



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK MASS Bishop: Foundation of faith begins with students

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Something Bishop Glen John Provost enjoys most about visiting Catholic schools are the students. On January 31, 2024, many students in the Diocese of Lake Charles had the chance to visit him in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for a special Mass to celebrate the 50th year of National Catholic Schools Week.

Seniors from St. Louis Catholic High School and eighth-grade students from the other five Catholic schools in the Diocese gathered to celebrate the gift of their faith-based learning. The Mass coincided with the Memorial of St. John Bosco, a champion for the education of Catholic youth.

“It is no accident that the Church in the United States proclaims this Catholic Schools Week,” Bishop Provost said, noting that a few days prior (January 28) was the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron of Catholic education.

“The Catholic Church has always been dedicated to education,” the bishop remarked, turning his thoughts to John Henry Cardinal Newman, one of the great Catholic minds of the last 500 years in the Church’s history.

“Now canonized, Cardinal Newman knew there was no true education without first addressing the education of the youngest,” Bishop Provost said in his homily.

“Laying a solid foundation in the faith and the hearts and minds of young students and building up a fertile field in which to plant the strongest of seed to yield the most creative of harvest is the challenge of Catholic education today,” the bishop continued.

There are 2,301 of those young students enrolled in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Acknowledging the strong faith of people

in Southwest Louisiana despite the 2020 hurricanes, Bishop Provost noted that the survival of Catholic schools will always depend on the faith of the Catholic people to sustain them.

He added that it must be our prayer and true effort to not merely keep our Catholic schools open but to make them the best possible.

“This will only happen,” the bishop said, “if we take up, uncompromisingly, the mantle of Catholicism and pass it on to our young. We are not a school in search of identity. We have an identity. We just need to encourage it and bring it to the fore.”

Following Mass, Bishop Provost interacted with the students by inviting them to ask questions, expressing that he likes to know what is on their minds.

- They learned that he enjoys playing the piano and reading books, with as many as 3,000 in his personal library.

- A favorite memory of his own Catholic education are the teachers who challenged him.

- He didn’t hesitate to answer, “Christmas emotionally,” when asked what his favorite liturgical season is.

- Before going to sleep, he says “good night” to St. Michael the Archangel, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. John of the Cross, to name a few.

- One of his favorite Bible verses — emphasizing it is hard to choose just one — 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)”

- Most unique church he has seen: the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain because it is like a Gothic church.

- He is fluent in French, English, and Italian, and has studied Greek, Hebrew, Spanish, and Latin.



School representatives joining Bishop Provost on the front steps of the Cathedral before the Catholic Schools Week Mass on January 31 are front row, from left, Ella Reed (OLI), Ellie Gage (OLQH), Vega Hayes (SMCS), Jack Credeur (OLQH), and Henry Daigle (OLS); second row, from left, Sarah Owen (SLCHS); Bishop Provost; Daisyn Lacombe (OLS), and Andrew Foret (ICCS); and back row, from left, Logan Biven (SMCS), Preston Radde (SLCHS), and Maryanne Authement (SMCS).

When asked for advice on how to resist temptation, he responded, “Prayer is important. You must have courage to resist temptation. With God’s help, you can develop habits to choose good over evil.”

At the request of a student, the Q&A session ended with Bishop Provost praying the Hail Mary in French.

Concelebrants for the Mass were:

- Very Rev. Ruben Buller, V.G., Pastor of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

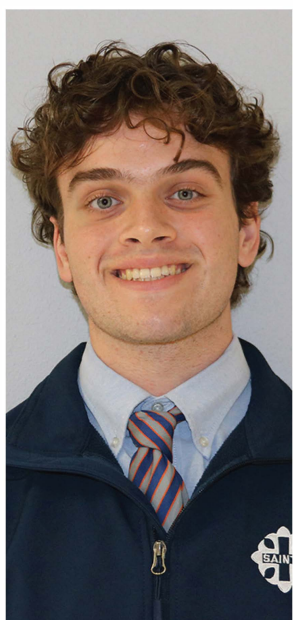
- Very Rev. Keith Pellerin, V.F., Pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings

- Rev. Andrew DeRouen, Parochial Vicar of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church and Chaplain of St. Louis Catholic High School

Deacon Stephen Starr assisted the bishop, and Rev. Samuel Bond served as master of ceremonies.

Always a favorite for the prayerful occasion, music was provided by the Saint Louis Catholic High School Choir, directed by Colette Tanner.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles — all accredited by Cognia — are St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, and Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; Our Lady’s Catholic School in Sulphur; and Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings.



