



HIS EMINENCE CELEBRATES FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Cardinal Burke receives enthusiastic welcome in Diocese of Lake Charles

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

The line to greet His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke and kiss his ring lasted nearly two hours during a reception hosted in his honor at the American Legion Hall in Vinton on Sunday, October 27, 2024.

The 76-year-old cardinal blessed couples, families, and individuals. He autographed prayer cards and books. He graciously posed for photographs — with a gentle smile — as countless keepsake images were snapped one after another with smartphones.

“I told His Eminence he is like a magnet, attracting many today from Dallas, Houston, Lafayette, and locally in Southwest Louisiana,” said Rev. Canon Jean-Marie Moreau, Rector of St. Francis de Sales Oratory for the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in Sulphur.

The American Cardinal Prelate of the Roman Catholic Church was invited by his longtime friend, His Excellency Bishop Glen John Provost. The two were seminary classmates in Rome having been ordained to the priesthood on June 29, 1975, by Pope Saint Paul VI.

Named a cardinal in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Burke has written and spoken widely on Roman Catholic canon law, the Holy Eucharist, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the sanctity of human life.

Wrapping up a week-long visit in the Diocese of Lake Charles, the cardinal served as retreat master for the Diocesan Priests Retreat held October 21-25 at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff.

“The last visit of Cardinal Burke to the Diocese was in 2010 when he spoke for the New Life Counseling Banquet,” recalled Bishop Provost. “Now he visits us again primarily to direct the annual spiritual exercises for the priests of the Diocese in retreat. These are two subjects close to his heart: respect for human life and the holiness of priests.”

Commenting on their 53-year friendship, “I have known Cardinal Burke since 1971, when we entered the Pontifical North American College together with our class,” the bishop said. “His spiritual and intellectual strengths were respected then as they are now. His fidelity and love for Christ and His Church has never wavered.”

Prior to the reception, His Eminence was celebrant and homilist for a prelatial Low Mass (celebrated by a cardinal) at St. Francis de Sales Oratory.

“It is a source of joy for me to offer in your church a Mass according to the more ancient usage of the Roman Rite on the Feast of the Kingship of Our Lord Jesus Christ,” said Cardinal Burke. “I thank His Excellency Bishop Provost for his warm welcome to the Diocese of Lake Charles and Canon Jean-Marie Moreau for the invitation to offer the Holy Mass today.”

The cardinal reminded those gathered that “the Kingship of Christ clearly extends to the individual human heart, calling forth the obedience which frees each of us to become all that God has created us to be.”

In celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King in the Extraordinary Form, the cardinal called on everyone “to renew our devotion to His royal heart, keeping before our eyes throughout each day the image of Christ the King who reigns in our hearts with His glorious, pierced heart.”

A Eucharistic Procession and Benediction immediately followed the Mass, with all reciting the Prayer of the Nine-Month Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe composed by Cardinal Burke.

“I was very edified today by the celebration of Holy Mass and Procession and the wonderful participation of so many of the faithful,” the cardinal expressed.

“It is always a pleasure visiting the Diocese of Lake Charles, this being my third time, each visit under the care of your good shepherd and my good friend, Bishop Provost,” he noted.

With a desire to encourage the faithful, the cardinal asked them to “remember what happened in your church today and don’t get discouraged. Our Lord is our King, and He is leading us forward to bring us to victory over all of the trials that we face.”

“Please continue to pray for me as I know you have been doing and pray for your good bishop here in the Diocese of Lake Charles,” he kindly requested. “I promise to remember you in my prayers. God bless you all.”

In remarks to Cardinal Burke, Canon Moreau pointed out that he has been a great example to all of us in living out the Cardinal Virtues taught to us in Catechism — prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

“As His Eminence once said, ‘Being a cardinal is not a piece of cake; it is not easy.’ We assure you of all our prayers,” said Canon Moreau. “It is a great honor to have you with us.”

Canon also extended his gratitude to Bishop Provost for making the cardinal’s visit possible. “It is because of your friendship with His Eminence that Cardinal Burke is here.”

Also, in attendance for the Kingship of Christ celebration were Rev. Canon Matthew Talarico, who was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Burke for the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest; Rev. Canon Joel Estrada, Secretary to Cardinal Burke in the United States; and Rev. Carlos Garcia, Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton, and Rev. D.B. Thompson, JCL, both from the Diocese of Lake Charles.

