



ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE PRIESTHOOD Joshua Page ordained to Transitional Diaconate

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, ordained Joshua Page to the Sacred Order of Deacon on Saturday, June 4, 2022, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Page enters his final year of formation — a pastoral, liturgical and educational period before his ordination to the priesthood, with God's grace in 2023. He will spend his Diaconate Internship at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish before returning to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for the remainder of his theological studies.

A parishioner of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, Page now transitions to the clerical state, meaning he becomes a member of the clergy. With that, comes three promises made for the first time: obedience to the bishop, celibacy for the sake of the kingdom of Heaven, and an obligation to pray daily the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the "Breviary."

As Bishop Provost explained in his homily, "The very word deacon derives from the Greek word for 'service.' Our son and brother, Josh, is being ordained to the diaconate. He will be a servant, and all that he will do must be in union with the chief servant, Jesus Christ."

Transitional deacons become more involved in service as they assist the priest with sacraments. Their duties may include presiding over funerals, witnessing

weddings, and performing baptisms. They will also begin to preach homilies.

"The true shepherd receives satisfaction because he has fulfilled the Father's Will, for which the Father 'who sees in secret will repay' (Matthew 6:4)," the bishop continued.

"The servants I have known are forgetful of self. They do nothing for recognition. They are virtually invisible," he said. "In fact, they want to be unseen. They go about their duties with no need for congratulations or thanks."

After the homily, Page made a promise to be consecrated for the ministry of the Church and to conform his life to the example of Christ, who came to serve and not be served. As the congregation sang the Litany of Supplication, Page prostrated himself before the altar. Then he knelt before Bishop Provost who prayed the Prayer of Ordination over him.

The newly ordained deacon was vested by Deacon Patrick Lapoint Sr. of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish. The stole is a sign of the deacon's office of service, and the dalmatic is the outer garment used in liturgy.

Deacon Page said he is looking forward to serving as a Transitional Deacon "who serves the bishop, and one day a priest for God and His people." He is grateful to many role models who have encouraged his vocation.

"There have been many priests who have helped me along the way, both in the diocese and in seminary," he

said. "All priests are different, with different strengths and personalities. However, they are all united in the Church with the goal of sanctifying the diocese with sacraments."

With an expression of gratitude to all the organizations that support seminarians, Deacon Page is thankful for the many prayers over the years. He is especially appreciative to Bishop Provost, Father Edward Richard, Father Nathan Long, the parishioners of his summer assignments, along with Father Brian King and Father Charles Okorougo at Christus Ochsner St. Patrick Hospital.

Page assisted at his first Masses as Deacon on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church.

In addition to Deacon Page's internship at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, other seminarian summer assignments include Hunter LaRocca at St. Theodore Parish, Moss Bluff; Philip Seilhan at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, Sulphur; Liam Leonard at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; and Michael DesOrmeaux at Immaculate Conception Parish, Sulphur.

Before the final blessing, Deacon George Stearns, Diocesan Chancellor, announced several pastoral assignments.

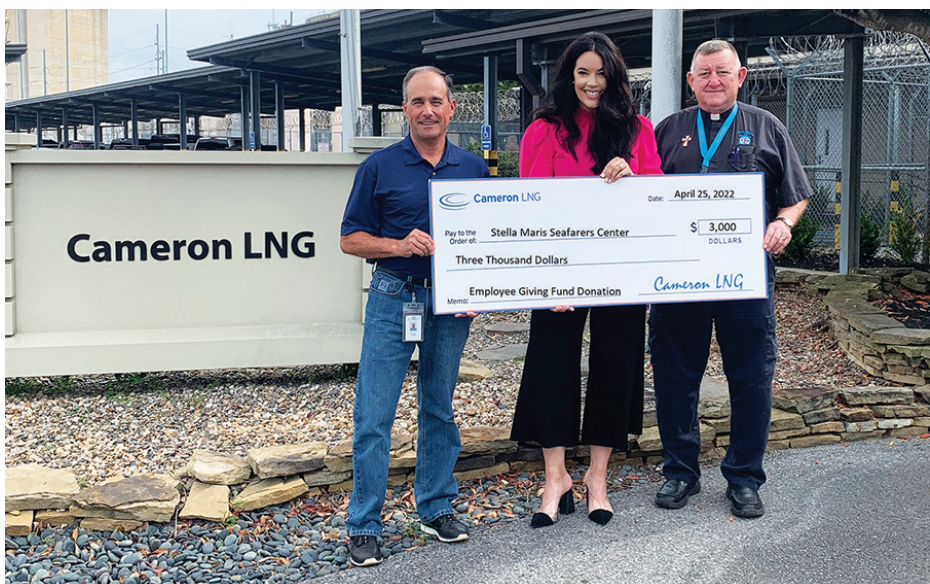
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For the complete text of Bishop Provost's ordination homily, visit <http://www.lcdiocese.org/the-diocese/our-bishop/homilies/3430-diaconate-ordination-2022>



