

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLV, No. 4

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April 14, 2014

## ON THE INSIDE

### **Holy Week filled with calendar full of events**

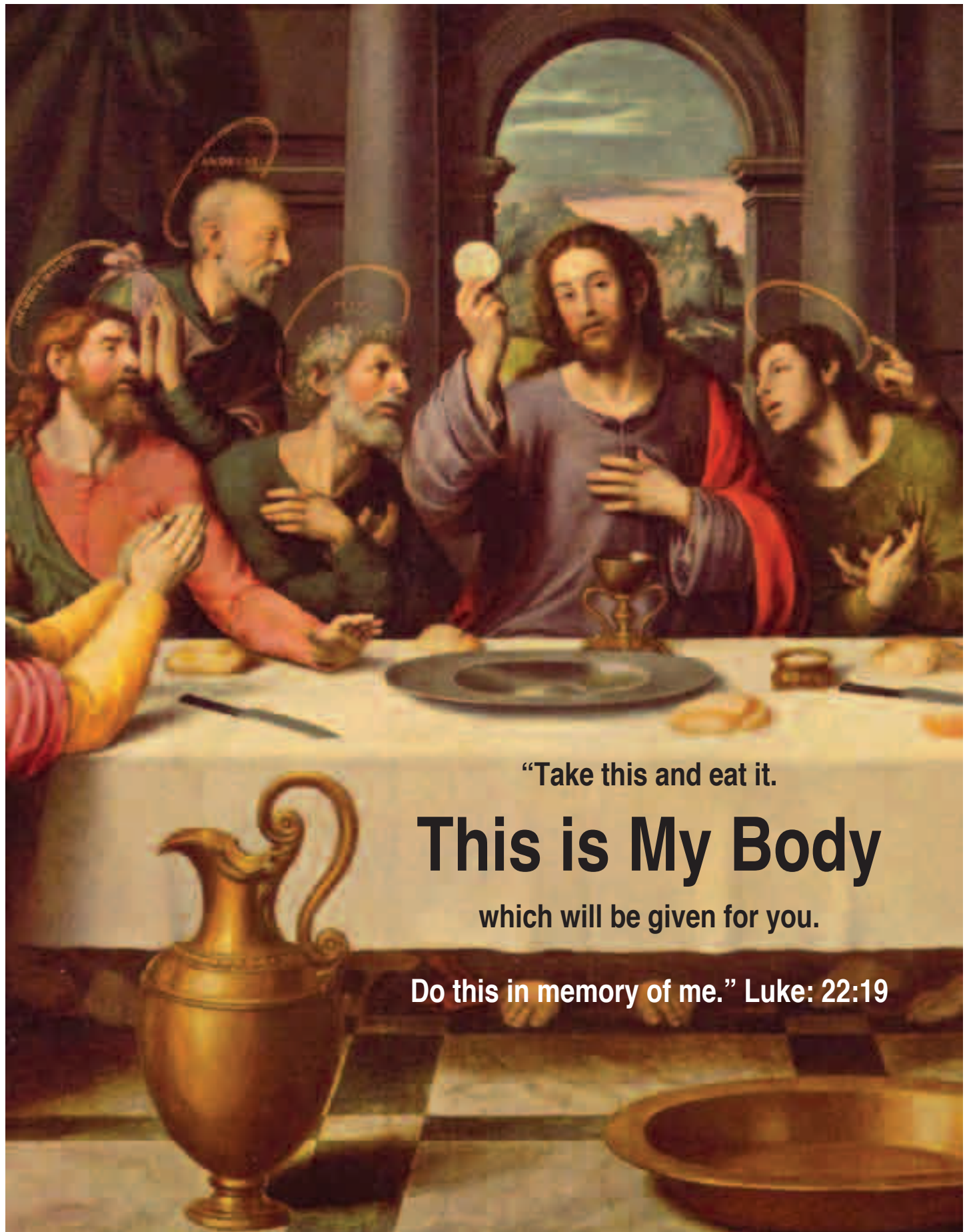
As we enter Holy Week, church parishes all over the diocese are celebrating the holy season with confessions, stations of the cross, veneration of the cross, Adoration, and other services, in preparation for Easter Sunday. See page 5.

### **Vatican prepares for the canonizations of Popes JPII and John XXIII**

This year's Divine Mercy Sunday (April 27) will again be another one to remember with the canonizations of Popes JPII and John XXIII. Find out how the Vatican is preparing for the influx of millions of extra visitors and who will be participating in the festivities. See page 3.

### **Manna House returns to its newly renovated home**

Without skipping a beat in the food service it provides to more than 200 men, women, and children each day, Manna House returned to its renovated home Jan. 13 located at 2655 Lee Street. See page 10.



“Take this and eat it.

## This is My Body

which will be given for you.

Do this in memory of me.” Luke: 22:19



# Group in lawsuit: “ ‘The Cross’ would offend us”

## Atheist group says 9/11 museum should not display cross-shaped beams

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- A 17-foot-tall cross-shaped steel beam that was found in the wreckage two days after 9/11 became an indelible image in the months following the terrorist attacks on New York in 2001.

That cross is to be displayed as a historical artifact in a permanent exhibit in the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, scheduled to open in May near the site of the former World Trade Center.

But a group called American Atheists has sued in federal court to have the cross taken out of the exhibit and replaced with a plaque that would say “atheists died here, too,” according to a Religion News Service story.

American Atheists Inc. first sued the museum and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in 2011, arguing that displaying the cross would offend them as citizens and taxpayers and was a violation of the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause.

A federal District Court judge ruled in favor of the cross, saying that “it helps tell the 9/11 story.” In August 2013, the American Atheists then filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit.

Oral arguments were heard in the case March 6. Arguing for the American Atheists, attorney Edwin Kagan said that calling the crossed beams a religious symbol only gives one story of the people who suffered in the attacks and has no place on government-owned land.

The museum, a private foundation, is leasing land in lower Manhattan owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.



