



Deacon Caraway was servant, strong voice for the unborn

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

WESTLAKE — Deacon Julius Garrett Caraway Jr., will long be remembered for his tremendous support of the pro-life cause throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Before his death at the age of 91 on March 11, 2024, for many years he was a true servant doing whatever he could to help save countless unborn babies from the threat of abortion.

Bishop Glen John Provost, reflecting on the life of this exemplary minister of the Church said, “Deacon Caraway truly embodied for us involvement in so many valuable services to Christ and His Body, the Church. Throughout his many years he recognized what needed to be done and answered the call.

“We entrust him confidently to the Lord and offer his family and friends our deepest condolences,” the bishop continued. “He leaves behind a rich legacy of service that should be a consolation to us all.”

A permanent deacon since 1977 — first for the Diocese of Lafayette and later for the Diocese of Lake Charles, serving at St. John Bosco Catholic Church — Caraway was also a pharmacist and owner of Caraway’s Pharmacy in Westlake. He used these two platforms to reach young mothers, students, adults, and anyone he could impact with the pro-life message.

His daughter, Evette Caraway Ange, also a pharmacist at Caraway’s, recalls how her father became active in the pro-life ministry and especially New Life Counseling, a local crisis pregnancy center started by Monica Breaux in 1984.

“I was in high school when Roe v. Wade (legalized abortion) happened in 1973. My family was horrified and could not believe that people would do such a thing,” said Evette, who has two younger brothers and a sister.

It was through a Natural Family Planning class, Couple-to-Couple League, when Evette first crossed paths with Breaux in 1985.

“My husband Sam and I married in 1982 and had been through Natural Family Planning classes taught by Monica and her husband.

“Monica had started New Life Counseling a couple of years after we were married and sent letters to people she had taught asking them to pledge \$5.00 a month for expenses.

The letter also explained there would be free pregnancy tests and counseling for mothers considering an abortion,” Evette said.

“I told Monica I would do whatever I could to help but I could not counsel anybody,” she recalled, until one day she found herself talking a mother out of an abortion. It was an eye-opener for Evette who was then formally trained and joined Monica as a counselor.

“I remember going home and telling Dad about my experience, and shortly after, he became involved with New Life Counseling and remained active for several decades,” Evette remarked.

Within a year of volunteering, Deacon Caraway was appointed to the board of directors for more than 20 years. He also served as diocesan pro-life coordinator for many years.

“He would give pro-life talks to students at St. Louis Catholic High school. He gave talks to catechism groups and to Knights of Columbus councils,” said Evette. “Anytime he would speak to adults, Dad would always raise funds for New Life Counseling. He also led First Saturday rosaries for the unborn for many years at St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Westlake.

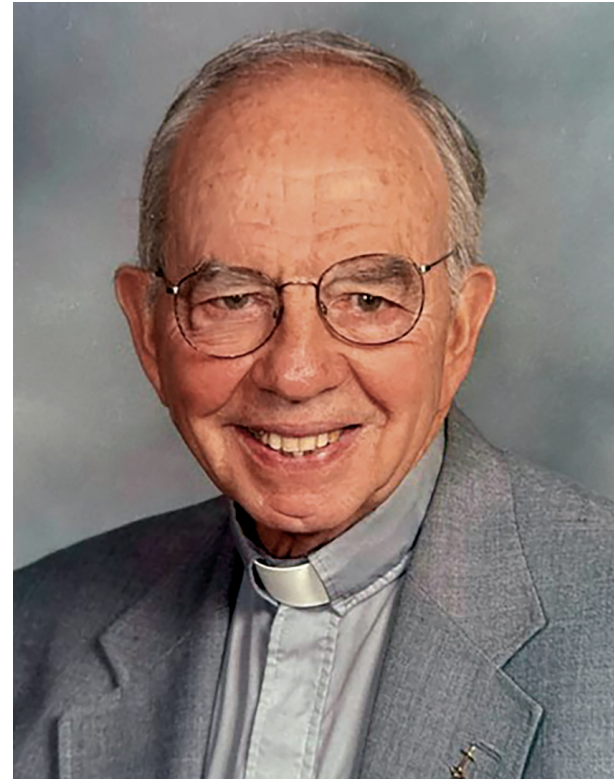
It was after she attended pharmacy school that Evette said she learned about chemically induced abortions.

