



Together in Holiness returning on April 13

MOSS BLUFF — The fourth annual *Together in Holiness* in the Diocese of Lake Charles will be held 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Camp Karol, 1087 Bozo Road.

Bishop Glen John Provost encourages all engaged and married couples to attend this conference to grow in their love for Christ and one another. The one-day event is presented in partnership with the St. John Paul II Foundation.

"I am delighted to welcome the fourth annual *Together in Holiness* conference to the Diocese of Lake Charles," said Bishop Provost. "In this day of prayer and formation, married couples have the opportunity to form their households into a faithful school of virtue."

The bishop continued, "They can lead their children, grandchildren, or friends to the authentic freedom that comes from living a moral life in Jesus Christ."

Together in Holiness inspires spouses to live out their vocation in holiness and joy while empowering parents to form their children in the Catholic faith. It is intended for married couples — from newlyweds to empty nesters — as well as engaged couples.

The St. John Paul II Foundation is a national Catholic apostolate proclaiming the good news about life and family through education and formation. As St. John Paul II famously said, "As goes the family, so goes the nation, so goes the entire world in which we live."

The conference offers presentations from national and local speakers, Mass,

Reconciliation, and Eucharistic Adoration.

National speaker will be Danielle Bean, creator and host of a weekly Catholic women's television talk show "The Gist," and host of the Girlfriends podcast. A wife and mother of eight, it is in her primary vocation to marriage and motherhood that Danielle finds the inspiration for all her work.

The Most Rev. Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will be the celebrant for the Mass and Marriage Blessing at 11:45 a.m. Conference topics and speakers include:

- Two presentations by Danielle Bean: *The Family: A School of Virtue*, and *Overcoming Challenges of Living a Virtuous Life*

- *Thriving, Not Just Surviving: Virtues of a Joyful Marriage*, presented by Rev. Whitney G. Miller, PhD, LPC; and Katie and Tommy McGrady, all from the Diocese of Lake Charles

A registration fee of \$64 per couple and \$40 per individual includes a box lunch and light afternoon snack. On-site childcare is available for \$5 per child. Partial or full scholarships are available for families needing financial assistance with registration costs.

For those interested in attending *Together in Holiness*, the full schedule and registration is available at togetherinholiness.org. You can also contact Ellen Santoro, Senior Conference Coordinator, at ellen@forlifeandfamily.org or 832-779-1070, for more information.



Diocese of Lake Charles NEC Congress Passes (only 100 available)

At the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, our Catholic family will gather to experience profound, personal renewal through the power of Christ's love.



NEC INFORMATION

- July 17-21, 2024
- Lucas Oil Stadium & other downtown venues in Indianapolis, IN
- Scan the QR Code to see the Congress schedule and the list of Catholic speakers who will be there.



CONGRESS PASSES

- Limited number allotted per Diocesan Deanery
- \$200 per 5-day full-event Congress Pass
- **Make checks payable to Diocese of Lake Charles**

HOTEL INFORMATION

- Limited number of 4-night block of rooms available at Omni Severin Indianapolis
- 7-minute walk to the National Eucharistic Congress
- Participants are responsible for hotel payment.

TRANSPORTATION

- Participants are responsible for securing and paying for transportation to and from Indianapolis.
- We will NOT be traveling as a group.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- Call Felicia Borel at 337-477-1236 to register for a Congress Pass (or with any questions.)
- Once payment is received & registration is complete, you will receive information on how to book your hotel room at the Omni Severin.
- **Make your own travel arrangements.**

The 10th National Eucharistic Congress — the first one in 83 years — will take place July 17-21, 2024, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. This is a pivotal moment in both American history and the legacy of the Catholic Church. Regardless of where you are on your faith journey, the Congress is designed to facilitate a life-changing encounter with Jesus. View details in flyer above to learn more about how you can join the Diocese of Lake Charles to be a part of this historic National Eucharistic Congress. Scan the QR code to browse the Event Schedule for a unique lineup of experiences and speakers. New details will be added at www.eucharisticcongress.org as they are announced. Please note that some of the limited number of hotel rooms reserved for the Diocese of Lake Charles will be lost if not booked by March 15.



