

CHURCH TODAY

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ON THE INSIDE

Archbishop Aymond: You'd be 'cooperating with evil' if you work on new abortion facility in New Orleans

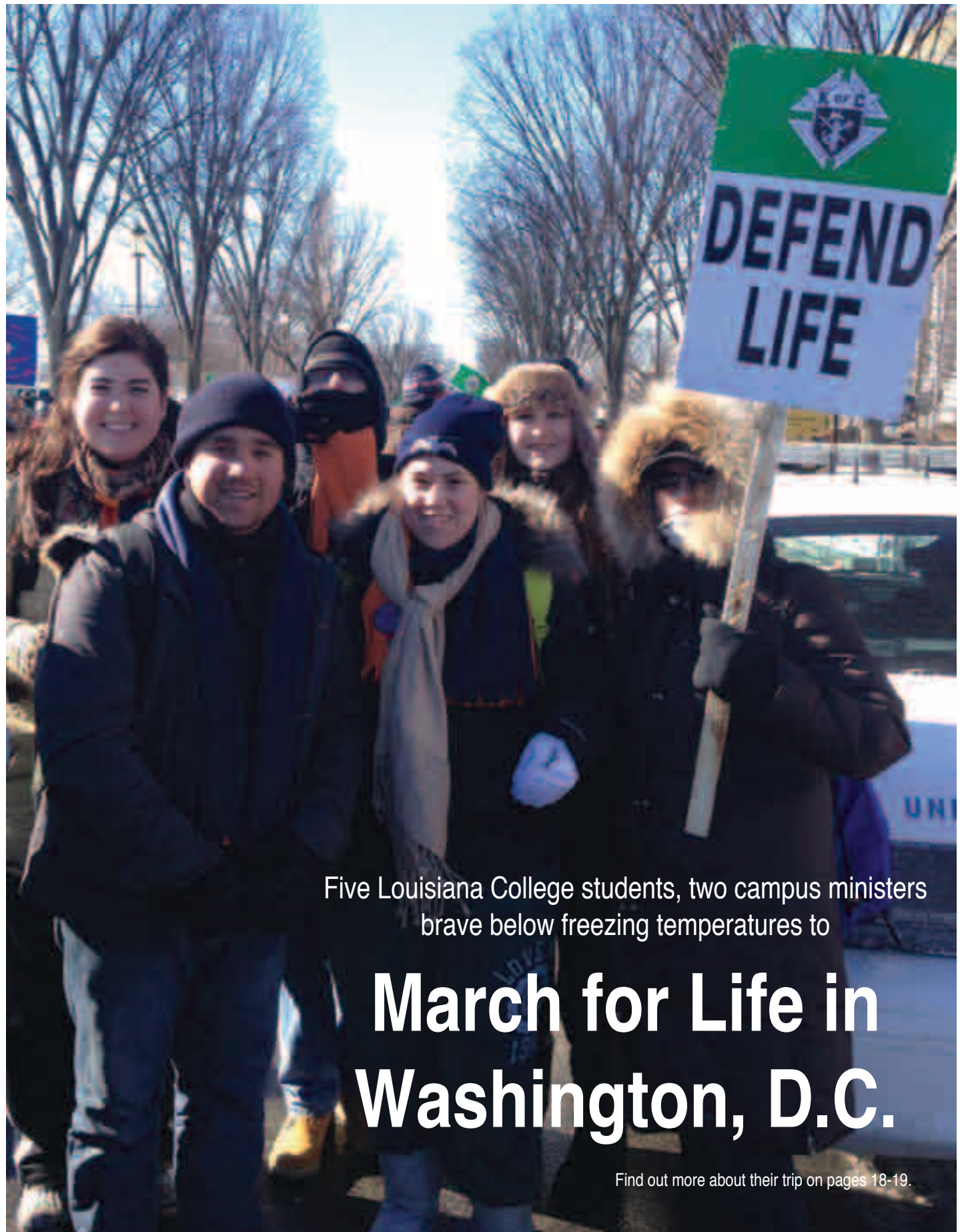
Archbishop Gregory Aymond wrote an open letter Feb. 1 cautioning local Catholics and businesses they would be "cooperating with the evil that will take place" at the \$4.2 million abortion clinic under construction in New Orleans if they participate in its preparation or construction. See page 2.

Schools closed for total of six days because of snow

Catholic schools from around the diocese were closed a total of six days in the past three weeks due to snow and ice accumulations. But the students didn't seem to mind too much. Read more on pages 16-17.

Longest married couple in the U.S. lives in Marksville

Can you imagine being married for 83 years?! That's how long the longest married couple in the U.S. have been married. Who would have guessed they live in Marksville and attend Holy Ghost Church! Find out who they are on page 11.



Five Louisiana College students, two campus ministers
brave below freezing temperatures to

March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Find out more about their trip on pages 18-19.

Pope: Don't skip Sunday Mass; people need communion with God

By Cindy Wooten
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist should make a difference in the way Catholics live, Pope Francis said; they should be more accepting of others and more aware of their sinfulness.

"If we don't feel in need of God's mercy and don't think we are sinners, it's better not to go to Mass," Pope Francis said Feb. 12 at his weekly general audience. The Eucharist is a celebration of Christ's gift of himself for the salvation of sinners, which is why the Mass begins with people confessing they are sinners and begging for the Lord's mercy.

Continuing a series of au-

dience talks about the sacraments, the pope asked people to think about how they approach the Mass and what difference it makes in their lives and the lives of their parishes.

Do you go to Mass because it's a habit or a time to see your friends? the pope asked. "Or is it something more?"

"When we go to Mass, we find ourselves with all sorts of people," the pope said. "Does the Eucharist we celebrate lead me to consider all of them as brothers and sisters? Does it increase my ability to rejoice when they do and to weep with those who weep?"

Pope Francis said it is not enough to say one loves Jesus; it must be shown in love for those

"Do you go to Mass because it's a habit or a time to see your friends? Or is it something more?"

-- Pope Francis

he loved.

Ask yourself, he said, if going to Mass helps you reach out to the suffering or "am I indifferent, or am I gossiping, 'Did you see how that one's dressed?' Sometimes people do that after Mass. But this shouldn't happen."

Attendance at Mass also should lead to "the grace of feeling forgiven and able to forgive others," he said.

Pope Francis said he knows that some people wonder why they should bother going to

church when the church is filled with people who sin like everyone else.

"In reality, those who participate in the Mass don't do so because they think or want to believe they are superior to others, but precisely because they know they are in need" of God's mercy.

"We go to Mass because we know we are sinners and want Jesus' forgiveness," the pope said. "When, at the beginning of Mass, we say, 'I confess,' it's not something pro forma. It's a real act of

penance."

In the Eucharist, Jesus truly gives us his body and blood for the remission of sins, he said.

Celebrating the Eucharist also should make a difference in the way a parish community lives, he said. At Mass, Christ gathers people around him "to nourish us with his word and his life. This means that the mission and identity of the church begin and take form there."

"A celebration could be perfect from an aesthetic point of view -- it can be beautiful -- but if it does not lead us to an encounter with Jesus Christ, it risks not giving any nourishment to our hearts and lives," the pope said. There must be "coherence between our Eucharist and our lives."

Synod on the Family set for October 2014

Cardinal says pope wants to 'stir things up,' let people ask questions

(CNS) -- U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien doesn't know what will come out of the Synod on the Family set for October, but the former archbishop of Baltimore believes it will be significant.

"Hold onto your seats," Cardinal O'Brien told a gathering of seminarians and faculty at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. "I think Pope Francis wants to stir things up and allow people to raise questions. I don't think we're going to see a change in doctrine, but we will see a change in tone, and we might see some disciplinary modifications."

Those modifications might include adjustments in annulment procedures, the cardinal said. "I think most bishops are very concerned that they have more say in annulments in a responsible way," he said Jan. 27.

Cardinal O'Brien's comments were part of a wide-ranging address that touched on the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI, the election of Pope Francis and a look at how Pope Francis has governed the church in his first year.

"He's seen its strengths and its weaknesses," Cardinal O'Brien said, noting that the pope's establishment of an eight-



member council of cardinals from around the world shows that the pope believes he needs advisers both within and outside the curia.

