



## CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

# Charism of Holy Ghost Fathers had huge impact on Black Catholic communities in Lake Charles

By Pamela Seal  
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Communities of Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic churches owe much of their beginnings to the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, better known as the Spiritans or Holy Ghost Fathers, whose mission is to evangelize and educate the poor and marginalized all over the world.

Parishioners of both churches had the chance to reflect on those early days when a group of Spiritans visited Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on November 16 as part of the religious order's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ministry in the United States.

The tour was the first stop on a pilgrimage to several African American parishes and schools in Louisiana founded by the Holy Ghost Fathers in partnership with Saint Katharine Drexel and her Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

When Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church was founded in 1919, Father Anthony J. Hackett, C.S.Sp., a Holy Ghost Priest, was appointed as the first pastor. Other Holy Ghost Priests would follow, with up to six in residence at one time, working hard to stabilize the parish and offer spiritual guidance.

Rev. Michael Grey, C.S.Sp., was among the guests at the luncheon hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary in Founders' Hall. Now residing in Houston and serving as Chief Development Officer, Spiritan Office for Mission Advancement, Father Grey has fond memories of his assignment at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church between 1978-1983.

"I was ordained a deacon by Bishop Harold Perry to serve at Immaculate Heart of Mary, and later as a priest," said Father Grey who was grateful to return to his roots. "The warmth and the love that I experienced here helped me to learn what it meant to be a priest. I received a firm foundation in a very vibrant, young Black Catholic church."

Father Grey said he owes everything to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

"It helped me in my early formative years as a priest to be with regular working people. I encountered a high-spirited Louisiana Catholic experience of my faith, especially with the African American tones," Grey said. "It was a very welcoming experience with families."

Black Catholics have played a vital role in the history and traditions of Christianity. Among them was Saint Katharine Drexel who was instrumental in opening Sacred Heart of Jesus/Saint Katharine Drexel School in Lake Charles in 1908. She also founded Xavier University in New Orleans in

1925, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans.

Saint Katharine supported, financed, and encouraged Spiritans in their work among African Americans and Native Americans.

In remarks at the luncheon, Sacred Heart parishioner Charles Honore reminded those in attendance of comments once made by Bishop Glen John Provost: "Everything we have here at Sacred Heart and at other parishes in Lake Charles, including Immaculate Heart, began with two women. One was Katharine Drexel who has been canonized as a saint. The other was Eleanor Figaro, who should be canonized as a saint."

Miss Figaro arrived in 1908 to serve as the first teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic School in a building known as Green's Hall on the corner of Enterprise Boulevard and Mill Street. Six students prepared for their First Holy Communion in Miss Figaro's first year.

With financial assistance from Mother Katharine Drexel, land was purchased and a school was erected in 1910 on Louisiana Avenue and Pine Street. Volunteers built what was known as the "little red schoolhouse." Miss Figaro would share her heart for the Catholic faith with students for 43 years.

Shirley Green of Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Dr. Ina Delahoussaye of Sacred Heart, both shared memories. Ms. Green recalled how the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament taught with authority.

"At Sacred Heart, we were disciplined, and the Sisters believed in corporal punishment, and our parents agreed with that," said Green. "More importantly, they educated us, especially in religion. I also remember the Holy Ghost Fathers and am grateful for all that they taught us and did for us."

The Holy Ghost Fathers were known for their good citizenship, said Dr. Delahoussaye.

"They supported education for all children and faith formation in all church parishes," she said. "Father Louis Perreault was like a gift from heaven brought down to my family. He played volleyball, baseball, picked blackberries and picked cherries off the trees at our house in the country. We loved it. He often celebrated Mass in our den."

Delahoussaye went on to say how Father Perreault regularly worked in the kitchen with the ladies making popcorn balls, sweet potato pies and dinners for the bazaars.

"He worked right along with the men in the cemetery pulling grass and cleaning. That's what the Holy Ghost Fathers do. They mix with the folks and just bring God," said Dr. Delahoussaye. "They did exactly what Jesus Christ did. He did



In honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Rev. Michael Grey, C.S.Sp, who once served as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lake Charles, presents a medallion to the current pastors of Immaculate Heart of Mary (Rev. Rommel Tolentino, right) and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church (Rev. Joby Mathew, H.G.N.) during a visit to the Diocese of Lake Charles on November 16. (Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

his work in the community. We benefited from that work at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church."