**PRIEST BLESSES A 17-FOOT-TALL CROSS FORMED BY STEEL BEAMS AND RECOVERED FROM RUBBLE LEFT BY 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS.** Franciscan Father Brian Jordan, standing with laborers and emergency workers in 2001, blesses a 17-foot-tall cross formed by steel beams that was recovered from the rubble of the World Trade Center in New York. A group called American Atheists filed suit in federal court to have the cross removed from a permanent exhibit to be displayed in the soon-to-open National September 11 Memorial & Museum. (CNS photo/Kathy Willens, Reuters)

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case Feb. 7. As a historical artifact, “the cross rightfully belongs in a historical museum,” the organization said in a statement. It added that the American Atheists had no right to sue in the first place.

“Taking personal offense

grounds for bringing a lawsuit,” the Becket Fund said.

“Separating church and state does not mean separating religion from public life. By removing the cross from the museum, the American Atheists want to deny to future generations what was spiritually significant to many Americans during those terrible days,” the statement said. “No matter how hard they try, they cannot write religion out of our nation’s history.”

A decision in the case is not expected for months.

A news release from the museum said the cross will be part of an exhibit called “Finding Meaning at Ground Zero,” which will portray how rescue workers at ground zero struggled to deal with their harrowing circumstances.

“The museum honors the nearly 3,000 victims of these attacks and all those who risked their lives to save others,” says a mission statement on the museum’s website, [www.911memorial.org/museum](http://www.911memorial.org/museum). “It further recognizes the thousands who survived and all who demonstrated extraordinary compassion in the aftermath.”

Museum officials said the facility will be the nation’s principal institution “concerned with exploring the implications of the events of 9/11, documenting the impact of those events and exploring 9/11’s continuing significance.”

Alice M. Greenwald, execu-

tive vice president for programs and museum director, said the facility “will be about each of us, about what it means to be a human being, and what it means to live in a complex, global community at the start of the 21st century.”

In 2006, at a memorial service in New York to mark the fifth anniversary of 9/11, a Catholic construction worker in attendance from Allentown, Pa., told Catholic News Service that when he first saw the cross-shaped beam, his hair stood on end.

He said he thought to himself, “God was here with those people.”

Across the country in Southern California, another atheist group, the American Humanist Association based in Washington, successfully fought against a cross that was put at the side of a highway as a memorial to a 19-year-old boy who was struck and killed by a car as he was crossing a street near the highway in 2012.

His family placed the cross in his memory shortly after his death, but removed it March 6 after the atheist group, on behalf of a local resident, pressured the city of Lake Elsinore, Calif., to take it away.

News stories said after the dead teen’s family removed the large white cross, smaller crosses appeared in its place, left there by other residents who disagreed with the actions of the American Humanist Association.



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# Vatican prepares for canonizations of Popes JPII, John XXIII

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- With less than two weeks before the canonizations of Blesseds John XXIII and John Paul II, Rome hotels are reporting they are almost fully booked and the Vatican has confirmed the Mass will take place in St. Peter's Square, despite knowing that hundreds of thousands of people will have to watch the ceremony on large video screens.

Pope Francis had announced in late September that he would proclaim the two popes saints in a single ceremony April 27, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Less than two weeks after the date was announced, the Prefecture of the Papal Household issued an advisory that access to St. Peter's Square would be first-come, first-served and warned pilgrims that unscrupulous tour operators already were trying to sell fake tickets to the Mass.

With perhaps more than 1 million people expected to try to attend the liturgy, rumors abounded that the Vatican would move the ceremony to a wide-open space on the outskirts of town. But the Vatican confirmed Feb. 27 that the Mass would be held in St. Peter's Square, just outside the basilica where the mortal remains of the two rest.

Blessed John Paul, known



**CROWDS AT VATICAN DURING BEATIFICATION FOR POPE JPII IN 2011.** Red and white banners of pilgrims from Poland fill St. Peter's Square at the beatification Mass for Pope John Paul II in 2011. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

as a globetrotter who made 104 trips outside Italy, served as pope from 1978 to 2005 and was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1, 2011. Blessed John XXIII, known particularly for convoking the Second Vatican Council, was pope from 1958 to 1963; Pope John Paul beatified him in 2000.

In July, Pope Francis signed a decree recognizing the healing

of a Costa Rican woman with a life-threatening brain aneurysm as the miracle needed for Blessed John Paul's canonization. The same day, the Vatican announced that the pope had agreed with members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes that the canonization of Blessed John should go forward even without a second miracle attributed to his intercession.

A first miracle is needed for

beatification. In Pope John Paul's cause, the miracle involved a French nun suffering from Parkinson's disease, the same disease the pope had. In the cause of Pope John, the Vatican recognized as a miracle the healing of an Italian nun who was dying from complications after stomach surgery.

In February, Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said Pope Francis did not skip an essential

step in approving Blessed John's canonization, but "only shortened the time to give the entire church the great opportunity of celebrating 2014 with John XXIII, the initiator of the Second Vatican Council, and John Paul II, who brought to life the pastoral, spiritual and doctrinal inspiration of its documents."

The cardinal said Pope Francis did not dismiss the need for a miracle attributed to the late pope's intercession, but recognized that the "positio" or official position paper prepared for Blessed John's cause, is "full of accounts of miracles" and favors granted by God through his intercession. One case, often mentioned, involves a woman from Naples who accidentally swallowed cyanide; she believes her poison-induced liver damage was miraculously reversed after prayers to Blessed John.

Asked by reporters in July to describe the two late popes, Pope Francis said Blessed John was "a bit of the 'country priest,' a priest who loves each of the faithful and knows how to care for them; he did this as a bishop and as a nuncio" in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and France before becoming a cardinal and patriarch of Venice.

As for Blessed John Paul, Pope Francis said, "I think of him as 'the great missionary of the church,' because he was 'a man who proclaimed the Gospel everywhere.'"

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# Why the Church opposes legalization of gestational surrogacy

## HB187 passes House, moves to Senate; could legalize surragacy in Louisiana

*(Editor's note: The following letter was sent to all the bishops and clergy in the state, alerting them to HB 187 being introduced into the State Legislature that would legalize the practice of gestational surrogacy for the first time in Louisiana. The letter has been edited to fit this space.)*



### GUEST EDITORIAL

The Most Rev. Michael Jarrell  
Bishop of Lafayette

I write to alert you about a bill introduced in the legislature which would legalize the practice of gestational surrogacy for the first time in Louisiana.