The principal job of the council of cardinals, Cardinal O'Brien said, is to "completely rewrite the central administration of the Catholic Church." The cardinal said the curia will somehow have to relate to the new council of cardinals.

"I think a year from now, we'll hardly know what the structure was, there will be so many different things that will have taken place," the cardinal said. "Maybe the heads of some conferences of bishops will be involved. I don't know. But we will know by the end of February because the group of eight will meet again and come up with formal recommendations."

Cardinal O'Brien highlighted several themes of Pope Francis' young papacy, among them the importance of expanding the pope's circle of advisers, subsidiarity, solidarity with the poor, evangelizing at the periphery of the culture and acting as a missionary church.

The cardinal cited the pope's interview with an Italian atheist magazine editor and the pope's strong focus on mercy as examples of his willingness to reach out to others. The pope has opened up discussions with those who feel alienated from the church, Cardinal O'Brien said.

The pope is modeling an

example of being prepared to go anywhere and share the faith with anyone, Cardinal O'Brien said.

Inspired by the pope's focus on the poor, Cardinal O'Brien said he has become more conscious of how many times the Old and New Testaments make references to the poor. It reminds him to question himself and think about what the readings mean in light of what the pope is asking people to do in reaching the poor.

Noting that Pope Francis often compares the church to a mother, the cardinal said a mother never deserts her children. "She's always available to listen and always ways to extend mercy," he said.

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Archbishop Aymond cautions Catholics about ‘cooperating with evil’ by participating in construction of abortion facility

By Peter Finney Jr.
Clarion Herald

NEW ORLEANS — Faced with the looming construction of a multimillion-dollar, regional abortion facility by Planned Parenthood Gulf South, Archbishop Gregory Aymond wrote an open letter Feb. 1 cautioning local Catholics and businesses they would be “cooperating with the evil that will take place” at the clinic if they participated in its preparation or construction.

In the letter, published on the front page of the Feb. 1 issue of the Clarion Herald, the archdiocesan newspaper, Archbishop Aymond said the caution extends to any person or business “involved in the acquisition, preparation and construction of this (abortion) facility.”

The archbishop also indicated the archdiocese would not do future business “with any person or organization that participates in actions that are essential to making this abortion facility a reality.”

“This policy applies to all businesses, regardless of religious affiliation or non-affiliation,” Archbishop Aymond wrote. “Our fidelity to church teaching and our conscience necessitates this stance.”

Planned Parenthood currently operates two clinics in Louisiana — in New Orleans and Baton Rouge — but does not perform abortions in the state. In its public statements about the proposed 7,000-8,000-square-foot facility on South Claiborne Avenue,



GIRL HOLDS CANDLE DURING 2013 PRAYER SERVICE NEAR PROPOSED PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC IN NEW ORLEANS. A young girl holds a candle during a prayer service last November on a lot near the proposed Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in New Orleans. New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond has cautioned local Catholics and businesses they would be “cooperating with the evil that will take place” at the clinic if they participated in its preparation or construction. (CNS photo/Peter Finney Jr., Clarion Herald)

located about five minutes from two universities and on a site easily accessible by public transportation, Planned Parenthood Gulf

South indicated it would seek a state license to perform abortions.

There are five, free-standing abortion clinics in Louisiana — in New Orleans, Metairie, Baton Rouge, Shreveport and Bossier City — but Archbishop Aymond said the proposed regional abortion clinic will be “the largest of its kind in Louisiana.”

Using information obtained from a construction permit that was approved by the city of New Orleans in December, experts have determined that Planned Parenthood could perform “upwards of 30 abortions per day,” Archbishop Aymond said.

“This is a staggering increase in the number of abortions in light of the 3,496 abortions performed in 2012 in Orleans and Jefferson parishes,” the archbishop wrote.

The archbishop’s letter cited the “Catechism of the Catholic Church,” saying the church since the first century has considered abortion “a grave evil.”

“We cannot be silent in view of the grave injustice presented by the abortions that will be performed at the proposed Planned Parenthood facility,” Archbishop Aymond wrote.

He said there was “no justification, including economic hardship,” that would make either a direct or indirect relationship with Planned Parenthood or any abortion provider “acceptable.”

Archbishop Aymond added that any “affiliation or support” of Planned Parenthood by Catholics would be “a matter of serious scandal.”

Benjamin Clapper, executive director of Louisiana Right to Life, praised the archbishop for the letter, saying his stance was “edifying and strengthens what we are doing.”

“It should be a model for other religious leaders, not only in this state but in other areas,” Clapper said. “Most of the time people expect the bishop to say things and to teach principles, but I don’t believe most people expect a bishop to make this real-life, declarative statement that actually impacts the corporate world.”

“When you have such a powerful institution in this city saying this, it makes people notice who Planned Parenthood really is,” Clapper added. “Planned Parenthood is selling itself as one thing and they are another thing. He’s technically not doing anything new — he’s just applying Catholic principles to a situation. We have a leader willing to go to the wall for this cause and give us the strength and the energy to stand for life.”

Archbishop Aymond asked Catholics to pray “for those that are blind to the destruction caused by abortion,” and he invited Planned Parenthood officials and supporters to “prayer and dialogue.”

“There are many issues, from violence in the streets to poverty, which hurt this community,” he wrote. “A regional abortion center will not solve our problems; it will only create more. This is not the future the New Orleans metropolitan area needs.”



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I think we can all agree that this winter has been one of the most severe and unusual for us and also for most of the country in recent history. I hope it has not caused too much hardship. There does not seem to be an end in sight.

As I'm sure you know, we are beginning the 2014 Annual Diocesan Appeal. I thank you in advance for your on-going generosity. Two of the most significant programs that depend on this source of funds is the means to fund seminary formation and similar help for the new group of men who are now beginning the four and a half journey of forma-



ONE IN THE LORD

Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog
Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria

tion in preparation for ordination to the diaconate. Fifteen men have been accepted to this new class and we are very fortunate that we have men from areas of the diocese that were not representative in the previous class. Please keep these men and their wives

and families in your prayers as they begin. Those I have met with are excited about their potential to serve the Church in this new way. We will again be partnering with St. Meinrad Seminary. What a blessing to the diocese!

By this time you have prob-

ably learned that we have had to cancel the canonization pilgrimage due to lack of interest. Thanks to the those who did explore the possibility.

We will soon be entering into the season of Lent that invites us again to renew our spiritual life in preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence, is on March 5 this year. Lent also marks the final phase of the journey of those desiring to enter into full communion with the Church at Easter. Each year all who are preparing for baptism are invited to join me at the Cathedral for the Rite of Election. This year we will celebrate at 2:30 p.m. on

Sunday, March 9. Over the years many have commented on how impressive it is to join others from around the diocese. Even though the rite can be celebrated in the parish, it adds another dimension when so many come together. If you have catechumens, please consider encouraging them to come. Also, please keep all of those making this faith journey in your prayers.

May the coming season be rich in blessings for all of you.

The HHS mandate is hurting the poor in so many ways

by John F. Fink
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

As we await the hearings before the U.S. Supreme Court of two cases concerning what has become known as the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate, we thought it important to note some of the things involved in the cases.

They involve people who own businesses, Hobby Lobby Stores and Conestoga Wood Specialties, but the mandate ordered by the Health and Human Services Department has the possibility of severely damaging the poor.

By now it should be clear that Pope Francis continues to emphasize the Catholic Church's obligation to serve the poor.

What Catholic religious institutions have in common with the two businesses is that they all, for conscience reasons, refuse to pay for health insurance for their employees that includes contraceptives, sterilizations, or drugs that cause abortions. If they continue to refuse to do so, though, they will be subject to tremendous fines.

The Little Sisters of the Poor in Denver were in the news when, on New Year's Eve, Justice Sonia Sotomayor issued a stay of a lower

court's order to comply with the mandate, temporarily exempting the sisters. Then, on Jan. 24, the Supreme Court affirmed Justice Sotomayor's order.

The Little Sisters of the Poor have 29 homes for the elderly poor in the United States, including St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis, where they serve nearly 100 residents. They have been serving the elderly poor in Indianapolis since 1873.

The home that the sisters operate in Denver is smaller, with 69 residents. If the sisters continue to refuse to carry out the mandate, which they will, they will be forced to pay fines each year of \$2.5 million. Their total operating budget is \$6 million.

