the presence of the Bishop a declaration stating his conscious intention to serve others in the Spirit of Compassionate Presence as an ordained cleric and is making this intention freely on his own accord. The Bishop also signs and dates this declaration, attesting acknowledgement of receipt thereof in the name of the Church. As a Lector, Broussard is appointed to read the word of God in the liturgical assembly. Accordingly, he reads the lesson from sacred Scripture, except the Gospel, in the Mass and in other sacred celebrations; recites the psalms between the readings, in the absence of the cantor; presents the intentions for general intercessions when the deacon or cantor is absent; and may also direct the congregation in song. This fall, both men return to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for the continuation of theological studies.

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

July 16, 2021



July 14, 2021
Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
Lily of the Mohawks

My Dear People of God,

Greetings to you from our Lord Jesus Christ and God His Father!

I am pleased to publish the Financial Statement from our Annual Audit for the Diocese of Lake Charles. The Audit is conducted by an independent auditor. It includes the position of the Diocese of Lake Charles and does not include the financials of the parishes which the pastors of the parishes are asked to publish individually each year for their parishioners.

I am always moved by the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Lake Charles and the good work that we are able to accomplish each year because of your selfless giving. In particular, this year has been filled with the challenges of COVID-19, the hurricanes, the freeze in February, and the flooding that occurred in May. I extend to all of you my heartfelt thanks for your generosity that make our recovery possible.

Should you wish to see the full audit, it is published on our diocesan website (lcdio-cese.org). Any questions may be addressed to the Diocese of Lake Charles by calling 337-439-7400.

In gratitude to our Heavenly Father, the giver of every good gift, I remain,

Sincerely 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, 2020 and 2019

	2020	2019
Assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 14,436,654	\$ 14,674,156
Investments	975,313	1,306,292
Accounts receivable, net	896,134	466,160
Grants receivable	-	67,500
Pledges receivable, net	1,006,876	5,489,573
Loan receivable	125,459	48,389
Cash value of life insurance policies	683,945	699,987
Prepaid insurance and other expenses	400,154	827,301
Property, equipment, and improvements, net	11,625,594	10,301,192
Investments pledged as collateral	100,000	100,000
Deposit in self-insurance pool	285,116	285,116
Beneficial interests in securities held in trust	1,883,260	1,948,375
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 32,418,505	\$ 36,214,041
Liabilities and net assets:		
Accounts payable	\$ 574,590	\$ 1,440,006
National collections and other payables	197,951	195,877
Accrued insurance claims payable	374,067	291,086
Contributions and benefit payables	74,995	148,960
Due to parishes	942,053	1,622,207
Deferred revenue	-	18,276
Other post employment benefits payable	5,960,768	4,835,404
Note payable	750,800	-
Contingent liability	-	-
Total Liabilities	8,875,224	8,551,816
Net assets - without donor restrictions	13,212,244	10,047,628
Net assets - with donor restrictions	10,331,037	17,614,597
Total Net Assets	23,543,281	27,662,225
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 32,418,505	\$ 36,214,041

Statement of Activities Year Ended June 30, 2020

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	2020 Totals
Support and Revenue:			
Parochial tithe	\$ 2,499,693	\$ -	\$ 2,499,693
Diocesan assessments	7,030,551	289,106	7,319,657
Diocesan appeals	-	170,612	170,612
Contributions and bequests	3,343,204	839,166	4,182,370
Grants and subsidies	-	1,353,921	1,353,921
Investment income	175,680	43,829	219,509
Gain from disposal of property	200	-	200
Specials program and other revenues	900,525	28,216	928,741
Net assets released from restrictions	10,008,410	(10,008,410)	-
TOTAL REVENUE	23,958,263	(7,283,560)	16,674,703
Expenses:			
Program expenses			
Clergy life	2,376,964	-	2,376,964
Christian formation	2,039,466	-	2,039,466
Pastoral services	2,394,478	-	2,394,478
Health care and casualty insurance	5,916,591	-	5,916,591
Supporting services			
General administration	7,965,325	-	7,965,325
Fund raising	100,823	-	100,823
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,793,647	-	20,793,647
Decrease in net assets	3,164,616	(7,283,560)	(4,118,944)
Net assets, beginning of year	10,047,628	17,614,597	27,662,225
Net assets, end of year	\$ 13,212,244	\$ 10,331,037	\$ 23,543,281

Father Ed Brunnert interred at Mimosa Pines

"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." Ps 110:4

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, the Rev. Edward J. Brunnert, a Priest of the Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette and long-time Pastor in the Diocese of Lake Charles, passed away on May 5, at 86 years of

age and after 58 years of Priesthood.

Fr. Brunnert was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 20, 1935, the son of Joseph and Helen (nee Mueller) Brunnert. As a high school seminarian, he entered formation for the Priesthood at LaSalette Minor Seminary in Jefferson City, Missouri. Following high

school, he studied philosophy at the LaSalette College Seminary in Altamont, New York. He made his first Profession of Vows July 2, 1956, and continued his philosophy studies from 1956 to 1958 at the LaSalette Seminary in Ipswich, Mass. He continued his studies in theology in Rome, Italy, at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas

Aquinas, the Angelicum, completing a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1964. He was ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ in Rome on April 15, 1963.

Fr. Brunnert completed a Master's Degree in Christian Spirituality at Creighton University in 1978.

During his lifetime of service to the Church, Fr. Brunnert held many positions within the LaSalette religious order including that of Professor at the Minor Seminary, Seminary Formation Director, Director of the St. Louis Provincial Development Office, and Provincial Vicar of the St. Louis Province.

Pastoral assignments in the Diocese of Lake Charles included Our Lady of Prompt Succor (Sulphur), Our Lady of LaSalette (Sulphur), St. Peter the Apostle (Hackberry); Immaculate Conception (Sul-

phur); Our Lady Help of Christians (Jennings); Our Lady of LaSalette (DeQuincy); and St. John Bosco (Westlake).

Fr. Brunnert is survived by his brother, Fr. Jude Brunnert, M.S.; his older brother, Joseph; and his sister, Theresa Lichtenecker (Ken); along with several nieces and nephews.

Following a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by The Most Reverend Glen John Provost at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, burial was in the LaSalette Missionaries' plot at Mimosa Pines Cemetery, under the direction of Hixson-Sulphur Memorial Funeral Home.

Our Lady of LaSalette, Reconciler of Sinners, Pray Without Ceasing for Us Who Have Recourse to You!

Requiescat in pace.



Rev. Ed Brunnert, M.S.



"SAVE THE DATE"
Diocese of Lake Charles
Eucharistic Congress
November 13, 2021