“My father and I were learning a lot at that time (in the late 1980s) and once we were aware of the potential for birth control pills to cause abortions, he immediately stopped selling birth control at the pharmacy,” she said. “He did not want any part of it. To this day, Caraway’s Pharmacy does not sell birth control pills.”

One thing Deacon Caraway did provide — free of charge — were pre-natal vitamins to clients of New Life Counseling. The pharmacy still does today.

Evette said her father’s involvement with the pro-life cause extended beyond himself and what he could do. He was also a faithful witness for his 17 grandchildren (and later 34 great-grandchildren), impressing upon them the importance of life at all stages.

“Every year, we would bring the grandchildren to the local candlelight vigil on the steps of the Courthouse, and my dad was right there with us,” Evette shared. “He was always active either by giving a talk or leading the opening prayer.”



Deacon Julius Garrett Caraway, Jr.

The candlelight vigil was started by New Life Counseling on January 22, 1996, and has been held annually every year since. It has grown into the “March for Life Southwest” in conjunction with Louisiana Right to Life.

Evette said her father was a huge supporter of the annual New Life Counseling banquets. “He attended every year, buying tables, and doing whatever he could to support their cause.”

On behalf of New Life Counseling, the Executive Director expressed her eternal gratitude for Deacon Caraway’s dedication to the life-saving ministry.

“It is the men and women who laid the foundation of New Life Counseling that we continue to give thanks,” said Tabitha Dugas. “It was by their sacrifice and prayers that New Life Counseling has been able to serve and save thousands of lives for nearly 40 years.”

If Evette’s father could give one last message to someone in a crisis pregnancy contemplating abortion, she said he would tell them, “God has a plan. You need to trust God and know that there is help. If you go through this, it will be the biggest regret of your life. You do not have to make this choice.”

Deacon Caraway interred in New Bethany Cemetery

Julius Garrett Caraway Jr., 91, of Westlake and a long-time permanent deacon for the Diocese of Lake Charles, was interred in New Bethany Cemetery at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff on Saturday, March 16. He was born in Jennings on December 26, 1932. Deacon Caraway Jr. passed away on Monday, March 11.

The Mass of Christian Burial at St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Westlake on Saturday was officiated by his grandsons Rev. Joseph Caraway and Rev. Trey Ange along with nephew Rev. Michael Caraway as well as Rev. Jeffrey Starkovich.

To honor Deacon Caraway, in lieu of flowers please make a donation to New Life Counseling, or to the Diocese of Lake Charles for the seminary burse in the name of Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Caraway, Jr. Cash or a check may be sent to Diocese of Lake Charles, P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602, Attn: Cassie, and payable to DOLC. Please note in the memo section that the gift should be credited to the Deacon Caraway burse.

He was a resident of Jennings until 1969 where he graduated from Jennings High School in 1952. Garrett attended Loyola University and graduated from the University of Houston in 1954 with a B.S. in Pharmacy. He served in the United States Army from 1954 until 1956. After he married Juno on August 11, 1954, Garrett finished his time in the Army and worked as a pharmacist until opening his own drug store in Jennings in 1958. He moved to Westlake in late 1969

after buying Keller’s Pharmacy which then became Caraway’s Pharmacy. The pharmacy was doubled in size in 1976 and has been serving the community of Westlake for the last 55 years. Garrett worked and remained active in the pharmacy until the year 2009.

On June 24, 1977, he was the first permanent deacon to be ordained for the Diocese of Lafayette by the Most Reverend Gerard Frey, Bishop of Lafayette. Three years later, when the Diocese of Lafayette was divided into the Lake Charles and Lafayette dioceses, Deacon Caraway remained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

During his diaconate, he served at St. John Bosco Catholic Church for 46 years assisting at Mass, funerals, baptisms and sacramental marriages. He also served on the parish council, building committee, Knights of Columbus, and bazaar committee. The ministry closest to his heart was serving the weakest among us, the unborn and infirmed.

Garrett served as the diocesan pro-life coordinator for many years. He also served on the board of directors for New Life Counseling for over 20 years. In this time, he gave pro-life talks to the youth, he led prayer intercessions for those in danger of being aborted and raised funds for the needs of those rescued from abortion and their parents. Garrett visited and brought communion to the sick and hospitalized almost daily for years and years after retirement from the pharmacy.