Louisiana House Bill 187 would legally recognize that women could be paid to carry and give birth to children who are the genetic offspring of others. It would create a system in our State whereby individuals would be allowed to enter into contractual negotiations for the creation and gestation of a child by others, with court approval.

This proposed process should not be confused with adoption. Senator Gary Smith first introduced this proposal last year. It was vetoed by Governor Bobby Jindal. This year there is growing momentum which could overturn a future veto.

As people who hold sacred the gift of life, the Church recognizes the emotional desire for children which can lead to pursuing surrogacy and acknowledges the suffering associated with the struggle to become parents.

Good reasons and good desires, however, cannot sanitize acts which are themselves immoral. There are a number of profound moral concerns surrounding gestational surrogacy, among which we can include:

- that the reproductive faculties of a woman's body, and her God-given fecundity, should not be reduced to the status of a "gestator for hire," but needs to be safeguarded within marriage so that the woman's procreative powers are shared only through marital acts with her own husband, and all the children born of her are genetically and otherwise her own.
- that we should not introduce fractures into parenthood, by multiplying those in parental roles, forcing children to be subjected

to the stresses of unclear or split origins, perhaps being conceived of one woman's egg, gestated by another woman, and raised by a third, all actualized through pre-arranged monetary exchanges. Such practices are unfair and dehumanizing towards children.

One woman, who has herself conceived by anonymous sperm donation, described her experience this way: "My existence owed almost nothing to the serendipitous nature of normal human reproduction, where babies are the natural progression of mutually fulfilling adult relationships, but rather represented a verbal contract, a financial transaction and a cold, clinical harnessing of medical technology."

In the 1990s, when a ban on commercial surrogate motherhood was signed into law in New York State, it had the unanimous support of the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, which noted at the time that the practice "could not be distinguished from the sale of children and that it placed children at significant risk of harm." The Task Force also agreed that "surrogacy undermines the dignity of women, children, and human reproduction."

They rejected the notion that rights as fundamental as the right of a parent to a relationship with his or her child should be bought and sold. These positions are rationally based, deriving from reflection on the Natural Law.

- that gestational surrogacy replaces the marital act in conceiving children. (Donum Vitae II; Catechism nos. 2373-2379). It often relies on the *in vitro* fertilization industry to produce offspring for customers, with extra embryonic humans being produced, stored and oftentimes orphaned in freezers.

- that HB 187 would also allow financial compensation under the guise of "reasonable living expenses" and would invite the surrogacy industry into our state. In this event vulnerable and financially challenged women, often including college students, would be exploited to undergo the risks of drug-induced artificial pregnancy. Nevertheless, this arrangement is a misuse of the reproductive faculty even if done for altruistic motives.

- that gestational surrogacy places the unborn baby at risk for abortion in a way that would be much less likely to occur if the genetic mother carried the baby.

- that in these transactions, "imperfect" unborn children may be aborted, and that selective "reduction," i.e. abortion of "extra" fetuses created by fertility drugs or by implanting too many embryos at once, may be carried out.

- that gestational surrogacy is strongly supported by the homosexual lobby in our State as yet another oblique route towards establishing legal equivalence to marriage.

Allowing children to be born to persons living in these unions would actually mean doing harm to these children, "in the sense that their condition of dependency would be used to place them in an environment that is not conducive to their full human development." (Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions between Homosexual Persons, CDF, no. 7)

"As experience has shown, the absence of sexual complementarity in these unions creates obstacles in the normal development of children who would be placed in the care of such persons. They would be deprived of the

experience of either fatherhood or motherhood." (ibid.)

At a legislative session last year, a group of children were displayed before the representatives. Advocates of gestational surrogacy told the legislators to put away statements from the bishops and from other Christians and asked the lawmakers to consider this question: "Are these children wrong?"

Sadly, the question asked was the wrong one.

The question which should have been asked was, "Were the means that were used to bring these children into the world morally upright?"

Good intentions do not cleanse immoral acts. The immoral acts promoted through gestational surrogacy are numerous and include: exploiting women by allowing payment for pregnancy and for egg harvesting, the use of *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) to replace the marital act, abortion and selective reduction of children who are brought into the world by these technologies.

Proposed legislation would

thus sanction commercial gestational surrogacy and with it the "commodification" of women and children. The Church has the duty to teach and to warn about immoral proposals.

Some years ago, before he was pope, Pope Francis wrote: "the genetic code of the person is present at the moment of conception. There is already a human being. To not allow further progress in the development of the human being that already has the entire genetic code of a human being, is not ethical. The right to life is the first human right."

The proposed legislation would weaken our pro-life stance. Let me be clear, the children born by these transactions are good and beautiful but the means are clearly immoral. We cannot be naïve to the financial motives in the medical and legal industries.

Please pray for our legislators and assure them that we will provide them with the moral support they need to do the right thing. Good intentions may do great harm if there remains a lack of moral understanding.

## CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLV, No. 4 • April 14, 2014

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Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209; starver@diocesealex.org

THE CHURCH TODAY (USPS 393-240) is published by the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, once a month, free of charge to members of the parishes in the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. Out of diocese subscriptions are \$20 a year.

The office is located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA 71303. Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, LA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306

The CHURCH TODAY is a member of the Catholic Press Association.  
Website: [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

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## Holy Week and Easter Sunday

### Tuesday (April 15)

11 a.m. -- Chrism Mass, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Retired Archbishop John Favalora presiding.

### Wednesday (April 16)

9 a.m. -- 1st Grade Easter Passion Play, OLPS Church, Alexandria

1 p.m. -- 1st Grade Easter Passion Play, OLPS Church, Alexandria

7 p.m. -- Living Stations of the Cross, Sacred Heart Church, Pineville

7:30 p.m. -- Tenebrae (evening prayer), St. Rita, Alexandria

### Holy Thursday (April 17)

5:30 p.m. -- Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Rita, Alexandria

5:30 p.m. -- Mass of the Lord's Supper, SFX Cathedral, Alexandria; followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10 p.m.