Villa Maria Mardi Gras King and Queen

James LeBon and Dolores McDonald reigned as 2024 King and Queen during the Villa Maria Retirement Center Mardi Gras party on February 9. Soon after their royal toast, Mayor Nic Hunter had the honor of presenting them with official certificates. Queen Dolores, 83, is a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, having made her home at Villa Maria for the past eight years. She is retired from the Jefferson Parish 911 Center. The Queen relocated to Lake Charles following Hurricane Rita in 2005. A great-grandmother, Dolores said she tries to enjoy life every day with the residents at Villa Maria. King James, 69, gets around — or should we say gets the residents around. He is the transportation driver at Villa Maria, expressing that he loves his job and all the residents and looks forward to going to work every day. The King and his wife, Susan, of 28 years, are parishioners of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sulphur. He has six grandchildren and enjoys spending time with his family. Adding to the celebration was lively music provided, free of charge, by local DJ, Earl Lapointe, and a special visit from the 2024 royalty of Krewe de la Noblesse.

Dupre' named principal at ICCS

LAKE CHARLES — Immaculate Conception Cathedral School and the Office of Catholic Schools announced, on February 6, the selection of Ms. Pamela Dupre' as the 2024-2025 Principal.

Ms. Dupre' is a lifelong resident of Lake Charles and is a parishioner at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish. She is raising her grandson who is a student at ICCS. She is a devoted educator who has spent the past 26 years in the public system, serving in a variety of invaluable roles with experience in both elementary and middle school. She has also taught catechism and served as an RCIA sponsor. Ms. Dupre'

said, "I am excited to work with the diocese, talented teachers and staff, but above all, to build meaningful connections with the students and their families."

Ms. Dupre' received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from McNeese State University. She holds teaching certifications and an educational leadership certificate from the Louisiana Department of Education.

Father Ruben Buller, Pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, said, "It was clear from Ms. Dupre's interview that she knew our community because she had already immersed herself in it."



PAMELA DUPRE'
2024-2025
ICCS Principal

Good Friday Collection

Providing Care to Christians
in the Holy Land

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them during this special day in the Church and our life of faith.

The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America is the home of a world-wide Commissariat of Friars Minor and monasteries who function as bridges between the Holy Land and Christians all over the world. The Commissariat offices here at the Monastery in Washington, D.C. coordinate the vital support for the work of the Franciscans who work in the Holy Land.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. It is vital that we care for the Christians living in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence in a land that is filled with a majority Islamic and Jewish population.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is applied to these programs below.

Faith, Memory & Culture – The Holy Places

Holy Land Franciscans staff and maintain the Holy places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to

deepen their faith and their spiritual and cultural connection to Salvation history.

Social & Charitable Activities

In order to assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody builds thousands of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical assistance is provided for the needy.

Educational & Scientific Activities

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for students to prepare them to get jobs and remain in the Holy Land as part of living Catholic communities. Funds are distributed to young men studying to become Franciscan priests or brothers. Finally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Places discovering historical artifacts.

Pastoral Activities

The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land offering Worship, Christian Formation, youth and family programs.

Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs

The Franciscan Media Center tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages. The friars organize Liturgical Celebrations for the local Christians and Pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing Ecumenical cooperation.

Administrator elected at Houma-Thibodaux

SCHREIVER — The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux announces that the College of Consultors has elected Reverend Simon Peter Engurait as the Diocesan Administrator. Father Engurait will serve the diocese as its leader until the Holy Father appoints a new bishop.

Upon the untimely death Friday, January 19, 2024, of Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, the office of bishop in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux was officially declared vacant, or *sede vacante*. Thus, according

to canon law, the College of Consultors was charged with selecting a diocesan administrator within eight days, a period known as the interregnum. The diocesan administrator continues the work of the bishop until a future bishop is named by the Holy Father.

