



Bishop's Services Appeal begins 2022-2023 campaign

Your gift to the Bishop's Services Appeal makes a difference in the ministries it supports and the thousands of people it impacts.

Some of those ministries include Catholic education, youth ministry, vocations/seminarians, Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, family life, diocesan counseling, communications, Saint Charles Center and Camp Karol, annulment and other tribunal fees, services to maritime personnel, and evangelization throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The 42nd annual Bishop's Services Appeal (BSA), a fundraising campaign to aid in the operation of these various ministries and programs, will kick off the weekend of September 17-18 in church parishes throughout the Diocese.

This year's campaign, which continues until the end of the fiscal year — June 30, 2023, with a goal of \$824,000 — has as its theme: "For this reason, it depends on faith so that it may be a gift," a scripture reference from Romans 4:16.

In his annual BSA message, Bishop Glen John Provost acknowledged the generosity of the faithful people of the Diocese in the past to the needs of the Bishop's Services Appeal.

"I am extremely grateful to you for opening your hearts to our services and those who benefit from them," he said in a letter to the faithful. "Faith makes possible the gift, and we respond. In doing so, we share in Christ's mission."

With this perspective and your support, the Bishop's Services Appeal continues to make visible a variety of ministries, particularly:

- **Office of Religious Education** that oversees the Parishes' Religious Education Program and the Catholic Religion Studies at the six Catholic schools in the Diocese providing for the consistency in the presentation of our Faith.
- **Catholic Education** that offers rigorous academics grounded in teachings of service to others and serving as a vital tool of evangelization.
- **Seminarian Education** that supports the education and welfare of diocesan seminarians with a vision to secure celebrations of the Sacraments into the future.
- **Vision of Catholic Charities** to help ensure that we, the Catholic Church, care for both bodily and spiritual needs. Catholic Charities continues to expand locations (currently 11) making ever-evolving resources available to all areas of the Diocese.
- The work of **Saint Charles Center** offers the opportunity for priests and lay faithful to get away from the world and be alone with Christ and allow Him to speak to us and regain His vision.

• **Office of Communications** continues to share vital information in a wide array of formats through printing of the *Catholic Calendar* diocesan newspaper; online via the diocesan website at www.lcdioocese.org; and through social media on the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lake Charles Facebook page.

His Excellency noted that continuing the mission of Christ is carried out in two important ways: teaching and healing.

"In teaching, the Diocese of Lake Charles strives to imitate our Lord," said Bishop Provost. "We teach students in our parish religious education classes. We form converts in the solid teachings of Christ and His Church through our Christian Initiation for Adults programs."

The bishop also noted the valuable contribution of Saint Charles Center and Camp Karol to Christian formation of both adults and youth. He went on to emphasize the importance of encouraging vocations in our youth.

"To provide for the future, the Diocese fosters vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life and contributes to the formation of men in our seminaries who will serve in your Parishes," he said. "To nurture those vocations, the Diocese maintains the Vianney House for men discerning the priesthood prior to entering the seminary."

As of June 2022, there are 13 priests in active ministry in our Diocese who were ordained by Bishop Provost since his installation on April 23, 2007.

The Diocese of Lake Charles shares in the mission of Christ through healing as well, the bishop continued.

"We work with Christ to bring healing through our Pro-Life ministries and retreats. Individuals come to a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and find healing for the pain and loss of a child through abortion," he said.

"The Diocese offers counseling and continues to expand its services to an ever-larger group of recipients through Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana," Bishop Provost added. "We have also reinstated a Catholic medical society, under the patronage of St. Luke, to minister to our health care professionals."

The bishop concluded his BSA message by reminding people that all this we do — through teaching and healing — because of our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

"I ask that you join me this year in the Bishop's Services Appeal through your gift given because of faith," he requested. "May the world see that we truly belong to Christ through our manifest living out of the Gospel call."