The fines are calculated at \$100 per day, or \$36,000 per year, per employee. The fines for the Little Sisters in Indianapolis would be greater since they have more employees.

We mention the Little Sisters because they have been in the news. But the same fines will be required of many Catholic institutions. That's why more than 90 lawsuits have been filed by some 300 institutions, with mixed results so far.

Pittsburgh Bishop David A.

Zubik has said that Catholic Charities in Pittsburgh could lose more than a third of its \$10 million annual budget to fines. Multiply that by the amount of fines that will be levied against all Catholic institutions that refuse to comply with the mandate, and you can imagine how that is going to affect their programs for the poor.

This isn't what you'd expect from a Democratic administration. Surely President Barack Obama doesn't mean to hurt the poor, but he is determined to force religious institutions to fall in line with his ideology. He and his supporters consider contraception as preventive medicine, as helping women improve their health care, and this trumps any religious objections.

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, continues to try to persuade President Obama to provide relief for Catholic organizations. In a letter to the president, Archbishop Kurtz pointed out that canceling health insurance for employees would cost only \$2,000 per employee.

"In effect," he said, "the government seems to be telling employees that they are better off with no employer health plan at

all than with a plan that does not cover contraceptives."

Most stories in the media, even some in Catholic media, say that the HHS mandate requires insurance that covers contraception without mentioning that the coverage must also cover drugs that cause abortion by preventing the implantation of an embryo in the womb. Even those who see nothing wrong with contraception should object to killing embryos.

In an article in the Jan. 19 issue of Our Sunday Visitor, Russell Shaw reminded his readers that,

before the Affordable Health Care Act was passed in 2010, President Obama, in order to secure the votes of some pro-life Democrats, signed an executive order that stated that elective abortions would not be part of the program. So much for that pledge.

Shaw ended his article by saying, "Speaking last April to a Planned Parenthood conference, Obama declared with pride that the abortion movement's cherished right to choose abortion was part of Obamacare. In that, he spoke the truth."

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CRS offers 'new and improved' Operation Rice Bowl for Lent

CNS) -- When trying to change one's eating habits, especially cutting calories, there's nothing like getting some made-to-order recipes from a popular chef to help keep one motivated.

At least that's part of the thinking behind one of the new approaches to Catholic Relief Services' annual Rice Bowl program for Lent.

Weekly recipes

Weekly recipes created by a celebrity chef of sorts -- Father Leo Patalinghug, host of Grace Before Meals, a family apostolate focused around meals -- this year have been linked to Rice Bowl, the 39-year-old CRS campaign to raise awareness about hunger and raise funds to combat hunger and poverty.

Five recipes -- one for each week of Lent -- and short videos about them by Father Patalinghug, a Baltimore archdiocesan priest, that will be available on YouTube or the CRS website will feature low-cost, meatless ingredients, explained Joan Rosenhauer, CRS executive vice president for U.S. operations, at a breakfast Feb. 5. The simple meal on the last day of the annual Catholic Social Ministries Gathering was noted as being typical of breakfast in the Philippines: eggs, rice, bread, juice, fresh tomato and cucumber slices.

Other elements of the program were related to relief work CRS has been doing in the Philippines since Typhoon Haiyan in November wiped out hundreds of thousands of homes, crops and

much of the fishing industry in one region of the country.

Traditional dancers and a percussionist from the Philippine Cultural Society at George Washington University, Philippine craft pieces on the dining tables and other elements rounded out what Rosenhauer suggested as a model for how parishes or dioceses might launch their own Rice Bowl campaigns.

Free Rice Bowl app

In addition to the recipes, CRS has a free Rice Bowl app available for smartphones and tablets. It will allow users to schedule delivery of daily reflections during Lent, to set and track progress toward a Lenten goal, and view the recipes or see stories about people whose lives

have been changed by the program. Download it on iTunes or at crsricebowl.org/app

Photo Contest

Also this year, CRS will host

a photo contest in conjunction with Rice Bowl. Weekly winners will receive a small fair-trade prize and a grand prize winner at the end will receive an Easter basket full of fair-trade items.

Fr. Joseph Montalbano dies Feb.10

A Mass of Christian Burial for Reverend Joseph Emile Montalbano, a retired priest of the Diocese of Alexandria, was held February 14 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral with Most Reverend Ronald P. Herzog officiating. Interment was held immediately after in Alexandria Memorial Gardens under the direction of Kramer Funeral Homes.

Father Joe was born in Bunkie, La on October 2, 1929. He attended St. Joseph Seminary College from 1944 to 1949. He completed seminary at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. Father was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Alexandria by Bishop Charles P. Greco on May 28, 1955 where he faithfully served the diocese for 58 years.

After ordination, he served as parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church, Monroe; Holy Rosary Church, Shreveport; and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and St. Rita Church in Alexandria. In addition, he served as pastor in St. Joseph Church, Colfax; St. Edward Church, Tallulah; St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville; St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie; and Sacred Heart Church and Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Moreauville. He retired from active ministry in 1999. In his retirement, Father remained active in the diocese by assisting at parishes for sacramental ministries and as spiritual director for fellow priests. He resided in Alexandria at the time of his death.



Rev. Joseph Montalbano

In addition to his priestly ministry Father Joe served as a member of the Presbyteral Council and the College of Consultors for the Diocese of Alexandria. He began the practice of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie in 1992. His diocesan assignments included director of Evangelization and Diocesan Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal. He was appointed dean of the Avoyelles Deanery in 1983. While serving as pastor in Leesville he served as director of Vernon House. Father was appointed by Gov. Dave Treen to serve on the Louisiana Juvenile Justice and Detention Board.

Father Joe is preceded in death by his parents Anthony and Agnes Montalbano, brother-in-law Nick Chicola, two nephews, Craig Chicola and Wray Chicola, and Scott Foley.

He is survived by his sister Olla Rae Montalbano Chicola, a niece Barbra Chicola Carey (Alan), four nephews, Ronald Chicola (Laura), Ted Chicola (Kay), David Chicola (Sharon), and Monty Chicola. In addition he is survived by sixteen grand nieces and nephews and ten great grand nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Priests Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306.

Lenten Sacrifice



ABSTINENCE

No meat can be taken by those 14 and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.



FASTING

A limit of one full meatless meal between 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.



SELF-DENIAL

Voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended on weekdays during Lent.



PRAYER AND CHARITY

Can include daily Mass, Scripture study, Stations of the Cross, almsgiving and showing mercy and kindness to others.

Lenten Regulations

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and we have only one full meal.
- The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older.
- The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines.
- But Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health. It is obvious that abstaining from meat is meaningless for vegetarians, who must choose some other form of abstinence.
- It is equally obvious that replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with the spirit of Lent.

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SCOUT SUNDAY. Bishop Ronald Herzog celebrated a special Mass on Scout Sunday (Jan. 12) at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, where several local scouts were honored with the Light of Christ Award and the Parvuli Dei Award. Recipients of the Parvuli Dei Award are members of the Webelos Pack 9 from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria -- (group on the left side -- front row) _____, and _____. Back row: _____, and _____. Recipients of the Light of Christ Award are members of the Cubscouts (Tigers and Wolves), also from OLPS, -- (on right side -- front row) _____, and _____. Row 2: _____, and _____. Row 3: _____, and _____. Row 4: _____, and _____. Row 5: (behind scouts): Bishop Ronald Herzog, Eagle Scouts and Girl Scouts (names unavailable).

Seminarian Burses

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Ms. Karen A. Hicks	\$100.00
Father Michael P. Kammer Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Crooks, Jr.	\$400.00
Father Michael P. Kammer Burse	
Total this month.	\$1,000.00

Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office, P.O Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT 968 (St. Anthony, Bunkie) has announced the winners of its annual Art, Essay and Poetry contest for grades 4-8. Winners are _____, 1st in Art; _____, 2nd; and _____, 3rd. _____, 1st in Essay, _____, 2nd; and _____, 3rd. _____, 1st in Poetry, _____, 2nd; and _____, 3rd. First place winners will be sent to the State Chairperson of Education for the State Catholic Daughters, where they will compete on the state level. The winners will then be sent to nationals.