The Holy Ghost Priests inspired many parishioners to pursue faith-based vocations — bishops, priests, nuns, deacons, religious educators, altar servers, musicians, to name a few.

Vocations fostered from within Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish include Bishop Harold Perry, S.V.D., Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans; Bishop Leonard Olivier, S.V.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, D.C.; Rev. Robert Boxie III; Rev. Louis Verlin LeDoux, S.V.D, and his brother, Rev. Jerome LeDoux, S.V.D. Bishop Perry was the first African American bishop appointed in the United States in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Three deacons from Sacred Heart are now serving in the Diocese of Lake Charles — Deacon Edward Lavine and Deacon Errol Deville, both assigned to Sacred Heart of Jesus; and Deacon Harold Nixon, assigned to Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

"Sacred Heart of Jesus parishioners are humbled by the service mentored by the Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers. If you want some leaders in your midst, they would be the Holy Ghost Fathers," said Delahoussaye.

A framed painting of the "Little Red Schoolhouse" by artist Eddie Mormon was presented to Father Grey as a keepsake of his years serving as a Holy Ghost Priest in Southwest Louisiana.

Before continuing their pilgrimage to Carencro, Opelousas and Iberville, the group of Spiritans enjoyed a delicious Southern-style meal of chicken and sausage gumbo, fried fish, crawfish etouffee, bread budding, and homemade pralines.

The Spiritans' sesquicentennial anniversary celebration has been ongoing since January 2022 and will continue through Pentecost 2023. Learn more at <https://spiritans.org/>.

## Stella Maris Center's Christmas at Sea Program

The Stella Maris Seafarers Center in the Diocese of Lake Charles needs your help in sharing the love of Jesus and the blessing of Christmas with hundreds of seafarers who pass through our local ports.

Every year, through the generosity of the community, the Seafarers Center assembles Christmas ditty bags with essential items to give to men and women serving onboard ships during the holidays. Many are away from their homes and families for several months at a time.

The Center is collecting the following items: shaving cream, after shave lotion, deodorant, disposable razors, bath soap, pens and pencils, lotion, crew socks, toothpaste, wash cloths, shampoo, toothbrushes, combs, knit

caps, work gloves, hard candy, playing cards and prayer cards.

These small tokens of love and remembrance go a long way to let the seafarers know they are not forgotten by God or by those they are serving.

Donations may be dropped off at your church parish no later than Tuesday, December 20, or you may call the Seafarers Center at 337-436-1315 to schedule a time to deliver the items to the Center at 150 Marine Street, Lake Charles. For anyone interested in helping pack the gift bags, please call the Ray Fontenot, Director, at the Center.

Monetary donations may be mailed to: Stella Maris Seafarers Center, 150 Marine Street, Box 10, Lake Charles, LA 70601.



Pictured from Left to right: Alivia, Chad, Sue Thompson, Michelle, and Ava Mudd  
*Mudd Family Memorial Scholarship 2022/2023*



The Most Reverend Bishop Glen John Provost, Diocese of Lake Charles  
Kimberlee Gazzio, Diocese of Lake Charles Superintendent

## Mudd Family Memorial Scholarship

St. Nicholas Center for Children is blessed to announce that for the 10th year, the Mudd Family Memorial Scholarship is providing tuition for eight children diagnosed with Autism to receive a Catholic education in the Diocese of Lake Charles. There have been 105 scholarships granted to date. Recipients for the 2022-2023 school year are Conner Nixon, Kullen Baccigalopi, Noah Malus, Olivia Hudson, Julia Savoy, Maddox Cole, JR Watts, and Noah Morrelli. The scholarships are made possible by Chad and Michelle Mudd, and their daughters, Ava and Alivia Mudd.

## SAVE THE DATE: Quiz Bowl 2023 Set Feb. 4 at OLQH School

The Office of Religious Education in the Diocese of Lake Charles will host Quiz Bowl 2023 on Saturday, February 4, at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School. The annual competition is for middle school students in grades 6-8 through church parishes, schools, or homeschool groups. There is a limit of four teams per school or parish.

