



Bishop's Services Appeal begins 2024-2025 campaign

From Catholic education to family life, to supporting vocations, charitable works for those in need, and crisis response, your gift to the Bishop's Services Appeal makes a difference in the ministries it supports and the thousands of people it impacts.

The 44th annual Bishop's Services Appeal (BSA), a fundraising campaign to aid in the operation of various ministries and programs, kicked off the weekend of September 14-15 in church parishes throughout the Diocese.

Some of those ministries include Vocations/Seminarians, Youth Ministry, Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana, Family Life, Diocesan Counseling, Communications, Catholic Education, Saint Charles Center and Camp Karol, Annulment and other Tribunal Fees, Seafarers Center, and Evangelization throughout the Diocese of Lake Charles.

This year's campaign, which continues until the end of the fiscal year — June 30, 2025, with a goal of \$824,000 — has as its theme: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)

It is appropriate that the theme of this year's Bishop's Services Appeal is thanksgiving, said Bishop Glen John Provost.

"The very English word Eucharist comes from the Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving,'" he explained. "This act of thanksgiving, we might say, is God's gift to us, for every time we give thanks, we are returning to God what He has first given us."

In his annual BSA message, His Excellency said that life is one great act of thanksgiving.

"I am reminded of St. Paul, who understood this mystery so well. He had promised to collect

offerings from the Christian communities to which he ministered and to send those offerings to the Church in Jerusalem," he said. "The Church throughout the communities responded generously out of their own need."

Bishop Provost noted that generosity is born from a heart of gratitude for the abundant gifts of God, who is good to us, so we are good to others.

"In being generous to others, we give thanks to God," he said, making his appeal the faithful once again this year. "Please be generous to those in need and to the works of the Church in the Diocese of Lake Charles."

"We want to see Saint Charles Center and Camp Karol continue its mission to those who seek Christ in prayer and to our youth, who are future leaders," Bishop Provost remarked. "We want Catholic Charities to expand its charitable works to those in need. We want to spread the faith by supporting our religious education programs. We want to increase our efforts to bring healing and strength to the lonely, the sick, the stranger, and the less fortunate."

Donors can choose from the following options to make their contribution:

- By check or cash in your parish's designated BSA collection envelope
- By designating a donation at any time in your parish's collection
- By credit card or electronic check (ACH) through the Diocese of Lake Charles website at <http://www.lcdioocese.org/resources/support-the-diocese>.

The first weekend of collections in church parishes will be at all Masses September 21-22.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

PSALM 136:1



DIocese OF LAKE CHARLES
BISHOP'S SERVICES APPEAL
2024 - 2025

New film shares personal letters of Venerable Augustus Tolton

CHICAGO — A new documentary film on Venerable Augustus Tolton, which features personal letters from the pioneering Black Catholic priest, has been released.

A private screening of "Tolton Speaks: The Life and Letters of Fr. Augustus Tolton" was held earlier in 2024 at the Cardinal Meyer Center on the South Side—just steps from where Tolton suffered a fatal heat stroke in 1897 and roughly a mile from where he opened the Archdiocese of Chicago's first Black Catholic parish.

An official trailer was released for the feature-length film, the brainchild of the late Rev. A. Gerard Jordan, O.Praem. Jordan, whose reflections are included in the film and is a native of Lake Charles, directed the Tolton Spirituality Center (TSC) until his death in September 2022.

"Initially, Father Gerard said he wanted to make a short film about Tolton and highlight some of the letters Tolton had written but had never been made public before," director David Michael Warren told *Chicago Catholic*. Warren is the

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.

founder of Stella Maris Films, which created the film with the TSC.

"There was a lot of material in those letters."

This new documentary about Venerable Father Augustus Tolton tells his story in a way that it has not been told before: Using his own words. <https://t.co/g4cqsrr4os> — Chicago Catholic

(@chicagocatholic) March 13, 2024.

The letters are not new discoveries, having been part of the materials sent to the Vatican for Tolton's canonization cause, which the archdiocese opened in 2010. Tolton, ordained in Rome at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in 1886, was the first known openly Black Catholic priest in U.S. history.

Bishop Provost's Guidance for Catholic Voters

September 8, 2024

Nativity of Our Lady

Dear Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Lake Charles,

Greetings in the Lord who is our hope! With the destructive storms still occupying our time and efforts, we are acutely aware of the challenges facing us for years to come in rebuilding our homes, businesses, schools, churches, and facilities. At the same time, an important election is fast approaching. As I have done in the past, I wish to offer you a brief guidance and to concentrate on the importance of conscience for the Catholic voter.

