



## Vianney House to reopen in new location

In 2011 the Diocese of Lake Charles opened Vianney House, a residence for men discerning the priesthood. Father Nathan Long was its first director, and the house was located in the old faculty residence of St. Louis Catholic High School on Bank Street. Vianney House was a great success.

As Bishop Provost observed, "In the last ten years, over half of the men ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Lake Charles were at one time residents of Vianney House. This is a very good record and shows that the program of prayer, study, and work at Vianney House yielded positive results."

During the storms of 2020 Vianney House suffered serious damage, but the ice storm of February 2021 had devastating consequences. The Vianney House was forced to close, although the Diocese had every intention of reopening as soon as possible. These possibilities began to unfold providentially at the end of 2021.

Bishop Provost explained, "The Diocese received word of the very generous bequest of Leslie and Elizabeth Singletary Richard. This gift made it possible for the Diocese to purchase a new Vianney House at 206 Aqua Drive, immediately across the street from Our Lady of Good Counsel, an excellent location for a house of discernment."

The Bishop sees this bequest and the availability of the house on Aqua Drive as an answer to prayer.

"We are delighted and very thankful to God for the reopening of Vianney House and look forward to welcoming those who will discern the priesthood before entering the seminary," said Bishop Provost. "Without this

for the eternal repose of Leslie and Elizabeth Singletary Richard whose thoughtful gift made the continuation of Vianney House possible.

If you would like to contribute with a monetary donation to help furnish the Vianney House, checks may be written to the Diocese of Lake Charles with "Vianney House" in the memo and



**A bequest from Leslie R. and Elizabeth Singletary Richard made possible the purchase of a new Vianney House located across from Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church on Aqua Drive in Lake Charles.**

gift, the project of replacing Vianney House would have been at least delayed for a considerable amount of time."

Father Michael Caraway, Diocesan Vocation Director, will now become the director of Vianney House.

The Bishop asks that we continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese and

mailed to Diocese of Lake Charles, Attention: Vianney House, P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602.

A gift registry is also available at <https://www.myregistry.com/wishlist/lake-charles-vianney-house-lake-charles-la/3290266/giftlist>. As the needs are assessed, more items will be added to the registry.



**The new location for Vianney House, a residence for young men discerning the priesthood, is located at 206 Aqua Drive in Lake Charles. The former Vianney House located on Bank Street by Saint Louis Catholic High School, suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Laura in 2020. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)**

## Page will be ordained transitional deacon June 4

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Soon after Joshua Page received the Sacrament of Confirmation, he said that he committed to being "all in" as a Catholic. That commitment eventually led him to enter the seminary.

Page will advance one step closer to the priesthood on Saturday, June 4, when he is ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Glen John Provost. The Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

"I first heard God's call as a student at St. Louis Catholic High School," said the 26-year-old son of Stephen and Jennifer Page of Sulphur. "I had a deeper conversion around the time of my Confirmation. Once I started praying more, I started hearing the call."

But Page did more than just pray. He went on retreats and talked to seminarians. He talked to priests about their own priesthood and encourages young men to do the same.

"Call Father Michael Caraway, Director of Vocations. It's his job to answer your questions," advised Page, whose discernment continued after entering St. Joseph Seminary College.

"Seminary is not the end but the beginning of formation and discernment," said Page, who is the only brother to two older sisters.

With one more year to go at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, he cannot emphasize enough the importance of prayer to those beginning to discern priesthood.

"Pray, pray, pray. And then pray some more. Attend daily Mass, pray the rosary, participate in Adoration when you get off work," Page said. "God calls us, so we have to listen to him in prayer."

Reading Scripture is also a must during discernment. Page suggests focusing on the Gospels now.

"Later in seminary, you will study the whole Bible in depth, even read it cover to cover if you want. There will also be plenty of time for books in the seminary, but always keep reading good books," he continued.

A few books that served Page well are Confessions of St. Augustine, The Cure d'Ars — Life of St. John Vianney, Imitation of Christ, and Soul of the Apostolate.

It was through his many summer parish assignments that Page has seen himself grow as a seminarian and experience encouragement on his journey.