Donors can choose from the following options to make their contribution:

- By check or cash in your parish's designated BSA collection envelope
- By designating a donation at any time in your parish's collection
- By credit card or electronic check (ACH) through the Diocese of Lake Charles website at <http://www.lcdioocese.org/resources/support-the-diocese>.

The first weekend of collections in church parishes will be at all Masses September 24-25.



DIOCESAN RECOVERY UPDATE No. 3

Disaster recovery continues in the Diocese of Lake Charles as it recently marked the second anniversary of Hurricane Laura on August 27, 2022. More than 500 structures in the Diocese of Lake Charles alone — including churches, schools, rectories, administrative and ancillary buildings — in five civil parishes have been affected.

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

The current monthly snapshot highlighting the ongoing recovery in the Diocese of Lake Charles:

DIOCESAN EXPENDITURES	through July 2022	August 2022	through Aug 2022
Emergency Work (Category B)	\$8,011,775.88		\$8,011,775.88
Emergency Work (Insurance Contractors)	\$13,829,967.75		\$13,829,967.75
Permanent Work Repairs	\$7,081,573.18	\$2,075,142.02	\$9,156,715.20
Temporary Facilities (See below)	\$8,823,789.57	\$238,537.42	\$9,062,326.99
Restoration Design (Architects) and PM	\$4,535,060.49	\$166,621.11	\$4,701,681.60
Insurance Consultants	\$440,459.15		\$440,459.15
FEMA Consultants	\$1,318,013.61		\$1,318,013.61
TOTAL Expenditures to date (31 August 2022)	\$44,040,639.63	\$2,480,300.55	\$46,520,940.18

TEMPORARY SITES (Expenditures to date)			
Our Lady's School Temp Facility	\$2,594,831.07	\$49,708.98	\$2,644,540.05
St. Louis High School Temp Facility	\$3,506,919.54	\$64,301.70	\$3,571,221.24
St. Margaret School Temp Facility	\$2,599,373.20	\$113,211.74	\$2,712,584.94
Christ the King Church	\$88,307.90	\$6,815.00	\$95,122.90
DOLC Storage	\$34,357.86	\$4,500.00	\$38,857.86
	\$8,823,789.57	\$238,537.42	\$9,062,326.99

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 5 DOLC project sites where restoration is complete.

TOTAL INSURANCE PROCEEDS	\$30,000,000.00
FEMA OBLIGATIONS TO DATE	\$20,045,961.94
FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS TO DATE	\$7,372,973.69

Data as of 31 Aug 2022

Upcoming events in the Diocese of Lake Charles

Catholic Charities plans open house Sept. 27

LAKE CHARLES — Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana will host an open house on Tuesday, September 27 (Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul). There will be two sessions — 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bishop Glen John Provost will bless the facilities at 2:00 p.m.

All are invited to tour the facilities at 1225 Second Street to learn more about the good works of Catholic Charities and how your support helps serve the poor in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Veneration of Relics of Padre Pio is Oct. 4

LAKE CHARLES — The Relics of Padre Pio will be available for veneration at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, 3939 Lake Street, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, with Mass at 5:30 p.m. in honor of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. Monsignor Daniel Torres, V.G., will give presentations at 9:00 a.m. and noon on the life of St. Padre Pio.

The first and second-class relics include the crusts of Padre Pio's wounds, cotton gauze bearing his blood stains, and a lock of his hair. Attendees will have the opportunity to touch their own sacramentals (rosaries, etc.) to the reliquaries which house the relics.

The Tour of the Relics is sponsored by the Saint Pio Foundation to give the faithful an opportunity to have a "spiritual encounter" with Padre Pio. He was an Italian Franciscan Capuchin friar famous for exhibiting the five wounds of our Lord's Passion on his body, making him the first stigmatized priest in the history of the Catholic Church. There will be a special collection at the 5:30 p.m. Mass to benefit the Foundation.

For more information, please contact Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish at 337-477-1236 or email felicia.borel@lcdioocese.org.