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DANIEL HART INSTALLED INTO MINISTRY OF LECTOR. His Excellency Bernard Hebda, Coadjutor Archbishop of Newark, installed Alexandria seminarian Daniel Hart and 58 other seminarians into the Ministry of Lector Jan. 12 during a Mass in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. As part of the rite, the Bishop placed the Lectionary, from which the readings used in the celebration of Mass are taken, in the hands of each candidate and said, "Take this book of Holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the Word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people." Daniel is in his first year of formation for the priesthood, and has an additional three years of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood.

Bishop announces new class of men in formation for Permanent Diaconate

Bishop Ronald Herzog has announced a new class of men who have begun formation for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Alexandria.

These men are admitted to the aspirant path in diaconal formation and began classes on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center.

Their studies in aspirancy include Spiritual Direction and Theological Reflection; Pastoral Identity, Skills and Boundaries; Research and Writing; and Philosophy.

The formation program is four and a half years in length. The men in this class are scheduled to be ordained deacons in the spring of 2018, which incidentally is the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the permanent diaconate in the United States.

The new formation class, in alphabetical order:

- Mark A. Adkins (Lanie), Holy Cross, Natchitoches
- William R. Aldridge (Renee), Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria
- Scott J. Babin (Amy), Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria
- Barry T. Billiot (Holly), Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
- Darrell J. Dubroc (Charlotte), Our Lady of Lourdes, Fifth Ward
- William L. Endris, Jr. (Florence), St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville
- Lawrence E. Feldkamp (Carol), St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria
- Stephen C. Gramigna (Veronica), St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville
- Buford J. Jeansonne (Faye), St. Joseph, Marksville
- Michael Blake Kramer (Kim), St. Mary, Winnsboro
- Steven E. Newbury (Jennifer), St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville
- Gene Thomas "Tommy" Robichaux (Marika), Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
- Reginald J. Rubin (Leanna), St. Francis of Assisi, Fort Polk
- Paul T. Sunderhaus (Mary Kay), St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria
- Luther P. "Luke" White (Sammie), St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria

Jeff Cavins to speak at diocese's 1st annual Bible Conference April 4-5

Jeff Cavins, an inspiring national and international speaker and Bible teacher, will be the guest speaker for the 1st Annual Bible Conference April 4-5 at the Divine Providence Hall, located at 401 21st Street in Alexandria. The two-day Bible conference is sponsored by the Diocese of Alexandria's Office of Religious Formation and Training (ORFT).

Famous for his Bible Timeline Seminar, Jeff Cavins has traveled the world extensively speaking on biblical topics. Using a unique color-coded system, the Bible Timeline presentation is remarkably effective in assisting Catholics uncover the divine truths revealed in Holy Scripture, giving them an easy and engaging



Jeff Cavins

way to read and understand the Bible.

In the Bible Timeline Seminar you will learn how the key people, places, and events in the Bible fit together to reveal God's plan for humanity. You will see how the events in the Old Tes-

tament are fulfilled in the New Testament. You will also gain a greater appreciation for the Scripture readings you hear during Mass.

The conference begins Friday, April 4 at 5 p.m. with registration from 5 -6:30 p.m. The Friday evening retreat titled, *The Way Love Feels -- A Deeper Look at the Cross of Christ*, will be presented by Jeff Cavins. Friday evening also includes Eucharistic Adoration and Procession led by Fr. Jose Robles Sanchez, coordinator of Steubenville South.

Saturday's seminar will be held from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and includes the famous Bible Timeline presentation by Cavins. The Most Rev. Ronald Herzog, Bishop of Alexandria, will celebrate Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral and Paul Hood, youth director at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, will lead the worship music for the weekend.

The cost for the two-day conference is \$45 per person and includes lunch and conference resources. To register, go to www.diocesealex.org or call 318-445-6424, ext. 221. Seating is limited.

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† *Strengthening Parishes:*

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† *Forming Priests & Parish Leaders:*

Your gift supports priestly formation; diaconate and lay formation; vocation ministry; training for catechists and religious education directors; clergy services; support for senior priests; and lay ecclesial ministry training.

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

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Go and make disciples.

Christus Cabrini Hospital opens new Incarnate Word Community Clinic

Christus St. Francis Cabrini Hospital and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI) have joined together to provide a much-needed service in this community -- the Incarnate Word Community Clinic -- a full-service healthcare facility open to both the insured and the uninsured.

Bishop Ronald Herzog blessed the facility and staff Jan. 20 during an Open House and blessing of the clinic, with key administrators, Incarnate Word Sisters, clergy, physicians, and clinic staff members in attendance.

"The Incarnate Word Community Clinic offers a wide range of medical services to everyone -- those with insurance, those with Medicare or Medicaid, and even those with no insurance," said Chris Voinche, director of the facility. "Our goal is to help



BLESSING OF THE NEW INCARNATE WORD COMMUNITY CLINIC. Bishop Ronald Herzog lead the blessing of the new Incarnate Word Community Clinic Jan. 20 as an extension of services of Christus St. Francis Cabrini Hospital. Clergy and religious in attendance were (from left) Fr. Chris Nayak, Sister Patricia Hamiter, CCVI, Sister Mavis Champagne, OLS, Sister Margaret Ann Verzwylt, CDP, Sister Mary Shanahan, CCVI, Sister Ann Brangan, CCVI, Sister Jean Connel, CCVI, and Sister JoAnn Deloach, MSC.



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-----------------	-----------------

people get better, whether or not they have insurance or the ability to pay."

The 16,000 sq. ft. clinic, located in the former Mid State Orthopedic clinic across from Cabrini, has been open since Dec. 2 and has seen more than 1,300 patients since that time. The clinic offers primary care and family practice with one doctor and three nurse practitioners. It also houses cardiology, orthopedic and gynecology clinics one day a week, as well as one for patients who take blood thinners. Voinche said there are plans to start a surgical

clinic "very soon."

Office hours for Urgent Care services (no appointment necessary) are 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Monday - Friday; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday; and noon - 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Primary and Specialty Clinics (appointments are necessary) are available from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. Call 318-448-6800 for appointments and for more information.

As one of the sponsoring organizations of the clinic, several Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word were on hand for the

blessing including Sisters Ann Brangan, Patricia Hamiter, Mary Shanahan, and Jean Connel.

"The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word have been a part of St. Francis Cabrini Hospital since it first opened its doors in 1950," said Sister Ann Brangan, CCVI. "Christ is present in everyone we serve and we are proud to be a part of this model health-care facility."

Other religious in attendance were Sisters JoAnn Deloach, M.S.C.; Mavis Champagne, O.L.S.; and Margaret Ann Verzwylt, C.D.P.



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La Iglesia Católica de Hoy is a free 8-12 page quarterly newspaper that is in color and hand-delivered to Catholic churches where Masses are celebrated in Spanish. It is also distributed to local businesses that are frequented by the local Hispanic communities. The next issue will be published May 5, 2014

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Feb. 7 -14 is National Marriage Week

Longest married couple in U.S. attends Holy Ghost Church in Marksville

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

On Jan. 27, 2014, Norman and Norma Burmah celebrated their 83rd wedding anniversary. At 103 and 100 years old, the Burmahs, who have been members of Holy Ghost Church in Marksville, are the longest known married couple in the United States!

In 2012, the couple was recognized as the longest married couple in the state by the Louisiana Family Forum.

In recognition of this honor, the Burmahs and their family and friends were invited to the Louisiana Governor's Mansion as special guests of Gov. Bobby Jindal and his wife. In addition, they were entered into the LFF "Marriage Hall of Fame."

"We celebrate life-long marriage and are honored to recognize these covenant keepers who exemplify devotion and who serve as a model for all Louisiana families," Gene Mills, president of Louisiana Family Forum, said.

LFF honors Louisiana's longest known married couple annually during National Marriage Week USA, Feb. 7-14.

This year, however, through additional research, it was determined that the Burmahs were not only the longest married couple in Louisiana, but the lon-



83RD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. Norman and Norma Burmah recently celebrated their 83rd wedding anniversary, making them the longest known married couple in the United States. The couple were first recognized in 2012 by the Louisiana Family Forum as being the longest married couple in Louisiana, but after more research, it was discovered that they are also the longest known married couple in the United States. At 103 and 100, Norman and Norma, live independently in their home in Marksville, where they attend Holy Ghost Catholic Church.

gest known married couple in the United States!

