



## Bishop Provost leads faithful in consecration prayer for peace

By Pamela Seal  
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — In union with Pope Francis and thousands of bishops around the world, Bishop Glen John Provost led the faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles in praying for peace and an end to war between Russia and Ukraine on Friday, March 25. It was standing room only in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for the historic global event.

Pope Francis had appealed to bishops everywhere to join him on the Solemnity of the Annunciation in consecrating humanity, particularly Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Pope's request was in response to the war and at the request of the Blessed Virgin Mary made in an apparition at Fatima on July 13, 1917.

Toward the end of the 12:05 p.m. Mass, Bishop Provost prayed the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary while kneeling in front of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Joining the Bishop were Father Rommel Tolentino, Rector of the Cathedral; Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Sr.; and Father Samuel Bond, Master of Ceremonies.

In his homily, Bishop Provost reflected on the dangerous times we find ourselves and how our youth never saw the horrors of world wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, or even the Gulf Wars and Afghanistan.

"Now, every day, we are made aware of the sufferings of refugees, the murderous invasion of Ukraine, and the attempts of governments to stem the expansion of war to the entire world," he said. "What we need now is God. Without Him we are lost."

Bishop Provost added that he was struck by the faith of the refugees.

"The bishops of Ukraine have told their priests to remain at their churches and to attend to the needs of the people. The refugees and those who stay behind are seen praying, even under dire circumstances," Bishop continued.

He reminded the faithful that it was at the Annunciation when the Word entered human history through the assent of a humble virgin, "full of grace."

"The 'Word,' St. John tells us, 'was with God' (John 1:1). As a matter of fact, '...the Word was God' (John 1:1) This Word is Jesus Christ. Mary points the way for us to God," said Bishop Provost.

He added, "What does Mary tell us? Trust in God. Fear is useless. What is needed is trust, for all things are possible with God."

It is common for Catholics to turn to Mary in troubled times.

Doodle East, 85, of Lake Charles, said being a part of the Act of Consecration was a blessing and something she felt she had to do.

"We all need to pray so that we can have peace and for Ukraine. I had tears in my eyes when the bishop gave me communion," she said. "I was young during World War II, but I remember the day the bells rang signaling that the war was over."

East did not think she would ever see the possibility of another war in her lifetime.

"It is unbelievable the things that are going on in our country. Everyone needs to turn to the Blessed Mother and pray the rosary. I love my rosary and pray it several times daily," she said.

Samantha Armentor said it was a monumental moment in history for the bishops of the world to come together and for the Pope to try to follow Mary's Peace Plan from Heaven.

"I really wanted to be a part of the Church being more united in prayer," said Armentor. "As we were reciting the Act of Consecration, I thought about when popes in the past did some form of consecration to Mary, according to Fatima, and how that impacted history."

Armentor said she felt peace and hope even though we do not always see the fruit of our prayers. "There are so many countries where Christians are persecuted. How is this going to change not only us but the entire world?"

Mia Primeaux said it was important for her to attend the Mass and consecration as a remembrance of her mother, Dorrie Sheehan.

"My mother had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother. She died on the Feast of the Annunciation," said Primeaux. "I am wearing my mother's necklace. Today is the seventh anniversary of her death."

Even at the young age of 11, Paige Veronie, a student at Welsh Elementary School who attended the Mass with her parents, understands the significance of the Blessed Mother in her life.

"I love the Blessed Virgin Mary. I devoted myself to her when I was 8 years old," said Veronie. "For her to want a big country like Russia to be converted by our prayers is a big deal for me. When I am upset or hurt, I go to Mary because she is always my comfort."

The Cathedral remained open throughout the day for people to pray and venerate the Fatima statue. Copies of the Act of Consecration were available for anyone to pray individually as they were able.



**Bishop Provost kneels before a statue of Our Lady of Fatima as he recites the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception following Mass on March 25. He is assisted by Father Samuel Bond, Master of Ceremonies; and joined by Father Rommel Tolentino and Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Sr. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)**

## Bishop's Easter Message 2022

When a grandmother celebrates her 90th birthday or a couple observes their 50th wedding anniversary, there is rarely just one celebration. Family dinners are prepared, friends host parties, and visits are planned to the honorees. The moment is too grand, the accomplishment too significant, the affection too deep to be contained in just one moment. So, also, the Church celebrates Easter.