The integrity of one's conscience requires voting for the candidate who intends to uphold the greatest moral good according to the authentic magisterium of the Church. The obligation is particularly serious where the fundamental right to life is denied. The threat of abortion and protecting human life remains a "preeminent priority" (cf USCCB, "Introductory Letter," Faithful Citizenship, 2020) for us as Catholics.

The more fundamental the issue, like human life, marriage or religious freedom, the greater priority the issue possesses in the judgment of correct conscience. The exercise of a correct conscience requires that a Catholic vote for the candidate whose positions best correspond to the Church's moral teaching on such essential issues.

The question to ask is a defining one. In voting for a candidate, to what end am I contributing? What goal am I seeking to accomplish? Simply stated, voting both endorses a candidate's goals and contributes to accomplishing them. My guidance is offered without prejudice to any candidate or political party. It is intended rather to remind the Catholics of this Diocese that voting is a serious matter and can have immediate as well as eternal consequences, for we will ultimately stand before God for the decisions we make and the actions we take (cf Romans 14: 12).

With prayers for your intentions and the assurance of our Lord's constant care for us,

I remain Devotedly yours in our Lord,

*Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Deacon Leo Hebert and Deacon Maurice Serice laid to rest

Deacon Leo Anthony Hebert, 84, passed away peacefully in his residence of Ragley on July 25, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Leo was born September 7, 1939, to Vina Hebert and Norman Charles Hebert, but was raised by his mother and stepfather, Crankford Ortego.

A devout man of God, Deacon Leo Hebert lived a life marked by faith, service, and dedication. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy as an electrician's mate second class. Upon returning, he worked faithfully at PPG as an electrician for twenty-five years before enrolling in school and graduating from McNeese

State University with both a bachelor's and master's degree in education. Much of his free time was taken up with his hobby as a barber, and once he retired from the school system, he dedicated his talents and efforts to his ranch in Dry Creek and his Deaconship. His love for his family was unwavering, and he cherished his time making people laugh, hunting and fishing, and traveling.

Those left to cherish his memories are Shirley Hebert, his loving wife of 59 years, his daughter, Pamela Hantz, married to Jonathan Hantz of Ragley, grandchildren Kaitlyn Richard (Tyler) of Longville, Joshua Hantz (Catherine)



Deacon Leo Hebert

of Birmingham, Alabama, and Amanda Munoz (Jose) of Ragley, great-grandchild Luke Richard, Leo's sister Norma Grice of Orange, Texas, and brother Greg Ortego of Moss Bluff.

Deacon Maurice Serice, a native of Sulphur, passed away on August 2, 2024, at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas at the age of 87. He was born October 16, 1936, to George and Lena DiGiglia Serice.

Deacon Serice was a graduate of Sulphur High School (1955) and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now ULL) in 1959. After graduation he returned to Sulphur to co-manage the family business with his brother, S.J. Serice. His parents had founded Serice's Clothing and Shoe Store in 1924.

In 1996, he was ordained to the permanent diaconate for

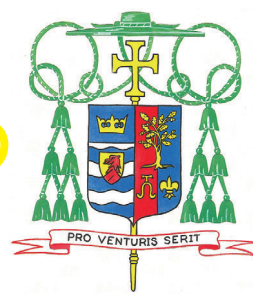
the Diocese of Lake Charles. He was assigned to Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in Sulphur where he ministered for 16 years. In the days prior to his passing, he reminisced about the many people he was blessed to minister to at baptisms, weddings, and funerals. He valued the support of the clergy and parishioners of Our Lady of LaSalette Church.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Patricia Lormand Serice; two sons, George (Lisa) Serice, The Woodlands; Mark (Erin) Serice, Sugar Land; three daughters, Pauline Serice, and Valerie Serice, both of Houston, and Janet Serice, Pearland. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, two great-



Deacon Maurice Serice

grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Maurice was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, sister and brother-in-law, Kathryn (Tony) Quattrone, and niece, Jamie Quattrone.



MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR BISHOP PROVOST

Diocese celebrates his many years of holy service to the Church

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — The gratitude area Catholics have for His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, was evident as a *Mass of Thanksgiving* was celebrated in his honor on Saturday, August 10, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

On the Feast of St. Lawrence of Rome, Deacon and Martyr, the special liturgy was held to recognize his turning 75, as well as his many years of holy service to the Church — 49 years a priest and 17 years as the third bishop in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The nearly full cathedral included family members, friends, clergy, Religious Sisters, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, and laity from around the diocese.

Assisting during the 10:00 a.m. Mass were seminarians for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Joining the clergy as out-of-town guests were Monsignor Douglas Courville, Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Corpus Christi, and Reverend Michael Murray, Priest Director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Archdiocese of Washington. Both are longtime friends of Bishop Provost, making their presence of special significance.