6 p.m. -- Mass of the Lord's Supper, SF Cabrini, Alexandria; followed by Adoration in Chapel until midnight

7 p.m. -- Mass of the Lord's Supper, OLPS, Alexandria; followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (8 p.m. - 12 midnight)

7 p.m. - 12 midnight -- Solemn Adoration, St. Rita, Alexandria

### Good Friday (April 18)

12 noon - 3 p.m. -- Relic of the True Cross exposed, Confessions 12 noon - 2:30 p.m., SF Cabrini, Alexandria

12:05 p.m. -- Way of the Cross, St. Rita Church, Alexandria

1 p.m. -- Sorrowful Rosary, Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville, followed by 1-mile walking Way of the Cross  
1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. -- 1 mile walking Way of the Cross, Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville

3 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville

3 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross, SF Cabrini, Alexandria

3 p.m. -- The Lord's Passion (Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion), OLPS, Alexandria

3 p.m. -- Passion of the Lord (Passion Reading, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion), SFX Cathedral, Alexandria

5:30 p.m. -- Celebration of the Lord's Passion with veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion, St. Rita Church, Alexandria

6 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross, OLPS, Alexandria

6 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, followed by Procession; SF Cabrini, Alexandria

### Holy Saturday (April 19)

3 - 4 p.m. -- Confessions, St. Rita Church, Alexandria

3 - 4 p.m. -- Confessions, OLPS, Alexandria

### Easter Vigil Mass (April 19)

8 p.m. -- Solemn Mass of Vigil with Light Service and Rites of Christian Initiation, St. Rita Church, Alexandria

8 p.m. -- Easter Vigil Mass, SFX Cathedral, Alexandria (no 4 pm Mass)

8:10 p.m. -- Easter Vigil Mass, OLPS, Alexandria

### Easter Masses (April 20)

7 a.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria

7 a.m. -- Latin Mass, Cabrini, Alex

8 a.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria

9 a.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria

9 a.m. -- SFX Cathedral, Alexandria

9 a.m. -- SF Cabrini, Alexandria, followed by Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 a.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria, followed by Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria

11 a.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria

11 a.m. -- SF Cabrini, Alexandria

11 a.m. -- SFX Cathedral, Alexandria

1 p.m. -- Latin Mass, Cabrini, Alex.

5:30 p.m. -- OLPS, Alexandria

5:30 p.m. -- SFX Cathedral, Alex.

6 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria

6:15 p.m. -- SF Cabrini, Alexandria

## May -- Month of Mary, Our Mother

### May Crowning (May 2)

Students at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School will honor Mary with flowers and a special Mass and May Crowning at the Church on Friday, May 2.

### Queen of Mercy (May 4)

Queen of Mercy is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of Easter and will be celebrated this year on May 4 in the Retreat Chapel at Maryhill on May 4. Confessions will be held at 2 p.m., Rosary and Chaplets at 2:30 p.m., and Sunday Mass at 3:15. All are welcome. Priests are asked to bring their own albs. Even though this is a private devotion, many graces and blessings are promised by Our Lady to those who honor Her under this title on this day.

### May Pole Celebration (May 5)

The 5th grade students at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School will celebrate the Month of Mary with a May Pole Celebration on Monday, May 5 at 1:30 p.m. on the school's playground.

### Louisiana Marian Congress (May 9-10)

Join us for a day of reflection and renewal May 9-10 at Maryhill Renewal Center for the Louisiana Marian Congress.

This year's Congress will highlight the work of the Legion of Mary, the Children of Mary and the Living Rosary Association of St. Philomena. Come and learn how you and your children can live out your consecration in a special way day by day through these movements.

### Youth Session:

Friday, May 9 -- 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. A special Friday night youth session on "Totally Yours: A Teen's take on Total Consecration" will feature Father Jason Vidrine of the Diocese of Lafayette and Father Chad Partain of the Diocese of Alexandria. The Friday night session will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a torchlight Rosary procession.

### Saturday Session:

Saturday, May 10 -- 8 a.m. The day will begin with the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and a special Votive Mass in honor of Our Lady. The day will include presentations by Deacon Cody Miller, Father Chad Partain and Mrs. Patti Melvin. Confessions will be heard throughout the day and the Congress will conclude with a Rosary procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

### Registration:

To register for the Marian Congress, please contact St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria at 318-445-4588 or by e-mail johnbrocato@hotmail.com. You can also register via our Facebook page at Louisiana Marian Congress. Registration is \$25 per person which includes breakfast and lunch. Children under 12 are admitted free. Please register by May 3.

## Outdoor Easter Sunrise Mass



April 20, Easter Sunday  
7 a.m. Sunrise Mass  
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To find out the latest on whether or not there will be an Easter Sunrise Mass at Holy Rosary Chapel, go to [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org), where the most up-to-date information will be available.



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**ST. JOSEPH GARDEN AT ST. JOSEPH, (Colfax).** Father Blake Deshautelle, pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Colfax, and Deacon E. J. Barre, blessed the new St. Joseph's Prayer Garden March 16 after the 11 a.m. Mass. The new St. Joseph Prayer Garden was the project of the Ladies' Altar Society, which provided the funds to purchase the statue, a bench, and the landscaping of the garden. The statue was unveiled by

Immediately following the blessing of the garden, Father Blake led the congregation into the church hall where he blessed the St. Joseph Altar, also hosted by the Ladies Altar Society. Fr. Blake gave a special blessing to Mrs. Rowena Thompson of Colfax, who recently retired as the parish organist, after serving faithfully for more than 40 years.

## St. Joseph statue at St. Joseph, Colfax, is blessed



## Seminarian Burses

### March Donations

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<b>Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. McCabe.</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
Mrs. Kathleen Poole Burse	
<b>Father Kenneth Williams.</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
Bishop Charles P. Greco Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller.</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Knights of Columbus Council 3200.</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Father James A. Ferguson Burse	
<b>Ms. Geraldine Deptula.</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
Father Bruce Miller Burse	
<b>Total this month.</b>	<b>\$2,760.00</b>

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



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## 3 Sisters who formerly served in Diocese of Alexandria celebrate anniversaries

### Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP)



**Sister Margaret Ann Verzwylt, CDP**  
Celebrating 60 years

Sister Margaret Ann Verzwylt, a native and resident of Alexandria, and member of the Congregation of Divine Providence, will celebrate 60 years of religious life on June 15.