The Lord is risen from the dead. We cannot confine our joy to one day. So, the Church gives us not only Easter Sunday but also an Octave, eight days of solemnity, and an entire Easter Season to rejoice. During this time, the Church will lay before us the meaning of Easter. She begins by recounting how Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," "fearful yet overjoyed," "ran to announce" the good news to the disciples and met the Resurrected Lord on the way (Matthew 28:8-9). Have you ever been "fearful yet overjoyed"? Something serendipitous occurs, and you cannot believe your eyes. It is just too good to be true. Your heart pounds and your pulse quickens. Imagine the reaction of the women at the empty tomb! Yet, the "world" at times tries to steal our joy. We must not allow this to happen. Our Lord, who lives, does not want our joy to be taken from us.

The Gospel of St. Matthew describes how the guards reported to "the chief priests all that had happened" (Matthew 28:11). This prompted the elders to bribe the soldiers to lie and say, "His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep" (Matthew 28:13). This scheme, however, does not win the day. Lies never do. As Mary Magdalene will say, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). Jesus Christ lives.

To all of you, I wish the abiding joy of Easter!

## Holy Week services continue

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will celebrate the Good Friday commemoration of the Lord's Passion today, April 15, at 3 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street.

The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross with the faithful recognizing the "Cross of Christ" as their only hope of salvation and concluding with Holy Communion.

At 8 a.m. today, there will be morning prayer followed by a Walk with Christ from the Cathedral to the Old Catholic Cemetery and back, praying the Stations of the Cross, the Holy Rosary, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 16, begins at 8 p.m. with the Service of Light outside the Cathedral.

Easter Sunday Mass times for the Cathedral are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m., with Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 4 p.m.

Diocesan offices remain closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday, April 18, reopening at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19.

## Pope's consecration prayer for Ukraine, Russia

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love,

ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.  
Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.  
Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects

and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26.) In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross,

needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice, and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church, and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat," on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope," water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.





## Our Lady Help of Christians sweeps Quiz Bowl competition

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — A team of four from Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings walked away undefeated from the Diocesan 2022 Quiz Bowl hosted by the Office of Religious Education on Saturday, March 19.

A total of 56 students making up 14 teams represented area schools and church parishes competing in the fifth annual event for grades 6-8. The contest — on all things Catholic — was held at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School.

Other winning teams were St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, blue team, second place; Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, red team, third place; and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton, red team, fourth place. Schools or parishes that entered more than one team were distinguished by colors.

Cash prizes included \$400, \$200, \$100, and \$60, along with certificates signed by Bishop Glen John Provost. The Bishop also led the students in prayer before the start of the competition.

Teams answered a series of up to 30 questions in each round for one point each. After each question, the players rotated so all team members could participate. Being quick on the buzzer with the most correct answers was key to advancing to the next round.

Bryce Fontenot and Eli Moncla, team members of Our Lady Help of Christians, were aware of what was at stake to hold on to the championship from 2019. That was the last year Quiz Bowl was held before COVID-19 put a two-year pause on the competition.

“Our older siblings were on the winning team in 2018 and 2019,” said Moncla. “They won every round. What really motivated us was if we lost, our siblings would never let us live it down.”

This year, OLHC made it to the championship round undefeated as well. Their strategy was simple. They studied often.

“We got together about four times a week, went over a set of questions, did a practice round, and when we went home, we studied some more,” Moncla said.

“After studying the questions, the four of us would divide into teams of two and compete with each other,” said Fontenot. “We were nervous today, but we came, we tried, we did our best.”

A team from Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Lake Charles was eliminated after two rounds but enjoyed the friendly competition while learning more about their faith.

Aniyah Lawden said she and her team members, who have all grown up together as friends, studied for several months leading up to the Quiz Bowl.

“We knew a lot of stuff from CCD over the years, but when we started practicing for this, we learned a lot more than we thought we did,” Lawden said. “Even though we lost, we will keep studying so we will be ready for next year. That’s one thing about Sacred Heart. We don’t give up; we just keep going. We are all like family to each other.”