“Monsignor Courville and Father Murray are the only two priests still living who attended both my priesthood ordination at St. Peter’s in Rome and my very First Mass at St. Mary Major in 1975,” the bishop pointed out.

Also present at the *Mass of Thanksgiving* as well as Bishop Provost’s ordination and First Mass in Rome was his niece, Annette Marie Guillory, from New Orleans.

“Having reached seven decades plus five, the Church requires me to submit a letter of resignation,” Bishop Provost said at the beginning of his homily. “The occasion merits being surrounded by loyal and supportive family and friends. For this I am heartily grateful to and humbled by my Vicars General and staff for having made this celebration possible.”

The bishop remarked that he was “deeply touched by the generosity of the Cathedral Parish” for sponsoring the occasion where he has celebrated Mass and the Sacraments since 2007.

“These years have been good and blessed, and I would hope to continue in future service both as bishop and the emeritus,” he continued.

Upon being installed as shepherd of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Bishop Provost chose as his motto, *Pro Venturis Serit* (He plants for those to come).

The Very Reverend Ruben J. Buller, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, referenced this motto in closing remarks to the bishop.

“We, of course, know that what we do as ministers of the Church is about those we encounter, those who come afterwards,” Father Buller said. “In your ministry here in the Diocese, more than anything else, you have reminded us to always look to Christ. He is First and the Last, our beginning and our end, and our reason for all things.”

Father Buller, who also serves as Pastor of the Cathedral, extended his gratitude to Bishop Provost for his faithful service to this local Church and his continual service as long as the Lord sees fit.

Giving thanks to God for 75 years and looking forward to whatever is left of his life, Bishop Provost expressed his appreciation to parishioners of the Cathedral, to Father Buller, Monsignor Daniel Torres, Vicar General; the faithful priests of the Diocese, and the good and faithful laity and clergy “who have had only the good of the Church in mind.”

Sentiments for Bishop Provost

Born to Cyrus and Sadie Blanchet Provost on August 9, 1949, in Lafayette, Bishop Provost remarked that he learned from his parents long ago to put everything in God’s hands.

“I began my life as a little kid in Lafayette and end it as a Catholic bishop in Lake Charles,” he noted.

His 93-year-old brother, Cyrus Provost Jr., of Morgan City, was among the bishop’s relatives in attendance at the Mass and a reception that followed in the Diocesan Chancery.

“I am lucky to be here today to celebrate this milestone in my brother’s life,” he said. “I can still remember him going up in the choir loft at church as a little boy and being taught how to play the organ. He mastered the music.”

Cyrus said he knew his brother had the qualities it took to be a leader in the Church.

After being appointed bishop, “he had an intent as to what he was capable of doing and what he wanted to accomplish,” said Cyrus.

Enola Provost May, a cousin to Bishop Provost, grew up attending the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Lafayette, where then-Monsignor Provost was once assigned.

“When my husband, Bobby, and I were married in 1965, Glen played the organ for our wedding. I think he had just entered the seminary,” Enola recalled. “In that same church, he officiated at the wedding for our daughter, he conducted christenings for our grandchildren, and he officiated at funerals for our family, the most recent one for my husband who died on December 26, 2022.”

Monsignor Courville said being a “man of faith” has served Bishop Provost well as a priest and bishop. The two met in 1965 at Immaculata Seminary in Lafayette.

“Bishop Provost has always taken great care to be a man of prayer. He has always practiced his devotions,” said Monsignor Courville. “He is very sincere, dedicated, task oriented, and has a real sense of humor. He is a faithful friend.”

Monsignor Courville also commented on Bishop Provost’s talent as an accomplished musician and noted that he has a great interest in literature and a deep appreciation for art.

More work to be done

Several endeavors of particular importance to Bishop Provost over his Episcopacy include his dedication to Catholic schools, his devotion to increasing vocations to the priesthood with “40 Hours Devotion” in each church parish; the restoration of the historic Cathedral, the construction of Camp Karol Catholic Youth Camp in Moss Bluff; and expanding the work of Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana throughout the five civil parishes in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Bishop Provost referred to a famous quote reportedly uttered by St. Lawrence when he was being roasted alive on an iron grill — “I am done on this side. Turn me over.” The bishop noted that this expression of resignation communicates the acceptance of suffering in the Christian life.

“What is true of a deacon is as true of a bishop,” he continued.

“The future holds only the unknown, but I have learned to trust in God, and He will take care of everything. He always has, and He always will,” said Bishop Provost. “I am not done. Turn me over on the other side.”