"Every summer brings new opportunities to learn more about the diocese. A seminarian learns to live more on his own than on a predetermined schedule like at the seminary," Page noted. "Ultimately, my summer assignments helped me grow toward God and the



Joshua Page

people of the diocese, who have encouraged me to grow spiritually for them."

As a parishioner of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, Page is grateful to his home parish for being "incredibly supportive."

"The older members of my home parish basically prayed me into seminary. Many have passed, and I now pray for them," he said. "I am 'all in' not only to being a Catholic, but also to be a deacon who serves the bishop, and one day a priest for God and his people."

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the diaconate internship for Page will be announced in addition to new assignments for clergy throughout the Diocese.

## Bishop Provost celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Diocese of LC

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Bishop Glen John Provost still remembers what the Papal Nuncio told him in February 2007 when he was informed that he would be the third Bishop of Lake Charles. "Remember, it is His Church."

Bishop Provost reflected on that advice as he celebrated his 15<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Anniversary among the faithful at the noon Mass on Friday, April 22, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He was consecrated to the Episcopacy and installed as Bishop on April 23, 2007.

It was a blessing for the Bishop to be surrounded by many priests, religious, and deacons — some of whom also served with Bishop Jude Speyrer, the founding bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles in 1980; and Bishop Edward K. Braxton, who served from 2001 to 2005.

"I am truly grateful to God and to you, the faithful of the Diocese," Bishop Provost expressed in his homily.

He likened his role as bishop to a farmer or gardener who plants, and in so doing chose as his motto, "He plants for those to come" — *Pro venturis serit*.

"A bishop cooperates with the Lord in planting seeds of the kingdom, for indeed the Church is His," he continued. "The image of planting and growth is a rich symbol and has served as reminder to me throughout these years of the work required of a successor of the Apostles."

Bishop Provost said one of his greatest joys of being a bishop is the time spent with youth at confirmations and school visitations.

"I always allow them to ask me questions. They are the future of the Church," he said. "If I can in whatever way help them, then this is cause for some happiness. It was very much this motivation that led me to support wholeheartedly the building of Camp Karol."

In addition to the Catholic youth camp in Moss Bluff, several endeavors of particular importance to Bishop Provost over the past 15 years include his dedication to Catholic schools, his devotion to increasing vocations to the priesthood, the restoration of the historic Cathedral, and expanding the work of Catholic Charities in the Diocese.

Concelebrants of Bishop Provost's anniversary Mass included the Very Rev. Ruben J. Buller, V.G.; Monsignor Daniel A. Torres, V.G.; Very Rev. Aubrey Guilbeau, V.E.; Very Rev. Ruben Villarreal, J.C.L.; Very Rev. Rommel Tolentino; Rev. Michael Barras, Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich, Rev. John Payne, J.C.L.; Rev. Andrew DeRouen, and Rev. Levi Thompson, with Rev. Samuel Bond serving as Master of Ceremonies. Assisting during the liturgy were Deacon George Stearns, Deacon Brian Soileau, and Deacon Patrick Lapoint.

Please join the Diocese of Lake Charles in congratulating His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost on 15 years as Bishop of Lake Charles. May God grant him many more years of good health and the graces he needs to lead us ever more closer to Our Lord.

For the complete text of Bishop Provost's homily at his Anniversary Mass, visit <http://www.lodiocese.org/the-diocese/our-bishop/homilies/3387-15th-anniversary-of-episcopal-ordination>

## 43<sup>rd</sup> Institute for Black Catholic Studies slated

NEW ORLEANS — The 43rd session of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS), a graduate theology program and school of pastoral ministry that meets each summer, will convene Sunday, June 26 through Friday, July 15, 2022. After two years of online learning due to the pandemic, IBCS classes and Community Life will resume as usual on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, according to Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, director of the Institute.

Established in 1980, The IBCS explores the gift of Black cultures in the context of the Catholic faith through an inter-disciplinary curriculum that features offerings in systematic and pastoral theologies, pastoral and youth ministry, philosophy, education, and aesthetics.

