



ICCS triumphs in 2024 Quiz Bowl Dedicates win to their teacher "Ms. T"

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — A team of Immaculate Conception — Cathedral School students answered their way through a nail-biting series of questions about the Catholic faith to claim the championship title in the seventh annual Diocesan Quiz Bowl on Saturday, March 9.

Hosted by the Office of Religious Education, the event took place at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School.

ICCS triumphed by five points over Saints Isidore and Maria — a team from a Domestic Church Circle group in the East Deanery — with a final score of 15-10 out of 30 questions.

The winners made history for ICCS by being the first ones to earn the title for their school. It was an extra-special victory since this was their last year to be eligible as the competition is for students in grades 6-8.

The champions — Ty Pham, Dale Spencer, Tate Poncho, and Davis Hankins — dedicated their win to Milissa Thibodeaux, affectionally called "Ms. T" by her students.

"Ms. T" offered an enrichment class for us," said Hankins. "It was so amazing what she did for us. We learned a lot more from her."

After last year's loss by only two points, the same ICCS team was determined to study harder and give it all they had since it was their final year to compete.

"We decided that all of us would learn everything in case one person did not know the answer, someone else would," said Pham.

"On questions that we did not know, the important thing was to just talk (with each other) about anything related to that subject and hopefully we would hit on major points," said Spencer. Thibodeaux, the team's

middle school theology teacher, said the winners had a desire to learn about the faith and continue to grow as young Catholics.

"These same boys have been on a team together and have competed for three years. They came in second last year and really had a drive this year to win," she said. "They gave up enrichment classes that they might have wanted to do so they could participate in the Quiz Bowl enrichment class."

ICCS had four teams taking part this year, some of them with younger students.

"I was super excited to have a ton of sixth graders who came, and even though they didn't place, they have a desire to continue what these eighth graders have laid the foundation on the past three years," Thibodeaux remarked enthusiastically.

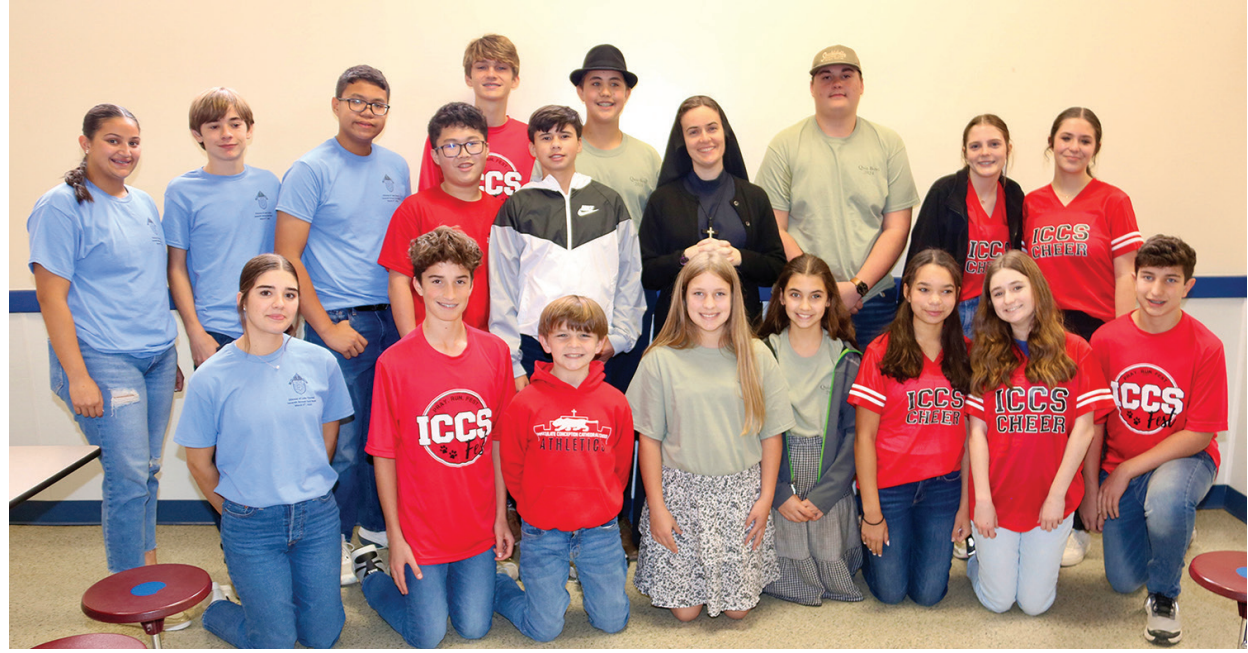
Third place went to OLQH Catholic School, and fourth place went to ICCS Team #2. Schools or parishes that entered more than one team were distinguished by numbers.

