



Prayer service honoring diocesan patron slated Sept. 11



Saint Peter Claver

LAKE CHARLES — A Daytime Prayer Service honoring Saint Peter Claver, Patron of the Diocese of Lake Charles, is planned for 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 11, at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, 3939 Lake Street. Everyone is invited.

Saint Peter Claver was chosen as the Patron Saint of the Diocese by the late Bishop Jude Speyrer, founding bishop.

All recipients of diocesan and papal honors are asked to attend wearing full regalia. Representatives of organizations from all church parishes in the Diocese are also invited and asked to attend in uniform. Students of all grade levels as well as families are encouraged to participate in the celebration. A reception will follow in the OLQH Family Life Community Center, 3939 Kingston Street.

History of Saint Peter Claver

Saint Peter Claver was born in Barcelona in modern day Spain in 1580. He joined the Society of Jesus, commonly called the Jesuits. After being influenced by Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez, Peter Claver decided he wanted to be a missionary to what was then known as “The New World”.

To that end, he continued his studies and was sent to the then called “New Granada” or modern-day Colombia and was ordained at Cartagena in 1615. Cartagena was the principal center of the African slave trade and Peter Claver spent his life trying to alleviate the horrible conditions of the slaves. He worked among the slaves in the yards where they were penned and ministered to them with food and medicine. He was able to baptize some three thousand persons over his 40 years of ministry. However, his ministry did not just concern the souls of these unfortunates.

Peter Claver would visit the plantations and plead with owners of these slaves to improve their conditions of life and work. During these visits, he lodged with the slaves. In addition to his ministry to the slaves, Peter Claver visited the imprisoned and the lepers. He was known as a great preacher and led a very austere life; he is reputed to have possessed supernatural gifts including that of prophecy, miracles, and the ability to read the hearts and minds of people.

In 1650, he was stricken with a plague that beset Cartagena but he did not neglect his duties even when mortally ill. He died on September 8 and was canonized in 1888. Pope Leo XIII named him the patron of all missionary activities to African-Americans. His feast day is September 9.

Since Bishop Speyrer’s choice of Peter Claver as Diocesan Patron, his feast is observed on the Sunday nearest to the actual feast day, thus allowing more of the faithful to attend and participate.

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**

DIOCESAN RECOVERY UPDATE No. 2

The second anniversary of Hurricane Laura is fast approaching this August 27th, 2022. A category 4 storm with sustained winds in excess of 150 miles per hour and 9 feet of storm surge, Hurricane Laura wreaked havoc on Southwest Louisiana and over 500 structures in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Many of these were further damaged only six weeks later by Hurricane Delta, followed by the winter ice storm of February 2021 and historic flooding in May of the same year.

This is the second in a series of monthly snapshots highlighting the ongoing recovery of the Diocese of Lake Charles. These statistics help illustrate where we are in the ongoing repair and rebuilding process, estimated to cost \$135-\$150 million dollars.

We are grateful for our architects who are heading up these significant repairs and rebuilds, and for the understanding and cooperation of our diocesan pastors, parishioners, and staff as we continue to work with FEMA to recoup the majority of these staggering costs.

DIOCESAN EXPENDITURES	thru June 2022	July 2022	thru July 2022
Emergency Work (Category B)	\$7,883,883.04	\$127,892.84	\$8,011,775.88
Emergency Work (Insurance Contractors)	\$13,829,967.75	\$0.00	\$13,829,967.75
Permanent Work Repairs	\$7,081,073.18	\$500.00	\$7,081,573.18
Temporary Facilities (See below)	\$8,760,751.29	\$63,038.28	\$8,823,789.57
Restoration Design (Architects) and PM	\$4,465,375.49	\$69,685.00	\$4,535,060.49
Insurance Consultants	\$365,941.25	\$74,517.90	\$440,459.15
FEMA Consultants	\$766,878.55	\$551,135.06	\$1,318,013.61
TOTAL to date (31 July 2022)	\$43,153,870.55	\$886,769.08	\$44,040,639.63

TEMPORARY SITES (Expenditures to date)

Our Lady’s School Temp Facility	\$2,594,831.07	\$0.00	\$2,594,831.07
St. Louis High School Temp Facility	\$3,506,919.54	\$0.00	\$3,506,919.54
St. Margaret School Temp Facility	\$2,547,592.78	\$51,780.42	\$2,599,373.20
Christ the King Church	\$85,907.90	\$2,400.00	\$88,307.90
DOLC Storage	\$25,500.00	\$8,857.86	\$34,357.86
	\$8,760,751.29	\$63,038.28	\$8,823,789.57