"We knew our grandparents were Louisiana's longest married couple and were pretty sure they were the longest living African-American couple in the United States, but the fact that they could be the country's longest living married couple is just phenomenal," granddaughter Glenda McKinley said. "We see them as our national treasure," she was quoted in a news release by Louisiana Family Forum.

Norman and Norma were married on Jan. 26, 1931, when he was 20 years old and she was 17. Originally from New Orleans, the young teenagers met at the New Orleans' Roof Garden Dance Hall during a live performance by Louis Armstrong.

Norma raised two girls, while Norman owned a private catering company.

"Our parents were loving and kind -- good Catholic parents -- who valued a good Catholic

education for their kids," said her daughter Joyce Deselle of Marksville. "We attended Holy Ghost Catholic School in New Orleans."

Through the years, their marriage has survived a lot of ups and downs -- the Great Depression, World War II, and more recently, Hurricane Katrina.

In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina decimated their home in New Orleans, the Burmahs decided to move to Marksville to be close to their daughter.

This Feb. 14, 2014, representatives of the Louisiana Family Forum will be visiting the Burmahs in their home in Marksville, where they still live independently.

"The Burmahs are good people," said Father Rusty Rabalais, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Marksville. "We see them regularly in our Homebound Visitation Ministry."

They have two daughters (one deceased), six grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.



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OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL PRESENTS DISNEY'S *JUNGLE BOOK*. More than 85 students in grades K-6 from OLPS school participated in Disney's *Jungle Book* Jan. 17-19 at the Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center. In conjunction with the City Park Players, the production was directed by Tina Smith and Catherine Pears. Pictured are:

TOP left: (Shanti), (Mowgli),
(Baloo), and (Bagheera)

TOP right: (Baloo) and (Shere Khan)

MIDDLE right: Bees:

and

MIDDLE left: (King Louie)

BOTTOM: The entire cast of *The Jungle Book*.





SAINT ANTHONY YOUTH COUNCIL - Pictured here are the new members of the Saint Anthony Youth Council at Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie. These student representatives were selected by their high school classmates to assist in coordinating high school youth events in their parish. The first major project completed under their leadership was the preparation and delivery of more than 40 boxes of food for the needy during the Christmas school vacation. The Youth Council is presently making plans for sponsoring attendance for Saint Anthony youth at an up-coming S.A.L.T retreat and coordinating attendance at the New Steubenville Conference 2014 in Alexandria. Council members are (left to right) _____ and _____. Also pictured is Father Scott Chemino.



SACRED HEART (Moreauville) RELIGION FAIR WINNERS were announced Feb. 3, which concluded Catholic School Week. 1st Place and Overall Winner was presented to _____, son of Chad and Tammy Guillory of Cottonport. His project was titled "John The Apostle". Winners are

PKA – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
PKB – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
KA – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
KB – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
1A – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
1B – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
2A – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
2B – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
3A – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____.
3B – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, and 3rd _____.
4A – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____.
4B – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, (tie), 3rd _____.
5A – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____.
5B – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____.
Honorable Mention	_____, _____, and _____.
6th – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, Honorable Mention, _____.
7th – 1st & Overall	_____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____.
8th – 1st	_____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____.



SACRED HEART (Moreauville) SPELLING BEE WINNERS. First round winners of the annual Spelling Bee held at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville on Friday Jan. 31 for students in Pre-K- 8 are (front row) _____ and _____. Back row: _____, _____, and _____. The overall winner of the competition was 8th grader, _____, son of Mrs. Stacy Moak of Moreauville. Congratulations, _____!

ST. FRANCIS CABRINI AMERICAN DAY PARADE. Students gathered in the gym Feb. 10 for the annual American Day parade.

ST. ANTHONY 8th grade cheerleaders and basketball players were honored at their last basketball game at SAS. Pictured below is _____ and _____.



Louisiana Scholarship program open to low-income students

Do you have a child in Kindergarten - 6th grade currently enrolled in a public school that is rated C, D, or F? Do you wish you could send your child to a Catholic School, but you cannot afford the tuition?

If you said "yes" to both of these questions, you may be eligible to apply for the Louisiana Scholarship Program.

The Louisiana Scholarship Program offers financial resources to families who wish to send their child to the school of their choice.

The Louisiana Scholarship Program is an excellent opportunity for families to enjoy the benefits of a Catholic education without the burden of the additional cost of tuition.

The scholarship program pays the cost of basically everything -- including registration fees, tuition, and other fees -- but does not include the cost of uniforms or lunch (free or reduced lunches are available to those who qualify.)

Last year --- students participated in the scholarship program. Free public transportation (public school buses) is also available for pick-up in most areas.

Registration at most of the Catholic schools in the diocese is currently underway. Parents who think they may qualify, are encouraged to begin the scholarship application process immediately and to also pre-register at the school of their choice as soon as possible. Not all Catholic schools are participating in the program.

Do you qualify for the Louisiana Scholarship Program?

Y N Is your child in K-6th grade?

Y N Is your child currently enrolled in a school rated C, D, or F?

(If yes to BOTH of these questions, continue.)

Y N Do you have a Louisiana Purchase card?

Y N Do you currently receive SNAP benefits?

Y N Do you currently receive Social Security benefits?

(If yes to AT LEAST ONE of these questions, you qualify!)

ship application process immediately and to also pre-register at the school of their choice as soon as possible. Not all Catholic schools are participating in the program.

Scholarship applications are available online at www.louisianabelieves.com/schools/louisiana-scholarship-program.

District winners selected for Student of the Year

Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 Students of the Year Contest, sponsored by the Diocese of Alexandria.

First place winners in each age category are

from St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport, 5th grade winner;

, Alexandria Country Day School, 8th grade winner; and

, Holy Savior Menard High School, 12th grader winner.

All first place winners will compete the state competition to be held in March in Baton Rouge.

One student of the year is selected from each school to compete in the district competition. The students submit a portfolio of their academic records; academic, athletic, and leadership accomplishments, and a written essay about themselves, their family, and/or their interests. A group of local judges from all walks of life, review the portfolios and rate the student in each area.

"All the students who submitted portfolios were exceptional students," said Thomas Roque, superintendent of



adua
School; , Al-
e try Day School;

S y's School;
, Old B
C y; and
, Our Lady
of Prompt Succor.

8th Grade

, St.
Mary's School;
, St. Joseph School;
St. Mary's
Assumption;
, Family Commu-
nity Christian School;
, Sacred Heart
School; St.
Anthony of Padua School;
Alexandria
Country Day School; and
, Holy Savior
Menard Junior High School.

12th Grade

,
St. Mar ' c o l
Grace Christi n
, Holy a i r
M n r d e t al High School;
and , St.
Joseph c ol

Catholic Schools. "It is amazing to see the outstanding accomplishments of these students at such a young age. Each of them are fine examples of the quality of students at our Catholic and local private schools."

A reception for the 2014 District winners and their families will be held in late February at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria.

Students selected as Students of the Year to represent their school in the district competition are:

5th Grade

, St. Joseph
Scho
St. Mary
, Family Com
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Assisting in 'Finding Big Foot'

Animal Planet seeks help of Menard drumline to lure Big Foot

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

It was dark and eerily quiet one cold night in mid-January, in the woods where Animal Planet directors were filming a program on the elusive legendary half man-half beast, Big Foot.

But this time, in hopes of catching it all on film, the directors brought the "big guns" to lure Big Foot out of the woods, -- the Menard Eagle Core Minutemen.

At the director's signal, the 12-member group of the Menard Eagle Core Minutemen (a.k.a. the drumline) began playing a drum medley for the film crew of Animal Planet, in hopes that the beat of the drums would lure Big Foot out of the woods.

"It was fun," said senior [redacted], one of the leaders of the group and the only symbol player. "We did the filming at Kisatchie National Forest and then we all went out to eat with the film crew."

According to the drumline's adviser Sandy Oestrieher, the group was selected to perform for Animal Planet through some Hollywood connections of Steve McCloud. The air date for the program is TBA.

Playing for Big Foot was a first for this highly creative and talented group of seniors and juniors (and one sophomore).