To learn more about His Eminence Cardinal Burke, visit his personal website at cardinalburke.com.



His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Leo Burke speaks from the ambo of St. Francis de Sales Oratory in Sulphur during the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King in the Traditional Latin Mass on Sunday, October 27. He was concluding a visit to the Diocese of Lake Charles, where he served as retreat master for the priests retreat at the invitation of Bishop Glen John Provost.



His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Leo Burke, left, and His Excellency, The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, stand in the front of the altar in the Chapel of the Assumption at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff.

Advent Mission at OLQH will feature Father Briscoe, OP, Dec. 2-4

LAKE CHARLES — Father Patrick Mary Briscoe, OP, a Eucharistic Preacher for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will lead the Advent Mission at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in December. The mission is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. nightly Monday through Wednesday, December 2-4. The theme is “Hope Renewed: Living Advent with a Faithful Heart.”

A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Father Briscoe joined the Order of Preachers in 2010. He completed his initial studies in theology at the Dominican House of

Studies in Washington, DC, where he earned a licentiate in moral theology. Following his ordination to the priesthood, he was assigned in Providence, Rhode Island. Father Briscoe served as a parish priest at St. Pius V Church, and as a chaplain and instructor of the theology at Providence College. He was formerly the Editor-in-Chief of the English edition of Aleteia.org, the global Catholic news and spirituality website.

Along with his Dominican brothers, Father Briscoe is host of the podcast “Godsplaining” and a co-author of “Saint Dominic’s Way of Life: A

Path to Knowing and Loving God.” He is also the author of the Our Sunday Visitor devotional, “My Daily Visitor.”

The topic of each night’s talk will be “Hope in God’s Mercy” on Monday, December 2; “Embracing Hope in Times of Struggle” on Tuesday, December 3; and “Our Lady, Mother of Hope” on the final night, Wednesday, December 4.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church is located at 3939 Lake Street. For more information on the Advent Mission, please call the church office at 337-477-1236.



Father Patrick Mary Briscoe, OP
USCCB Eucharistic Preacher

Around the Diocese Office Closures

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28-29, for Thanksgiving, reopening at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, December 2.

Diocesan offices will also close on Monday, December 9, in observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. The Solemnity was transferred this year since December 8 falls on the Second Sunday of Advent.

Tolton Musical Masterpiece

A Tolton Musical Masterpiece, featuring the Lake Charles Community Choir, will be performed at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, November 16, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 2031 Opelousas Street in Lake Charles.

Christ the King Champagne Bingo

Christ the King Catholic Church will host a Champagne Bingo and Dinner on Saturday, December 7, at the VFW Hall, 5676 Lake Street in Lake Charles. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person.

Diocesan Epiphany Celebration

The Diocese of Lake Charles will host the third annual “Festival of Nations: Celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord” on Saturday, January 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and Founders Hall, 2031 Opelousas Street.

Highlights will include Eucharistic Procession, Adoration and Benediction, Confession, entertainment and food from a variety of countries, and gifts for the children from the Three Wise Men.



Bishop blesses site of new St. Louis Catholic campus

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — The start of a new school year at St. Louis Catholic High School was about more than reconnecting with friends and teachers. It was also about looking to the future while honoring its past and present traditions of excellence.

On August 25, 2024 — the Feast Day of St. Louis, King of France — Bishop Glen John Provost blessed the site on Corbina Road where the future campus of St. Louis Catholic High School will be built.

Earlier this year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) obligated \$32,204,013.10 to build a new campus for the lone Catholic high school in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The breezy Sunday afternoon was just two days shy of the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Laura, the catastrophic storm that destroyed the former campus on August 27, 2020. The high school has been operating in modular buildings in the time since, all the while exhibiting resilience that only true saints can do.

A few days prior to the site blessing, Bishop Provost blessed the students, faculty, and staff during a school Mass on August 21, inviting them to be grateful for what God has given them every day.

Rev. Whitney Miller, Chair of the “Spreading Roots, Growing Saints” Capital Campaign, said that the blessing of students paired with the blessing of the property was a way to “bridge the old and new.”