PROJECTS COMPLETED / PROJECTS IN DESIGN

A total of 72 DOLC project sites impacted by Hurricane Laura.
A total of 50 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	\$20,045,961.94
FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS TO DATE	\$5,837,719.54

DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES PROFESSIONAL RECOVERY SERVICES

ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

**Champeaux Evans Hotard
Lake Charles, LA**
Bridget V. Evans
William B. Evans
Stephen C. Hotard

**Hoffpaur Studio Architecture
Baton Rouge, LA**
Joshua L. Hoffpaur

VSG Architects, Sulphur, LA
H. Curtis Vincent
Steven D. Shows
Justin Gautreaux

**Randy M. Goodloe Architects
Lake Charles, LA**
Randy M. Goodloe

Kudla Architecture, Lake Charles, LA
Jeff Kudla

**Porché | May Architects
Lake Charles, LA**
Derek P. Porché
William H. May

JOINT VENTURES

Champeaux, Evans, Hotard + RHH Architects,
Baton Rouge

Porché | May Architects, LLC + Domain Design
Architecture, Baton Rouge

ENGINEERING FIRM (TECHNICAL REPORTING)

CORE Forensics

INSURANCE/WIND/FLOOD/ROOF CONSULTANT

IIBEC Registered Roof Observer
Flood Certified IFR
ISO/IEC 17025

Wind Uplift Specialist NRCA Trainer

D. A. Lamont Public Adjustors

Don A. Lamont

Updated August 1, 2022

Camp Karol needs your help to give bus new look

**By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles**

MOSS BLUFF — It has been 10 months since the dedication and blessing of Camp Karol Catholic Retreat Center, and events at the diocesan youth camp are attracting more and more people as the good news spreads.

“My goal is for Camp Karol to be the hub of everything youth related in the Diocese of Lake Charles,” said Deacon Brian Soileau, director of the youth facility and Saint Charles Center.

“We recently hired Garrett Broussard as the Programs Director for Camp Karol. Milissa Thibodeaux, who serves as Director for the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Lake Charles, has relocated her office to the Moss Bluff site for the complete package,” said Soileau.

Recently, the diocesan Stella Maris Seafarers Center, through the help of Deacon Patrick Lapoint Sr., donated a used shuttle bus to Camp Karol to assist with transportation between the two retreat facilities. Deacon Lapoint retired June 30 after serving 21 years as director of the Seafarers Center.

“To give the bus a more youth-friendly look, we want to

wrap the exterior and add a picture of Saint John Paul II, the Camp Karol logo, and the Diocesan Crest,” Deacon Soileau expressed. “The cost is \$12,000, but with 12 generous donors giving \$1,000 each; or 24 donors of \$500 each, I am confident this goal can be reached.”

Soileau said the bus will be used to shuttle retreatants and guests between the two retreat facilities.

“While Camp Karol can house up to 72 guests in six bungalows, the Saint Katharine Drexel dormitory at Saint Charles Center about three miles away is used for any overflow of guests. Also, because parking is limited at Camp Karol, when there are large events, parking space is used at Saint Charles Center. The bus will be beneficial in transporting people back and forth between the locations,” said Soileau.

For anyone interested in helping youth and young adults grow in their relationship with Christ, please consider donating to Camp Karol and mail to: Saint Charles Center, 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway, Lake Charles, LA 70611. For more information, call Deacon Soileau at 337-855-1232. Camp Karol is located at 1087 Bozo Road.

ANNUAL VERITAS CONFERENCE SEPT. 17

Faith formation day features 'Liturgy Guys' co-host Carstens

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Whether you have a strong background in your Catholic faith or you are just starting out in becoming educated on the Church's teachings, Veritas 2022 has something for you.

The 11th annual Veritas Conference in the Diocese of Lake Charles will take place on Saturday, September 17, at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Family Life Center, 3939 Kingston Street, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's theme is The Most Holy Eucharist.

The one-day faith formation conference is an opportunity for adult Catholics to go deeper in their faith. Highlights include keynote speaker, Christopher Carstens; breakout sessions by local clergy and lay presenters; Mass celebrated by Bishop Glen John Provost; the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and exhibits by local Catholic organizations, artists, and businesses.