Bishop Provost is joined by Deacon Brian Soileau, left, Assistant to the Vicar for Clergy; and Deacon Anthony Pousson, during a Mass of Thanksgiving for the occasion of his 75th birthday. (Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)



Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians greet Bishop Provost as he exits the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at the conclusion of a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated in his honor on Saturday, August 10. (Morris LeBleu / Diocese of Lake Charles)

Hebert named Principal at ICCS

LAKE CHARLES — Immaculate Conception Cathedral School and the Office of Catholic Schools are pleased to announce the selection of Mrs. Jacqueline Hebert as the 2024-2025 Principal.

Mrs. Hebert is a very qualified educator with experience at the local charter schools and teaching in the Cameron Parish and Calcasieu Parish School systems. Her expertise is Early Childhood / Early Elementary Education and has been a Mentor Teacher and Teacher of the Year during her career.

One of the highlights from Mrs. Hebert’s career is serving as an Early Interventionist helping children in vulnerable situations so that no child is forgotten.

Currently, Mrs. Hebert is working to complete her Doctorate in Education with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction. She is a State Certified Mentor Teacher and has also completed both the Educational Leadership Exam



Jacqueline Hebert
2024-2025 ICCS Principal

and the Superintendent’s Exam.

A native of Grand Lake where she and her family reside, Jacqueline and her husband, Chris, have been married 16 years and have three children, Kamryn (14), Kyndall (10), and Christopher (7).

Mrs. Hebert said that she is honored to have been named Principal of ICCS and looks forward to being a part of the Panthers community.

Seminary burses number 113; total amount nears \$3 million

LAKE CHARLES — The 113 seminary burses that have been established over the years since the Diocese of Lake Charles was created in 1980 now total nearly \$3 million.

Known as the St. Charles Borromeo Scholarship Fund, the seminary burses were created to aid in the payment of educational expenses of the men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles. St. Charles Borromeo was one of the first bishops to carry out the desires of the Council of Trent by founding the Seminary of Milan.

Payments received for burses over the past several months include the largest single contribution - \$346,783.91 - in favor of a burse created to memorialize Deacon Garrett and Mrs. (Juno) Caraway, Jr. The deacon, who was the first permanent deacon ordained for the Diocese of Lafayette in 1977, was incardinated into the Diocese of Lake Charles

upon its founding in 1980. He lived and served in St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Westlake and was a stalwart supporter of diocesan pro-life efforts including being pro-life coordinator for many years.

The gift to Deacon Caraway’s burse increased the total amount invested in the fund to \$2,899,625.06, as of August 14, 2024.

The largest seminary burses include current amounts of \$348,853.91, Deacon and “Juno” Caraway’s burse; \$252,984.14, Mitchell Duhon; \$250,000, Robichaux, Wadsack, & Watson; \$168,025.64, Kevin & Rena Gayle, Sr.; \$160,127.43, Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc; \$100,000.00, Ola Mae & F.M. Thornton; \$73,725.73, Bishop Jude Speyrer; and \$70,000.00, Msgr. Charles Levasseur

A complete list of all 113 seminary burses can be found on the diocesan website at <http://www.lcdioocese.org/3-news/522-diocesan-seminary-burses>.

A seminary burse is a permanent fund set aside to provide income for the education and training of future priests. Since the principal is never touched, this fund is truly a “gift that will give forever.” Donations made to any seminary burse, will continue to support the education of seminarians in perpetuity. Seminary burses can be established in honor or memory of a loved one, in the name of especially loved priests (there are a number already established) or an organization, with any amount of money and gifts may be added to current burses.

Contributions may be added to current burses at any time. Checks made payable to The Diocese of Lake Charles should be sent to Rev. Msgr. Daniel Torres, V.G., Diocese of Lake Charles, P.O. Box 3223, Lake Charles, LA 70602-3223 along with a description of the donor’s wishes for the naming of the burse if establishing a new burse. Please also note

in the memo portion of your check that the gift is for a seminary burse.

For further information on seminary burses, please call Monsignor Torres at 337-439-7400, Ext. 204 or e-mail him at daniel.torres@lcdioocese.org

Diocese of Lake Charles in compliance with Charter

Based on results of the 2024 on-site audit of the Diocese of Lake Charles, the Diocese has been found compliant with all audited Articles within the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* for the audit period of October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2024.

Bishop Glen John Provost was informed of the finding in a letter, dated July 8, 2024, from Stonebridge Business Partners, a specialty consulting firm headquartered in Rochester, New York, that conducts independent audits of dioceses across the country. The letter thanked the Diocese for its cooperation during the process.

According to the correspondence, “the conclusions reached as to the compliance

of your Diocese are based upon inquiry, observation and the review of specifically requested documentation furnished to StoneBridge Business Partners during the course of the audit.”

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* is a comprehensive set of procedures originally established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 2002 for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The Charter also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse.

StoneBridge thanked the Diocese for its efforts to protect the children and young people in the Diocese of Lake Charles.