Food drive benefitting Abraham's Tent is Sept. 25

LAKE CHARLES — The annual Clean Out the Freezer and Pantry Day, sponsored by Sportsmen For the Hungry, in affiliation with Hunters For the Hungry, is scheduled for Sunday, September 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in The Pathology Laboratory parking lot, located at 830 West Bayou Pines Drive. A drive-

through drop-off service will be provided. Participants are asked to use The Pathology Laboratory parking lot entrance on Lake Street for convenience and efficiency. Please note the new Pathology Laboratory donation location site.

Lake Area residents are encouraged to clean out their freezers and pantries to help feed the hungry in our community. Donations of wrapped and labeled frozen meat and fish (wild and domestic), canned or boxed foods, rice, cooking oil, seasonings, vegetables, and paper goods will be accepted. All donations will be delivered directly to Abraham's Tent, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide food for the poor and hungry in Lake Charles every day of the year.

For more information, please call (337) 477-6773 or (337) 274-7320.

Pro-Life banquet planned Oct. 4

LAKE CHARLES — New Life Counseling will host the 31st annual Pro-Life Banquet on Tuesday, October 4, in the Lake Charles Civic Center, 900 N. Lakeshore. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and the banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. in the coliseum. It will be an evening of celebration as Southwest Louisiana prepares for a Post-Roe America.

Keynote speaker will be Rebekah Hagan, one of today's youngest speakers on the issues of teenage pregnancy, abortion, and abortion pill reversal. Hagan was raised in a Christian home where abortion was never discussed. Her life in pro-life ministry was unplanned and fueled instead by her firsthand experience. Hagan uses her story to unravel the mindset of women in unplanned pregnancies, and to equip and encourage others to lead with hope and compassion.

Sponsorship levels include: Friend of Life, \$75 per ticket; Supporter of Life, \$600 for table of eight; Advocate of Life, \$800, donation with one table (8 tickets); Sustainer of Life, \$1,500, donation with one table (8 tickets); Champion of Life, \$3,000, donation with two tables (16 tickets); and Life Saver, \$5,000 donation with two tables.

Tickets may be picked up at New Life Counseling or call 337-474-7003 to specify if you want tickets mailed to your home.

Bishop's Bible Study features Book of Exodus

LAKE CHARLES — The second session of the 2022-2023 series of Bishop Glen John Provost's Men's Prayer Breakfasts and Women's Prayer Luncheons will meet in October — Friday, October 7, for the men; and Wednesday, October 5, for the women. The series is based on the Book of Exodus.

Breakfasts are held in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception following the Bishop's 6:30 a.m. celebration of Mass in the Cathedral. The luncheons begin at 11:30 a.m. in the

Ave Maria Hall with the Bishop's teachings starting at noon. Books are available for purchase.

Remaining dates in 2022 for the Men's Prayer Breakfasts are October 7, November 4, and December 2. In 2023, the Bishop's teachings are set for February 3, March 3, April 21, and May 5.

The Women's Prayer Luncheons, catered by Treasures of Marilyn's, will continue October 5 and November 2 for the

Bishop's Services Appeal Prayer

Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ gave Himself for our salvation. Through faith, we wish to give our gift and share in His mission. May our giving to the Bishop's Services Appeal continue to the work of Christ and His Church.

Bless our ministries to the sick, poor, lonely, frightened, and forgotten. Bless our ministries to teach in Your Name our children and adults, future priests, and all the faithful who seek to know you better. May what we do in faith here in this world bear fruit for our times and for eternal life.

We ask this through Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

Amen.

remainder of 2022. Dates in 2023 are February 1, March 1, April 19, and May 3. Reservations should be made prior to each luncheon by sending a check in the amount of \$14.00, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, Attention: Cassie Meaux, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

For more information on the Bishop's Bible Study, please call 337-439-7400, Ext. 200. The Ave Maria Hall is located at 935 Bilbo Street.