The Th.M. program, the only one of its kind in the country, forms graduate students for theologically and culturally competent service as academics, ordained, religious or lay ecclesial ministers for the Black community and church at-large. Continuing Education and Enrichment (C&E) programs provide practical ministry, theological and spiritual formation with Black

Catholic perspectives for pastoral leaders, clergy, religious, administrators, teachers and others who minister with Black Catholics or serve in multi-cultural settings. The learning is set in a robust community life of daily prayer, worship, and cultural activities. Courses uphold Catholic tradition in the context of contemporary Black experience. IBCS community life provides the chance to practice together what is learned in the classroom.

For more information on the Institute and 2022 course offerings, visit <https://www.xula.edu/ibcs>. To access the 2022 IBCS applications, visit <https://gradapply.xula.edu/apply>.

For questions on the application process, contact the Office of Graduate Programs at 504-520-7487 or email [ogp@xula.edu](mailto:ogp@xula.edu).

For more information on the IBCS program, contact Dana Lockett at 504-520-7691 or email [ibcs@xula.edu](mailto:ibcs@xula.edu).

For additional information contact Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D.Min., IBCS Director at 504-520-5138 or email [kdbellow@xula.edu](mailto:kdbellow@xula.edu).



**Bishop Glen John Provost is joined by several priests and deacons as he celebrates Mass on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination on Friday, April 22, 2022, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He was installed as the third Bishop of Lake Charles on April 23, 2007. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)**

## Offices closed on Memorial Day

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day, which honors men and women who have died serving the U.S. military. Regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will resume on Tuesday, May 31. The next Catholic Calendar will be published on Friday, June 17.

## Summer Hours

Summer hours on Fridays of 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. will begin on June 3, continuing through Friday, September 2, prior to Labor Day.

## Holy Week in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



On Palm Sunday, Bishop Glen John Provost blessed the palms to be given out to the faithful before the Mass in a ceremony that takes place in the Cathedral courtyard.



After having poured balsam into the container of olive oil and mixing the two by stirring them together, Bishop Provost breathes into the vessel of Sacred Chrism in a gesture symbolizing both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate the oil and the life-giving, sanctifying nature of the sacraments for which it is used.



Seminarist Joshua Page, who has completed his third year of theological studies, reads the first reading during the Mass on Holy Thursday in the Cathedral.



On Good Friday, the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated, a large wooden cross is processed up the center aisle. It stops three times to be incensed and for recited prayers (*Behold the wood of the cross on which hung the salvation of the world and the response Come, let us adore.*)



Following the celebration of Mass of Holy Thursday, Bishop Provost processed with the Blessed Sacrament from the Cathedral next door to the Oratory of St. Bernadette for adoration by the faithful, which continued through the evening. Shown here, the crowd was unable to gain entrance and thus knelt outside the windows of the Oratory.



Bishop Provost prepares to commemorate the washing of the feet of the Apostles by Jesus with the washing of parishioners of the Cathedral. The Bishop is assisted by Father Sam Bond, Master of Ceremonies, and a number of altar servers.



Bishop Provost venerated the cross in an appropriate manner, followed by similar veneration by the people.



The Service of the Easter Vigil must begin after sunset, the start of the new liturgical day, with what previously has been called the "Service of Light" but now is known as "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium." The solemn liturgy begins – usually outdoors – with the blessing of the fire.



Here, the Bishop prays the liturgy preparing, blessing, and lighting of the Paschal Candle prior to its procession into an otherwise dark Cathedral for the Liturgy of the Word.



Bishop Provost processes out of the Cathedral giving his blessing to the people at the conclusion of the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night.



After his homily, Bishop Provost blesses the water that will be used to initiate those received into the Church and then performs the Rite of Baptism of the Elect, pronouncing the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Here Bishop Provost goes through the Cathedral sprinkling the faithful with holy water.



The people have lighted their own candles to shed light on the liturgy, ostensibly all coming from the "one light" – the new Paschal Candle.

## Mass to Avert Storms to be celebrated June 1

Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant of a votive "Mass to Avert Storms" on Wednesday, June 1, the first day of the 2022 Hurricane Season. This year's event will follow the same format as last year due to destruction from Hurricane Laura in 2020 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron.

The annual Mass will begin at 4:00 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 6:00 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 Castelló, the Cardinal Archpriest 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.



## Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has asked that during the hurricane season of 2022 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