



Historic journey to Indianapolis *Diocesan Camino* pilgrimage kicks off Nov. 25

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

Leading up to the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years in July 2024, the Diocese of Lake Charles will kick off a local pilgrimage — *The Diocesan Camino of St. Peter Claver* — on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at the West Cal Events Center in Sulphur.

The banquet-style evening will be the start of a journey together as a diocese to several events and churches over a period of several months to grow in faith of the Church and the Eucharist. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6:15 p.m.

Camino pilgrims will seek the intercession of St. Peter Claver, the diocesan patron saint, to help them along their spiritual journey. Monsignor Daniel A. Torres, V.G., Chairman of the *Diocesan Camino*, reminds Catholics of St. Peter Claver's example to trust in the Lord Jesus.

"As St. Peter Claver journeyed from a small village outside of Barcelona, Spain, at the age of 20, to the island of Majorca to study Philosophy at the Jesuit House, he listened, prayed before the Blessed Sacrament, and said, 'Yes' in doing the Lord's will," said Monsignor Torres.

"Therefore, let us all journey together and find strength as Roman Catholics on this Diocesan Camino of St. Peter Claver."

The banquet will feature national speakers Father Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P. and Katie Prejean McGrady doing a sit-down dialogue, with audience interaction.

The nationally recognized Saint Louis Catholic High School Concert Choir under direction of Mrs. Colette Bulber Tanner will provide entertainment during the evening. Guests will also be able to tour the works of Blessed Carlo Acutis who documented the Eucharistic miracles from around the world into an exhibit to inspire the faithful and non-believers.

Father Briscoe is a Dominican friar and editor of "Our Sunday Visitor." Along with his Dominican brothers, he is host of the podcast "Godsplaining" and co-author of "Saint Dominic's Way of Life: A Path to Knowing and Loving God." He is also author of the OSV seasonal devotional, "My Daily Visitor."

Katie, who makes her home in Lake Charles with her husband, Tommy, and daughters, Rose and Clare, is host of the "The Katie McGrady Show," a daily radio program on The Catholic Channel on Sirius XM 129. She is a contributing writer for "Blessed is She," "Our Sunday Visitor," "Aleteia," and the "Grotto Network," in addition to helping create digital and audio content for Ave Explores.

Diocesan Camino Passports will be available the night of the banquet and at all church parishes for their Christmas Masses. It is a unique opportunity to keep people energized during the Parish Phase of the National Eucharistic Revival, now in its second year of the three-year effort.

At the conclusion of *The Diocesan Camino of St. Peter Claver* on June 2, a drawing will take place for persons who have gone to all the events and filled their passports with stamps. One lucky pilgrim will have a chance to win an all-expense paid trip to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 17-21, 2024. The trip will include free airfare, hotel accommodations, and registration for the historic five-day event with an expected 80,000 Catholics from across the United States.

The local pilgrimage is also a way to build up anticipation for the arrival of the National Eucharistic Procession — an *Emmaus Moment* — when it travels through the Diocese of Lake Charles June 3-4, 2024.

SAVE THE DATES

The schedule for the *Diocesan Camino* pilgrimage is:

- **Saturday, November 25:** Kickoff banquet at West Cal Events Center in Sulphur
- **December 24-25:** Christmas Masses throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles
- **Saturday, January 13:** International Day of Cultures and Prayer — 10:00 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 2031 Opelousas Street, Lake Charles
- **Thursday, February 8:** East Deanery — Evening of Prayer, 6:30 p.m., Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, 710 North State Street, Jennings
- **Thursday, March 7:** North Central Deanery — Evening of Prayer, 6:30 p.m., with presentation by Dr. Cheryl White on the *Mystery of the Shroud of Turin*, Saint Louis Catholic High School, pavilion, corner of Kirkman and Eighth streets, Lake Charles

• **Tuesday, April 16:** West Deanery — 6:30 p.m., Evening of Prayer, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 2700 Maplewood Drive, Sulphur

• **Thursday, May 2:** South Central Deanery — 6:30 p.m., Evening of Prayer, Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church, 5495 Elliott Road, Lake Charles

• **Sunday, June 2:** The *Diocesan Camino of St. Peter Claver* Afternoon of Prayer and Concert — 3:00 p.m., Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street, downtown Lake Charles. Drawing for Camino winner with fully stamped passport will follow the concert.

