



Catholic Schools' 2022-2023 Calendar

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles will begin the 2022-2023 school year with the return of students at the five schools located in Calcasieu Parish on Wednesday, August 17.

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 10; boys in grades 1-8 returning on Thursday, August 11; and PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten students going back to class on Monday, August 15.

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. Our Lady Immaculate is in Jefferson Davis Parish.

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

- Labor Day: Monday, September 5
- All Saints Day: Tuesday, November 1
- Thanksgiving: Monday, November 21 to Friday, November 25
- Christmas: Monday, December 19 to Friday, December 30
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, January 16
- Mardi Gras: Friday, February 17 to Tuesday, February 21 (Calcasieu schools); and Monday, February 20 to Wednesday, February 22 (Our Lady Immaculate)
- St. Patrick's Day: Friday, March 17
- Easter: Friday, April 7 to Friday, April 14

An additional holiday for Our Lady Immaculate will be the Jefferson Davis Parish Fair Day on Friday, October 7.

In-service days for teachers and staff include October 10 and January 2. The last day of classes for OLI students will be Friday, May 19; and Thursday, May 25, for Calcasieu schools.

Information for the 2022-2023 school calendar was released by the Office of Catholic Schools.

Diocese provides services to new parents & students

At the Diocesan Finance Council meeting held on June 21, 2022, Bishop Glen John Provost approved the creation of a policy for maternity and paternity leave for the Diocese of Lake Charles and associated entities, including the parishes and Catholic Schools. The Bishop appointed the Director of Fiscal Affairs, Mr. Jacob Troutman, and the Vicar General for Administration, Fr. Ruben Buller, to oversee the creation of the particulars of the policy, which is envisioned to take effect in July 2023.

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles also provide resources for students with special needs. Partnering with the St. Nicholas Center for Autism and other agencies, our Catholic Schools serve students with autism. Our Catholic schools participate in the Louisiana Department of Education's "School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities," which provides tuition assistance to families of students with special needs who desire private education. All our Catholic schools enroll students with special needs. Two have progression programs, a service dedicated to students with special needs; Immaculate Conception Cathedral School and St. Louis Catholic High School both provide individual classroom instruction and tailored resources.

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**

Statement regarding Supreme Court decision

Bishop Provost has released the following statement on the Supreme Court decision regarding *Dobbs v. Jackson*:

"We live in a democratic republic governed by laws and under an established Constitution. We must respect our system of government but, above all, the revealed truths of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Our Christian values, not to mention human decency, prompt us to act civilly and protect human life both born and unborn."

DIOCESAN RECOVERY UPDATE

Nearly two years have passed since Hurricane Laura made landfall on August 27, 2020, as a Category 4 hurricane in Southwest Louisiana with 150 mph winds and over nine feet of storm surge.

More than 500 structures in the Diocese of Lake Charles alone, that is Catholic church structures, in five civil parishes, were affected with an estimated \$135 million in total damages.

Recovery was in its beginning stages when, only six weeks later, Hurricane Delta slammed into much of the same area. Then a winter ice storm in February of 2021 struck, and a few months later in May, residents suffered through yet another storm that included devastating flooding.

What follows is the first in a series of monthly snapshots highlighting the ongoing recovery in the Diocese of Lake Charles:

DIOCESAN EXPENDITURES TO DATE

Emergency Work (Category B)	\$7,883,883.04
Emergency Work (Insurance Contractors)	\$13,829,967.75
Permanent Work Repairs	\$7,081,073.18
Temporary Facilities (See below)	\$8,760,751.29
Restoration Design (Architects) and PM	\$4,465,375.49
Insurance Consultants	\$365,941.25
FEMA Consultants	\$766,878.55
TOTAL Expenditures to date (10 June 2022)	\$43,153,870.55

TEMPORARY SITES (Expenditures to date)

Our Lady's School Temp Facility	\$2,594,831.07
St. Louis High School Temp Facility	\$3,506,919.54
St. Margaret School Temp Facility	\$2,547,592.78
Christ the King Church	\$85,907.90
DOLC Storage	\$25,500.00
TOTAL	\$8,760,751.29