PRESTON RADDE
Grade 12
SLCHS



ANDREW FORET
Grade 8
ICCS



ANNSLEE MILLER
Grade 5
OLI

2024 Diocesan Students of the Year announced

The Office of Catholic Schools announces the Diocese of Lake Charles 2024 Student of the Year winners for elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Winners are **Preston Radde**, Grade 12, St. Louis Catholic High School; and **Andrew Foret**, Grade 8, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, both in Lake Charles; and **Annslee Miller**, Grade 5, Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings.

Preston is the son of Erica Radde; Andrew is the son Dr. Ryan and Elise Foret; and Annslee is the daughter of Kayla Monceaux and Greg Miller.

The winners were chosen from the school level Students of the Year on Friday, January 26, at the Chancery of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lake Charles. They advance to the state competition at the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans on Monday, February 26, to compete in the Louisiana Catholic Student of the Year Program.

The competition is open to Catholic schools in the state’s seven dioceses — Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Houma-Thibodaux, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Shreveport, and the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The program is designed to recognize outstanding students in grades 5, 8, and 12 who have demonstrated excellence in discipleship, leadership, service, citizenship, and academic achievement.

Other winners at the school level were:

- **Immaculate Conception Cathedral School** (Lake Charles): Grade 5 — Cecile “CC” Devall, daughter of Claude and Abby Devall

- **St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School** (Lake Charles): Grade 8 — Vega Hayes, daughter of Sara Lindsey and Darrell Hayes; Grade 5 — Grayson Miller, son of Melanie Regan

- **Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School** (Jennings): Grade 8 — Ella Reed, daughter of Ryan and Ashlyn Reed

- **Our Lady’s Catholic School** (Sulphur): Grade 8 — Kiley Spicer, daughter of Scott and Allyson Spicer; Grade 5 — Abel Findley, son of Dr. Troy and Jessica Findley

Winners were selected for the Diocesan Student of the Year honor based on academic achievement, school organization participation, community service, leadership activities, an essay writing assignment, and an interview with a panel of four judges.

DeMolle named 2024-25 principal at St. Louis Catholic High School

LAKE CHARLES — On January 24, St. Louis Catholic High School and the Office of Catholic Schools announced the selection of Kelly Link DeMolle as the 2024-2025 principal.

Kelly is the wife of Maverick DeMolle, and together, they are the parents of Ella (SLC class of 2022), Grace and Gabbie (SLC class of 2023) and Mallori (SLC class of 2027). Kelly has been a life-long parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church and is a St. Louis Catholic High School alumna of the Class of 1999.

Mrs. DeMolle began her educational career 18 years ago as a special education teacher at the Calcasieu Parish Alternative School.

She has spent the last 10 years at Our Lady Queen of Heaven School, serving her first year as a middle school resource teacher and the last nine years in a leadership role as the Middle School Coordinator.

When asked about this new transition, Kelly explained, “As an alumna of this remarkable school and educator in this growing community, I could not be more excited to take on this new adventure! St. Louis Catholic High School is a special place. It is more than just new building plans. There is a spirit about this school that cannot be explained, only experienced. I experienced it as I walked these halls as a student and as a parent, and I consider myself abundantly blessed to now be able to experience



KELLY DEMOLLE
St. Louis High Principal

that same spirit of St. Louis Catholic High School as the new principal.”

Mrs. DeMolle is a graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She has obtained a Master’s in the Art of Teaching with a concentration in Special Education from McNeese State University.

Shroud of Turin presentation planned March 7 in Diocese

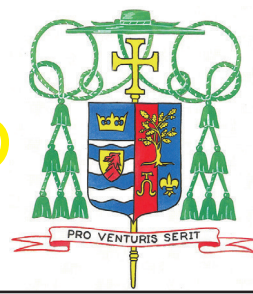
LAKE CHARLES — “Exploring the Mystery of the Shroud of Turin” will be presented by Cheryl H. White, Ph.D., at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at St. Louis Catholic High School in the Pavilion. Dr. White’s presentation is part of the Diocesan Camino of St. Peter Claver under way in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Dr. White is a professor of history at Louisiana State University at Shreveport, where she holds the endowed Hubert Humphreys Professorship. She has had a career-long interest in Shroud studies, currently serves on the board of directors of the Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association (STERA) and has published and presented original research from the Vatican Secret Archives related to the history of the Shroud for international journals and conferences.

Dr. White served as the historical consultant on the Shroud of Turin exhibit developed for the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., and has given numerous presentations there, as well as provided internationally live-streamed presentations for the esteemed Smithsonian Institution.

During the summer of 2023, Dr. White led a Shroud catechesis session at World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, at the invitation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. She appears in a new History Channel documentary and a forthcoming EWTN documentary on the Shroud to air in the spring of 2024.

The Shroud of Turin presentation will be hosted by St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church and the Diocese of Lake Charles. There is no charge to attend. The pavilion at St. Louis Catholic High School is located at the corner of Kirkman and Ninth streets.