More details will be announced for pilgrimage sites as they become available. Information on registering for the diocesan trip for the National Eucharistic Congress will be announced in December.

As pilgrims make their way along the *Diocesan Camino*, they can step back from everyday life and journey with other Catholics to find inspiration or rediscover their faith in a whole new light.

Whether you continue to Indianapolis for the national gathering or just focus on the journey right here in the Diocese of Lake Charles, the Encounter with Christ will set you on a path with an outpouring of grace and love for the Holy Eucharist.

We hope you can join us!

West Cal Events Center is located at 401 Arena Road in Sulphur. *Diocesan Camino* tickets may be purchased for \$50 per person at the Chancery, 1201 Ryan Street, Lake Charles; Crossroads Catholic Books and Gifts, 3113 Ryan Street, Suite 2, Lake Charles, or at church offices throughout the Diocese. Ticket deadline is Thursday, November 9. For more information, call the Chancery at 337-439-7400.



DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES PRESENTS

KICKOFF BANQUET



FATHER PATRICK
MARY BRISCOE, O.P.

Editor of Our Sunday Visitor
and host of the podcast
"Godsplaining"



KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY

Host of the Katie McGrady Show
on The Catholic Channel

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE CHANCERY AT 337-439-7400

WEST CAL EVENTS CENTER

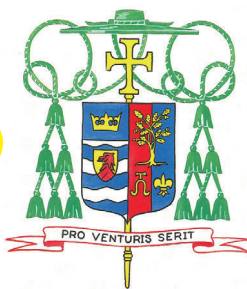
401 Arena Road, Sulphur

NOVEMBER | 25th | 2023

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner served at 6:15 p.m.



The Saint Louis Catholic High School Concert Choir, under direction of Mrs. Colette Bulber Tanner, will perform during the kickoff banquet for *The Diocesan Camino of St. Peter Claver* on Saturday, November 25, at the West Cal Events Center in Sulphur. The choir also sings annually for three diocesan Masses throughout the year — Clergy and Religious Recognition Mass in September, Catholic Schools Week Diocesan Mass, and the Chrism Mass during Holy Week. Earlier this year, they were invited to perform at the National Memorial Day Choral Festival in the nation's capital.



Bishop Provost dedicates new Chancery

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Surrounded by clergy and staff of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Bishop Glen John Provost dedicated the new Chancery to Our Lady of Lourdes at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 8, 2023. The dedication and blessing on the corner of Ryan and Clarence streets coincided with the Feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary.

“In our modern world, anything new implies recent construction, but here at 1201 Ryan Street, this is not the case,” Bishop Provost remarked in the main lobby of the diocesan one-story office building. “Through a fortuitous, if not providential, set of circumstances, the Diocese was fortunate to obtain this building.”

After the purchase on May 5, 2023, and minor renovations to adapt the space to fit the needs of at least 35 administrative staff members from five locations, full-time operations began on July 1. It is the first time since the inception of the Diocese of Lake Charles in 1980 to have a centralized office that consolidates everyone.

In dedicating the office space to Our Lady of Lourdes, His Excellency noted that the Blessed Mother is keeping her sight on the staff and on the Chancery.

“Not only is our Cathedral under the patronage of her Immaculate Conception, but also the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes looks squarely down Bilbo Street in the direction of the new Chancery. There is a visual that goes directly from the Grotto to this building,” said Bishop Provost.

While there are numerous people to thank, the bishop extended his gratitude in a special way to Father Joseph Caraway, Vice-Chancellor, who was appointed the “yeoman’s job” of coordinating the move.

“The project was very complex, very work intensive, and involved a lot of moving parts,” Bishop Provost said. “I was greatly appreciative to have Father Caraway’s oversight.”