Upon his election, Father Engurait made a profession of faith in the presence of the College of Consultors and notified the Apostolic Nuncio of his election.

Father Engurait is a native of Ngora, Uganda, and a 2013 Master of Divinity graduate of Notre Dame Seminary. He was ordained by Bishop Sam Jacobs at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral on May 26, 2013.

Father Engurait immediately assumed leadership as Diocesan Administrator. When asked about his election, he stated, "I'm humbled by the confidence of my brother priests. I commit to serve God and his people in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux."

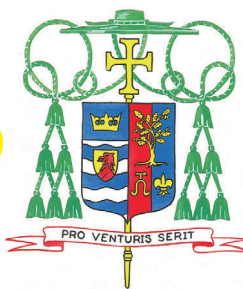


PHOTO AT LEFT: On February 18, the First Sunday of Lent, Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the Rite of Election welcoming 56 Catechumens who will celebrate the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30, throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles. **PHOTO AT RIGHT:** On February 25, the Second Sunday of Lent, Bishop Provost welcomed a total of 112 Candidates – those preparing for full reception into the Catholic Church at Easter, at which time they will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Following the Rite of Continuing Conversion, the bishop answered questions from the Candidates. A total of 112 Candidates participated with their sponsors during the liturgy.

Future Catholics take next steps toward Sacraments of Initiation

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Growing in knowledge of the Catholic faith can be a lifelong journey for many baptized Catholics. For others, the search for answers in the “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church” does not begin until they are adults.

Every year during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (this year on March 30), thousands of those who have been searching, and learning, will enter fully into the life of the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

On the First and Second Sundays of Lent, Bishop Glen John Provost welcomed 168 Catechumens and Candidates going through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults process (formerly known as Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

The Rite of Election, for those who have never been baptized (Catechumens), took place on the February 18. The Rite of Continuing Conversion, for those who have been baptized in a Christian faith but are not Catholic (Candidates), followed on February 25. Both rites took place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

During his homily to the Catechumens, Bishop Provost reflected on the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent — this year from Mark 1:12-15 — noting that at the beginning of every Lent, the Church presents us with the account of Our Lord in the desert and the temptations by Satan.

“Our Lord Jesus Christ came for one reason alone, that is, to do the salvific will of His Father,” he said. “He is to redeem and will do this by suffering, dying, and rising.”

In speaking directly to the Catechumens, Bishop Provost continued, “This is the Paschal Mystery, and it is this that you, my dear brothers and sisters, are preparing to experience at the Easter Vigil in your baptism.”

The bishop shared that someone had asked him recently why we do penances during Lent, to which he could have given many reasons but chose one.

“I answered that we do penance because we need discipline. The society we live in is undisciplined,” Bishop Provost remarked. “This is why Lent exists. These 40 days remind us of the importance of being resolutely fixed on what is good, right, and just.”

Among the Catechumens excited to be approaching their

initiation into the Catholic Church are husband and wife, Jeremy and Shellay Citizen, who recently celebrated their fifth anniversary of marriage. They are going through the OCIA process at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lake Charles.

“My dad left the Catholic Church when I was young, and I was raised in the Oneness Pentecostal faith,” said Jeremy, who has been in the process for two years. “As an adult, I started praying, studying, and seeking God, even had some dreams, that led me back to the Church.”

Shellay, who grew up surrounded by Jehovah’s Witnesses, said that she did not know anything about the Catholic faith.

“While I was not baptized Jehovah’s Witness, most of my family is. I was attracted to the Catholic faith because of my husband and his family,” said Shellay, who has been in the process for a year and a half. “I started the inquiry phase and was learning things that I had not learned before. I felt called to continue. I still learn something new every day.”

Both Jeremy and Shellay said that they are most excited about becoming Catholic so they can receive the Eucharist. Shellay added that she is looking forward to receiving many of the sacraments since they are all channels to receive God’s grace.