MARCH FOR LIFE 2024

Pro-life supporters 'Here for Her' despite rainy weather

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Children walking with their parents during the annual Louisiana March for Life Southwest counted the puddles they jumped in along the one-mile route from Veterans Memorial Park to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, January 22. The pro-life March takes place every year on the “Day of Prayer for Legal Protection for Unborn Children.”

“Here for Her” was the theme for the 28th annual march in downtown Lake Charles. It is sponsored by Louisiana Right to Life, New Life Counseling, and ABC Pregnancy Resource Center.

Despite the blustery wet winter evening, several dozen pro-life supporters showed up and walked in the pouring rain making their presence known for mothers and their innocent and defenseless babies.

A candlelight prayer vigil, traditionally held on the steps of the Calcasieu Parish Courthouse, followed the march inside the Cathedral where hundreds more were waiting to pray for the sanctity and dignity of life at all stages.

Ben Clapper, Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life, said he was not surprised with the large turnout for the walk, despite the wind and heavy downpour.

“I know how much people care about the unborn and supporting young moms. It did not shock me at all that people came out to participate,” he said, describing it as an “exhilarating” weather experience. “People in the pro-life movement have a heart for prayer and sacrifice and are willing to show their love in that way.”

He mentioned that he was amused by the children jumping in the puddles.

“Watching the kids jump in the puddles along the way was hilarious. I challenged them to keep track, and one of them said they jumped in 600 puddles,” said Clapper.

One child who was not playing in the rain was lost to abortion on March 31, 1972. The mother, Marcia Schexnider, was among those who spoke during the vigil.

“I carried one those babies who never was given the chance to jump in a puddle, never got to have a birthday or open a Christmas present because I believed the lie that abortion was my only option nearly 52 years ago,” she remarked.

As candles were lit throughout the Cathedral, Schexnider said to those present, “We stand united for every mother and every father that lives with that regret.”

Schexnider now leads a ministry called “Life After Choice” at New Life Counseling. She also mentioned “Rachel’s Vineyard,” led by Marjorie Long in the Diocese of Lake Charles, as another excellent ministry of hope for those involved with abortions.

Rev. Joseph Caraway, Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral, led the opening prayer asking God to grant wisdom to those who govern to see the gift of life in a mother’s womb, and to give faith and courage to mothers and fathers who struggle to choose life.

Among those who govern in Calcasieu Parish is Louisiana



Pro-life supporters brave the cold and rain during the annual Louisiana March for Life Southwest to make their voices known for the sanctity of life at all stages. The annual event takes place on January 22 every year on the Day of Prayer for Legal Protection for Unborn Children.

Senator Jeremy Stine (R-District 27), who shared a few thoughts.

“We must remain steadfast in our decision to safeguard life in every aspect of our society,” he said. “As your state senator, I pledge to do everything within my power to ensure that Louisiana stands for pro-life values and the sanctity of life.”

Clapper noted that since the initial ruling of Roe v. Wade in 1973, just under 540,000 abortions occurred in Louisiana until the ruling was overturned on June 24, 2022.

Tabitha Dugas, Executive Director of New Life Counseling, said that despite the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the reality is that abortions continue.

“Twenty-eight years ago, we made a promise that lives lost to abortion would never be forgotten. Here we are returning for another year to fulfill that promise,” said Dugas.

“To make abortions unthinkable requires a collective effort, a commitment to addressing the root causes that lead women to feel compelled to make this choice,” she continued. “This stark truth emphasizes that our work is far from over.”

Longtime supporters of the local event are Vic and Constance Darbonne, members of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Even on a stormy night, they could not think of being

anywhere else than standing for life.

“When you think of those babies, I would never think of not participating in the March for Life, no matter the weather,” said Vic, who is involved with the baby bottle campaign with the Knights of Columbus Council 4562. “Baby bottles are filled with money and donated to New Life Counseling.”

Constance, who has nine siblings, said she is glad her parents gave birth to all of them.

“The least we can do is pass on the support for life to our children and grandchildren. That is how we were raised,” she said. “There is nothing more important in this country right now than getting abortions to be unthinkable.”

Dugas expressed heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Glen John Provost, Rev. Ruben Buller, and Rev. Caraway for allowing use of the Cathedral.

Becky Girola, Director of ABC Pregnancy Resource Center, shared a few closing remarks, and Rev. Darrell Bourgeois, Associate Pastor at Glad Tidings, led the closing prayer. Music was provided by Anna Abrahams from Pillar Church and Melody Savoie from Church of the King.

Deacon Roy T. Nash interred

KINDER – Deacon Roy T. Nash, 68, was laid to rest in Green Oak Cemetery following the Mass of Christian Burial from St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, on Saturday, January 20. The Rev. Alan Trouille, pastor of St. Philip Neri, was the celebrant, with The Most Reverend Glen John Provost offering the final commendation.

