



Bishop Provost: Answers to Questions in Troubled Times

Over the last few years, I have become increasingly aware of the concerns and puzzlement of Catholic Christians concerning Catholic teaching. Most of this confusion is generated by, but not confined to, exposure to the media and ambiguous statements by some clergy who deviate from the truth. For any of us, who love the Church and the authentic teachings of Jesus Christ as found in the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition, this is disconcerting. That the Catholic faithful are being misled or sense a lack of clarity in fundamentals of doctrine, such as the Eucharistic Presence, what constitutes worthiness in the reception of Holy Communion, the indissolubility of sacramental marriage, the very definition of matrimony itself, the existence of hell, the nature of sin, the consequences of moral choice, and the authority of the Sacred Scriptures, is distressing to me, as a Bishop, and should be to any pastor, catechetical instructor, or Catholic parent.

As a pastor of many years, I am profoundly disturbed when statements casting doubts upon the faith and sowing confusion in the minds of the faithful are made by those who hold a teaching office in the Church.

In October of 1992, Pope St. John Paul II issued the Apostolic Constitution *Fidei depositum*, on the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. In the opening sentence of the document, Pope St. John Paul II wrote, "Guarding the Deposit of Faith is the mission which the Lord entrusted to His Church, and which she fulfills in every age." The Holy Father later asked in the document that "... all the Church's Pastors and the Christian faithful ... receive this

catechism in a spirit of communion and to use it assiduously in fulfilling their mission of proclaiming the faith and calling people to the Gospel life. This catechism is given to them that it may be a sure and authentic reference text for teaching catholic doctrine.... It is also offered to all the faithful who wish to deepen their knowledge of the unfathomable riches of salvation (cf. Ephesians 3:8)."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church remains an indispensable source to assist in dispelling the confusion that exists today. We should use it. When questions arise, we should consult it. When fundamental teachings are attacked, we should seek the correct answer by utilizing this rich resource.

The truths of the faith are not clarified by Church leaders in casual "tweets." Nor are they officially communicated by informal interviews granted to popular journalists as if this were a means of authentically teaching the faith. These truths are certainly not treated fairly in the ravings of dubious theologians and self-proclaimed experts.

Furthermore, the truths of the faith do not originate in one's preferences or some trend-driven discernment presumed more enlightened. The truths of the faith originate in the salvific Will of God, revealed fully in Jesus Christ, and are found in the authentic teaching of the Church, without prejudice and with abiding charity. St. Paul wrote prophetically to St. Timothy: "For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to

myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:3-5). St. Paul understood well, for he saw it happening in his own day, that there is always a tendency to deviate from the truth. The truth is compromised when our "own desires" take precedence. The truth is not a matter of opinion. Revealed truth by its very definition is a gift from God.

St. Paul felt so strongly about this teaching that he addressed a scathing condemnation to those who pervert the truth of the Gospel: "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed!" (Galatians 1:8-9).

At moments such as these in our history, we must courageously live by the truth as revealed by God in Jesus Christ and taught by His Church down through the centuries. The truths of our faith are a most prized possession. We cannot dismiss them or view them as a human invention subject to revision. We should approach them with respect and reverence, as having come from the font of Divine Revelation. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a most dependable and trustworthy articulation of these revealed truths. And we have a serious obligation to ensure that the Deposit of Faith is communicated in all charity and with all the accuracy and brilliance that the truth deserves.

'Live Sorrowful Mysteries' planned March 18 at St. Henry Catholic Church

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — St. Henry Catholic Church will present a powerful performance of the "Live Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary" at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 18. The bilingual re-enactment of the Passion of Christ will include a cast of 200 actors directed by Ricardo Ruvalcaba, Spanish Pastoral Assistant for the Diocese of Lake Charles. Admission is free.

Ruvalcaba said the production is aimed at the entire community and for the whole family.

"This performance is not only for our Diocese, not only for St. Henry or the Hispanic community. It is for our city of Lake Charles. We must always think big for our community," said Ruvalcaba who is no stranger to theater.