“Our ongoing goal with this Capital Campaign and the Catholic formation of growing saints on our campuses — old and new — is well stated in our school motto of ‘Honor and Praise God in All Ways,’ that is, in ways of memory and tradition, as well as ways of vision and restoration,” said Father Miller. Sharing in the ministry of Campaign Chair is Mike Veron.

Joining His Excellency for the site blessing were Father Ruben J. Buller, Rector of St. Louis Catholic High; Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Kelly DeMolle, Principal; Father Whitney Miller; several members of the Board of Pastors, and a number of St. Louis students.

“The work we are beginning today should enliven our faith and make us grateful,” said Bishop Provost. “We know the familiar words of the school motto. Whenever we look to the interest of our community and serve one another, we are in a sense, God’s own coworkers, and in so doing, we honor and praise God.”

Father Buller said that the blessing is a sign of moving forward presenting to God all the work that has been done so far.

“Many people have done much to bring us to this point. We are grateful to them and grateful to God for allowing us to arrive at the next steps,” Father Buller remarked. “We have much more to do but are continuing to move forward!”

While those gathered sang the school’s Alma Mater, Bishop Provost sprinkled the signage and site with holy water.

“My brothers and sisters, let us pray that God will bless this property and land and that His protection will keep those who work on it safe from all injury and harm,” the bishop said.

Father Miller compared the past four years of tribulation to walking in the footsteps of many of the saints of our Church’s history.

“So many saints demonstrate the qualities of spiritual resilience and victory over suffering and struggle,” he said. “We, too, are being called to do the same in our present day and age with this project of challenge, adventure, and mutual support. With God’s blessing and the intercession of all the angels and saints, let us join together in getting this done!”



From left, are: Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Lake Charles; Very Rev. Ruben J. Buller, Rector of St. Louis Catholic High School; His Excellency, Bishop Glen John Provost; Kelly DeMolle, Principal of St. Louis; and Rev. Whitney Miller, Chairman of “Spreading Roots, Growing Saints” Capital Campaign. Also serving as Capital Campaign Chair is Mike Veron.

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.

LONGTIME DREAM YEARS IN THE MAKING Adult Day Care Center opens in honor of Monsignor DeBlanc

By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — The dying wish of a beloved priest was finally fulfilled when the Monsignor DeBlanc / DMMM Joy Care Center opened its doors on Friday, September 6, 2024, at 425 Seventh Street.

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, blessed the non-profit adult day care center in the presence of several Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy Sisters (DMMM), some of whom will oversee and work at the all-faith based center.

“It has been a loooooong journey, but we are happy that today we are experiencing this,” said Sister Maria Providentia Igboelus, Regional Superior, USA / Canada Region, who traveled from New York for the grand opening.

The adult care center, named for the late Monsignor Irving A. DeBlanc, longtime pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Lake Charles, will have a registered nurse on site, offer hot nutritious meals and snacks, daily exercise, supervised therapeutic activities, provide courtesy transportation, and offer local outings.

Before Monsignor DeBlanc passed away in 2006, he set aside monies for the DMMM sisters in his Will stating that he wanted them to start an adult day care center for the elderly and to name it “JOY” for Just Older Youths. His desire came from experiencing the care the religious sisters showed him when he fell ill in his old age.

It was at the invitation of the late Bishop Jude Speyrer (founding Bishop of Lake Charles), the late Monsignor Joseph Bourque, and Monsignor DeBlanc in the summer of 1995 that the DMMM sisters arrived in the Diocese of Lake Charles from Nigeria.

Through their apostolate, they have been involved in taking care of the elderly in homes and hospitals over the past 29 years.

“Let us ask God’s blessings on all who will use and work at this care center and let us ask for the Divine blessing of this building,” Bishop Provost prayed before he walked around sprinkling each room with holy water. “We pray it will be of much benefit to those who utilize it and draw from the services of the sisters.”

To express their appreciation, the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy presented their “good shepherd” with a statue of an angel.

“As you have guided us, Bishop Provost, we are asking the Blessed Mother of Mercy and the angels to guide you and the Diocese of Lake Charles,” said Sister Maria Providentia.

The 18-year journey of opening the center was not without its ups and downs, and when it looked like it was getting close, back-to-back hurricanes in 2020 caused a major setback.

“Hurricane Laura did a lot of damage to this place, but as we say in my language, the devil arrived very late,” said Sister Providentia. “The building suffered some material damages, but it cannot damage our souls. We can have challenges, but it cannot damage who we are.”