Clergy and staff of the Diocese of Lake Charles gather with Bishop Glen John Provost following the unveiling of the dedicatory plaque outside the newly blessed Chancery on Friday, September 8. The building was dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Acknowledging the help of staff and multiple volunteers, Bishop Provost mentioned several groups: numerous Knights of Columbus Councils, of which the bishop is communicating with to personally to thank each of them; Hispanic Community; Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana — both with staff and volunteers; Seminarians of the Diocese; St. Louis Catholic High School football team; and scores of volunteers from parishes throughout the Diocese.

“All these people and more contributed and made the transition incredibly smooth and effective. The transformation was indeed incredible. Beginning with me as bishop, our gratitude — yours and mine — is profound for those that made all this possible,” he said with deep sincerity.

His Excellency also expressed his thanks to the priests who work so closely with him as well as the staff of the Diocese of Lake Charles saying, “What we do here is very important for the message of Christ that we try to preach.” After Bishop Provost went room to room sprinkling the Chancery with holy water, he and Father Caraway unveiled the dedicatory plaque outdoors on the west side of the main

entrance while everyone sang “Salve Regina.”

The Chancery includes offices for Bishop Provost and Diocesan Administration, Office of Catholic Schools, Tribunal, Marriage, Family and Pro-Life, Communications, Religious Education and Evangelization, Fiscal Services, Vocations, Archives, Child and Youth Protection and Safe Environment, Human Resources, Clergy Immigration, Hurricane Recovery, and Development.

Tours of the building followed, and all enjoyed fried fish dinners prepared by the Cathedral’s Knights of Columbus Council 1207. Fresh flower arrangements were donated by Paradise Florist.

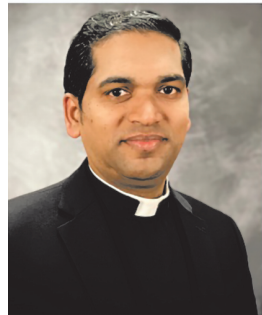
The Diocese of Lake Charles hosted a public open house for tours of the Chancery on Saturday, September 16 with more than 110 people attending.

To contact the Diocese of Lake Charles during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, call 337-439-7400. The mailing address is P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602-3223. The physical address is 1201 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

An Afternoon with Christ

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023

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



Father Rojo Koonathan
Pastor of Christ the King
Catholic Church



PRAISE · ADORE · REFLECT

Very Rev. Rojo Koonathan, V.F, Pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church in Lake Charles, and Dean of the South Central Deanery, will lead the next session of “An Afternoon with Christ,” 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, November 12, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The afternoon will begin with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a reflection by Father Koonathan, 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.

DIOCESAN RECOVERY UPDATE No. 14

The Diocese of Lake Charles continues to address more than \$150,000,000 worth of damages as a result of the hurricanes of 2020, an atypical hard winter freeze, followed by the historic flooding in May 2021. There are several structures throughout the Diocese awaiting completion of FEMA’s Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) process prior to obligating demolition funds, if a decision is made to demolish more than one structure on a single site that is not being replaced, over 50% damaged, deemed structurally unsound, or for which replacement is sought, rather than repair. Depending on the location and surrounding area of the structure, the EHP process may vary. There may be an assessment for buried archeological or tribal specimens, contamination, a structure built at or more than 40 years ago, for a few examples. State and/or federal policy or procedure may trigger the process. EHP processes may last several weeks or several months, depending upon site specifics. As these assessments are taking place, other FEMA groups continue to assess levels of damage or destruction.