PROJECTS COMPLETED / PROJECTS IN DESIGN

A total of 72 DOLC project sites impacted by Hurricane Laura.
A total of 49 DOLC project sites where work is partially completed, underway, or major reconstruction is being planned and designed. There is active architectural design in progress at about 31 of these locations. The rest only require scoping of repairs.
A total of 3 DOLC project sites where restoration is complete.
A total of 10 DOLC project sites where restoration is on hold (low priority or not eligible for FEMA funding)

TOTAL INSURANCE PROCEEDS	\$30,000,000.00
FEMA OBLIGATIONS TO DATE	\$20,011,227.21
FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS TO DATE	\$5,823,144.81

Data as of 10 June 2022

2022 Wiffle Ball Classic



Mind tricks, telekinesis and light sabers will be on full display when Priests and Seminarians for the Diocese of Lake Charles compete in a friendly game of Wiffle Ball on Saturday, August 6. In a galaxy not so far away, the competition between the Jedi (Priests) and Padawan (Seminarians) will begin at 10:00 a.m. indoors at the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Life Center Gymnasium, 3939 Kingston Street. Sponsored by the Serra Club of Lake Charles, the Wiffle Ball Classic is open to the public. Donations of \$10 are requested for admission, and children 12 and under will be admitted free. Each team is playing for their respective funds, with the Seminarians playing for the Diocesan Seminarian Burse Fund and the Priests playing for the Diocesan Clergy Retirement Fund. The winning team will receive \$2,000 for their fund, and the second-place team will receive \$1,000. For more information, email hannah.beard@lcdioocese.org. May the force be with you!

Upcoming Events Around the Diocese

"Beat the Heat" program under way

The "Beat the Heat" air conditioner program is under way for elderly and/or disabled residents of Calcasieu Parish. The joint effort is a project of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, the city of Lake Charles, Fourth Degree Knights of Peter Claver, Grand Assembly #22; and Stine Lumber Company.

Requirements to receive a window unit air conditioner are: age 65 or older OR disabled; low income; proof of residency (utility bill or rental lease in applicant's name), need for a window unit air conditioner (cannot have central air or already own a window unit).

All applicants must call Catholic Charities at 337-439-7436 to begin the application process. No applications will be taken in person. After initial telephone interview and a scheduled appointment with Catholic Charities, the Knights of Peter Claver will do a home inspection. If approved, the Knights will install the unit in the home.

Veritas 2022 set for Sept. 17

LAKE CHARLES — Registration is open for Veritas 2022, the annual faith formation conference hosted by the Office of Religious Education. The event, featuring keynote speaker Christopher Carstens, will be held Saturday, September 17, with doors opening at 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Center, 3939 Kingston Street. The conference theme this year is "The Most Holy Eucharist."

Mr. Carstens is co-host of "The Liturgy Guys" podcast (www.liturgyguys.com), Director of the Office of Sacred Worship for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, editor of the Adoremus Bulletin (www.adoremus.org), and a visiting faculty member of the Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. Carstens is a liturgist and a catechist with a gift for sharing his love for the Liturgy with the lay faithful.

Participants can expect a day of inspiration and strengthening,

celebrating this most precious gift of the Eucharist from Jesus Christ. Come to experience Mass with renewed vigor, to love more sincerely in your daily life, to study and articulate the teaching of the Church on this central point, all by the grace and power of this Holy Sacrament.

Early registration is \$30 per person before September 1. A late registration fee of \$40 may be paid after that date or on the morning of the conference. Lunch is included in the cost.

Register online at www.lcdioocese.org/resources/event-registration. Click on Veritas Conference. Registration forms are also available in the parish offices in the Diocese of Lake Charles as well as at the Office of Religious Education, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles. Make checks payable to Diocese of Lake Charles and mail to Office of Religious Education. Cash will be accepted when paying in person.

For more information, call 337-439-7400, Ext. 200 or email cassie.meaux@lcdioocese.org for more information.

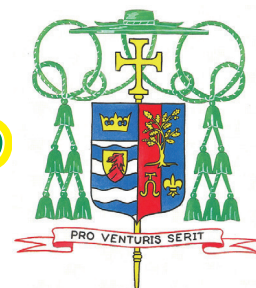
Liturgy of the Hours retreat Aug. 19-21

MOSS BLUFF — Father Ruben Buller, Vicar General for the Diocese of Lake Charles, will present a Silent Preached Retreat at Saint Charles Center, Friday, August 19, with doors opening at 8:00 a.m. The Center is located at 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway, Moss Bluff.