The top four teams will earn cash prizes, and certificates signed by Bishop Glen John Provost will be presented to the first- and second-place teams.

Registration is \$20 per team (\$5 per team member) of four students that can be a combination of grades 6-8. Parish, school, or homeschool groups may submit

registration by January 13, 2023, to Sister Maura Clare Mayock, RSM: [mauraclare.mayock@lodiocese.org](mailto:mauraclare.mayock@lodiocese.org), or mail to 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

Donors are needed to support the annual event. Sponsors who contribute \$200 or more will have their names printed on the event T-shirts. Checks may be sent to the Office of Religious Education, Diocese of Lake Charles, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

For more information on registration or being a sponsor, please contact Sister Maura Clare at 337-439-7400, Ext. 305. Students may also contact their Parish Catechetical Leader or school Director of Religious Education coordinator.



COL (Ret) John J. Halloran, left, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Lazarus, was recently honored with the Alan Hazelton award for meritorious service to the Order and to humanity. The award is the highest honor the Order can bestow with only one person each year so recognized. The Order of St. Lazarus, is an Ecumenical Christian Order dating back to the Crusades. The primary objectives of the Order is to promote organ, tissue and cornea donation awareness and registration along with the continuing fight against leprosy (Hansen's Disease).

# Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

December 9, 2022

## Christmas Mass schedule for churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles

### Bell City

St. John Vianney  
(7120 Highway 14 E.)  
11:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

### Big Lake

St. Mary of the Lake  
(11054 Highway 384)  
4:00 p.m., 5:15 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

### Carlyss

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus  
(4822 Carlyss Drive)  
4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve);  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m. (Day)

### Creole

Sacred Heart of Jesus, East Cameron  
(11054 Highway 384)  
4:00 p.m. at 163 Mallard Lane in Creole, (Eve.)

### DeQuincy

Our Lady of LaSalette  
(203 S. Grand Avenue)  
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

### DeRidder

St. Joseph  
(1125 Blankenship Drive)  
5:00 p.m., 10 p.m. (Eve);  
9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. (Day)

### Elizabeth

St. Frances of Rome Mission  
(204 Poplar Street)  
8:00 a.m. (Day)

### Elton

St. Joseph  
(209 Al Woods Street)  
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)  
St. Paul  
(1100 St. Mary Street)  
5:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

### Fenton

St. Charles Borromeo  
(804 Third Avenue)  
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

### Hackberry

St. Peter the Apostle  
(1210 Main Street)  
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

### Iowa

St. Raphael  
(211 S. Thomson Avenue)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)  
St. Peter Claver Mission  
(503 Second Street)  
8:00 a.m. (Day)

### Jennings

Immaculate Conception  
(705 S. Lake Arthur Avenue)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve);  
6:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Day)

### Our Lady Help of Christians

(710 N. State Street)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve);  
9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
(920 S. Broadway)  
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight, 9:00 a.m. (Day)

### Johnson Bayou

Our Lady of the Assumption Mission  
(5556 Highway 82)  
11:00 a.m. (Day)

### Kinder

St. Philip Neri  
(607 Fourth Avenue)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

### Lacassine

St. John the Evangelist Mission  
(306 Ann Street)  
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m. (Day)

### Lake Arthur

Our Lady of the Lake  
(203 Commercial Avenue)  
5:30 p.m. (Eve);  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. (Day)

### Lake Charles

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
(Corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets)  
4:00 p.m., (Eve);  
12:00 Midnight, 7:30 a.m.,  
9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. (Latin Mass) (Day)  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
(2031 Opelousas Street)  
4:00 p.m. (Eve);  
12:00 Midnight, 9:30 a.m., (Day)  
Our Lady of Good Counsel  
(221 Aqua Drive)  
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)  
Our Lady Queen of Heaven  
(3939 Lake Street)  
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., (Eve), Concert 11:15 p.m.;  
12:00 Midnight, 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,  
5:30 p.m. (Day)  
Sacred Heart of Jesus  
(610 Louisiana Avenue)  
4:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)  
St. Henry  
(1021 Eighth Avenue)  
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight (bilingual),  
8:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish) 5:00 p.m. (Day)  
St. Margaret of Scotland  
(2500 Enterprise Blvd.)  
(NW Corner of Enterprise Blvd & 17<sup>th</sup> Street)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve);  
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. (Day)  
St. Martin de Porres  
(5495 Elliott Road)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)  
Christ the King  
(7680 Gulf Highway)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)  
CHRISTUS St. Patrick Chapel  
(524 Dr. Michael DeBakey Drive)  
9:00 a.m.