Cash prizes for the top four teams included \$400, \$200, \$100, and \$60, along with certificates signed by Bishop Glen John Provost.

Sixty students making up 15 teams represented area schools and church parishes.

Participants included:

- Immaculate Conception Cathedral School — four teams
- St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School — four teams
- St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton — two teams
- Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish (Edge Middle School Youth Program) — one team
- Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School — one team
- Our Lady of LaSalette Parish (DeQuincy) — one team



Sister Maura Clare Mayock, R.S.M., Director of the Office of Religious Education, is pictured with the winning teams for the seventh annual Diocesan Quiz Bowl on Saturday, March. Teams were, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School (third place), Immaculate Conception Cathedral School (Team #1, first place), Saints Isidore and Maria (second place), and ICCS (Team #2, second place).

- Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School — one team
- Saints Isidore and Maria — one team

Bishop Provost, who initiated the idea of a Quiz Bowl in 2015, led the contestants in prayer before the start of the Catholic trivia game. He reminded them that while intellectual knowledge of their faith is good, it is also important to grow in our love and worship of the Lord.

Teams answered a series of 30 questions in each round for one point each. Being quick on the buzzer with the most correct answers was key to advancing to the next round.

Bryce Fontenot, a contestant on the second-place team, admits that being too fast on the buzzer cost them the first game.

"We lost the first round to ICCS Team #2. We were buzzer happy and should have let the judge finish the questions before we tried to answer," said Fontenot, who was on the championship team in 2023 and 2022.

Fontenot's teammate, Stuart Wild, agreed he should have been



First place in the Diocesan 2024 Quiz Bowl went to Immaculate Conception Cathedral School (Team #1). Accepting their prize of \$400 from Sister Maura Clare Mayock, R.S.M., Director of the Office of Religious Education, are team members with team leader (from left) Milissa Thibodeaux "Ms. T," Briggs Hurt (alternate), Tate Poncho, Dale Spencer, Ty Pham, and Davis Hankins.

more patient but also acknowledged that ICCS had some good contestants. "We played ICCS in the championship round last year and it was a close game. We only beat them by two points. This year they were very good."

Judges for the Quiz Bowl

were Father Whitney Miller, Father Andy DeRouen, Hannah Beard, Katarina Caraway, Bonnie Kron, Alexis Bauer, Keith and Deborah Faul, Adrienne Ward, Luca Hagen, Nick Rougeau, Ann Vincent, and Pamela Seal. Assisting as a runner between multiple

classrooms and the cafeteria was Joseph Johnson.

Contributing sponsors were O'Dowd Law Firm, Reddoch Land Surveying, "Honor Mary, Pray the Rosary," Lakeside Bank, and Henderson Wholesale (a distributor of Hunt Brothers Pizza).

Catholic Scouts Awarded with Religious Emblems

LAKE CHARLES — The 2024 Religious Emblems Recognition Brunch was held Saturday, March 23, in the Ave Maria Hall across from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The awards presentation, hosted by the Catholic Committee on Scouting in the Diocese of Lake Charles, recognizes worthy scouts who completed the National Catholic Committee on Scouting requirements to earn a religious emblem.

Rev. Joseph Caraway, Chancellor for the Diocese, presented the awards with assistance from Rev. Trey Ange, Chaplain for Catholic Committee on Scouting. Father Caraway also prayed the Invocation and Blessing before the meal. Scott Willis, Chairman of Catholic Committee on Scouting, served as master of ceremonies.