The retreat will focus on the Liturgy of the Hours, and the cost for the weekend is \$195 per person. Call 337-855-1232 to register. Capacity is limited to 36 people.

The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office or the Work of God, is the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer. At times the dialogue is between the Church or individual soul and God; at times it is a dialogue among the members of the Church; and at times it is even between the Church and the world.

See **UPCOMING** next page



Diocesan wedding anniversary Mass honors 52 couples

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

It was love at first sight for Bud Harless when he saw his wife, Ramona, for the first time in 1952. He was stationed at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Fallon, Nevada. Six months later they were married at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Fallon.

Mr. and Mrs. Harless will celebrate 70 years of marriage on November 23. Bud said they never let a day go by without telling each other, "I love you."

When Ollie and Audrey Riggs were married on June 7, 1952, at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas, they didn't have a big-time wedding. "We did the best we could, and we made it to 70 years," said Audrey about their jubilee anniversary.

Both couples were among 104 spouses recognized during the 11:15 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 19, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass included a special blessing by Bishop Glen John Provost.

For a combined total of 2,650 years of marriage, 52 couples registered for the Diocesan Anniversary Mass hosted by the Office of Marriage and Family Life.

Ramona said she has been blessed with a good husband who has seen her through various illnesses.

"I've had breast cancer, a brain aneurysm, and a stroke leaving me paralyzed on my right side," she recalled. "I went through seven weeks of therapy. Bud has always been there for me. We married for better or worse."

Ramona said she and Bud have had a peaceful life and always been compatible.

"We have not lived big, but we have a nice little home and raised four good boys," she said, noting they also have 11 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

With seven decades of experience as husband and wife, Ollie and Audrey have some advice for newly married couples.

"Don't give up. Marriage is not always easy," said Ollie. "You have to keep going and do your best to keep your family together, especially when children are involved."

The Riggs have been blessed with three daughters, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

"It hasn't been cake and candy," said Audrey, "but you have to go with the flow, take the good with the bad, and help one another to get by. You have to work on your marriage. No one can do it for you."

One thing that has kept Ollie going is his wife's cooking.

"Audrey loves to cook. I always had three meals to eat," he said. "Some of my favorites are her chicken stew, gumbo, okra, and mustard greens. That's what has kept us alive for this long and in pretty good health. We never had to eat all that fast food."

Bishop Provost noted that the date chosen for the celebration fell on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi).

"Both in the Eucharist and in the Sacrament of Matrimony we celebrate faith," the Bishop said. "I want to say thank you to all the couples celebrating wedding anniversaries — for your radical witness, for your Eucharistic faith, your faithful attendance at Mass, your work to build a domestic Church in your homes, and your desire to pass this challenging faith on to your children."

He commented that faithfully married couples serve as a witness the world today desperately needs.

"Married life offers challenges enough, but the modern world imposes its prejudices on us and confronts married couples with obstacles that were unheard of in previous generations," said Bishop Provost. "Besides economic, social, and cultural changes that can be disruptive, married couples must face entirely new developments, such as the redefinition of marriage and a complete disregard for human life."

Extending his gratitude in the name of the Church, Bishop Provost expressed to the couples, "You are an encouragement to us all, to remain faithful, to persevere in tribulations, and to grow in love for God and our neighbor."

Those celebrating anniversaries of 25, 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70 years were honored with a reception following Mass.