### Our Lady of Fatima Mission

(1700 Graham Street)  
7:00 a.m. (Day)

### Moss Bluff

St. Theodore  
(785 Sam Houston  
Jones Parkway)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m. (Eve);  
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Day)

### Oakdale

Sacred Heart of Jesus  
(1208 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
7:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

### Oberlin

St. Joan of Arc  
(110 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

### Ragley

St. Pius X  
(16816 Highway 171)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

### Raymond

St. Lawrence  
(5505 Pine Island Highway)  
5:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Day)

### Sulphur

Immaculate Conception  
(2700 Maplewood Drive)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve);  
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)  
Our Lady of LaSalette  
(602 N. Claiborne Street)  
4:30 p.m. (Children's Mass),  
12:00 Midnight (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor  
(1109 Cypress Street)  
5:00 p.m., (Eve); 12:00 Midnight, 7:00 a.m.,  
9:00 a.m. (Latin), 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. (Day)  
St. Francis de Sales Oratory  
(802 South Huntington Street)  
Midnight Mass (First Mass of Christmas);  
8:30 a.m. (Mass at Dawn),  
10:30 a.m. (Christmas Day High Mass)

### Vinton

St. Joseph  
(1502 Industrial Street)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

### Welsh

Our Lady of Seven Dolours  
(209 N. Adams Street)  
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve);  
6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. (Day)  
St. Joseph  
(310 N. Sarah Street)  
9:00 a.m. (Day)

### Westlake

\*St. John Bosco  
(1301 Sampson Street)  
4:00 p.m., (Eve);  
10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. (Day)

## Arte Hispano - HISPANIC ART -



A DOZEN ARTISTS FROM FIVE COUNTRIES  
(ECUADOR, BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, & MEXICO)  
PRESENT A BANQUET OF CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND HOPES

ON VIEW DEC 9 - FEB 4  
AT HISTORIC CITY HALL ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER  
OPENING RECEPTION DEC 9 FROM 6 - 8 PM

### Hispanic Art Exhibit Opens Today

Historic City Hall Arts and Cultural Center, 1001 Ryan Street, will host the inaugural Hispanic Art Exhibition 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. today, December 9. A dozen artists representing five countries — Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico — will present a banquet of culture, traditions and hopes. All the artists are members of the Hispanic community at St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles. Featured artists include Patricia Suárez, Luciano Neira, Jesús Neira, Eli Vargas, Sofía Legros, Erik Guerrero, Gisselle González, Samantha Espinosa, Martín Garzón, Badiha Galeazzi, Ricardo Ruvalcaba, and Melisa Jiménez. Opening night will feature food from different countries and live music. The exhibit will be available for viewing at the Historic City Hall Arts and Cultural Center December 9 through February 4.



Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Diocesan Coordinator I. J. Tarou, left, presents Bishop Glen John Provost, Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles, with a check in the amount of \$1,983.00 in donations for the Excellence in Religious Education Program from members of the four assemblies domiciled in the diocese. Others pictured are Faithful Navigator Cleveland Rutherford, Msgr. Cramers Assembly #320 and Faithful Navigator Al Gary, Father Veillard Assembly #2087. Also making contributions were members of Msgr. Peeters Assembly #332 and Fr. Shahrigian Assembly #2182.

## Office closures, publication dates

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will close for the Christmas and New Year holidays at the end of business on Thursday, December 22, and remain closed through Monday, January 2, 2023, reopening for regular business hours - 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on January 3. The next *Catholic Calendar* will be published on Friday, December 23. On Monday, January 16, in honor of the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the diocesan offices will be closed, returning on Tuesday, January 17, for regular business hours Tuesday through Friday of the week. The first *Catholic Calendar* of 2023 will be published on Friday, January 20.