Sister Maura Clare Mayock, RSM, who serves as Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Lake Charles, said this year's theme on The Most Holy Eucharist is particularly important today as many wonder why Sunday Mass is so important, what to believe about the Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and why it is important for the spiritual life of a lay adult Catholic.

"We are inspired by the Eucharistic Revival effort which is under way on the national level," said Sister Maura Clare. "This is a special time for us to grow in understanding of this element of our faith and deepen our spiritual lives by becoming aware of the way we can actually receive the grace of the Eucharist, instead of passively going through the motions."

The keynote speaker, co-host of "The Liturgy Guys" podcast (www.liturgyguys.com), has a gift for sharing his love for the Liturgy with the lay faithful.

"Christopher Carstens is a natural teacher of the faith, an excellent liturgist, very knowledgeable, and experienced in teaching both the laity and those in priestly formation," said Sister Maura Clare.

Carstens is Director of the Office of Sacred Worship in the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, editor of the Adoremus Bulletin (www.adoremus.org), and a visiting faculty member at the Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

Who is Veritas (Latin for truth) really for?

Sister Maura Clare said there is a misconception that Veritas is only for Parish Religious Education catechists.

"Veritas is for anyone who knows they need more, especially for their own personal lives. It is also for anyone who would like to have more to teach their children or their friends and coworkers, or anyone who wants to be more sustained by God in their daily lives," she said.

The main reason to attend Veritas is to encounter Christ on a deeper level, Sister Maura Clare noted.

"This annual conference is a place to find something to bring you nearer to Jesus. There is no way to encounter Christ more deeply than in the Eucharist. Come to find out why that is and what that means," she said.

Breakout session presenters and topics include:

• **Father Jeffrey Starkovich** — *Who, Me ... An Online Saint? Evangelizing with New Media*. The late Monsignor Irving DeBlanc once wrote a book titled, *Who, Me ... A Sidewalk Saint?* He encouraged people to find sanctity in their day-to-day lives. With the beatification of Carlo Acutis, the Church recognizes the opportunities for the faithful to bring the Gospel to the Digital Continent. This breakout session will propose ways to grow in virtue and propose timeless truths in a changing world. Father Starkovich is Pastor of Saint Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley and serves as Director of Continuing Formation of Priests in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

• **Father Whitney Miller, PhD, LPC** — *Becoming Like Feathers on the Breath of God: Inspirations from Saint Hildegard of Bingen*. September 17 is the feast day of Saint Hildegard who lived from 1098-1179. Father Miller will briefly consider some of the highlights of her life, her music, illuminations, visions, and exceptional gifts as a cultured and spiritually elevated woman blessed by God. Father Miller is a priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles currently serving as Director of Diocesan Counseling Services.

• **Sister Miriam Ruth Ryan, RSM** — *Saint Katharine Drexel and the Blessed Sacrament*. Saint Katharine founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1891. Missions founded by Saint Katharine include Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church and School in Lake Charles and Xavier University in New Orleans. This talk will reflect on how the Blessed Sacrament was both the

foundation and guiding star of Saint Katharine's work and prayer. Sister Miriam Ruth serves as Director of Religious Education at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School in Lake Charles and Parish Catechetical Leader at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish.

• **Becky Clements** — *The Devil Ain't Got No Clay*. What were the great prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah trying to teach about the love of God by using a metaphor of the Potter and the clay? This breakout session will look at the answer to this question through the eyes of Pope Saint John Paul II. Becky is thankful for the Potter's gentle shaping and remaking as He led her to the Catholic faith. His loving hands have created a vessel designed for pouring out the good news about His incredible love and our dignity as human persons. Becky serves as the Coordinator for High School and Adult Religious Education at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

• **Deacon Harold Nixon** — *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen: A Black Catholic's Journey from Saul (murderer) to Paul (martyr) and his realization that it was either Christianity or insanity for him*. Deacon Nixon is a Deacon for the Diocese of Lake Charles. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2014. He serves at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Lake Charles.

• **Sister Mary Benedicta Maier, RSM** — *On the Way: Receiving Communion Like It's Your Last Through a Look at Viaticum*. This talk will focus on how the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ strengthens us and give practical suggestions on how to incite love for the Eucharist as if it was one's first and last Holy Communion. By looking at the "Last Sacrament of the Church," Viaticum, we will see how the Catholic Church sustains her faithful through all of life into a spot at the Heavenly Banquet. Sister Mary Benedicta is co-director for the Offices of Marriage, Family Life, and Pro-Life Ministries for the Diocese of Lake Charles, as well as a teacher at St. Louis Catholic High School.