Shyanne James, also of Sacred Heart, said the Quiz Bowl helped open her mind to learn more about the Catholic Church.

“I learned about the Holy Trinity and that Jesus is three in one. I didn’t know that before,” she said. “There was a question about the Assumption (of the Blessed Virgin Mary) that really stumped me.”

Sister Maura Clare Mayock, R.S.M., Director of Religious Education for the Diocese, enjoyed watching the students show enthusiasm for their faith mixed with friendly competition.



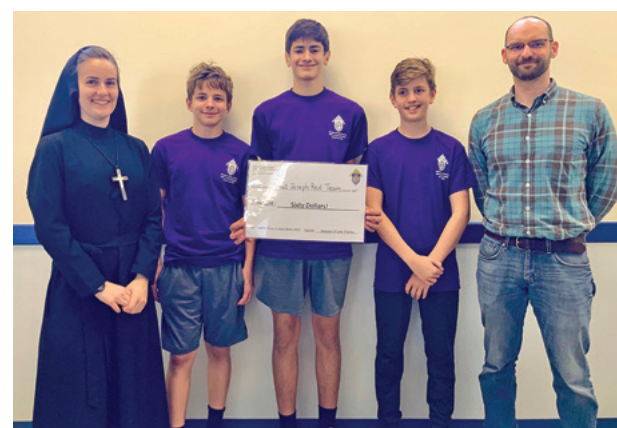
**First place in the Diocesan 2022 Quiz Bowl for middle school students went to a team from Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings. Accepting their prize of \$400 are team members Bryce Fontenot, Isaac Broussard, Eli Moncla, and Richard Edwards, pictured with Sister Maura Clare Mayock, R.S.M., Director of the Office of Religious Education; and John Souder, right, who volunteered as a judge.**



**Second place went to St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School. Accepting their prize of \$200 are team members Cash Monroe, Knox Durio, Briley Garcille, and Vega Hayes.**



**Third place went to Immaculate Conception Cathedral School. Accepting their prize of \$100 are team members Ty Pham, Carter Brinkman, Harrison Hurt, and Grayson Hobgood.**



**Fourth place went to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton. Accepting their prize of \$60 are team members Dominic Reeves, Andrew Findley, and Graham Wyninger. Not pictured was team member Edison Thomas.**

“It is inspiring to see the young people in our Church out here having fun, showing good sportsmanship, and getting so excited about our faith,” Sister Maura Clare said. “Between rounds, students were quizzing each other, taking a break to play soccer in the beautiful weather, and enjoying ice cream, pop, and pizza.”

In addition to celebrating facts of Catholicism, Sister said the Quiz Bowl was a community-building event.

“The annual contest brought in religious, priests, and laity active in ministry to serve as judges and role models to the youth today,” she said.

The 14 teams competing included the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church; three teams from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton; Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School and Our Lady Help of Christians, both in Jennings; Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church; four teams from Immaculate Conception Cathedral School; and two teams from St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School.

Judges for the Quiz Bowl were Sister Mary Benedicta Maier, R.S.M.; Father John Payne, Father Sam Bond, Lucas Orsot, John Souder, and Dru Ange.

## At Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School

### “Night at the Museum”: Where faith and science connect

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Some of the greatest Catholic scientists and mathematicians were in the spotlight during a “Night at the Museum” on March 15 at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School. It was the culmination of the school’s week-long symposium.

The exhibits highlighted significant math and science contributions made by Catholic men and women throughout history, including Louis Braille, Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, Father Gregor Mendel, Nicolaus Copernicus, and Saint Albert the Great to name a few.

Inspiration for the theme was based on the book, “Brilliant! 25 Catholic Scientists, Mathematicians, and Supersmart People,” written by David Michael Warren and

illustrated by his wife, Jaclyn Warren, who were special guests for the “Night at the Museum.” Their book was written specifically to help children understand that religion and science are compatible.

Grade 7-8 teachers Connie Houssiere (religion) and Kaylin Trahan (math) teamed up to chair the symposium.

“The book was brought to my attention by Kaylin. After reading it from cover to cover and running it by Pam Fontenot, our Director of Religious Education, we all agreed it would be a great theme for the symposium,” said Houssiere.