New school year begins for nine seminarians

It was the beginning of a new school year in August for nine seminarians representing the Diocese of Lake Charles. Three are just starting their seminarian formation while six are continuing at different stages of their journeys to the priesthood.

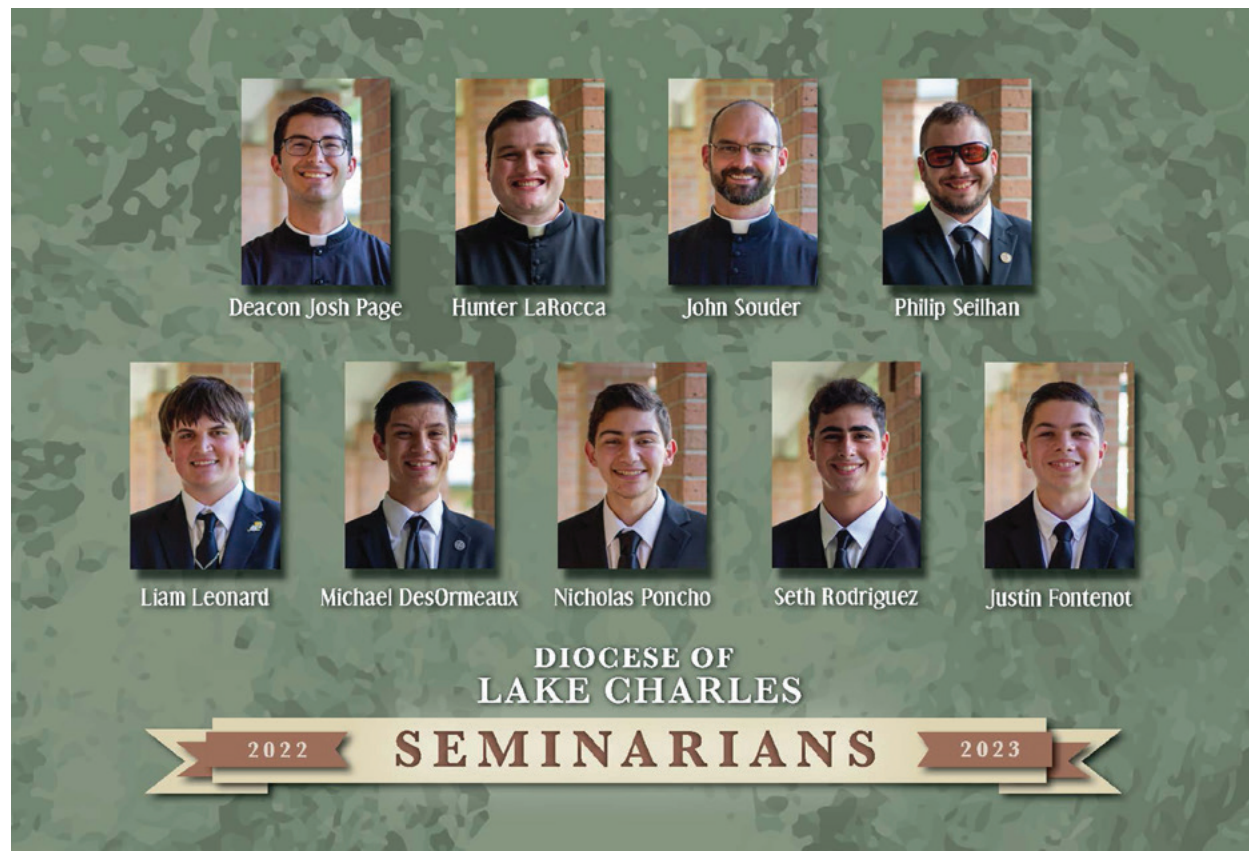
Deacon **Joshua Page** remains at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church for his diaconate internship before returning to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in October for his fourth year of Theology studies. With God's grace, Deacon Page will be ordained to the priesthood at Pentecost in 2023. His home parish is Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur.