Before moving to Jennings from Cancun, Mexico, with his wife and two daughters in 2021, Ruvalcaba founded and directed Via Crucis Viviente en la playa (Living Stations of the Cross on the beach). In its 10th year in 2019, Via Crucis had grown to one of the largest live Stations of the Cross in the world.

Ruvalcaba said he remembers Pope Saint John Paul II speaking about the "New Evangelization" and how important it is to find ways to evangelize.

It was with the help of Ruvalcaba's parents and a Catholic group of youth and adults who were instrumental in starting the tradition of Via Crucis.

"I love the theater. For me, it is a great way to evangelize,"

he said. "It is a great way to bring Jesus to the people. That first performance was my spark, and now I am trying to share our traditions of the Hispanic community."

Mexico's Holy Week traditions are mostly based on those from Spain, brought over with the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire.

The re-enactment at St. Henry will authentically bring to life the unjust and cruel condemnation and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It will add a prayerful dimension to your Lent that you do not want to miss.

The five Sorrowful Mysteries include: The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, and The Crucifixion. Additional biblical passages will include the Last Supper, Betrayal by Judas Iscariot, and the Sanhedrin.

According to Ruvalcaba, the life-like drama will feature men and women in period-attire, costumed Roman soldiers, a 16-foot-tall cross for the crucifixion scene, and two 14-foot-tall crosses for the thieves on either side of Jesus. The crosses were made by Miguel del Rosal. Zenaïdo Duque and Lazaro Morales are donating the sound system for the storyline and special effects.

Ruvalcaba said one thing that sets Catholic theater apart from other types of theater is the way the actors prepare for their roles.

"Prayer is very important. Before every rehearsal, we begin with a prayer and finish with a prayer," he said, noting

that for this performance he encourages everyone to read the Passion of Christ in the Bible.

Even during the performance, Ruvalcaba said it is important for the actors to pray and use the time to evangelize to the audience.

"Lord, make me an instrument," he said. "When you are asking God to help you understand what was happening 2,000 years ago, you can perform better at your role."

In Cancun, Ruvalcaba played the role of Jesus seven times, a role he did not take lightly. He said his favorite scene was the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

"Jesus was really afraid. When he accepts God's will, of course he still suffered, but his stress was different. His life was not easy, but he was at peace," said Ruvalcaba. "For me that is the most important part of this performance. We can learn that when we accept God's will, we will be better off."

Lazaro Morales will be playing the role of Jesus in this year's performance at St. Henry.

"He immediately responded yes when he was asked to play the lead role," said Ruvalcaba. "Lazaro has a great heart, a servant's heart. He is very enthusiastic."

The live presentation is for families to both attend and participate.

"We have a lot of entire families as actors. It is so beautiful to watch," said Ruvalcaba. "My wife and daughters will be part of the last scene, 'Angels of Hope.' Our faith is joy. We can all find hope in the final scene."

This is the second year for Ruvalcaba to direct the performance at St. Henry, saying he plans to make it an annual tradition that grows bigger every year.

"There are no language barriers in theater. Visually, everyone can understand what is happening," he said. "This is one of the beauties of this art. The visual experience for the audience helps them to understand the Gospel better the next time they are reading it or hearing it proclaimed."

NOTE: For anyone making plans to attend, the performance is expected to last 87 minutes. St. Henry Catholic Church is located at 1021 Eighth Avenue. The performance will take place outdoors behind the church. Seating will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own lawn chair.

DIOCESAN RECOVERY UPDATE No. 9

More than \$150,000,000.00 of damages were incurred by the Diocese of Lake Charles when Hurricane Laura made landfall on August 27, 2020. The Category 4 hurricane impacted Southwest Louisiana with 150 mph winds and over nine feet of storm surge.

Many of the churches and schools are under construction with permanent repairs or new facilities. Others are in the design stage and awaiting obligations of federal assistance from FEMA to be approved. Structures slated for demolition are awaiting requisite clearance from FEMA on any potential environmental or historical issues.

The Federal assistance claim is laborious, as the Diocese Recovery Teams works with FEMA to validate damages and costs for restoration or replacement of the severely damaged parish facilities and schools. The Diocese is currently advertising for qualifications for disaster consulting services at <https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/>.