Each teacher — no matter the grade level — chose one or more scientist or mathematician from the book to bring alive in their classrooms throughout the school year, according to Houssiere.

“Our hope was for the teachers to find something already being taught in their curriculum and go above and beyond to make it exciting for their students,” she said.

Featured in the book are saints, priests (including Pope Francis), doctors, educators, mathematicians, musicians, and scientists from many fields.

A variety of “museum” galleries included:  
• **Space** — dedicated to Nicolaus Copernicus, the father of modern astronomy; Father Angelo Secchi, a pioneer in astrophysics; Karin Oberg, an astrochemist; and Father Georges Lemaitre, father of the Big Bang Theory.

• **Art** — dedicated to Father Henri Breuil, archeologist and natural scientist; and Father Leon Provancher, who identified over 1,000 bugs.

• **Science experiments** — dedicated to Sister Miriam Michael Stimson, chemist and DNA research pioneer; Louis Pasteur, founder of microbiology and developer of pasteurization; first female physics professor, Laura Bassi; and Blessed Nicolas Steno, father of modern geology.

• **Stringed instruments** — dedicated to Saint Hildegard of Bingen, a philosopher, pharmacist, playwright, musician, botanist, and Doctor of the Church; Father Marin Mersenne, and Louis Braille, creator of the braille system for the blind.

• **Friction and electrical energy** — dedicated to Saint Albert the Great, patron of scientists and philosophers and discovered the chemical arsenic; and Laura Bassi, the first female physics professor.

• **Shark Tank inventions** — dedicated to the Next Generation of Inventors. Following in the footsteps of many scientists and inventors, eighth-grade students came up with ideas for an invention or service that could help others; something new or an improvement to an existing idea. Students were able to vote for their favorite.

“To add an extra twist, we mixed grade levels in galleries throughout the school who focused on the same topics,” said Houssiere. “For example, there were space exhibits from first, second, fifth, seventh and eighth grade. Exhibits from third and fourth grade were featured together on friction and electrical energy, and PreK and third grade presented exhibits on Braille.”

Guests took self-guided tours where they could participate in interactive scavenger hunts

by scanning QR codes that linked to student-created videos. The school’s STAR LAB exhibit was also available to experience.

Alayna LeFort was one of several eighth graders who helped make videos and create a slide show of pictures. Posters were set up throughout the school for the scavenger hunt.

“I thought it was very cool and unique to have QR codes that people could scan with their phones,” said LeFort. “When the code was scanned, a YouTube video opened to a student-created video about a particular Catholic scientist or mathematician.”

This year’s symposium was a perfect fit for eighth-graders Lizzy Mundy and Reese Dufrene. Science is a favorite subject for both.

“I enjoyed learning about Catholic scientists,” said Mundy. “Being chosen to participate and help with the symposium was an honor. I thought it was cool that it involved all grade levels from the lower PreK students to the eighth graders. Everyone got involved.”

Extracting DNA from strawberries kept Dufrene busy in the science lab at the museum.

“We made a solution, mashed up the strawberries, and mixed it all together and added rubbing alcohol,” Dufrene explained. “When we stirred it, this DNA came out of it. We told the younger kids it was a magical solution. It was very cool!”

The symposium week included a visit from students and faculty at McNeese Center for the Advancement of Quality Education under the Burton College of Education. They showed middle school students how to control spheroids with their fingertips on a tablet and use coding to make a path for the ozobots.

Partner in Education, Westlake Chemical, also visited the second-grade students for a hands-on activity that involved making oobleck, a non-newtonian fluid which has properties of both a solid and a liquid.

Students worked on these cross-curricular projects for the better part of two months, often bringing multiple grade levels together, according to Principal Trevor Donnelly.

“Our students learn best when immersed in these types of ‘hands-on’ projects, where the subject matter becomes an interactive experience. This is what creates a lasting impression,” Donnelly said. “The students had great ownership of their work and were so proud to be able to showcase their talents and all they have learned for their parents and the community to see.”



**David Warren and his wife Jaclyn were guest speakers for a “Night at the Museum” on March 15 at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School. Their book, “Brilliant!” was the inspiration behind the theme for the school’s week-long symposium highlighting significant math and science contributions made by Catholic men and women throughout history.**