Organized by a group of seniors in 2009 as an impromptu



MEMBERS OF THE MENARD EAGLE CORE MINUTEMEN. Playing at Menard pep rallies and football games, the Eagle Core Minutemen are a group of talented drummers who like to make music any way they can. The group was recently asked by Animal Planet to play their drums for the TV show "Finding BigFoot" as special sound effects to "lure" the legendary creature out of the woods. Pictured are (on floor) [redacted], and [redacted]. Back row: [redacted]

"spirit boost" at pep rallies and football games, the group has grown to 12 members who have been performing at Steubenville South and the Susan G. Komen race, and winning state and national awards.

In 2012, the group won 1st place in the Beta Club District Group Talent Contest. In 2013, the same group advanced to the state competition in Lafayette, where they won 1st place; and won 1st place again at the nation-

al competition at Mobile, AL in July, 2013.

"I am amazed at the talent of this group of guys," said Oestrieher. Under the title "Band," the group is allowed to practice daily as a class during 4th hour.

All of the instruments are used or borrowed and the group gets no financial support from the school or any other source.

"We just pick up the instruments at our own expense or wherever we can get one," said [redacted], owner of one of the two quads (set of four drums linked together).

Other instruments in the group include base drums, snare drums, toms, and one washboard.

[redacted], who wears a zydeco washboard over his chest, plays the instrument with spoons.

There are no music sheets and no conductor, just impromptu "creative energy," according to [redacted].

"We have a repertoire of about 10 songs that we play, but we each add our own creative twist to each song using the instrument we play," he said.

Add to that "creative twist" some choreographed moves sometimes involving moving around ladders and buckets and you have a highly-charged, fascinating-to-watch performance.

Members of the group are [redacted]

(The Drumline graciously accepts any new or used percussion instruments. For more information, contact Oestrieher at soestrieher@holysaviormenard.org.)

TWO MENARD ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT ON NATIONAL SIGNING DAY.

a 6'-6" 290 lb. offensive tackle for the Menard Eagles signed a letter of intent Feb. 5 (National Signing Day) to play football for Tulane University, while Menard's kicker [redacted] signed a letter of intent to Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

During a crowded press conference at Menard with family friends and fellow teammates present, the two players signed letters of intent while the local media took pictures. Coach Freddie Hallman said he knew the work that these two young men had put into training and that he was proud that their hard work had paid off for them. Less than 1% of all athletes are recruited by colleges and universities to play football for their team.



Atlanta Catholic schools assist those stranded by ice, snow

By Andrew Nelson
Catholic News Service

ATLANTA (CNS) -- Atlanta's freezing temperatures, rare snowstorm and 20-hour commutes were almost a memory Jan. 31 as temperatures were on the rise and the last of 2,000 cars left stranded by the side of highways were being rescued.

But in the midst of the Jan. 28 storm that paralyzed the city, more than 80 students were sheltered overnight in Archdiocese of Atlanta schools when snow and ice turned area roads into gridlocked parking lots as students were being dismissed.

Diane Starkovich, superintendent of Catholic schools, said teachers and administrators made the safety of the students their priority.

"The principals implemented early dismissal procedures, stayed till the last child was picked up (if possible) and are doing what they do best -- taking charge and keeping everyone safe," she said via email Jan. 29.

Interstates and local roads were gridlocked starting in the early afternoon Jan. 28, after a storm dropped several inches of snow, and schools and businesses closed early. As the night went on, road conditions turned to ice, stranding even more drivers.

Several schools stayed open. The biggest overnight crowd was at St. Jude the Apostle School, where three dozen youngsters stayed, the superintendent said.

Parents were naturally concerned, but students seemed to take the challenge in stride, Starkovich said.

"Movies, popcorn, sleeping mats, blankets, gyms, basketball -- kids can make their own fun and they did," she said.

People who left the school hours earlier reappeared through-



MAN SALTS ROAD TO HELP MOTORISTS GAIN PASSAGE DOWN ICE-COATED STREET IN GEORGIA. Mark Hacker helps salt a road with a spreader to help motorists gain passage down an ice-coated street in Smyrna, Ga., Jan. 29. Interstates and local roads were gridlocked starting in the early afternoon Jan. 28, after a storm dropped several inches of snow, and schools and businesses closed early. (CNS photo/Michael Alexander, Georgia Bulletin)

out the evening for shelter. One was a pregnant teacher who left at 2 p.m. Police returned her to the school at midnight when she couldn't get home. The last arrival at the door was a parent at 12:45 a.m.

The school was prepared for the overnight guests. The cafeteria is a full-service kitchen and there was a food delivery earlier in the week. Bedding came from sheets used in the sixth-grade Greek festival. Kids entertained themselves in the gym, played games, watched some movies, and ran around the hallways.

"It was fun. We were warm, dry and fed. We had a lot to be grateful for, and others were not as fortunate," Patty Childs, St. Jude principal, told The Georgia Bulletin, newspaper of the Atlanta Archdiocese.

The staff responded to the crisis "with grace and a spirit of cooperation," she said.

Five stranded people found shelter overnight at the archdiocesan chancery in Smyrna, pulled into the warmth of the building by a staff member who was helping drivers on a nearby highway.

Daniel West, one of four archdiocesan employees unable to leave work in time as conditions deteriorated, said after listening to the sound of cars spinning out on the major county road for hours, he decided to see if he could help people out.

He joined others trying to push cars up a hill one at a time, using cat litter from a Target store for traction.

"It took 10 to 15 minutes trying to get one car through. It was a tough, difficult situation, trying to encourage everyone, if we help (each other), we can get through this faster," he said.

After midnight, "some people were hunkering down for the night" in their cars, he said, and

together to form makeshift beds, West said. They cobbled together breakfast from items in break rooms like frozen meals and cans of soup.

"I had a sense to stay and now you understand why. ... Maybe someone would have been hurt if I couldn't help them here," he said. "I am happy to go with God's flow when I can. It's not us. It's God's grace."

The Catholic community also opened its doors to stranded drivers.

At St. Anthony of Padua Church, Atlanta, the parish listed itself on a community crisis map as a refuge from the storm. The morning of Jan. 29, a couple visiting from Texas took the parish up on its offer of hot showers and a place to nap.

The church's posting on the SnowedOutAtlanta Facebook page caught the eye of their daughter.

"They just physically could not get out of the southwest downtown area due to the road and traffic conditions," said the couple's son-in-law, Lee Whiteside, who lives on Saint Simon's Island.

"We had many prayers going up for them and are very thankful they are safe and have shelter for the time being. ... Y'all are the hands and feet of Jesus, living out his words on the ground," he added.

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Winter wonderland

Jan. 24 and Jan. 28-30 were happy Snow Days for students and parents in Central Louisiana, as 3-5 inches blanketed the ground. For those of us who don't see much snow, it was great day for sledding, building snowmen and throwing snowballs. Although school didn't close on Feb. 5, students at school also experienced a light snow for a few hours.

LEFT top and bottom: St. Francis Cabrini students enjoy the light snow-fall on Feb. 5.

RIGHT top. Brenda Coco and her daughter, from Sacred Heart School, build a snowman.

MIDDLE: Menard students gathered at Compton Park for a fun day of sledding down the hill.



ABOVE: St. Augustine Catholic Church in Isle Breville.

LEFT: Menard students enjoy the light snow during morning break at school.

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41st Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Five La College students, two campus ministers brave bitter cold to support pro-life

By Jeannie Petrus and
CNS reports

Despite single-digit temperatures, thousands descended on Washington Jan. 22 to declare their opposition to abortion.

Most of the red noses and chapped lips belonged to faces under 25.

"We are the pro-life generation," read signs carried by the marchers.

Among the hundreds of thousands marchers was a small group of seven from Pineville -- five students from Louisiana College and their two campus ministers; and 10 buses of students from New Orleans.

Lynn Ray, coordinator of campus ministries for the diocese, joined Chris Riche, volunteer campus minister at Louisiana College, and five students who are members of the LC Catholic Student Organization -- the Jacobs Society.

"We left Sunday, Jan. 19 for the 1,200-mile trip by van to Washington, D.C.," said Ray. When we arrived, it had not started snowing, -- it was just very cold."

Soon after the group arrived, weather predictions called for 10-12 inches of snow on the day of the march.

"We were a little worried about the approaching snow storm, and at the same time excited that we would be seeing snow," said Ray. "We just didn't think it would be this cold."