Other priests of the diocese concelebrated with a number of diocesan permanent deacons taking part.

Deacon Nash, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 13, surrounded by his family

Deacon Nash was born December 15, 1955, in Warwick, VA. He was raised in Burr Ferry, LA and educated at Evans High School, and he graduated from Anacoco High School in 1973. Deacon Nash moved to Cameron, for work in 1974, and found the love of his life, Brenda LaLande. They were married June 14, 1975, the same year he began working at Conoco Phillips.

He lovingly raised his family working diligently for that company for 37 years. Hurricane Rita hit in 2005 and in November of 2005, he relocated his family to Kinder. Deacon Nash loved working in his yard, gardening, and spending time with his family, but his true passion was his faith and sharing it with the people around him. Deacon Nash came into the faith on July 18, 1982, under the well-formed mentoring of the late Monsignor Curtis Vidrine at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron. His deep conversion came while making a Cursillo on



Deacon Roy T. Nash

Pentecost weekend in May of 1998. From that conversion he felt a call and began studying to become a permanent deacon being ordained on December 1, 2001. He was appointed to Our Lady Star of the Sea and served faithfully until Hurricane Rita in September 2005. He was generously welcomed into St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Kinder and was appointed there at the end of 2005. He taught religious education, led the RCLA program, served in various food banks and distributions, started a men’s prayer group, served with the Knights of Columbus as Recording Secretary, organized home bound Communion, ministered in the local nursing homes, served on many A.C.T.S. retreats, served as a spiritual director on Teen A.C.T.S and gave countless charitable works.

He boldly shared the Faith with his brothers and sisters at the Cursillo Center for many years. He loved serving God’s people. He was overjoyed when St. Philip Neri invited him to work full time for the church after retiring from Conoco Phillips Refinery in 2012. His tireless work will be truly

missed by so many, and his family prays that the fruits of it will continue on in the lives of others.

Those who are left to cherish his memory are his precious wife of 49 years, Brenda LaLande Nash of Kinder, daughter, Hope Nash January and husband Ronald of Kinder; son, Ryan Nash and wife Angie of Kinder; grandchildren, Taylor (Chad) Carnahan of Lake Charles, Holden January of Kinder, Alec January of Metairie, LA, Dillon (Haley) Nash of Kinder, Grace (Geno) Richmond of Scott, LA, Blaze January of Lake Charles, Kylie Nash, Remy January, Elly Nash, Sam Nash, and one like a granddaughter, Jaylen Brock all of Kinder; great-grandchildren, Christopher, Colton, Adilynn Nash, and baby Richmond soon to come; his father, Therman Nash of Burr Ferry; his brother, Harvey and wife Brenda Nash of Burr Ferry; his sister, Darlene and husband Mike Moses of DeRidder; his sister, Dianne and husband Randall Gibson of Leesville, LA; his sister, Tawanaka Nash of Rosepine; his brother, Jesse and wife Rose Nash of Burr Ferry, LA; brother-in-law, Bobby and wife, Bernice LaLande of Lake Charles, and a host of aunts, nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews he loved.

Deacon Nash was preceded in death by his mother, Margie Dowden Nash; mother-in-law, Olive V. Castaine; father-in-law, Richard “Doc” Castaine; and brother-in-law, Deil LaLande.

An Afternoon with Christ

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10, 2024

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



Father Andy DeRouen

Parochial Vicar
at St. Margaret of
Scotland Catholic Church



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**



PRAISE · ADORE · REFLECT

Rev. Andrew DeRouen, Parochial Vicar at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Lake Charles, will lead the next session of “An Afternoon with Christ,” 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Father DeRouen also serves as Chaplain at St. Louis Catholic High School and St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School. The afternoon will begin with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a reflection by Father DeRouen, 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.

SAVE THE DATES

LAKE CHARLES — Save the Dates for two live performances reflecting on the life and death of Jesus Christ during this Lenten season:

• **Sunday, March 17** — 2:15 p.m., *Live Luminous and Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary*, St. Henry Catholic Church, 1021 Eighth Avenue. The powerful performance will focus on the life of Jesus from his Baptism to his Death. The audience can expect an authenticity that will place them at the scene more than 2,000 years ago. For more information, call the church office at 337-436-7223.

• **Palm Sunday, March 24** — 3:00 p.m., *Live Stations of the Cross*, at Consolata Cemetery, 2300 Country Club Road. The annual production of the re-enactment of Christ’s Walk to Calvary is hosted by Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. With a cast of more than 100 people, the emotional performance includes audience interaction as they re-live each of the 14 Stations of the Cross while Monsignor Daniel Torres guides everyone in prayer. For more information, call Dewey Duhon at 337-477-5372.