Celebrating with her will be a group of nine other Sisters, three of whom will celebrate 60 years, five will celebrate 50 years and one, a centenarian, will celebrate 85 years in Religious Life.

The day will begin with the Eucharistic celebration at 10:30 a.m. in Sacred Heart Conventual Chapel in San Antonio, Texas with the presence of family, friends and Sisters of Divine Providence. A special Jubilee reception will follow.

Sister Margaret Ann entered the convent on May 31, 1949 to begin the process of discernment for Religious life. With the

great abundance of God's grace, the support and love of her family and the Sisters, five years later Sister Margaret Ann made her first Profession of Vows and six years later, her Perpetual Vows during which the Sisters receive a gold ring, symbolic of their consecration.

Sister received her B.A. degree and certification in Education from Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio, Texas and began the ministry of elementary education in Texas and Louisiana. This ministry continued for approximately 20-plus years, then a new door opened.

This ministry was in food service for the retreats and group projects that had begun at Moye Center in Castroville, Texas. There, Sister put her love of cooking and her gift of creativity into the preparation of many delicious meals which were greatly appreciated by the guests.

After eleven years of service there, Sister Margaret Ann returned to Alexandria to help her family with the care of her aging parents and has continued there in various ministries until now.

One very joyful and memorable ministry was caring for infants and watching them grow into young children. Her latest ministry has been as coordinator of the CDP Associate program, at St. Augustine Church in Isle Breville.

After June, Sister Margaret Ann will retire to the Sisters' Motherhouse in San Antonio.

### Congregation of the Marianites of Holy Cross (MSC)

Thirteen Marianites of Holy Cross will celebrate anniversaries of entrance into the Congregation in 2014. On April 26, at 10:30 a.m. in the Our Lady of Holy Cross Moreau Center Chapel in New Orleans, six of the sisters will take part in the ceremonies marking 50, 60, 70 and 75 years as members of their Religious Congregation.

The other seven sisters will celebrate anniversaries later this year in France and other parts of the USA.



**Sister Rochelle Perrier, MSC**  
Celebrating 50 years

Sister Rochelle Perrier, MSC is a native of New Orleans and entered the Marianites of Holy Cross in September 1964 and pronounced her final vows in 1970. Sister spent the first 15 years in ministry as a teacher in several parochial schools in New Orleans and Houma, La., as well as in Ocean Springs, Miss.. In the 1970's Sister Rochelle served as Vocation Director and later as a

member of the formation team.

Sister was called by the Marianites to Bangalore, India for a short period of time. Over the next several years she worked as pastoral associate in Franklin, La. and director of Religious Education in Pineville. She served on the Marianite leadership team from 2001-2007.

For 12 years Sister, in collaboration with the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston and San Antonio's healthcare system, served as vice president of Mission and Spirituality and presently serves as a chaplain and member of the spiritual care team at Christus St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sister Rochelle continues to answer the call of our Loving God in serving God's people wherever needed.



**Sister Marie Noel, MSC**  
Celebrating 50 years

Sister Marie Noël, MSC is a native of Church Point, La., and entered the Marianites in September 1964. She has dedicated more

than 40 years to education, serving as a teacher and/or principal at Christ the King Elementary, St. Andrew the Apostle, Academy of the Holy Angels, St. Rita School in Alexandria, and St. Rita School in New Orleans.

After 28 years in Catholic Schools, Sister spent an additional 16 years working in Orleans Parish Public Schools and the Recovery School District Schools.

She has energetically served in the capacity of teacher, coordinator of student activities, of technology, and summer programs, grant writer, professional development, literacy/curriculum facilitator, workshop presenter, and coordinator of services to students with disabilities, assistant principal and adjunct instructor at Tulane University for several summers.

Sister Marie has served on several community, civic and school district boards and as a reader of state grants for education. In 2012, Sister was elected to and currently serves the Marianites of Holy Cross on the Leadership Team as a congregational assistant.

The Marianites of Holy Cross was founded in 1841 in Le Mans France and came to Louisiana in 1848 to minister to the needs of education and care of the orphans and continue ministering to the present needs of God's people.

Other Marianites currently serving in the diocese are Sisters Nell Murray, Hannah O'Brien, and JoAnn Deloach.



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**ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA CENTER** celebrated open house March 27 at their new location at 2225 N. Bolton Ave. Sister Kateri Mitchell (center) will serve as the executive director.

**SACRED HEART (Moreauville) CAFETERIA STAFF BAKES FOR ST. JOSEPH ALTAR.** Members of the Sacred Heart School cafeteria staff show off the fig plaques and unleavened bread that they baked in preparation for the St. Joseph Altar on March 19. Pictured are Dona Adams, Victoria Bordelon, April Doucet, Evelyn Simon (manager) and Jacqueline Bazile.



### Volunteer Opportunities

• **CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Auxiliary** is recruiting new and energetic volunteers of all ages. The Auxiliary is not just for ladies! We need men and young people, as well as women of all ages. Volunteers are needed to provide assistance in areas such as the information desks, surgery waiting area, gift shops, emergency room, intensive care and critical care units, and many other locations throughout the hospital. There are a multitude of other opportunities. Find your niche. Call the Patient Relations Department today at 318-448-6736. Pictured are (seated) Helen Feduccia, Jeanne Bergeron, and Betty Rogers. (Back row) Betty Green, Donzal Langston, and Ruby Yeager.

• **Rapides Children's Advocacy Center.** In recognition of April as National Child Abuse Awareness Month, the Rapides Children's Advocacy Center is asking the public to consider participating in the child sponsorship campaign and by becoming a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer. Volunteer training will begin April 28. To find out how you can help the abused and neglected children in Cenla, visit [www.RapidesCAC.org](http://www.RapidesCAC.org) or call 318-445-5678.

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## Volunteers in the Diocese of Alexandria



**KC COUNCIL #12103 DONATES PICNIC TABLES TO LSU.** KC Council #12103 donated several picnic tables to the LSU-A Catholic Student Center to accommodate the overflow of students now attending the Wednesday noon lunches. Pictured are Lynn Ray, Paul Dunstane, Tim Hart, Fr. John Pardue, Steve Basco, Richard Basco, Bryan Kelly.