70 YEARS

- Bud and Ramona Harless, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish
- Ollie and Audrey Riggs, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

65 YEARS

- Sam and Barbara Ange Sr., Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish
- Ricardo and Marjorie Baca, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Robert and Marjorie Broussard, Our Lady of the Lake Parish
- Dr. Charles and Gail Mackey, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

60 YEARS

- Vincent and Waverly Abate, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish
- Kenneth and Sondra Abrahams, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Joseph and Mary Cook, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
- Darrell and Verline Duplechain, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Oakdale
- Gilbert and Virginia Fontenot, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Paul and Patricia Fontenot, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Oakdale
- George and Betty Rachal, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish
- Leroy and Bernita Victorian, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Lake Charles



Two couples celebrating 70 years of marriage are joined by Bishop Glen John Provost following the annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 19, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. From left, are Ollie and Audrey Riggs; and from right, are Bud and Ramona Harless. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

55 YEARS

- Howard and Claudia Bushnell, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish
- Chester and Joledean Collins, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
- Mike and Karen Fills, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Eddie and Carol Fontenot, St. Joan of Arc Parish
- James and Gwendolyn Fontenot, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish
- Steven and Carolyn Fontenot, St. Joan of Arc Parish
- Ralph and Susan Foreman, St. Raphael Parish
- Fredman and Geraldine Hardy Jr., Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
- Kenneth and Charlotte Hine, St. Theodore Parish
- Rodney and Glenda LaCombe, St. Martin de Porres Parish
- Fred and Cathy Martin, St. Martin de Porres Parish
- Jack and Mandy Robichaux, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Curtis and Rena Sterling Sr., Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
- Gene and Joetta Vizona, St. Joan of Arc Parish

50 YEARS

- Phillip and Maureen Abshire Jr., Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish
- Paul and Linda Bienvenue, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish
- Jeffery and Brenda Boudreaux, St. John Vianney Parish
- David and Debra Broussard, Christ the King Parish

- Craig and Patricia Cole, St. Joan of Arc Parish
- Deacon Erroll and Carla Deville, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lake Charles
- James and Debbie Hogan, St. Theodore Parish
- Anthony and Sandra Jones, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lake Charles
- Dwayne and Lynne LaFleur, Our Lady Queen of Heaven
- Deacon Edward and Brenda Lavine, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lake Charles
- Adolph and Doris Marcantel, St. Raphael Parish
- Richard and Mary Moreno, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Michael and Wanda Moreau, St. Pius X Parish
- Anthony and Mary Ann Nocilla, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish
- Lucas and Deborah Papania, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish
- Homer and Bertha Williams Sr., St. Henry Parish

25 YEARS

- Joseph and Susana Beaubouef, St. Joan of Arc Parish
- Vincent and Nidia Campos, St. Henry Parish
- Jesus Gomez and Carmen Cabanes, St. Henry Parish
- Walter and Carolyn Graske, St. Martin de Porres Parish
- Samuel Martinez and Yolanda Osornio, St. Henry Parish
- Luke and Katrina Picard, St. Theodore Parish
- Allen and Pamela Seal, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Juan and Irasema Vargas, St. Henry Parish

New Life Counseling offers more options to choose life

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — There have been more than 4,000 babies' lives saved since New Life Counseling opened its doors in 1984. The pregnancy resource center located at 631 East School Street has expanded its services to save even more innocent lives.

New Life Counseling announced in May two new services offered through New Life Medical Services. Clients now have free access to Abortion Pill Reversal and STI Testing/Treatment for sexually transmitted infections. These are in addition to the other free services of pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and counseling.

"Timing is key when it comes to the success of Abortion Pill Reversal," said Tabitha Dugas, Executive Director of New Life Counseling. "The effectiveness is based on time. We must get to these women within 72 hours of taking that first abortion pill (also known as RU-486). This is a way that we can save more babies."

Abortion Pill Reversal is relatively new but it is effective, Dugas noted, which is why she is eager to spread the word to any women who finds themselves wanting to save their pregnancy.

"Statistics from the Abortion Pill Rescue Network show that 3,000 lives, and counting, have been saved in America from the use of Abortion Pill Reversal,

so getting the word out is a priority," Dugas emphasized. "APRN also reports that 150 women start the reversal process every month."

"The biggest issue for me is that first, we are the only ones in this area who offer the option of Abortion Pill Reversal; and second, we offer it free of charge. That is huge," said Dugas. "Normally, this could be up to a \$700 or \$800 cost that a woman could incur."

In response to the news of the U.S. Supreme Court's overturn of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 landmark case that legalized abortion nationwide, Dugas said New Life Counseling's focus remains the same.