While many people and organizations were instrumental in seeing the care center come to completion, Sister Providentia made special mention of Sudduth & Associates for their legal assistance without charging any fees.

“James E. Sudduth III has been our attorney on this journey. His law firm worked assiduously to see that this project came to fruition without charging a dime,” Sister Providentia pointed out with gratitude.



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost is surrounded by Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy Sisters, some of whom serve in the Diocese of Lake Charles. They gathered for a special blessing of the Monsignor DeBlanc / DMMM Joy Care Center on Friday, September 6. Through their apostolate, the DMMM Sisters have been involved in taking care of the elderly in homes and hospitals over the past 29 years in Southwest Louisiana.

A special Mass was celebrated in the care center on Saturday, September 7, by Rev. Michael Beverung, Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, who holds a special place in his heart for his longtime pastor.

“I was baptized by Monsignor DeBlanc. Not only that, toward the end of his life, my mother and I had the opportunity to spend time with him at his house before he passed,” said Father Beverung.

“We are blessed that the legacy of Monsignor DeBlanc will continue to live on through this beautiful ministry that is much needed in the area,”

he said. “The center will bring lots of joy and faith to the community.”

The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy hosted receptions on Friday and Saturday and offered tours of the facility.

The hours of operation for the Monsignor DeBlanc / DMMM Joy Care Center are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 337-496-6575 or 337-429-5186, or email Joy.care.center.msgrdeblanc@gmail.com.

Clergy and Religious honored for milestone anniversaries

SULPHUR — His Excellency, the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, was the celebrant and homilist for the 17th annual Clergy and Religious Recognition Celebration on Tuesday, September 10, at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church.

For a combined 615 years of service to the Catholic Church, this year’s honorees included a total of 10 priests, 13 deacons, 1 religious brother, and 6 religious sisters. The following were recognized for significant anniversaries:

• 70 years — Brother Don Smith, M.S.

• 60 years — Rev. Monsignor Charles Dubois and Rev. Jude Brunnert, M.S.

• 55 years — Sister Mary Leonie T. Iweh, D.M.M.M.

• 45 years — Sister Monica O. Okeke, D.M.M.M.

• 30 years — Rev. Jude Fernando, T.O.R.; Rev. Mathew Panackal, M.O.C.; Sister Chiebuka M. Mbaronye, D.M.M.M

• 15 years — Rev. Arvind Minz, H.G.N.; Rev. Jenesh Joseph, H.G.N.; Rev. Joby Mathew, H.G.N.; and Sister Mrija Hope Nuculaj, R.S.M.

• 10 years — Very Rev. Matthew Cormier, V.E.; Rev. Pradeep Gali, H.G.N.; Sister Shalini Michael, D.S.H.S.; Sister Princy Poulouse, D.S.H.S.; Deacon Joseu Canelo, Deacon Errol DeVilleville, Deacon Richard Donahoe, Deacon Keith Ellender, Deacon Christopher Fontenot, Deacon Mike Guillory, Deacon Patrick Hebert, Deacon Jesse Menard, Deacon Harold Nixon, Deacon Tony Pousson, Deacon Brian Soileau, Deacon Stephen Starr, and Deacon Al Weinring

• 5 years — Rev. Michael Caraway

Following the Mass, Rev. Michael Caraway, Serra Club Chaplain, gave the invocation and blessing of the meal at the luncheon in Fr. Vecchio Hall. The welcome and acknowledgements were given by Col. John Halloran, Serra Club Past President, and closing remarks and benediction were given by Bishop Provost.

The annual recognition celebration is coordinated by the Serra Club of Lake Charles and supported by the Knights of Columbus Assemblies and Councils; Knights of Peter Claver Assemblies, Chapters and Courts; Catholic Daughters of the Americas Courts, Christian Mothers, Parish Altar Societies, and East Deanery Serra Club. Other benefactors of time, talent, and/or treasures were Bernadine and Alexander Daboval, and Craig and Jackie Guillory.

All honorees for 2024 received a check in \$10 increments for their years of service. Col. Halloran said to date, a total of 364 priests, deacons, and religious brothers and sisters have been honored over the past 17 years with contributing organizations donating a total of \$92,700 to the honorees.