On the day of the march, however, the group dressed as warmly as they could and joined the other young people on the streets. The participants' energy was not dimmed by frigid conditions upon arrival.

"The experience was great even as cold as it was," said Kim Nijoka, one of the LC students. "This was my first time attending the March for Life in D.C. and I was amazed with how many



PRO-LIFE GENERATION FROM LOUISIANA COLLEGE. Five members of Louisiana College's Jacobs Society traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the National March for Life. Pictured are (from left) Lynn Ray, coordinator of campus ministries for the diocese; Dalton Mitchell, Jacob Hardy, Kim Nijoka (partially hidden), Chris Riche, volunteer campus minister at Louisiana College; Nicole Beck, and Jennifer Dykes.

young people there were at the March despite the cold weather. The best part about being there was knowing that we were supporting the rights of the unborn.

"The March for Life was an amazing opportunity that I am so glad I got to experience," said Jennifer Dykes, another LC student. "Even with the sub-arctic weather, I would do it again in a heartbeat. It was truly an honor and a blessing to represent Louisiana College and I look forward to doing it again next year."

Andrew Redman, 25, from Notre Dame Seminary and Andrew Gutierrez, 20, from St. Jo-

seph's Seminary came with 10 buses of students from New Orleans.

"The snow helped unite us, all huddled together," Redman said.

"It's a great chance to pray with people!" Gutierrez added. "Then you aren't distracted by cold toes or frozen ears."

Logistics may have been part of the reason that March for Life attendees were especially young this year.

Kelly Hanlon is the office manager of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill, a parish that offers hot chocolate and snacks to shivering

marchers.

"We only had a few hundred stop by, much fewer than last year," she said. Though she had met visitors from as far as Canada and Minnesota, many expected groups had had their flights canceled because of the bad weather.

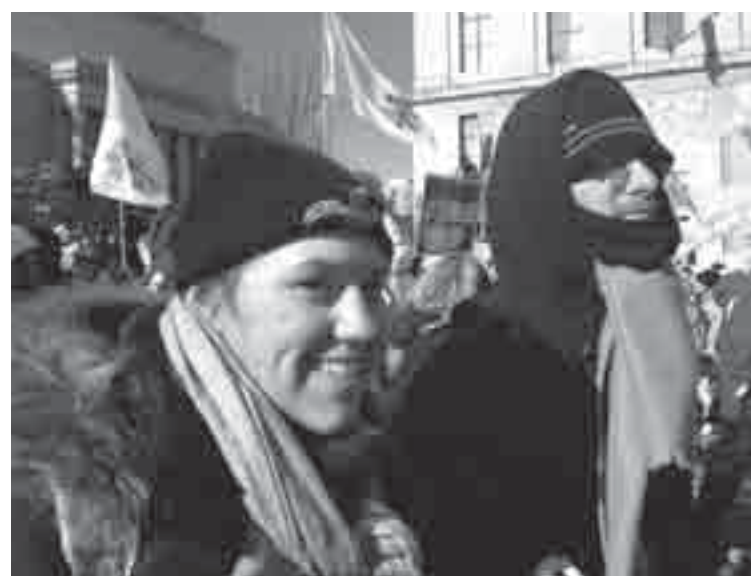
According to a 2013 Gallup poll, millennials are the group most likely to believe that abortion should be outlawed in all circumstances, and a majority believed in placing restrictions on abortion.

Out of the 56 million abortions since 1973, the millennial generation has suffered the greatest losses. The number of annual abortions reached their peak of 1.6 million in 1990.

Signs at the march read: "1/3 of our generation has been killed by abortion."

The desire for compassionate understanding was reflected

MARCHING FOR LIFE. Kim Nijoka and Dalton Mitchell from La College's Jacobs Society march in the National March for Life in Washington, D.C.



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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PARTICIPATE IN BR LIFE MARCH. Knights of Columbus John Paul II Council #14657 from Sacred Heart Church in Pineville and Council #8029 from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria participated in the 5th annual Pro-Life March in Baton Rouge. Two charter buses with more than 70 participants traveled to Baton

Rouge Jan. 18, where they joined approximately 3,500 other marchers in the 1-mile trek to the Louisiana State Capitol. Michael Van Dyke, church director of the Sacred Heart council said "It was a very moving and holy day for all of us!" Pictured above is District Deputy Donald Hebert Sr. and Third Degree Knight Robert Milner and other participants from the Alexandria-Pineville area who rode on the KC-chartered bus.

in this year's theme for the March for Life: "Adoption: A Noble Decision." Few marchers carried posters depicting graphic abortions, and many simply asked mothers to choose life.

Though full of hope for a culture of life, Generation Y activists face challenges on the issue unimaginable in years past.

No longer limited to the abortion clinic, emergency contraceptives that can act as abortifacients are used in homes and dorm rooms.

Dr. Donna Harrison, executive director of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, asked marchers to engage their peers on pro-life issues.

"It is up to you to talk to your roommates and friends about what these drugs actually do."

It looks like Generation Y is up for the challenge.



BRAVING THE BITTER COLD. Jacob Hardy, a La College student in the Catholic student organization, the Jacobs Society, marches in the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., despite the bitter cold temperatures.

WAITING FOR THE BUS. Lynn Ray, coordinator of campus ministry, and the LC student group, wait for the the bus in Washington to do a little sightseeing before the March for Life Jan. 22.



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Diocese of Alexandria

Son of God -- in theatres Feb. 28 -- focuses on life of Jesus

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- The upcoming movie *Son of God* should be seen as "a love story," according to two of its executive producers, the husband-and-wife team of Mark Burnett and Roma Downey.

"This really is a love story -- the greatest love story ever told," Downey said.

The couple brought the 10-hour miniseries *The Bible* to television last year, garnering sizable ratings on the History cable channel.

Among those 10 hours was the story of Jesus. But Burnett and Downey decided even before the miniseries was televised that they would make a separate movie focusing on Jesus.

"When we were in Morocco filming," Downey said, "I said to Mark, 'We should have been making a film here.'" Downey, perhaps best known for her starring role for nine seasons on "Touched by an Angel," plays Mary, mother of the adult Jesus.

Burnett, whose TV successes have been primarily in reality programming (*Survivor*, *Shark Tank*, *The Voice*, *The Apprentice*) concurred, but noted, "It wasn't shot any differently" for multiplexes than *The Bible* had been for TV. "We use different camera angles. We shoot so much film of every scene it's easy to make alternate choices."

Son of God premieres in the-



SON OF GOD. Producer Mark Burnett, actors Darwin Shaw and Diogo Morgado are seen on the set of the movie "Son of God." The upcoming movie should be seen as "a love story," according to two of its executive producers, the husband-and-wife team of Burnett and Roma Downey. (CNS photo/Fox)

aters nationwide Feb. 28. It tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of St. John -- the only apostle who did not meet a martyr's fate -- on the isle of Patmos.

The film portrays the same kind of brutality seen in *The Passion of the Christ* a decade ago, although it's concealed or suggested, as it had been in the miniseries. *Son of God* is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "intense and bloody depiction of the Crucifixion, and for some sequences of violence." Some material may

be inappropriate for children under 13.

Downey did not dwell on the violent aspect of the movie, but in comparing the two films noted Mel Gibson's film presupposes the viewer knows the story of Jesus, as it begins with Holy Thursday. *Son of God*, though, begins with Jesus' birth, and through the signs and wonders he performs in the first hour of the movie, she said, "you get a chance to fall in love with him all over again."

Two Catholic prelates have endorsed *Son of God*: Cardinal

Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles. High-profile Protestant leaders endorsing the film include Bishop T.D. Jakes and the Rev. Rick Warren. "Cardinal Wuerl has been so much of a help to us," she added.

Burnett said the Anti-Defamation League had also given its own stamp of approval, based in large part on the depiction of events that lead up to Jesus' death: Pontius Pilate having been the fourth Roman governor of a politically restive Judea in the

MOVIE REVIEW

last 20 years; Jerusalem's temple leaders, embodied by Caiaphas, being aware of Pilate's threat to shut down the temple, even at Passover, if Jewish unrest is not tamped down; and the arrival into the holy city of a Nazarene miracle-worker whose reputation precedes him. Burnett added his hope that *Son of God* audiences "could actually see themselves as the disciples" in this stew of political intrigue.