Awards included Light of Christ, *Parvuli Dei*, and *Ad Altare Dei*.

Earning the **Light of Christ Religious Emblem** were Samuel Proksch, Barrett Grant, Gabriel Sonnier, and David Harrell.

The Light of Christ program was developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) for Cub Scouts and Tiger Cubs of the Catholic faith. Its purpose is to have scouts develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as a real person and friend. This type of relationship will help to better understand

and appreciate Christ's love and concern. To receive the Light of Christ emblem, the scout must complete all requirements before starting the third grade.

Those earning the **Parvuli Dei Religious Emblem** were Atticus LeFranc, Lee Miller, Kasen Spears, Caroline Booth, Henry Roosendaal, Joseph Toothman, Louis Harrell, and Joseph Rogers.

Parvuli Dei (Children of God) is a program developed by the NCCS for Bear and Webelos Cub Scouts of the Catholic faith for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation. Its purpose is to help young scouts explore a wide range of activities to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of a family and parish. The program also helps to develop a positive self-image through the contributions they can make to the group or community.

Evan Miller was the lone recipient of the **Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblem**. The purpose of the *Ad Altare Dei* (Altar of God) program for Boy Scouts is to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each person by encouraging them to actively live out their Catholic faith. This gives the scout the opportunity to develop his or her spiritual side to be "morally straight." The program encourages the scout to be in "God's presence" through self-reflection



Rev. Trey Ange, Chaplain for Catholic Committee on Scouting in the Diocese of Lake Charles, left; and Rev. Joseph Caraway, Chancellor for the Diocese of Lake Charles, gather with recipients of various religious emblems at the 2024 Religious Emblems Recognition Brunch on Saturday, March 23, in the Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

and study of the sacraments. It is one of the more difficult emblems to earn taking just under a year to complete the program.

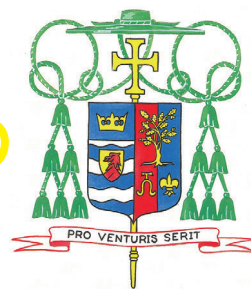
While blessing the religious emblems, Father Caraway prayed, "Send down Your blessing upon these, Your youthful servants, and grant that they may be worthy leaders in faith, not hesitating on account of their youthfulness, but witnessing to Your holy gospel in the whole of their lives."

He continued, "Bless these emblems which they will wear as a sign of their faith and commitment to the proclamation

of the gospel and grant that they may continue to grow in the divine likeness that they may come to full union with You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever."

Before the brunch concluded, Father Ange offered the closing prayer.

Members of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Lake Charles are Scott Willis, chairman; Lannie Fuselier, vice chair; Melissa Murphy, Floyd Saltzman, Scott Lounsberry, Kristina Lounsberry, Jacob Fontenot, and Tina Alderson.



Grace Simien
High School winner



Jonathan Braud
Middle School winner



Frances Cestia
Elementary winner

2024 Venerable Tolton Essay Winners

Tolton Ambassadors-Louisiana and Associates recently held the Second Annual Venerable Father Augustus Tolton Essay Contest. An awards ceremony was held to honor students participating from throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish schools and the winners of the three divisions.

Each division, Elementary, Middle and High School, wrote an essay on different topics of why Venerable Father Augustus Tolton should be a Saint.

The Elementary Division: Grades 4-5 reflected Father Tolton's Christian journey and

to describe in great detail how his ministry has inspired the writer's spiritual life and love for God. The first-place winner in Elementary was Frances Cestia, a fifth grade student at Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, who was awarded a Tablet, \$50.00, and a certificate of participation.

The Middle School Division: Grades 6-8 reflected on Father Tolton's spiritual life, his passion to become a Catholic Priest, and how this may have inspired the essay writer to become a better Christian.

The first-place winner in Middle School was Jonathan

Braud, an eighth grade student at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, who was awarded a Tablet, \$100.00, and a certificate of participation.

The High School Division: Grades 9-12 reflected on how Father Tolton's journey of deliverance from slavery and discrimination that inspired and spiritually nourished Catholics of all races. The first-place winner in High School was Grace Simien, a senior at St. Louis Catholic High School, who was awarded a Tablet, \$200.00, and a certificate of participation.

A LOUISIANA EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER OLQH School 'rolls down the river' for symposium

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School "rolled down" the Mississippi River during its week-long symposium held March 11-15.

Complete with a Cajun band, Gumbaux Gator, and ribbon-cutting to kick things off in the school parking lot, "Louisiana: Rolling Down the River" was open for viewing in the gymnasium to the surprise and enthusiasm of students in grades pre-K through grade 8.

Second grader Emma Heape's reaction to seeing the impressive showcase for the first time: "I was not expecting to see how the gym changed into all of this!"

The interactive educational experience featured exhibits — assigned to each grade level — sharing the state's rich

history and culture. It was a group effort on the part of students, teachers, and parents highlighting different regions of Louisiana from landscapes, food, culture, and more.

The transformation of the school gym to an immersive Louisiana experience was constructed in three days.

A Symposium Showcase on the evening of March 14 offered the community a chance to "roll down the river" and experience for themselves Sportsman's — Paradise, Crossroads region, Plantation Country, Greater New Orleans region, Cajun Country, the Kisatchie National Forest, the Natchitoches Christmas Festival, St. Fort Juan Baptiste, Cajun Music Hall of Fame, collages inspired by paintings of Louisiana folk artist Clementine Hunter, the history of Café du Monde and their famous beignets, learn about Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Patroness of Louisiana; and so much more.

Within the exhibit were many resources and QR codes redirecting guests to information about subjects like the Spanish Influence, Christmas Levee Bonfires, Crawfish Mounds, Sugar Cane, Oak Trees, Jambalaya, St. Joseph Plantation, Cajun Recipes, and Paddlefish. (Visit: <https://www.olqhs.org/resources/symposium-2024>. rcfm)

A lot of time, effort, and creativity goes into putting the symposium together. All grade levels learn about the subject chosen and take part in activities throughout the year on that topic.

"The students start the school year knowing what the symposium theme is, so they spend the better part of six months learning about the topic and creating what they need for their section of the exhibit," said Pam Fontenet, Director of Religious Education.

Some of the interactive things to do included celebrating bonfires in the Plantation Country by building a bonfire using Lego bricks. In Natchitoches, students could draw their own fireworks using a colorful assortment of crayons.

"QR codes throughout the exhibit featured downloadable recipes, and what was really cute were students singing Louisiana songs that music teacher Colette Tanner taught them," said Fontenet. Other QR codes showed video recordings of second and fourth graders talking about the history of plantation homes.

Third-grade student Camille Credeur's class was assigned Natchitoches, of which she said she knew a tiny bit about before the symposium project.

"I have never been to Natchitoches but now that I have learned more about it, I would like to go," said Credeur. "I would like to see the fireworks that are part of the Christmas Lighting Festival."

Third graders made artwork featuring fireworks that were on display in their section of the exhibit.

"For the artwork, we used

salt, glue, and paint, and for some we used glitter and glue," said Credeur, who also noted that she has never eaten a Natchitoches meat pie but would like to try one.

The crawfish mounds were made by lots of little hands from second graders.

Callen DeRouen said, "I have never seen a real crawfish mound in the ground, but I made one with tiny pieces of clay and shaped it around a cup." When asked if he has ever eaten a crawfish, he replied emphatically, "I never ate one in my entire life."

On the other hand, Avery Yelverton said she likes to eat boiled crawfish. Her method: push and pull, then eat.

"I liked working on the mounds for the little crawfish. They are cute," said Yelverton. "I named my crawfish Eon." Other crawfish names were Spirit, Pinchy, Cotton Candy, Mr. Red, Lilly, Snappy, and Choppy.

Avery Bruce was among the eighth graders who were assigned to the region of Louisiana known as the Greater New Orleans area.

"We learned quite a bit about the Patroness of Louisiana, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, especially in our Social Studies and Religion classes. We also went to New Orleans on a field trip," said Bruce.

"The students in art class painted a picture from a statue of Our Lady. Our art teacher gave us each a square to paint a small section for the painting. My part was the face, which was hard to do," Bruce noted.

Another large painting was a mural that served as a backdrop for one of the exhibits created by the seventh-grade class.

"Our class painted a mural, made a cypress tree, and wrote poems called Ramblings on the River," said Henry Courville. "We put real moss on the tree. We all wrote poems about Louisiana."

Courville said that some of his favorite things about living in Louisiana are the seafood and crawfish, and he likes to go crabbing and fishing. He shared his secret to catching crabs.

"I use raw chicken and tie it to a little weight before putting it in the water," he said. "I remember one time we were lucky because the tide was low and there were all these crabs everywhere. We just got a net and scooped them all up."

Trevor Donnelly, OLQHS principal, commended the school for the group effort and collaborative study of Louisiana.

"This was an incredible experience for our students. They loved seeing their own work and research highlighted during symposium week," said Donnelly. "It was our time as a school — for teachers, staff, and students — to all come together for a common goal."

"Symposium week was a chance for the students to enjoy the final product, seeing their hard work come together," he continued. "They should be proud of their work!"



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, prays for protection from all storms in front of the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron on June 1, 2023, following the Mass to Avert Storms. The annual Mass will take place this year on Friday, May 31, in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Life Center in Creole and conclude with blessings and prayers at the Historic Shrine.

Mass to Avert Storms planned May 31 in Creole

Bishop Glen John Provost will be the celebrant of a votive "Mass to Avert Storms" on Friday, May 31, the day before the beginning of the 2024 Hurricane Season. The annual Mass will begin at 4:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Life Center. The church hall is located at 5250 West Creole Highway, Cameron, LA 70631.

Immediately following, a vehicle procession will journey a short distance to the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea, 135 Our Lady Road, in Cameron, where the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto, blessings, and the Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season will be recited. The Shrine has been granted the privilege of inserting the invocation of "Star of the Sea" in the Litany.

The Shrine enjoys, with papal approval, the same spiritual privileges as would a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome, one of the four major basilicas in the Eternal City. The pilgrimage provides a plenary indulgence with the fulfillment of certain requirements, including recent confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayers for the Holy Father, and the recitation of the Creed.

This "spiritual bond" was granted — at the request of Bishop Provost — by His Eminence, Santos Abril y Castelló, the Cardinal Archbishop of the Basilica and His Eminence, Emmanuel Cardinal Montero de Castro, the Cardinal Apostolic Penitentiary following Bishop Provost's 2012 ad limina visit to the Holy See.

Bishop Provost has asked that during the Hurricane Season of 2024, the faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles pray the following prayer, composed in 1957 by the Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey:

Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude; you are still the Master of land and sea.

We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control. The Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster. During this hurricane season, we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen.

Memorial Day and Summer Hours

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day, which honors men and women who have died serving in the United States military. Regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, May 28. Summer hours on Fridays of 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. will begin on May 31, continuing through Friday, August 30, prior to Labor Day.



Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

3:00 pm | JUNE 2nd | 2024

935 Bilbo Street in Lake Charles

Reception to follow in Ave Maria Hall

Diocesan Camino finale is Sunday, June 2

LAKE CHARLES — The Diocesan Camino of St. Peter Claver will end its six-month journey with an "Afternoon of Prayer and Concert" on Sunday, June 2, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The finale event will begin at 3:00 p.m. on the Feast of Corpus Christi, followed by a reception in the Ave Maria Hall at 935 Bilbo Street.

The Camino, which kicked off on November 25, has made its way across the Diocese of Lake Charles with a focus on helping people foster a habit of Eucharistic Adoration.

A concert, directed by Robert Marcantel, will

highlight the Afternoon of Prayer.

At the reception, Bishop Glen John Provost will draw from fully stamped Camino passports for one person to receive an all-expense paid trip to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN. The historic five-day event is planned July 17-21.

Several of the local artists who designed prayer cards for the Diocesan Camino will be guests during the reception for a meet-and-greet and a chance to purchase some of their artwork.