Figures below reflect the current monthly snapshot highlighting the ongoing recovery in the Diocese of Lake Charles as of March 1, 2023:

DIOCESAN EXPENDITURES	through Jan 2023	February 2023	through Feb 2023
Emergency Work (Category B)	\$10,351,279.01		\$10,351,279.01
Emergency Work (Insurance Contractors)	\$13,829,967.75		\$13,829,967.75
Permanent Work Repairs	\$11,848,390.12	\$2,339,503.13	\$14,187,893.25
Temporary Facilities (See below)	\$9,417,314.27	\$114,618.26	\$9,531,932.53
Restoration Design (Architects) and PM	\$6,093,437.92	\$568,482.46	\$6,661,920.38
Insurance Consultants	\$440,459.15		\$440,459.15
FEMA Consultants	\$2,342,335.30		\$2,342,335.30
TOTAL Expenditures to date:	\$54,323,183.52	\$3,022,603.85	\$57,345,787.37

TEMPORARY SITES (Expenditures to date)			
Our Lady's School Temp Facility	\$2,719,103.52	\$24,854.49	\$2,743,958.01
St. Louis High School Temp Facility	\$3,667,673.79	\$32,150.85	\$3,699,824.64
St. Margaret School Temp Facility	\$2,867,926.20	\$51,780.42	\$2,919,706.62
Christ the King Church	\$99,922.90	\$1,200.00	\$101,122.90
DOLC Storage	\$62,687.86	\$4,632.50	\$67,320.36
	\$9,417,314.27	\$114,618.26	\$9,531,932.53

PROJECTS COMPLETED / PROJECTS IN DESIGN
A total of 72 DOLC project sites impacted by Hurricane Laura.
A total of 34 DOLC project sites are under active design or specifications development for repairs/ restoration.
A total of 23 DOLC project sites have a combination of active work and/or active design for repairs/ restoration.
A total of 15 DOLC project sites, restoration is complete.

TOTAL INSURANCE PROCEEDS	\$30,000,000.00
FEMA OBLIGATIONS TO DATE	\$20,011,227.21
FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS TO DATE	\$8,493,747.34

Data as of 1 Mar 2023

An Afternoon with Christ

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 16, 2023

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street, Lake Charles



Father Matthew Cormier
Pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival



PRAISE · ADORE · REFLECT

Very Rev. Matthew Cormier, VF, Pastor of St. Henry Catholic Church in Lake Charles and Dean of the North Central Deanery, will lead the fourth session of "An Afternoon with Christ," 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 16, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The afternoon will begin with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a reflection by Father Cormier, and conclude with Benediction. The monthly series is part of the National Eucharistic Revival to help people foster a habit of spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call the Cathedral office at 337-436-7251.



Roman soldiers carry Jesus to have him scourged during a re-enactment of the Sorrowful Mysteries on Good Friday in 2022 at St. Henry Catholic Church. The role of Jesus was played by Jose del Rosal. This year's performance will take place on Saturday, March 18.



Catholic Medical guild forms in Diocese of Lake Charles

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

Catholic healthcare professionals in the Diocese of Lake Charles now have a better opportunity to keep their pulse on medicine and morality with the recent approval of a new guild of the national Catholic Medical Association.

St. Luke's Guild of Southwest Louisiana — the first one in the area to promote the principles of the Catholic faith in science and practice of medicine — received approval on December 6, 2022. The application was submitted less than two months prior on October 18, the Feast of St. Luke, who by tradition is known to be a physician.

"The thought was that this area, having a Catholic hospital, could benefit from a guild," said Sister Mary Benedicta Maier, RSM, who serves as the bishop's liaison for the Guild. "I've seen firsthand the goodness of healthcare professionals being able to integrate their faith with their practice."

CMA guilds aim to provide fellowship, education, and opportunities that serve the local Church and public. Formation requires full permission from the diocesan bishop.

Giving his endorsement to the Diocese of Lake Charles guild, Bishop Glen John Provost said, "Accrediting St. Luke's Guild of Southwest Louisiana is a major step in the right direction. The Catholic Church has a long history of health care going back to the earliest days of Christianity's history and to Jesus Christ who healed the sick and raised the dead."