Following his homily, Bishop Provost declared the Catechumens to be members of the Elect, and their names were recorded in the Book of the Elect. One by one with their godparents, they greeted the bishop, who then signed the Book of the Elect for each church parish represented.

The Rite of Election closes the period of the Catechuminate and begins the preparation for Baptism at Easter known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

The Rite of Continuing Conversion for baptized Candidates — those preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist — included a time of questions from the Candidates to Bishop Provost. Rev. Samuel Bond, Director for the Office of Liturgy, presented a reflection on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Please keep all the Catechumens and Candidates in your prayers during these final days to their Easter sacraments.

Bishop Provost to preside at Sacred Triduum

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

On Palm Sunday, March 24, 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 (March 23), 7:30 a.m. (Sunday), 11:15 a.m. (Sunday), and 12:45 p.m. (Sunday), Latin Mass.

The Bishop will be the celebrant of the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 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 upcoming year are prepared and blessed.

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper is celebrated on Holy Thursday, March 28, at 7 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 the St. Bernadette Oratory until midnight.

The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion will take place on Good Friday, March 29, 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.

Earlier on Good Friday, the Cathedral Parish will participate in the Seven Church Walk that will begin at 8:00 a.m. at 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 at 10:00 a.m. on Good Friday with confessions (the Sacrament of Reconciliation) from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Confessions will be available on Holy Saturday (March 30) from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30, will begin at 8 p.m. in the Cathedral with the Service of Light outside the church.

Cathedral Mass times for Easter Sunday, March 31 are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m., with the Latin Mass 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, March 24, 25, and 26. Offices are closed on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, March 28 and 29, as well as Easter Monday, April 1 reopening on Tuesday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m.

Announcement of Pastoral Assignments

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, hereby announces pastoral assignments for the year two thousand and twenty-four for the Diocese of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Effective March 1, 2024:

The Reverend Joseph Caraway – Chancellor of the Diocese of Lake Charles and in residence at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

The Reverend Michael Beverung – Parochial Vicar, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Lake Charles

The Reverend Prabhakar Kowtiki, MOC – Parochial Vicar, Saint Margaret of Scotland Parish, Lake Charles

The Reverend Andrew DeRouen – Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Sulphur

The Reverend Shaji Jose, HGN – Chaplain to Stella Maris Seafarers’ Center, Lake Charles

The Reverend Michael Caraway – Chaplain to Saint Louis Catholic High School and continuing with duties as Director of the Vianney House and as Director of Vocations and Seminarians

Effective March 7, 2024

The Very Reverend Ruben J. Buller – Finance Officer of the Diocese of Lake Charles and continuing his duties as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

Signed by our hand and that of our Chancellor, on day 7 of March in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

✠ Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Rev. Joseph Caraway
Chancellor

Penance Nights scheduled March 18-21

Penance Nights have been scheduled throughout each of the four Deaneries Monday-Thursday, March 18-21, 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 18

West Deanery — Immaculate Conception, Maplewood; Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Our Lady of LaSalette, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, and St. Francis de Sales Oratory, all 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 19

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 20

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 21

East Deanery — Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Immaculate Conception, all in Jennings; Our Lady of Seven Dolours, 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>

Death of Msgr. Arthur Calkins

SULPHUR — Monsignor Arthur B. Calkins, a priest of the Archdiocese of New Orleans in residence at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, died on Saturday, February 3, 2024.

A Solemn Requiem High Mass with Pontifical Assistance was celebrated Friday, February 9, 2024, at St. Francis de Sales Oratory, 802 South Huntington Street, Sulphur. After the Mass, his body lay in repose in the Chapel of St. Peter Claver at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church with vigil kept throughout the day and night until Saturday, February 10, when the body was moved to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in preparation for the Memorial Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles.

A Funeral Mass took place on Friday, February 16, 2024, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 3368 Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans. Interment followed at St. Louis #3 Cemetery, New Orleans.

Eternal rest grant unto your priest, Arthur, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.