**KC COUNCIL #2395 ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA (Bunkie)** donated more than \$1,700 to two local facilities charged with the care of the mentally disabled. The money was the result of the 2013 KC's annual Tootsie Roll Campaign for the Mentally Disabled. A check for \$1,421.53 was presented to Charles Randall, administrator of the New Earth/Ledoux-Provosty Home in Hessmer. Another \$300 was donated to the St. Mary's Residential Training School. Pictured accepting the donation is (left to right) Joel Stelly, campaign chairman; Charles Randall, administrator of the New Earth/Ledoux-Provosty Home; and Steven Martel, Grand Knight of KC Council #2395.



**COURT PADRE PIO #2141** of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas of St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport, prepared and served a meal Feb. 19 to the students of the LSU-A Catholic Student Organization. Pictured are Elaine Juneau, Sue White, Charlene Riche, Carol Tassin, Father John Pardue (who celebrated Mass for the students and CDA members), Kinta Moreau, and Kathy Lemoine.



**COURT BISHOP DESMOND # 1459** of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, of Alexandria, celebrated their 66th anniversary at St. Rita Church with Fr. Craig Scott as celebrant. The 4th Degree Knights of Msgr. Piegay Assembly provided an Honor Guard for the procession. Officers (from left to right) are Helen Brittain, Marguerite Robin (behind), Helen Candiloro, Suzie Medlin, and Gail Randall. A reception followed at the St. Rita Holy Family Center.



**KC COUNCIL #3200 LENTEN FISH FRY.** On Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent, KC Council #3200 cooked a fabulous fried fish meal from 11 a.m. - 1p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Pictured are Paul Smith, John Tumminello, Chris Littleton, and Mike Ferguson.

### CHURCH SECRETARY APPRECIATION SUPPER.

Fr. Edwin Rodriguez hosted the 9th annual Catholic Church Secretary Appreciation Supper Feb. 25 at St. Alphonsus Church rectory in Hessmer. Susan Poche, secretary at St. Alphonsus Church, was named Secretary of the Year. She received a nice gift and her name was added to a plaque with the names of previous winners. Pictured are (front row) Danita Coco, Janeita Townsend, Julia Voinche, Beatrice Bordelon, Shirley Mayeux, and Susan Poche. Back row: Juliette Linzay, Fr. Edwin Rodriguez, Delilah Aymond, Gilda Augustine, and Di-anne Dalgo.





# A new and improved home for Manna House

## Manna House moves back home after \$200,000 renovations are completed

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

Without skipping a beat in the food service it provides to more than 200 men, women, and children each day, Manna House returned to its renovated home Jan. 13 located at 2655 Lee Street.

"We moved out of the temporary facility on Broadway and 3rd Streets after the noon meal on Sunday, Jan. 12," said John McClure, volunteer executive director of Manna House, "and were set up and ready to serve the noon meal the next day -- Monday, Jan. 13. We never stopped serving at Manna House -- even through the ice storms this winter."

Walking into the renovated facility for the first time, the "customers" were impressed and quite amazed.

"It's cleaner, brighter, and newer-looking," said McClure of the \$200,000 renovations to Manna House that started last June. "We are all very proud of the work that's been done here."



**MANNA HOUSE RIBBON CUTTING.** Participating in the Manna House ribbon-cutting ceremony March 27 are (from left) Sheriff William Hilton, Chuck Fowler, Chris Soprano, Mayor Jacques Roy, Thomas David (in back), John McClure, and Ola Rae Chicola. More than \$200,000 in renovations were made at Manna House, through the efforts of many in the community.

According to Manna House Board president Thomas David, the renovations were the result of a lot of people in the community

working together.

"It's been truly amazing to see so many people in this community pool their resources, and

volunteer their time, talent, and money to make this happen," he said. "I can't thank everyone involved in this project enough for

all of the hard work and generous giving of their time and talent."

Renovations included:

- installed new floors
- painted interior walls
- purchased 120 new chairs
- enlarged the pantry
- built two restrooms
- installed two new mop sinks
- relocated AC equipment
- upgraded wiring to meet code requirements
- painted the exterior of building
- Modified and upgraded the cooking equipment:
  - one code-required stove-top hood with grease traps
  - two new commercial ovens
  - one convection oven
  - one walk-in freezer
  - one new commercial dishwasher
  - one commercial smoker

A ribbon-cutting ceremony held March 27 included David, McClure, Manna House board members, staff members, and volunteers; as well as city council members and local clergy.



**BRIGHT AND NEW.** New flooring, new lighting, and new tables and chairs will make everything nicer and brighter for those who eat at the Manna House.

**NEW EQUIPMENT.** The most welcome part of the project was the new equipment added to the kitchen including two new commercial ovens, one convection oven, a walk-in freezer, and a new commercial dishwasher.



**MANNA HOUSE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS.** Despite the construction, relocation twice during the project, and ice storms during this past winter, Manna House staff members and volunteers continued to service hot meals to its clients every day, without fail. Pictured are Ted Fields, Irma Dotson, John Taylor, Nita St. Andria, and Eva and Alton Horn.





Damaged end of the original communion rail



Re-assembling pieces of the rail



Two side pieces -- bare and primed



Attaching rail to new frame



Son Martin helps build the "altar skirt"



Jeffrey, Francine, Martin, and Fr. Irion St. Romain

## The resurrection story of a discarded piece of a communion rail

Francine Sons, from St. Alphonsus in Hessmer, (but a frequent visitor at St. Paul the Apostle in Mansura) may not consider herself an artisan craftsman, but she does recognize a church treasure when she sees one.

After noticing an old piece of the original communion rail that once stood in the old St. Paul Church, lying outside and showing visible signs of decay, she approached Father Irion St. Romain, the pastor, about doing something with the old weathered piece as a way to preserve the church's history.

After tossing around several ideas, it was decided that the old piece of communion rail would be used to create an "altar skirt" for

the main altar.

With the help of her husband Jeffrey, the remaining piece of the rail was brought to their home, where the two-month project began.

Since the old piece had been in the elements for so long, the weathering actually helped the stripping process. Francine said most of the old paint was easily removed except in the detailed crevices of the piece.