• **Stephen and Monica Broussard** — *A Eucharistic Marriage: A Look at Marriage Through the Sacrifice of the Cross*. Stephen and Monica will take participants through the Sacred Scripture and Jesus' last hours on earth in order to bring greater beauty and understanding of this Sacrament that they as a couple live out each day. Stephen and Monica have been married for 24 years. They have four sons, Samuel (22), John-Patrick (20), Andrew (16), and Isaac (9). The Broussards belong to Domestic Church and are active members of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish. Stephen is an MRI Technologist at Lake Charles MRI, and Monica is a Theology teacher at St. Louis Catholic High School and Youth Director at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

• **Colette Bulber Tanner, MMed.** — *A Tapestry of "Thanksgiving": Weaving a Variety of Music that Leads Us to a Deeper Experience of the Eucharistic Table*. This session will focus on the vast treasure of Catholic Eucharistic Music. It the hope of Colette that her presentation will lead others to a deeper understanding of Eucharistic Music and how to pray through it. Colette has been serving as a Catholic Music Minister since she was 12 years old. She has a BMed. and MMed. in Music, a special certification in Kodaly Music Education, an NOM Cantor Certification, and a Catechetical Certification from Holy Cross. Mrs. Tanner has taught music in the Diocese of Lake Charles for 24 years. She teaches at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, St. Louis Catholic High School, and is the Director of Music at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. For the past 10 years, Mrs. Tanner has also served as Director of the Lake Charles Messiah Chorus. She and her husband, Marcus have three sons.

• **Mary Ellen Sweeney and Team** — *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*.

"We hope that people will be able to come for the entire day, but even those only able to attend half the day will truly benefit from what is offered," noted Sister Maura Clare. "There will be a keynote with Mr. Carstens in both the morning and afternoon, as well as breakout sessions in both morning and afternoon."

Early registration fee is \$30 through August 31. A late registration fee of \$40 may be paid any time after that date or on the morning of the conference. Lunch is included in the cost.

Registration is available online at <http://www.lcdiocese.org/resources/event-registration>. Click on Veritas Conference. Forms are also available in the parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles and 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.

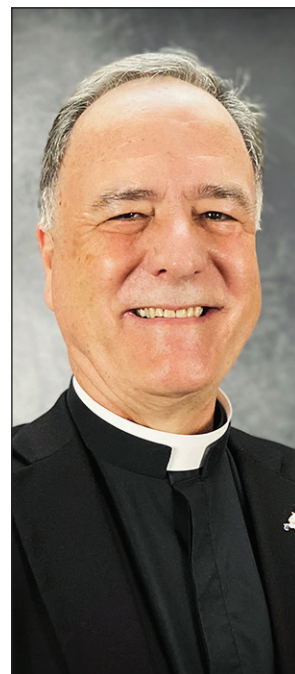
For more information, call 337-439-7400, ext. 200 or email cassie.meaux@lcdiocese.org.



CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
Co-host of 'Liturgy Guys'



Reverend Jeffrey Starkovich



Reverend Whitney Miller



Sister Miriam Ruth Ryan, RSM



Sister Mary Benedicta Maier, RSM

Deadline Aug. 26 to apply for March for Life 2023 trip

The Diocese of Lake Charles is planning a trip for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to participate in the annual MARCH for LIFE, January 18-22, 2023, in Washington, D.C. Come join thousands of others from across the nation to support the pro-life movement!

While we rejoice in the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in all 50 states in the United States, the need is even greater than ever to stand up for life. In addition to the March for Life, the trip will include an all-day conference on pro-life training, visits to historical places, Mass at beautiful churches, and many other opportunities with friends! Travel will be via airplane and is limited to about 60 students.

To request more information about the trip and an application, please email Andrea Ward, Coordinating Assistant, Office of Pro-life Ministries, Diocese of Lake Charles, at andrea.ward@lcdiocese.org or call (337) 439-7400 ext. 220. Applications are being accepted in the month of August, with the first deposit to secure one's spot due August 26, 2022.



Stephen and Monica Broussard



Colette Bulber Tanner



Becky Clements



Deacon Harold Nixon