Bishop Provost appointed Very Rev. Edward Richard, MS, as chaplain of the Guild and Sister Mary Benedicta as his liaison. Father Richard is Pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur and a 25-year member of the Catholic Medical Association. Sister Mary Benedicta serves as co-director of the Office of Pro-life Ministries and holds a master's degree in bioethics.

Other officers include:

- Dr. Kipp Ardoin, president; a pediatrician
- Dr. Adrienne Breaux, vice president; a pediatrician and internal medicine physician
- Dr. Bryan Barrilleaux, secretary; an internal medicine physician
- Chad Hobgood, PharmD, treasurer; a pharmacist

"I wish to commend Sister Mary Benedicta, Dr. Ardoin, and Father Richard. Without their leadership and assistance, this worthy project could not have progressed to a successful conclusion," Bishop Provost said.

Healthcare professionals have been enthusiastic about the idea of having a guild ever since Sister Mary Benedicta introduced the idea during the diocese's first White Mass in October 2020.

"People are feeling a need to have a Catholic voice in a group setting where one doesn't have to check their faith at the door," she said.

As president, Dr. Ardoin said that he is ready to do whatever it takes to get things moving in the direction of Christ-centered health care.

"I have been praying and trying to figure out ways that I could give back to the Church and community," he said. "Other than my vocation to marriage, being a pediatrician is something I do day in and day out. I want to make sure it is in line with my Catholic faith and my Catholic beliefs."

Father Richard said that he sees the guild as an opportunity to interact with the local Catholic medical community to further the Church's mission and the healing ministry of Jesus.

"On a broad scale, we will support each other in expanding our understanding of Catholic teaching applied in health care," said Father Richard. "As a priest and moral theologian with teaching and practical experience in bioethical matters, I can respond to questions that arise using authentic Catholic teaching. As chaplain, I can assist the guild and its members in preserving their Catholic identity and spirituality."

Sister Mary Benedicta said key issues of concern for the guild include sex-transgender reassignment surgery, especially among pediatricians; end-of-life care and refusal of medical treatment; navigating post-Roe v. Wade and seeking ways to be supportive of pregnancy centers; and offering more education on all bioethical issues.

"There are influences in which conscience protection is being heavily violated and challenged," Sister Mary Benedicta said. "To have like-minded physicians, pharmacists, and nurses all able to come together to support each other and grow spiritually and in the formation of their profession is crucial."

Dr. Ardoin noted that questions of homosexuality, transgenderism, and cross-dressing are popping up more and more in pediatrics.

"As a pediatrician at the Children's Clinic for 12 years, I never thought I would have to breach these subjects with young individuals or parents," he remarked. "This guild is something that we need in this area."

Father Richard said everyone who is dedicated to health care can benefit from knowing more about the mission and ethos of Catholic health care.

"Catholic medical ethics provides a sure point of reference for resisting tendencies in the secular culture which diminish respect for human dignity," he remarked. "Those who want to live out their faith in the current environment will grow spiritually and morally by engaging the culture. This becomes a point of evangelization."

Sister Mary Benedicta said that she can't stress enough how critical it is for Catholic healthcare professionals to be a part of the guild.

"I think they will realize the importance of integrating their faith with their practice in a new way that they didn't realize they were missing," she remarked.

For more information on St. Luke's Guild of Southwest Louisiana or becoming a member, email kardoin@ccswla.com. More information on the Catholic Medical Association is available at www.cathmed.org.



Officers for St. Luke's Guild of Southwest Louisiana, a newly formed Catholic Medical Association guild in the Diocese of Lake Charles, are from left, Dr. Bryan Barrilleaux, secretary; Chad Hobgood, PharmD, treasurer; Dr. Kipp Ardoin, president; and Dr. Adrienne Breaux, vice president. (Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

Bishop Provost to preside at Sacred Triduum in Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will celebrate the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil - in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street.

On Palm Sunday, April 2, Bishop Provost will bless the palms before the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral. The other Masses of the Cathedral are 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (April 1), 7:30 a.m. (Sunday), 11:15 a.m. (Sunday), and 12:45 p.m. (Sunday) in accordance with the Rubrics of 1962.