"New Life Counseling stands as a ministry of hope in a world that is saturated with false promises of happiness. For nearly 38 years, because of this community's support, we have been constantly adapting our message of life to the newest generation," said Dugas. "With relevancy, we are able to engage the youth of today with hope for the future. We choose to lead with grace but empower with truth. Politics will never change that."

For more information and list of services offered by New Life Counseling and New Life Medical Services, visit newlifecounselinglc.com; newlifemedicalcc.org, or call 337-474-7003.



Tabitha Dugas, Executive Director of New Life Counseling, is joined by Bishop Glen John Provost as she cuts the ribbon during a ceremony on May 11 to announce two new services offered through New Life Medical Services. They are joined by NLC board members, former directors, and several loyal volunteers. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

UPCOMING from previous page

Retreat includes introduction to Theology of the Body

MOSS BLUFF — An upcoming retreat, "Raising Women & Champions": Teaching God's Ways to the Next Generation, is scheduled Thursday, July 21 through Sunday, July 24, at Saint Charles Center. The retreat, from the heart of Saint John Paul II, is for anyone who mentors — parents, catechists, youth ministers, RCIA ministers, etc. It also fulfills requirements for teaching Theology of the Body in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Paula Hunter will lead the retreat, which includes an introduction to Theology of the Body, an introduction to spiritual accompaniment in difficult conversations, masculine and feminine spiritual development, and methods to integrate Theology of the Body in classrooms and family. The cost of the four-day retreat is \$245 per person. Capacity is limited to 36 people. To register, call 337-855-1232, Monday-Friday during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saint Charles Center is located at 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway.

Pilgrimage to Alabama planned Oct. 10-13

Father Matthew Cormier and Father Joseph Caraway, both of St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles, will lead a Pilgrimage to the EWTN Studios in Northern Alabama October 10-13, 2022.

Highlights include visits to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Saint Bernard Abbey and other grottoes and churches. This pilgrimage is great for those who want to see spiritual destinations closer to home. Daily Mass is included in the spiritual activities. Both of St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles, Father Cormier serves as Pastor and Father Caraway serves as Parochial Vicar.

For more information, visit <https://holyltravels.org/tour/sthenryalabama> or call 877-454-7469.

Theology of the Body Retreat for Women is Aug. 25-28

MOSS BLUFF — A Theology of the Body Retreat, "Icon of Love: On Being a Woman," is scheduled Thursday, August 25 through Sunday, August 28, at Saint Charles Center. The retreat fulfills requirements for teaching Theology of the Body in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Paul Hunter will lead the retreat at Saint Charles Center, 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway. The cost of the four-day retreat is \$245 per

person. The retreat begins at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday and ends at 12:00 noon on Sunday. Capacity is limited to 36 people for private rooms. To reserve your spot, call 337-855-1232, Monday-Friday during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer Bible Study for high school girls

LAKE CHARLES — The Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, will host the final Summer Bible Study for high school girls on Tuesday, August 9, at their convent in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The Bible study begins at 5:10 p.m. with a Holy Hour and Rosary, followed by dinner, dessert, and study, concluding with Compline (night prayer) by 8:00 p.m.

The convent is located at 1414 Martha Street. RSVP and get permission slip by emailing saintmartindeporresconvent@gmail.com. For more information, call 337-564-0030.

"Together for Life" marriage prep classes

"Together for Life," the marriage preparation day hosted by the Office of Family Life, announces remaining dates for classes through December 2022: August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10.

Marriage prep days are held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a one-hour break for lunch. The location for all sessions is Ave Maria Hall, 935 Bilbo Street, across from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

For more information, contact: Andrea Ward at 337-439-7400, Ext. 220, or email: family.life@lccdiocese.org.

Melchizedek Project: Vocation discernment

The Melchizedek Project hosts meetings for young men in high school and college in an environment where they can freely consider God's plan in their life. The vocation discernment groups meet bi-weekly, and food will be provided. For more information on meeting times and locations, visit <http://lcvocations.com/discernment-groups>

Adoration/Divine Mercy at Saint Charles Center

MOSS BLUFF — Deacon Brian Soileau, director of Saint Charles Center, presides over Eucharistic Adoration and Divine Mercy for Adults at 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday in the Assumption Chapel. Saint Charles Center is located at 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway. For more information, call 337-855-1232.