Hunter LaRocca and **John Souder** have entered their second year of Theology studies at Notre Dame. Home parishes are Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church for LaRocca, and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Souder, both in Lake Charles. Also at Notre Dame, **Philip Seilhan** will enter his second year of Pre-Theology studies. His home parish is Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings.

Michael DesOrmeaux, of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; and **Liam Leonard**, of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, are returning seminarians at St. Joseph Seminary College in Saint Benedict, La. They are both in their second year of Philosophy studies.

Three first-year seminarians began their Philosophy studies at St. Joseph Seminary. They are **Justin Fontenot** of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley, **Nicholas Poncho** of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish in Sulphur, and **Seth Rodriguez** of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings.

Please pray for these nine men in seminarian formation for the Diocese of Lake Charles as they discern their call to the priesthood.



Bishop kicks off annual school visits at St. Louis Catholic High

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — On the first of his visits for the 2022-2023 school year, Bishop Glen John Provost interacted with students during an impromptu Q&A at St. Louis Catholic High School on Thursday, August 25. The annual visit and school Mass coincided with the Feast Day of Saint Louis IX.

“What is your favorite sport?” asked one student following the Mass celebrated in the school’s enclosed 80-by-40-foot pavilion. It was the first time for the Bishop to see first-hand the 11,000-square-foot temporary structure that is used for school assemblies, Masses, athletic practices, P.E. classes, and more since the main campus was destroyed by Hurricane Laura in 2020.

“I really do like a good football game, but a good football game,” Bishop Provost emphasized, prompting applause from more than 500 students gathered with faculty and staff.

When the Bishop said he especially enjoys watching high school and college football, the student invited him to their Jamboree game between St. Louis and Sulphur high schools. “I’m sure you will win,” the Bishop said confidently.

“What is the most memorable place you have celebrated Mass?,” another student inquired.

“Besides St. Louis High School, in this lovely pavilion,” the Bishop quipped, “one of my top three favorite places to celebrate Mass was in the Chapel of Our Lady of Rome in St. Mary Major Basilica for my first Mass after I was ordained by Pope St. Paul VI in 1975. That was a very moving experience.”

He also mentioned two other treasured places — the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, and the Cave of St. Jerome (beneath the Church of the Nativity) in Bethlehem. “Those were very special, too,” he recalled with an enthusiastic tone.

Before Bishop Provost departed, students had learned that he has been a bishop for 15 years; one of his favorite movies is the 1942 film “Casablanca”; he likes oatmeal with blueberries and buttermilk; he does not eat fast food; and one of his favorite Bible verses comes from the Sermon on the Mount: “Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough troubles of its own.” (Matthew 6:34)

Preceding Mass, Bishop Provost stopped into a couple of freshmen classes in session — Ethics/Philosophy taught by Elizabeth “Bit” Thompson, and English taught by Hannah Guth. Incidentally, the Ethics/Philosophy class is the only class at St. Louis where students are not allowed to use computers. All their notes are handwritten.



More than 500 students at St. Louis Catholic High School attended their back-to-school Mass in the school’s 11,000 square-foot pavilion. Bishop Provost was the celebrant for the Mass after which he stayed to answer questions, including an invitation to the St. Louis High football jamboree. (Morris LeBleu/Diocese of Lake Charles)

Concelebrating the back-to-school Mass were the Very Rev. Ruben Villarreal, PhL, JCL, Dean of Christian Philosophy of Academics; Rev. Nathan Long, Rector; Rev. Andrew DeRouen, Chaplain; and Rev. Whitney Miller, PhD, LPC, Director of Counseling Services. Rev. Samuel Bond served as Master of Ceremonies, assisted by Deacon Stephen Starr.

A total of 2,308 students are enrolled in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles. Bishop Provost will continue

his visits throughout the school year to Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, St. Margaret Catholic School, and Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings; and Our Lady’s Catholic School in Sulphur.