His passions in life were flying small engine planes, fishing and hunting with buddies and family, and taking his family on adventurous trips to the mountains and beach. Garrett most of all cherished time spent with his wife, children and grandchildren, always coming up with fun and slightly dangerous games with high levels of competition involved. If the games were shut down by the wise and cautious (Mama), then there were always scary stories to be told.

Those left to cherish his memory are his sons, Julius Garrett (Bubba) Caraway III and wife LaDonna Ange Caraway of Lacassine and Kelly Marlin Caraway and wife Denise Pettijohn Caraway of Angel Fire, NM; daughters, Evette Renee’ Caraway Ange and husband Sam Ange Jr. of Westlake and Dane’ Athe’ Caraway of Westlake; grandchildren, Rev. Trey Ange, Asa Ange and wife Dru Starkovich Ange, Hade Ange and wife Sarah Cannon Ange, Davin Ange and wife Kristen Bahnsen Ange, Quentin Ange, Kamon Ange and wife Catherine Delahoussaye Ange, Inez

Elise Ange Carrier and husband Stephen Carrier, Jaina Ange Dalton and husband John Dalton, Julius Garrett Caraway IV and wife Erin Guillory Caraway, Barbara Caraway Harrison and husband Patrick Harrison, Katarina Caraway, Rev. Joseph Caraway, Audrey Caraway Pousson and husband Luke Pousson, Ariel Caraway, Ethan Caraway and wife Elizabeth Clausen, KC Caraway and wife Marcia Solomon Caraway, and Avery Caraway; and 34 great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his brothers, Maurice Caraway and wife Kathleen Caraway and William Kent (Bill) Caraway, Sr. and wife Betty Ann Caraway; sisters, Deneze Caraway Bellenghi and husband Bob Bellenghi and Mary Ann Caraway Delahoussaye.

He is preceded in death by his parents Jeanne Houssiere Caraway and Garrett Caraway, Sr.; and late wife of 57 years, Janet Fay (Juno) Caraway and sisters, Jeanette Caraway Miller and JoVita Caraway Player.

FEMA allocates \$32.2M to replace St. Louis Catholic High School

LAKE CHARLES — The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has obligated \$32,204,013.10 million to build a new campus for St. Louis Catholic High School in south Lake Charles. The announcement of federal assistance was made by U.S. Congressman Clay Higgins (R-LA) in a press release on Monday, March 18, 2024.

The funding is made available through the major disaster declaration for Hurricane Laura (DR-4550-LA), which Congressman Higgins has supported.

“The funding for St. Louis Catholic High School and the Diocese of Lake Charles is welcome news,” said Congressman Higgins. “My office worked closely

with Diocese leaders to push their applications through the FEMA funding process. During this time, our spirits were high, and our determination remained steadfast. To date, our office has delivered over \$4.3 billion in recovery relief, and we will continue to work with our local, state, and federal partners to deliver the needed resources for recovery relief.”

The FEMA obligation is a significant step forward in replacing the former campus that was destroyed by Hurricane Laura on August 27, 2020. Since the devastating loss, St. Louis Catholic High School has been operating out of a temporary campus, also being funded by FEMA.

The Most Rev. Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was glad to hear the announcement.

“I am pleased to learn of the obligation of funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for St. Louis Catholic High School,” said Bishop Provost. “I sincerely appreciate the patience of the school community and see this as a very positive development toward the rebuilding of our school. Much time, sacrifice, and work were required to reach this point, and the same will be needed to accomplish the task. We shall reach our goal with God’s help.”



Holy Hour for an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life in the Diocese of Lake Charles:

Immaculate Conception-Jennings at 7:30 AM
Our Lady Queen of Heaven at 2:00 PM
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 3:00 PM
Our Lady of Prompt Succor at 3:00 PM

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Holy Week in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



On Palm Sunday, Bishop Glen John Provost blessed palms in a ceremony that took place in the Cathedral courtyard before the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The palms were given to those in attendance in remembrance of the welcome the people of Jerusalem gave Jesus, laying the palms before him as he entered the city. Palm Sunday signals the beginning of Holy Week.