One of Downey's favorite moments in the movie came from something that wasn't even in the script. In a scene presaging Jesus' feeding of the 5,000, Jesus and the Apostles are in a boat near the coastline. Children running along the shore wave to Jesus, and Jesus (Diogo Morgado) waves back and smiles.

"That wasn't Jesus waving," Downey said. "That was Diogo waving." "We got so much feedback (after the miniseries) from people saying they like what Diogo brought to the role."

The success of *The Bible* also produced another spinoff: "A.D.," a 12-hour miniseries to be shown on NBC, taking the story of the Apostles and the early Christians to the small screen.

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S.A.L.T. Retreats

The last S.A.L.T. (Servants Actively Leading Teens) Retreat for Spring 2014 will be held March 8-9 at Maryhill Renewal Center, in Pineville for students in grades 9-12. The cost is \$87 per student. Please include payment (check to Sacred Heart Church) with your application.

Forms are available online at http://www.diocesealex.org/sites/default/files/docs/salt_registration_form_0.pdf, or call Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville at 318-445-2497.

Day of Renewal in the Spirit

The Diocesan Service Committee and the Cenla Chapter of Magnificat will host "A Day of Renewal in the Spirit" on Saturday, Feb. 22, at St. Anthony's church hall in Natchitoches. Speakers will be Fr. Ron Mathews, Aggie Neck, Mary Wilson, and Diane Ardoin. This event begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. with a Vigil Mass at St. Anthony Church. Registration fee is \$20, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. For more information call Diane Ardoin @ 318-419-1547 or Mary Wilson @ 318-359-7735. Registration ends Feb. 17. Come and be refreshed! No matter where you are in your walk with the Lord, come and be renewed!

Beginning Experience

Widowed, separated or divorced? Don't know where to turn? Struggling with grief or loss? Beginning Experience, to be held March 21-23 at Maryhill Retreat Center, helps grieving single-again persons emerge from the darkness of grief into the light of a new beginning, and move into the future with renewed hope. Cost is \$185, which includes two nights' lodging and meals. For more info, call Anna at (318) 452-2678.

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election will be held March 9 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral with Bishop Ronald Herzog presiding. There is no Mass for the Rite of Election, but a time to celebrate as the Church makes its "election" of catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. A reception will follow in Xavier Hall.

VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Winners

Local winners of the VFW-sponsored Patriot's Pen Essay Contest are Anna C. Polk, 1st; Emma K. Armstrong, 2nd; Anne C. Standley, 3rd, all from Menard. Anthony Ruiz, 1st; Corian Leshary Sampson, 2nd; and Leanne Jonae Baker, 3rd, all from Cabrini. Raeanna Turner, 1st; Allison L. Lewis, 2nd; and Ashley A. Constance, 3rd, all from Tioga. Jackson Kervin, 1st; Emily Coburn, 2nd; and Kaitlyn Gallagher, 3rd, all from Prompt Succor. VFW Post 1736 winners are Anna Polk, 1st; Anthony Ruiz, 2nd; and Raeann Turner, 3rd. District 10 winners are Anna Polk, 1st; and Alan Lemons, 2nd. The contest was open to all Central Louisiana students in grades 6-8.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

St. Mary's (Cottonport) Spring Fair

Join St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport in celebrating Spring Fair 2014 on Saturday, March 15 starting at 10 a.m. Events include a 5K run at 7:30 a.m., food and game booths, a silent and live auction, bingo, and a music concert at 7 p.m. featuring the 80s rock band "Delta Badhand." Don't miss it!

Crossroads Young Adult Conference

The annual Crossroads Young Adult Conference will be held March 28-30 at Maryhill Renewal Center for young people ages 18-40. The Ministry Team includes Bishop Ronald Herzog and Fr. Marc Noel, Liturgy; Julianne Stanz, director of New Evangelization from the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisc., keynote speaker; Paul Hood, host; Kelly Pease Lombardi, worship leader; and Fr. Keith Ishmael, Holly Carbo, and Mandi Chapman, conducting workshops. Cost is \$55 per person up to March 1; \$65 after March 1. For more information, go to www.diocesealex.org/crossroadsconference, or email lnoe@diocesealex.org, or call 318-445-6424, ext 207.

St. Mary's 5K Challenge

St. Mary's Residential Training School will host its 8th Annual 5K Challenge on March 29 in downtown Alexandria. Race Time begins at 8:30 a.m. Register online at <https://www.facebook.com/St.Marys5KChallenge>. Cost is \$30 for individuals (pre-register) or \$32 on day of race; and \$25 for a team (pre-register) or \$27 on day of race.

If you are unable to attend, your monetary donation would make a profound difference by continuing the passion of St. Mary's where we "meet severe challenges with profound love." If you would like to make more of a personal impact, we encourage you to sponsor one of our residents as they embark this challenge. For \$200, they will wear not only a smile but also a sign in your honor. Make your gift online or mail gifts to: St. Mary's Residential Training School; Attn: St. Mary's 5K Challenge; P.O. Drawer 7768; Alexandria, LA 71306

St. Mary's Sportsman's Basket Raffle

St. Mary's Residential Training Facility will sponsor a raffle to win a Sportsman's Basket valued at \$1,500. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20).

The prize includes Bayou Rapides fiberglass "Criter Getters" 14 foot Pirogue (\$650 value); Henry "Golden Boy" H004 22 long rifle (\$550 value); 45 quart Yeti cooler (\$300 value); Custom Fishing Rod by Pat Dion; Rat-L-



KC COUNCIL 12103 (ST. MARTIN CHURCH, Lecompte) braved the cold in December to put up this banner along US Hwy 71 South to show their support for the troops. Pictured are John Dunn, Colby Basco, Mark Basco, Randy Basco, Richard Basco, Steve Basco, Brian Johnson, Brian Kelly, and Bobby Thiels.

Trap Fishing Lures; Browning coat; ThermaCell Mosquito Repellent Outdoor Lantern; Primos Hunting DPS Camera; Haydel's Deer Grunt; Scent Killer; Buck Bomb.

As you can see, the items in this "basket" are valued at over \$1,500. So, for any of you who hunt or fish or just enjoy the outdoors (or know someone who does), this could be an awesome buy for \$5! The drawing will be held March 29 during the 5K Challenge.

To purchase a ticket, contact Rhonda Burnaman at (318) 445-6443 ext 2102 or e-mail at Rhonda.Burnaman@stmarys-rtis.org.

Edictal Citation

Since the whereabouts of the respondent in this case, Shawn Barton, are not known. . . I hereby cite him through this medium to appear in person or through his Procurator at the Diocesan Tribunal in Alexandria to clarify certain issues regarding his marriage to Shantella Barton (nee Lewis).

Anyone with any knowledge of the whereabouts of Mr. Barton, or having other relevant information, is asked to inform this Tribunal as soon as possible.

Given at the Diocesan Tribunal in Alexandria, Louisiana on February 6, 2014.

Signed,

Very Rev. Bruce Miller J.C.L.

Judicial Vicar

and

Mrs. Patricia N. Thomas

Ecclesiastical Notary

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
17	18 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	19	20	21	22 Magnificat Day of Renewal 8:30 a.m. St. Anthony Church Hall, Natchitoches Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl, 10:00 a.m. SJCC, Alexandria FEAST of the CHAIR of ST. PETER the APOSTLE	23
Registration for returning students to St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport						
PRAY FOR FR. A AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. A. CATELLA	PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY
24	25	26	27	28	MARCH 1	2
PRAY FOR FR. R. COURVILLE	PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	Special Collection: Black and Indian Missions PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK
3	4 MARDI GRAS PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY	5 Young Adult Survey Opens at diocesealex.com Registration begins for new students at St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport ASH WEDNESDAY PRAY FOR FR. E. GAMBORIKO	6	7 FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	8	9 1st Sunday of Lent Rite of Election 2:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON			PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE		S.A.L.T. Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER
10	11	12	13	14	15 Spring Fair 7:30 a.m. until... St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport	16 2nd Sunday of Lent
PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE	PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL	PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD
17	18	19	20	21	22 Abbey Youth Fest Covington, LA	23 3rd Sunday of Lent
FEAST of ST. PATRICK, BISHOP PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI	Radio Maria, Mariathon -- call 1-888-408-0201 to support Radio Maria					
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