Figures below illustrate the current monthly snapshot highlighting the ongoing recovery in the Diocese of Lake Charles as of October 5, 2023:

DIOCESAN EXPENDITURES	through July 2023	Aug / Sep 2023	through Sep 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	\$22,336,452.96	\$3,669,800.38	\$26,006,253.34
Temporary Facilities (See below)	\$10,370,936.79	\$247,663.22	\$10,618,600.01
Restoration Design (Architects) and PM	\$8,018,541.69	\$1,122,176.77	\$9,140,718.46
Insurance Consultants	\$440,459.15		\$440,459.15
FEMA Consultants	\$2,342,335.30	\$173,505.00	\$2,515,840.30
TOTAL Expenditures to date:	\$67,689,972.65	\$5,213,145.37	\$72,903,118.02

TEMPORARY SITES (Expenditures to date)			
Our Lady’s School Temp Facility	\$2,921,988.88	\$16,299.00	\$2,938,287.88
St. Louis High School Temp Facility	\$3,975,321.09	\$111,365.88	\$4,086,686.97
St. Margaret School Temp Facility	\$3,282,169.56	\$105,573.34	\$3,387,742.90
Christ the King Church	\$103,546.90	\$1,200.00	\$104,746.90
DOLC Storage	\$87,910.36	\$13,225.00	\$101,135.36
	\$10,370,936.79	\$247,663.22	\$10,618,600.01

PROJECTS COMPLETED / PROJECTS IN DESIGN
A total of 65 DOLC project sites impacted by Hurricane Laura. (DOLC Misc properties consolidated into 1 project)
A total of 27 DOLC project sites are under active design or specifications development for repairs /
A total of 20 DOLC project sites have a combination of active work and/or active design for repairs /
A total of 18 DOLC project sites, restoration is complete.

TOTAL INSURANCE PROCEEDS	\$30,000,000.00
FEMA OBLIGATIONS TO DATE	\$23,892,649.62
FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS TO DATE	\$9,724,236.20
FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS PENDING	\$2,244,644.71

Data as of 5 Oct 2023

Father Starkovich Grand Marshal of St. Louis Homecoming Parade

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES – Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich, Class of 2003, took a trip down memory lane when he was honored as Grand Marshal of the 2023 Saint Louis Catholic High School Homecoming Parade on September 27.

“My favorite memories from St. Louis involve faith and community,” said Starkovich, who now serves as Pastor of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Ragley. “I spent many hours in prayer in the chapel in the Commons. Looking back, my time in prayer before class, during lunch, or after school was very influential in my vocation.”

Father Starkovich is grateful to his parents, Paul and Martha Starkovich, who worked to provide him with a Catholic

education. He still has good memories of teachers who changed his life, or friends whom he still cherishes today.

A lot has happened to Father Starkovich since he walked the halls of his alma mater.

After graduation in 2003, he studied at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy and Liberal Arts in 2007. He completed his theological formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, from 2007 to 2011, graduating from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Upon his return to the Diocese of Lake Charles, Father Starkovich was ordained a priest on June 11, 2011.

“After 12 years of priestly life, no two days have been the same. The Lord is always full of

surprises, especially in the way that He works in the lives of his people,” Starkovich said. “It’s a marvelous adventure to be a part of God’s plan.”

During his 12 years of priesthood, Rev. Starkovich has been assigned to five parishes — Our Lady Help of Christians (2011-2013); St. Margaret of Scotland, (2013-2015); Our Lady Queen of Heaven (2015-2016); St. Henry (2016-2018); and his current assignment as Pastor at St. Pius X since 2018.

For Father Starkovich, the ability to practice faith in every aspect of life is the most important part of Catholic education. He recalls being a student at St. Louis during the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

“I was in Coach Oertling’s American History class when Coach Graham burst in the

room unannounced, ran to the TV, and turned it on. He said, ‘A plane just hit the World Trade Center ...’ and as the tube television warmed up, we watched a plane strike the second tower,” Starkovich recalled. “An announcement was made for the entire student body to gather in the Commons. We opened the chapel and prayed a rosary for our nation.”

If Father Starkovich were to give advice to high school student Jeffrey Starkovich, he said that he would tell him to do the right thing, even if it comes at great cost.

“Sometimes, a young high schooler can wonder if the right and moral choice is worth it,” he said. “As a young adult, I have come to understand that the right thing is always worth doing. Always.”



Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich
Pastor of St. Pius X Parish