"I watched a video on YouTube that showed me how to mix ashes with water to remove old paint," she said. "It worked like a charm."

The next step was replacing the missing pieces with new carved pieces.

"I am not a wood carver, but I did the best I could to fashion pieces that would resemble the originals," she said. "Luckily, most were on the back side of the piece."

While Francine had to back off the project for a while, while her mother was in the hospital having surgery, her husband stepped in to use that time to remove the old bottom board, replace it with new wood, cut the piece into a front and two side sections, and build corner posts to secure the rail pieces to a new stronger frame.

After Jeffrey had made his contributions to the piece by making it sturdy and solid, the next step was painting.

"The painting part was not as easy as I thought it would be," said Francine. "It was slow and tedious because I could only paint a few pieces at a time and then wait for it to dry."

But alas, it was finished and moving day had arrived. Her son Martin had to help his dad lift the heavy piece onto his trailer to make the short drive to Mansura and into its new home.

"It looked like it had been there all along," said Francine. "With a few paint touch-ups, it was left to again be part of its original home - the sanctuary of St. Paul Catholic Church in Mansura."

"I'm very proud of the beautiful work that Francine and her

family have done with this discarded piece of history," said Father Irion. "It's good to have it all part of the church again."

"I'm proud of the work we all did too -- (with the help of her husband, son, and Mardel Products owners -- Frank Giglio and Ronnie Plauche).

"This project was born out of my love for old things -- in this case, old treasures of the church," she said. "As new churches replace old ones, many of our historical treasures are lost, sold, or discarded. It's a shame. There are few things as beautiful as an old church."

"It is my hope that others will keep this in mind when tearing down the old and replacing it with the new. These beautiful old treasures are our ancestors' gifts to the church and generations of faithful. They should be respected and maintained."

*(Editor's Note: Francine & Jeffrey are also the proud parents of Caleb Sons, who used to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Alexandria, but is currently studying with the Society of St. Pius X.)*

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### Holy Savior Menard presents Oklahoma!

Under the direction of Cherise Rino, Holy Savior Menard's Theatre Department presented Rogers and Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA! April 3-6 in the Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center. Pictured are (top) some of the cast performing a dance and song; (below left-top) (Laurey) and (Curly); (below left-bottom) (Ado Annie) and (Ali Hakim); . Bottom large picture is (Aunt Eller) with entire ensemble in the Farmer and the Cowman.



**MENARD QUIZ BOWL TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.** Holy Savior Menard's Quiz Bowl Team won the state championship March 22 at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. The 6th seeded, five-member team from Menard beat out 32 other teams from across the state to win the State Championship. "We were undefeated," said Terri Harmeyer, Menard Quiz Bowl sponsor. "We had some runaway games, but we also had two very close games. One game, we won by only five points and another was one by one question. It was a very exciting and fun-filled day." Members of the championship team are (from left) Terri Harmeyer (sponsor),





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**WILDLIFE HABITATS AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville).** Ms. Barbara Lang's Kindergarten B class at Sacred Heart School worked on an Avoyelles Wildlife Federation project titled "Wildlife Habitats." Students in the class made bird feeders and hung them in the memorial garden on the Sacred Heart School campus. In addition to the bird feeders, students brought wildlife pictures with captions. The photo entries will be put into a booklet and will be judged in May with other schools. Pictured are (left to right)

and Ms. Barba

Land, teacher.

**CATCHING BUTTERFLIES.** Mrs. Darla Tassin's 2nd grade B class at Sacred Heart studied the life cycle of the butterfly. They ordered the larvae and observed the changes. The highlight of the lesson was when the students were able to release the Painted Lady butterflies.



**ST. ANTHONY (Bunkie) TEACHER HOLDS A SNAKE FOR 10 SECONDS.** St. Anthony School students had the opportunity to see reptiles from around the world at a recent school program. "World of Reptiles" was put on by Scott Shupe. One of St. Anthony faculty members, Mrs. Kim Juneau, was chosen to hold a snake for 10 seconds and the student body was stunned by this. Shown in the picture is Scott Shupe and Kim Juneau, bravely holding a snake.



**SACRED HEART TALENT SHOW.** Sacred Heart School in Moreauville held a talent show March 27. Winner of the Individual and Overall Talent division was \_\_\_\_\_, (daughter of J.T. and Joan Dunbar), who sang "High Hopes." Winner of the Group Talent division was \_\_\_\_\_ (daughter of: Chad and Holly Dazat), (daughter of Brian and Tressie Caubarreaux), and \_\_\_\_\_ (daughter of Kayla Dalgo), who sang "Chatanooga Choo Choo." Congratulations to all the contestants who participated!



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### POSITION AVAILABLE: MATH TEACHER

St. Anthony School in Bunkie will have a teacher vacancy in the 2014-2015 school year in the upper grades (5, 6, 7, and 8) specifically to teach math. Certification and knowledge of basic computer skills is required. Interested and qualified persons are asked to send a resume to Martha Coulon, St. Anthony School, 116 South Knoll, Bunkie, LA 71322

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**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL (Cottonport)** raised \$1,670.75 for their annual fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The student that raised the most was \_\_\_\_\_ pictured in front of our St. Jude wall). He raised \$225. The top class was 4th grade. They will receive a pizza party.



## Audit shows Church increased spending for Child Protection by 50%

WASHINGTON — U.S. dioceses and religious orders in 2013 increased what they spent on child protection by more than 50 percent over what they spent the year before, according to the 2013 report from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

In 2013, dioceses and religious orders spent \$41,721,675 for child protection efforts, an increase of more than \$15 million over the previous year, when they spent \$26,583,087.

The numbers were reported in the "2013 Survey of Allegations and Costs: A Summary Report for the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops." The full report can be found at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/2013-Annual-Report.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/2013-Annual-Report.pdf)

The survey also found that in 2013 the total number of new allegations and victims decreased to its lowest level since CARA began collecting the data. The number of offenders decreased by six percent, and the number of allegations and victims decreased by one percent.

Deacon Bernard Nojadera, director of the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection, said one reason for increased costs on child protection was "the re-checks of background for a majority of diocesan personnel.