At the Chrism Mass, which the Bishop concelebrated with priests from the diocese, he blessed the Oil of the Sick during the Eucharistic Prayer before Communion. Before the conclusion of the Liturgy, Bishop Provost blessed the Oil of Catechumens and consecrated the sacred Chrism. The oils are used during the year by the priests in their respective churches. It is with the Sacred Chrism that the newly baptized are anointed and those to be confirmed are signed. It is with the Oil of Catechumens that catechumens are prepared and disposed for Baptism. Finally it is with the Oil of the Sick that those who are ill are comforted in their infirmity. Also during the Mass the priests renew their vows.



After he mixed balsam with the olive oil, Bishop Provost breathes into the vessel of Sacred Chrism in a gesture symbolizing both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate the oil and the life-giving, sanctifying nature of the sacraments for which it is used.



After reaching the Oratory the Bishop kneels before the tabernacle along with the faithful, as all venerate the Blessed Sacrament, which remained available for adoration until midnight that evening.



On Holy Thursday, Bishop Provost, accompanied by Father Joseph Caraway, the Master of Ceremonies, processed with the Blessed Sacrament from the Cathedral to the Oratory of St. Bernadette next door for adoration.



During the singing of the Alleluia, Bishop Provost blesses Deacon Brian Soileau, who has profoundly bowed before the bishop and asked for his blessing preparing for the proclamation of the Gospel at the Mass of Holy Thursday. It was during this Mass that the washing of the feet of the Apostles by Jesus at the Last Supper was commemorated by the washing of the feet of members of the Cathedral family.



On Good Friday, the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated, a large wooden cross is processed up the center aisle. It stops three times and is incensed each time and for recited prayers (*Behold the wood of the cross on which hung the salvation of the world and the response Come, let us adore.*)



Bishop Provost venerates the cross, with those in attendance each doing so in an appropriate manner, before Communion and followed by a quiet departure of all.



The Easter Vigil must begin after sunset, the start of the new liturgical day, with what previously was called the "Service of Light" but now is known as "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium." The solemn liturgy began outside the Cathedral with the blessing of the fire and the preparation of the Paschal Candle (placing five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross). Here those who have come to the Easter Vigil exit the Cathedral.



Bishop Provost walks through the Cathedral blessing the people during Easter Vigil in the Holy Night.



The people light their own candles to shed light on the liturgy, ostensibly all coming from the "one light" – the new Paschal Candle.



Bishop Provost lights the Paschal Candle prior to its procession into an otherwise dark Cathedral and its placement next the ambo for the Liturgy of the Word.

Fete-Dieu du Teche will take journey on Mighty Mississippi

The 10th annual Fete-Dieu du Teche Eucharistic Boat Procession will embark on the Mighty Mississippi this year for a one-time only Blessing of the River and the Great State of Louisiana on Wednesday and Thursday, August 14-15, 2024.

Families, businesses, and churches are encouraged to "come down to the river" and participate in this once-in-a-lifetime two-day blessing between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

The extraordinary procession will begin on Wednesday, August 14, at 8:00 a.m. with a Votive Mass of the Holy Eucharist in the

Cathedral of St. Joseph in Baton Rouge. Following the Mass there will be a procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the Mississippi River where the 130-mile procession and blessing will commence. The flotilla will depart at 10:30 a.m.

The boat procession will pass Plaquemine at about 12:35 p.m. and Donaldsonville at approximately 3:50 p.m. The flotilla is slated to arrive at Convent, La., at about 5:40 p.m. where there will be a procession to the historic St. Michael Church for all-night adoration.

On Thursday, August 15, at 8:45 a.m., there will be a procession from St. Michael's back to the river dock, and at 10:00 a.m. the boats will depart for New Orleans. The procession will pass Reserve at about 12:00 p.m., Luling at about 1:40 p.m., and Audubon Park at about 3:40 p.m.

Families, parishes, and pilgrims are encouraged to gather at these revival sites along the river for prayer and reception of the blessing. The flotilla will arrive at about 4:25 p.m. in the French Quarter, and there will be a Great Benediction on the levee at 5:15 p.m. in front of Jackson

Square, followed by a procession into St. Louis Cathedral for a final blessing and a Solemn Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The two-day festivities will conclude with a celebration in Jackson Square at 7:30 p.m. All are encouraged to "Come Down to the River" for this historic event! Register for the all-night vigil and find more information at www.fetedieuduteche.org or email fetedieuduteche@gmail.com. Companies wanting to register boats should contact Father Michael Champagne, CJC at frchampagne@yahoo.com.