The Bishop will be the celebrant of the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5, with the priests of the Diocese as concelebrants. At this Mass, the Holy Oils – Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumens, and the Oil of Chrism – used during the year are prepared and blessed.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated on Holy Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m. It is at this Mass where the commemoration of Institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood is celebrated. Following the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be available for Eucharistic Adoration in St. Bernadette Oratory until midnight.

The Commemoration of the Lord's Passion will take place on Good Friday, April 7, at 3:00 p.m. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross with the faithful recognizing the "Cross of Christ" as their only hope of salvation. The celebration concludes with Holy Communion.

On Good Friday, the Cathedral Parish will participate in the Seven Church Walk that will begin at 8:00 a.m. from the Convent of Saint Martin de Porres, 1414 Martha Street. The walk, based on the Seven Last Words of Christ, will conclude at the Cathedral at approximately 1:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the Cathedral at 2:00 p.m., followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy that will begin the Novena of Divine Mercy ending before the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 p.m.

The Novena of Divine Mercy will be prayed at the Cathedral at 3:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday (April 8) followed by offering of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation ending at 4:30 p.m.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8, will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Cathedral with the Service of Light outside the church.

Cathedral Mass times for Easter Sunday, April 9, are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m., with Mass in accordance with the Rubrics of 1962 at 12:45 p.m. Bishop Provost is scheduled to celebrate the 9:30 a.m. Solemn Mass on Easter Sunday.

Diocesan office hours for Holy Week are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday, April 3, 4, and 5. Offices will be closed on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, April 6 and 7, as well as Easter Monday, April 10, reopening on Tuesday, April 11, at 8:30 a.m.

Rites of Acceptance and Welcome



The Rite of Election and Rite of Continuing Conversion were held earlier this month for those preparing to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Both took place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles. **PHOTO AT LEFT:** On February 26, the First Sunday of Lent, Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the Rite of Election welcoming 65 Catechumens who will celebrate the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8. Their names were recorded in the Book of Elect, a designation which reflects that the bishop, in the name of the Lord and the local Church, is electing them to share in the Easter sacraments. This rite closes the period of the Catechumenate and marks the beginning of the final period of more intense preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation. **PHOTO AT RIGHT:** On March 5, the Second Sunday of Lent, Bishop Provost presided over the Rite of Continuing Conversion. This rite is celebrated for baptized Candidates — those preparing for full reception into the Catholic Church, at which time they will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. A total of 71 Candidates will enter the holy Catholic Church this Easter. As we draw closer to the celebration of Easter, please keep all the Catechumens and Candidates in your prayers as they continue their journey this season of Lent. (Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

Penance Nights scheduled March 27-30

Penance Nights have been scheduled throughout each of the four Deaneries Monday-Thursday, March 27-30, in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The following church parishes will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on each designated day:

Monday, March 27

West Deanery — Immaculate Conception, Maplewood; Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Our Lady of LaSalette and Our Lady of Prompt Succor, both in Sulphur; St. John Bosco, Westlake; St. Joseph, DeRidder; St. Joseph, Vinton; St. Peter the Apostle, Hackberry; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Carlyss; and St. Pius X, Ragley.

Tuesday, March 28

South Central Deanery — Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Martin de Porres, and Christ the King, all in Lake Charles; St. Mary of the Lake, Big Lake; St. John Vianney, Bell City; and Sacred Heart of Jesus, East Cameron.

Wednesday, March 29

North Central Deanery — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Henry, and St. Margaret of Scotland, all in Lake Charles; St. Raphael, Iowa; and St. Theodore, Moss Bluff.

Thursday, March 30

East Deanery — Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Immaculate Conception, all in Jennings; Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Welsh; Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Arthur; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale; St. Charles Borromeo, Fenton; St. Joan of Arc, Oberlin; St. Joseph and St. Paul, both in Elton; St. Joseph, Welsh; St. Lawrence, Raymond; and St. Philip Neri, Kinder.

NOTE: For Examinations of Conscience, visit <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience>