



ANNUAL MASS TO AVERT STORMS

Faithful Turn to Our Lady for Blessing of Coast

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

CAMERON PARISH — For the first time since 2020, the annual “Mass to Avert Storms” was celebrated closer to the coast — this year on Friday, May 31, in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Life Center in Creole. A vehicle procession followed to the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea for the Blessing of the Coast by the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles.

“We come to God with a great deal of gratitude to Our Lady Star of the Sea, whose intercession has been so important to us throughout

the centuries, but especially now here in Cameron Parish and in the Diocese of Lake Charles,” said Bishop Provost. “The Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea reminds us of Mary’s constant protection and her prayers for us.”

At the Mass for the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the faithful of the Diocese prayed for the intention of averting storms during the 2024 hurricane season (June 1 – November 30). All in attendance recited the Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season, which was composed in 1957 by the Most Reverend Maurice Schexnayder, Second Bishop of

Lafayette, following Hurricane Audrey.

Bishop Provost said that perhaps the lesson of the Visitation and the lesson for us as we begin a new hurricane season is that we are all chosen for a special task.

“We are part of God’s mysterious plan, His Will which unfolds before us. That will sometimes involve suffering and sacrifice and penance,” he said. “But it also involves His grace and His blessings, which we have all experienced in one way or another throughout our lives.”

Kevin and Michelle (Guilbeau) Vincent, longtime parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Creole, know firsthand of the sacrifice and blessings of which the bishop speaks.

Michelle, 54, was baptized and brought up in the faith at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Cameron. Kevin, 59, was raised in Little Chenier and received his sacraments at Sacred Heart, the same church where he and Michelle were married by Rev. Joseph McGrath in August 1999.

They know what it is like to lose everything and start over. It happened when Hurricane Rita made landfall in 2005, the worst hurricane at the time to strike Cameron Parish since Hurricane Audrey in 1957.

It would take 10 years before the Vincents could return to Creole since it took Kevin nearly 8 years to rebuild on his days off from the oilfield.

“Rita completely took our house,” said Michelle. “Kevin’s parents had a camp in Grand Lake, so we moved there for 10 years during the rebuild.”

While they were displaced, they immersed themselves in various ministries at Christ the King Catholic Church in south Lake Charles.

It would be five short years after living back in Creole that Hurricane Laura would send them packing again in 2020, but this time only for a few months.

“Our new home withstood the powerful winds of Laura but took in nine inches of water,” Michelle recalled. “There were broken windows



Kevin and Michelle Vincent attend the annual Mass to Avert Storms on Friday, May 31, in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Life Center in Creole. The Vincents, who know firsthand what it is like to lose everything and start over after Hurricane Rita in 2005, were married in Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. They are grateful to have a place to worship in the parish hall after their church was destroyed by Hurricane Laura in August of 2020.

and roof damage. The walls and floors are all concrete, so we went in, washed it out and started over.”

They stayed with Michelle’s parents, Francis “Giz” and Kathy Guilbeau, in Iowa, La., from September through the end of January 2021 while they were waiting on electricity and water in Creole.

When asked what motivates them to keep starting over, they both agree that Creole is home, even though it will never be like it was prior to Hurricane Rita.

As much as Michelle is glad to have place of worship in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Life Center, she still gets emotional when she drives past the church.

“My desire is for the church to be repaired. It is tough to drive up and see the devastation almost four years later,” she said with tears in her eyes.

“You have to have a lot of faith, and each day that faith is tested, but I know through all this, God’s ultimate goal is for us to rely on him,” she continued.

Even through all the

destruction, loss, and starting over, Kevin said, “These storms are nothing compared to devastation in other parts of the world.”

Bishop Provost reminded the faithful that we can see God’s plan being unfolded before us even in the sight of woe and tribulation, destruction, great suffering, even death.

“We are confident, we are hopeful always of Mary’s prayers and of God’s plan that all in the end will work to His own benefit and to ours as well as we place our trust in Him,” he said.

At the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea, which was left miraculously unscathed from Hurricane Laura, Bishop Provost led those gathered in reciting the *Prayer for Recovery of the Diocese of Lake Charles* that he composed on August 27, 2020, in the wake of Laura. *The Litany of the Blessed Virgin*

Mary of Loreto was also prayed before the bishop sprinkled everyone with holy water.

Concelebrants of the Mass with Bishop Provost were Rev. Jerish George, M.O.C., Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, East Cameron; Rev. Monsignor James Gaddy, Senior Pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Big Lake; Rev. Arvind Minz, H.G.N., Pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Hackberry; Rev. Joby Mathew, H.G.N., Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lake Charles; Rev. Paul D’Sa, M.O.C., Pastor of St. John Vianny Parish in Bell City; and Rev. Anil Alexander, M.O.C.

Rev. Samuel Bond served as Master of Ceremonies. Also in attendance were several Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan. Sister Marie Josepha Kluczny, R.S.M., served as lector.

July 4 Diocesan Office Hours

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2024, in honor of Independence Day – the 248th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. Offices will reopen on Friday, July 5, for its summer hours - 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Bishop Glen John Provost prays for protection from storms as well as the recovery of the Diocese of Lake Charles from recent storms at the Historic Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron on May 31. The beginning of the 2024 hurricane season was June 1 and will last through November 30. Bishop Provost is joined by Rev. Jerish George, M.O.C., pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church (East Cameron) and Rev. Samuel Bond, Master of Ceremonies.

Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season

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:

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.

LaSalette Father Lawrence Kohler Dies

Father Lawrence Anthony Kohler, M.S., 89, a Missionary of Our Lady of La Salette, who resided at Our Lady of La Salette Parish in Sulphur, died May 15, 2024. He was born June 15, 1934, in St. Louis, Missouri, son of the late Eugene J. and Cecilia (Ryan) Kohler.

He attended grammar and high school in St. Louis followed by the La Salette Junior Seminary in Jefferson City, Missouri from 1948 to 1952. He continued his college education at the La Salette Seminaries in Hartford, Connecticut and Altamont, New York, earning a bachelor’s degree. Father Kohler entered the Novitiate of the Missionaries of La Salette in East Brewster, MA on July 1, 1954, and made his First Profession on July 2, 1955, and his Perpetual Profession on July 2, 1958.

He was ordained to the Priesthood on September 24, 1961, at Our Lady of La Salette Church in Rome, Italy.

Over the years Father was a Professor at the La Salette Seminary in Jefferson City, Missouri; ministered in parishes in Missouri, Michigan and Louisiana, as well as in the foreign missions in Madagascar. He was a gifted preacher and teacher. His primary apostolate for many years was traveling throughout the United States preaching missions and retreats.

Fr. Kohler served at Our Lady of La Salette Parish in Sulphur since 1986 and served as pastor there from 2000-2006. Following his retirement, he remained in Residence, assisting in ministry until 2014. His last years were marked by declining health, but also by a strong and steady faith in

the midst of his suffering, and with a continuing interest in the life and future of his religious community. He also continued to keep a lively interest in and concern and thanksgiving for his friends and parishioners of Our Lady of La Salette Parish.

In addition to his La Salette Community, Father Kohler, M.S., is survived by his sister, Loretta and her husband, Dr. Paul Hein, Jr. of Missouri, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by his parents, Dr. Eugene and Cecilia Kohler; brothers, Rev. Peter D. Kohler, M.S., who was also a Missionary of La Salette; Rev. Joseph Kohler, a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri, John, Richard, Eugene, and Henry Kohler; as well as his sister, Betty.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated



Fr. Lawrence Kohler, M.S.

Tuesday, May 21, at Our Lady of La Salette Catholic Church Burial was in Mimosa-Pines South Cemetery. Contributions in his memory may be made to: Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette Retirement Fund.



Deacon Edward Lavine Dies

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the celebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial for Deacon Edward Lavine, who passed away on Sunday, May 12, Deacon Lavine was interred in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Deacon Lavine was born July 11, 1951, to Ambrose and Matilda Andrepont Sam in Lake Charles, LA. He was later adopted by Leonce and Alia Gallow Lavine.

He attended Sacred Heart Elementary and Junior High School; St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay St. Louis in Mississippi, and graduated from Landry High School in Lake Charles, LA. He attended McNeese State University and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech and Public Relations. He also studied at Immaculata Seminary in Lafayette, LA where he completed his three-year Diaconal Formation and was ordained a Permanent Deacon on August 10, 1985 by The Most Reverend Bishop Jude Speyrer, Bishop of Lake Charles, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where the deacon was a parishioner.

His commitment to his church and the community was unwavering. He attended the A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service) Retreat in 2017 and served as an A.C.T.S. team member in 2018 and 2019. He was a true servant leader.

Deacon Lavine was formerly employed by Entex for 21½ years. There, he worked in the Service Department for 5½ years and was promoted to a marketing representative position before going to work for the Diocese of Lake Charles full time.

One of his first projects at the Diocese of Lake Charles was the Food for Seniors Program for a five geographical parish area. Deacon Lavine was known as one of the busiest men in the Diocese, according to Diocesan News, September 29, 1999. At that time, he was filling the following offices:

- Vicar for Black Catholics
- Vicar for the Community Services
- Chairman of the Permanent Continuing Formation of Permanent Deacons

- Member of the Calcasieu Center for Catholic Studies Board of Advisors and a member for Screening of Permanent Deacons

- He also taught religion, was active in the Jail Ministry, and was a past Chaplain of the Central Committee.

Deacon Lavine's commitment and service will be profoundly missed by a community of friends and colleagues who respected and admired him.

On November 25, 1972, he married his college sweetheart, Brenda Banks. They were blessed with three children, Edward Michael D'Angelo, Quinn Anthony and Cherlyn Renee. Deacon Lavine's legacy is one of love, compassion, and service that will be carried on through his family whom he loved with every fiber of his being.

He was preceded in death by his biological parents, Ambrose Sam and Matilda Andrepont Sam Fontenot, Leonce and Alia Gallow Lavine; biological grandparents, Moise and Alice Bienvenue Sam; Edward and Emily Andrepont, grandparents, Thomas and Mary LeBlanc Gallow, and Gobert and Marie Malveaux Lavine; stepmother, Gussie Lavine; one sister, Betty Sam; and one brother, Joseph Trent Andrepont.

Deacon leaves to cherish his memories his wife of 51 years, Brenda Banks Lavine; two sons, Edward Michael D'Angelo Lavine (Ashley) and Quinn Anthony Lavine all of Lake Charles, LA; and one daughter, Cherlyn Renee Lavine of Houston, TX; one grandson, Stephen Micah Lavine; seven sisters, Brenda Ruffin, Pamela Semien, Shelia Sam, Darlene Fontenot, Marlene Johnson all of Houston, TX, JoAnn Andrepont of Lake Charles, LA and Senora Sam of Ecuador; three brothers, Marvin Fontenot, Jerry Fontenot, and Tracy Sam all of Houston, TX; two living aunts, Jessie Mae Rougeau Reder and Willie Mae Sam Mouton, both of Lake Charles, LA; and goddaughters, Josephine Lewis of Texas and Trekeesa Syas of Georgia; and a host of nieces, nephews and relatives.



Deacon Edward Lavine

St. Louis Catholic High School Graduates 116

LAKE CHARLES — The Reverend Nathan Long, Rector of St. Louis Catholic High School and pastor of St. Margret of Scotland Catholic Church, presented remarks to the graduates and those in attendance while Bishop Glen John Provost gave the Benediction for the 2024 commencement ceremonies of the school at which 116 graduated on Tuesday, May 14, in the Legacy Center on the McNeese State University

campus. Bishop Provost also presented the St Louis Award to Catherine Lechtenberg and Pierce Simien. The honor is given to the male and female seniors voted as the outstanding Christian student at the school by their peers and approved by members of the faculty. The awards go to those that have shown Love of God and Neighbor, Strong Moral Character, Desire to Serve

Community, Courage to stand up for Christian Principles, a Daily Christian Lifestyle, and Proper Use of God-Given gifts.

Also speaking to the class were valedictorian Henry Vo and salutatorians Katherine Austin and Lauren Ledet.

Gregory Radde was acknowledged as Student of the Year while the Scholar Athlete Award went to Maya Sanders and Benjamin Reiner.

The Keith Jones Award went to Jordan Davis.

Graduates of 2024 included: Collin Achée, Ella Aguillard, Adley Ardoin, Luke Arnold, Tori August, Asha Austin, Katherine Austin, Cecilia Barrios, Maryn Bellow, Avery Bertrand, Clayton Blackledge, Margaret Blevins, Ava Brinkman, Rebekkah Broussard, Kylie Brown and Zachary Buxton

Also, Elizabeth Caraway, Annabelle Cormier, Reese Darbonne, Landon Daughdril, AvaLynn David, Jordan Davis, Austin Dennis, Lucas Devall, Ryder Devall, Silas DeVille, Gabriella Dimitrov, Brooks Drost, Noah Ellender, Evan Ezell, Emily Filo, Ailani Fontenot, Isabella Foreman, Jacob Fruge, and Luke Fruge

Also, Annie Gaughan, John Goodly, Ethan Goss, Madison Granger, Nathan Gray, Emma Gregory, Adam Grueber, Bailey Gueringer, Christian Guillory, Joseph Guillory, Henry Hebert, Kami Hebert, Christopher Heinen, Sofia Hubbard, Haleigh Jackson, Brooklyn Jones, Alivia Joseph, Katie Kennison, Samuel Kennison, John Kihlken, Carter Kramer, Hannah Lafleur, Cameron Langley, Catherine Lechtenberg, Lauren Ledet, Jack Lefort, Mia Leger, Kennedy Leggett, and Kade Lounsberry.

Also, Cooper Mabile, Emma Manuel, Charlotte Maze, Jaylon McKay, Nolan McMichael, Jenna McNamara, Mary Meche, Mia Medlin, Annabelle Melerine, Luke Mere, Alexander Montesinos, Graham Montet, Karen Naquin, William Navarre, Ellen Nickel, Harrison Nixon, Kade Nugent, Mary Obluda, McKenzie Olsan, and Sarah Owen.

Also, Blaire Painter, Luke Pierson, Stephen Polito, Ethan Posch, KeMonni Pullard, Gregory Radde, Benjamin Reinauer, Eyan Rodericks, Maya Sanders, Estefania Santacoloma, Gracie Savoie, Julia Savoy, Bryden Schwertner, Grace Simien, Pierce Simien, Sophia Smith, Alyk Soileau, Andrew Svarney, and Isabella Tassin.

Also, Joseph Tate, James Thompson, Talan Tourelle, Aydan Trenchard, Kyle Turner, Henry Vo, James Watts, Katie Wilfer, Noah Williamson, Terry Wilson, Jacob Wing, Michael Wright, and Cael Wyninger.

Note: Honor graduates are bold-faced.

Decree of 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 July 1, 2024:

The Very Rev. Rojo Koonathan — Studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

The Very Rev. Matthew Cormier — Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Lake Charles, and Dean of the South Central Deanery

The Rev. Sam (Trey) Ange — Pastor, Saint Henry Parish, Lake Charles

The Rev. Anil Alexander, MOC — Administrator, Immaculate Conception Parish, Jennings

The Rev. Nathan Long — Dean, North Central Deanery, and continuing as Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish

The Very Rev. Ruben Buller — Rector, Saint Louis Catholic High School, Lake Charles, and continuing as Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, Chief Financial Officer, and Pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

The Rev. Mathew Panackal, MOC — Judicial Vicar, Diocesan Tribunal, and continuing as Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Welsh and its mission of Saint Peter Claver in Iowa

Signed by our hand and that of our Chancellor, on day 9 of May in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Glen John Provost *Joseph Caraway*

*Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

The Very Reverend
Joseph Caraway
Chancellor



Diocesan Camino Sends One Lucky Winner to Indianapolis

Jillian Wild of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jennings is the Diocesan Camino of St. Peter Claver winner for an all-expense paid trip to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN. She is pictured with Monsignor Daniel Torres, Vicar General, and Chairman of the National Eucharistic Revival Committee for the Diocese of Lake Charles. Jillian said that she "fell in love with the Eucharist even more" when she attended World Youth Day in Portugal in the summer of 2023 and wanted to attend the national event in July. "The Camino was awesome," Jillian said. "It was a fun way for to see other churches in our diocese and meet people along the journey." She is looking forward to hearing Father Mike Schmitz and Sister Josephine Garrett and being with other Catholics around the nation who love Jesus as much as she does.



2024 St. Louis Awards

Catherine Lechtenberg and Pierce Simien received the St. Louis Awards at the May 14 commencement ceremony of the St. Louis Catholic High School Class of 2024 from The Most Reverend Glen John Provost.