Rev. Mr. Stephen Joshua Page stands outside the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with Bishop Glen John Provost following the Rite of Ordination to the Diaconate on Saturday, June 4, 2022. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)



Recently invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from the Diocese of Lake Charles, during the meeting of the Southeastern Lieutenancy, are pictured with His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, D.D., M.A., Bishop of Lake Charles. Those shown are, from left, Sir Craig Guillory; Dame Jacqueline Semien-Guillory; the Very Reverend Edward Richard, MS; Bishop Provost; Sir Stephen Page and Dame Jennifer Page. The events were held at the Immaculate Conception Church in New Orleans May 27-29, 2022. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is the only lay institution of the Vatican State charged with the task of providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and for all the activities and initiatives which are necessary to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land.



Through the Cameron LNG Employee Giving Fund (EGF), employees voluntarily participate in a payroll deduction program supporting nonprofit charitable organizations. Organizations are nominated by employees, and fund allocation is determined by a committee of employees from various departments in both Hackberry and Houston locations. The committee recently voted to allocate \$3,000 to the Stella Maris Seafarers Center in support of their efforts within the community. The Center is located at the Port of Lake Charles. Pictured here are, from left, Stevie Trahan, External Relations Manager; Kayla Powers, Senior External Relations Representative; and Deacon Patrick Lapoint, recently retired director of the Seafarers Center.



Decree of Announcement of Pastoral Assignments

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

Effective Immediately:

The Rev. Mr. Stephen Joshua Page – Diaconate Internship, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish

Effective July 1, 2022:

The Very Rev. Ruben Villarreal – Dean of Christian Philosophy of Academics, St. Louis Catholic High School, and continuing as Judicial Vicar

The Rev. Andrew DeRouen – Chaplain, St. Louis Catholic High School

The Rev. Shaji Jose – Chaplain, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital and area nursing homes

The Rev. Trey Ange – Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Jennings

The Rev. Wayne LeBleu – Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, DeRidder

The Rev. Rommel Tolentino – Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lake Charles

The Rev. Joby Mathew – Pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Lake Charles

The Very Rev. Ruben Buller – Pastor, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Lake Charles, and continuing as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

Signed by our hand and that of our Chancellor, on day 4 of June in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

The Rev. Deacon George Stearns
Chancellor

July 4th Diocesan Office Hours

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Monday, July 4, 2022, in honor of Independence Day – the 246th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, July 5, for regular business hours – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Thursday, July 7. Summer hours – 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – will be followed on Friday, July 8.



The annual Mass to Avert Storms took place on June 1 in the parish hall of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Big Lake. The Mass was moved to St. Mary of the Lake for the second year in a row after Hurricane Laura's destruction at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron in 2020. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

The faithful gather at the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron to pray for protection during hurricane season, which will end on November 30. The Shrine was erected in 1963 to honor victims of Hurricane Audrey, one of the deadliest storms to ever strike the United States. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

Faithful turn to God for safety from storms

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

"When a storm hits, there can be many different outcomes. Regardless of whether there is devastation or not, God's will is being done in some mysterious way," Bishop Glen John Provost reminded those attending the annual Mass to Avert Storms on June 1 — the first day of the 2022 hurricane season.

"We have come this evening to pray for protection from those very storms. Nobody wants a storm. Nobody wants destruction. No one wants catastrophe," said Bishop Provost. "But when they do occur, and there is destruction, we need to be reminded that even in destruction and catastrophe, God extends his merciful protecting hand."

This year's votive Mass took place in the parish hall of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Big Lake, followed by a pilgrimage to the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron.

Bishop Provost was joined by Monsignor James Gaddy, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish; Rev. Jerish George, M.O.C., pastor for Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, East Cameron; Very Rev. Ruben Buller, Vicar General; Rev. Samuel Bond, Master of Ceremonies; and Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Sr.

Many Cameron Parish residents are still displaced from their homes nearly two years after the back-to-back hurricanes of Laura and Delta, making it seem like hurricane season is year-round.

Brent Morales, a life-long resident of Creole for 43 years, has been living in a camper on his property since November 3, 2020, with his wife Amanda and their young son and daughter.

"Something weighs your heart down all the time during hurricane season and the months leading up to it," Morales said. "In the back of your mind, we wonder what this hurricane season is going to bring this time."

The decision to not rebuild in Creole has never crossed Morales' mind. "I'm going the extra steps to build stronger, more sustainable for these more frequent hurricanes," said Morales who is grateful to have the Shrine in the diocese. "It means a lot to gather as a community. It is bonding."

Bishop Provost told the congregation that no matter what happens throughout this hurricane season, God will bring about some good work that He has intended in his everlasting and loving plan.

Michelle Mudd, a longtime parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole, can relate to finding the fruits that come through suffering. She and her husband Chad experienced loss in the city of Cameron when Hurricane Rita hit in 2005.

"Hurricane Rita forced us to evacuate our home and temporarily relocate to Lake Charles. It was then that we had the opportunity to send our twin daughters to Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School," recalls Mudd. "That is how my children's Catholic education began."

Michelle and Chad eventually relocated to Sweetlake, only to be displaced once again from the 2020 storms. However, she is still convinced of the power of prayer.

"No matter what happens, if you remain faithful, there is a sense of we've been through it, we survived it, and we've come out on the other side of it. God has remained faithful, and our family continues to be blessed," Mudd said.

On her commute from Creole to her job at the Cameron courthouse, Debbie Savoie said she stops at the Shrine to pray the hurricane prayer throughout the year. She and her husband Dave along with their son Jeremy are finally back in their home following the 2020 storms, but there are still many things packed in boxes.

"My crosses are hung above doors, but fear keeps me from settling in all the way," Savoie said. "I am a worry wart, but I do my best to give it to God. I always ask our Blessed Mother to spare us from past tragedies, just like the hurricane prayer says."

"We should approach this hurricane season with confidence that God is indeed protecting us, and He will bring about whatever is His will, and indeed may His will be done," Bishop Provost said.

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

Three-year Eucharistic Revival kicks off June 19

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

When second-grader Louis Harrell was asked to reflect on what it was like to receive Holy Communion for the first time, he said, "The best part about receiving the Eucharist is that you just can't frown."

It is this student's enthusiastic love for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) hopes to revive among every Catholic.

The USCCB has called for a National Eucharistic Revival, which begins on June 19, 2022, the Solemnity of Corpus

Christi, and will culminate with the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024.

The launch of the revival will focus on the diocesan level. Then in 2023, the emphasis will shift to the parish level aimed at increasing Catholics' understanding of the Real Presence in the Eucharist.

The bishops believe that God wants to see a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist — and sent out in mission "for the life of the world."

Blessed Carlo Acutis will be the patron for the revival's first year. The Italian teen used social media to spread devotion to the Eucharist before his death from leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15. He was beatified in October 2020.

Locally, several people shared their own experiences of receiving the Eucharist, many for the first time. Here are some of their reflections:

• "I was so excited that I asked my dad to bring me to Mass the next day so I could receive Jesus again. I just love having Jesus in my heart." — *Second grader, First Holy Communion, St. Theodore Catholic Church*

• "To me, the Eucharist is the renewal of my faith in Jesus. True body and blood. My First Communion was such a blessing and joy for me. I could feel my worries and troubles fade away. It was the love of Jesus." — *William Ernst, brought into Full Communion with Catholic Church at Easter Vigil, 2022, St. Henry Catholic Church*

• "I was a little nervous making my First Communion, but after I received the Body of Christ, I was really excited! It reminds me of everything Jesus has done for us!" — *Aubri Delcambre, St. Lawrence Catholic Church*

• "When I went to my first penance, Father Rojo was very helpful. I was curious and excited when I did it and when I left, I felt like an angel. When I made my First Communion, I felt holy, happy, and kind." — *Emma Maylen, 9 years old, Christ the King Catholic Church* (More comments can be found at <http://www.lcdiocese.org/3-news/3432-three-year-eucharistic-revival-kicks-off-june-19>)



The St. Louis Award

The 2022 St. Louis Award recipients, Jalen Guidry and Alyssa Morton, join Bishop Glen John Provost, following the award presentation during the St. Louis Catholic High School commencement ceremony on Tuesday, May 17, in the Burton Coliseum. 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. Made possible by the Lake Charles Serra Club, the awards 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. For a list of St. Louis High graduates, visit <http://www.lcdiocese.org/3-news/3416-st-louis-high-class-of-2022> (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / 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