Contact the Office of Catholic Schools at 337-433-9640, ext. 400, for more information on any of the schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Priests claim Wiffle Ball bragging rights over Seminarians

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — After a three-year hiatus, the 2022 Wiffle Ball Classic between Priests and Seminarians for the Diocese of Lake Charles was back in full swing on Saturday, August 6, with a nail-biting 16-13 victory for the team of Priests.

Several hundred faithful spectators filled the gymnasium in the Family Life Center of Our Lady Queen of Heaven for the crowd-pleasing competition. Funds raised support the Priests Retirement Fund, Seminary Burse Fund, and the Serra Club of Lake Charles which assists the Office of Vocations.

After a blessing from Bishop Glen John Provost, the spirited rivalry was underway after a few words of advice from Father Michael Caraway, Vocations Director. To the priests: “Warm up and stretch.” To the seminarians: “Begin praying now!”

What looked like a runaway game in the first inning with the priests leading 9-2, the seminarians would turn things around coming out on top 11-9 by the bottom of the sixth inning.

All that pre-game stretching by the priests (and probably a few silent prayers of their own) paid off. After no scores for the next four innings, they were back in the game with seven

more runs to put their team back in the lead 16-11 going into the seventh and final inning.

After starting off with such a strong lead, Father Caraway said the priests had to change their game plan when the seminarians gained control.

“We relied on God’s providence, of course, realizing that God would work it all together for the good,” he said confidently. “When it looked like the seminarians could win, we kept our strategy simple. A lot of times God’s plan is simple, so we got back to the basics of hitting ground balls and doing our duties as batters. That is all God wants us to do daily, and He will win it for us.”

While it was not officially announced, seminarian Hunter LaRocca could have easily been named MVP based solely on his enthusiasm every time he caught a fly ball.

“All those years of playing in outfield when I was younger, and the ball never came to me. Well, today it paid off and I used my full potential,” LaRocca said about the five fly balls he caught.

Souder, the only seminarian to score all three home runs for their team, is no stranger to baseball having played most of his life.

“I love baseball and wiffle ball. I was hitting the ball as hard as I possibly could,” he said, but acknowledged it was not enough in the end.

“When we shut the priests down for a few innings and passed them in the lead, we thought it was in the bag, but the priests came back, turned on their bats, and hit a ton. Hats off to them for playing such a good game,” Souder said with a show of seminarian sportsmanship.

While the game was played in the spirit of fun, it is all about supporting vocations in the diocese.

“The Wiffle Ball game not only funds the Priest Retirement Fund and Seminary Burse Fund, but it also raises funds for vocations so the Serra Club can help do all the things they do throughout the year,” said Father Caraway.

“It is always fun to get together for a little friendly competition joining the priests and seminarians, with the people of God, to have a little fun and play Wiffle Ball which is always a big hit,” Caraway said of the fundraiser.

As Wiffle Ball champions, the team of priests received a \$2,000 check for the Priests Retirement Fund, and the team of seminarians received \$1,000 for the Seminary Burse Fund.

Other game highlights included:

- Bishop Provost using a light saber to call Liam Leonard “safe” on first base
- Lively commentary by KPLC 7News Sunrise co-host John Bridges serving as Master of Ceremonies
- Philip Seilhan, who is legally blind, batted with a pickle-ball paddle commenting that he “hits by faith and not by sight”
- Father Beverung’s niece holding a homemade sign that read: Geaux Uncle Father Michael!
- John Souder pitching barefoot
- Father “Yoda” Bond batting on his knees
- Father Michael Caraway catching a one-handed fly ball
- Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs cooked by the OLQH Knights of Columbus Council 4562
- Scrumptious sweets provided by Catholic Daughters and parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Martin de Porres, Christ the King, and Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- Team spirit provided by cheerleaders of St. Louis Catholic High School and St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School



A team of priests receives a \$2,000 check for the Priests Retirement Fund as winners of the 2022 Wiffle Ball Classic on August 6. Serra Club President Jennifer Page was on hand to present the funds. (Photo credit: Morris LeBleu/Diocese of Lake Charles)