This year, for instance, in



What dioceses, religious orders are spending on child protection efforts:

2012 -- \$26,583,087

2013 -- \$41,721,675

--- CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate)

many dioceses it was time for the every-five-year background check renewal. There was also an increase in the number of roles that required background checks."

He noted that "some dioceses realized that the system that was used 10 years ago is no longer adequate to the task at hand and bought more sophisticated programs to help keep track of training, background checks, risk management, payroll, etc." He added that "it is encouraging to see dioceses putting the necessary resources into ensuring the safety of children in its parishes and schools."

The survey reported that

most instances of abuse of minors by clerics reported last year took place between 1970 and 1979. However, the report noted there were 10 instances of credible allegations against persons who currently are minors, nine against diocesan clerics and one against a member of a religious order.

CARA also reported that the overall number of instances of abuse declined from the previous year. A total of 457 victims made 464 allegations against 352 offenders. Three-quarters of the alleged offenders identified in 2013 were deceased, had already been removed from ministry, or had already left the religious institute

at the time the allegation was reported.

All but one of the 195 U.S. dioceses/eparchies completed the CARA survey, with the Diocese of Lincoln continuing to decline participation.

The first part of the annual

report provided results of an annual audit of dioceses conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners to ascertain compliance with the Charter. The Diocese of Lincoln and the Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle for Chaldeans, the Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg for Armenians and the Eparchy of Stamford for Ukrainians refused to participate.

Auditors reported an increase in dioceses providing outreach and support to 340 new survivors and family members in addition to giving continued support to 1,843 past survivors and family members.

In reporting on safe environment training, auditors found that 4,645,700 children were trained or 94.6 percent of those possible; 35,914 priests or 99.6 percent; 16,129 deacons or 99.7 percent; 6,360 candidates for ordination or 99.5 percent; 167, 953 educators or 99.5 percent; 251,146 other employees or 98.6 percent and 1,902,143 volunteers or 98 percent.

### To Report Child Sexual Abuse by a Cleric or Church Worker of the Diocese of Alexandria:

Call Ms. Mary Girard at (318) 623-3804 or via the Diocesan HOTLINE at (318) 445-1427  
ALSO, call your Local Law Enforcement Agency

#### Additional Information & Resources:

Louisiana Child Abuse Hotline: 1-855-452-5437  
Prevent Child Abuse – Louisiana: [www.pcal.org](http://www.pcal.org)  
U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops--Office of Child & Youth Protection: [www.usccb.org/ocyp](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp)

#### Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Mary Girard  
(318) 623-3804 or (318) 445-1427

#### Safe Environment Coordinator

Mrs. Pamela Aymond Delrie  
(318) 445-6424 x 213

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# St. Faustina drama brings message of Divine Mercy to stage



**MULTIMEDIA DRAMA, 'FAUSTINA: MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY'.** Actress Maria Vargo, travels the country portraying St. Faustina in a multimedia presentation, "Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy." St. Faustina was born Helena Kowalska in 1905 to a large peasant family in Poland. Blessed John Paul II was a longtime adherent of the saint's Divine Mercy devotions. He beatified her in 1993 and canonized her in 2000. (CNS photo/courtesy Saint Luke Productions)

By Joanne Fox  
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Besides the challenge of portraying St. Faustina, actress Maria Vargo said she also was drawn to the role by the opportunity to share "the message of God's mercy for every soul."

"I have had a devotion to Divine Mercy and have been praying the chaplet of Divine Mercy for a long time," Vargo explained. "I have experienced and continue to experience God's mercy personally and I understand the great gift that it is."

Vargo travels the country portraying St. Faustina in a multimedia drama, "Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy."

The saint had a special devotion to God's divine mercy. The chaplet is a series of prayers focusing on the gifts of his mercy, especially shown through the passion of Christ.

St. Faustina was born Helena Kowalska in 1905 to a large peasant family in Poland. After a vision from Jesus encouraged her to become a nun, the young woman entered the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She took Maria Faustina as her religious name and spent the rest of her life doing menial labor at the convent.

In 1930, Sister Faustina began having mystical visions. Jesus appeared to her in a white garment, with rays of white and red light emanating near his heart. He asked her to paint his image with the message, "Jesus, I trust in you." That was the beginning of a mission that turned into a devotion for the church -- the Divine Mercy.

## Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy

Directed by Leonardo Defilippis  
of St. Luke Productions

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[www.stlukeproductions.com](http://www.stlukeproductions.com)

Sister Faustina kept a diary of her visions until her death from tuberculosis in 1938.

Blessed John Paul II beatified her in 1993 and canonized her in 2000. He also made Divine Mercy Sunday a church-wide feast day to be celebrated the Sunday after Easter. The late pope, along with Blessed John XXIII, will soon be canonized himself -- on Divine Mercy Sunday, which this year is April 27.

Vargo, a Hollywood-based actress, researched the part of St. Faustina for the St. Luke production.

"I was surprised to learn that Sister Faustina was a joyful person, a great storyteller, and that people were drawn to her," she told The Catholic Globe, newspaper of the Diocese of Sioux City. "She was fearless and not afraid to speak the truth to others. She had a lot of determination and spunk!"

"The way she spoke to Jesus was so intimate and affectionate, but also courageous and free. She never minced words with him, asking him for mercy for even the most hardened."

Vargo spent a week living with the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Dorchester, Mass., in preparation for the role.

"Several of the sisters I stayed with were Polish, so I got a real feel for that culture," she said, but "apart from just a few words" she doesn't speak Polish like the saint.

"I am meeting so many Polish-American communities on tour. They are so hospitable, and they love their three modern saints -- the holy triangle of Faustina, John Paul II, and Maximilian Kolbe -- so much."

Prior to taking on this role, Vargo characterized herself as an active Catholic, attending Mass regularly. But now she has "a much deeper understanding of sacrifice," she said. "I think that comes from the hard work involved in presenting this drama night after night in different locations."

Vargo said she always believed prayer could change the world.

"But portraying Sister Faustina has taught me that everything we do in life is a prayer, and that sacrifice has great meaning in the eyes of the Lord, especially in union with praying the chaplet," she said, referring to the Divine Mercy chaplet.

## Divine Mercy (April 27)

### Services in the diocese

2 p.m. -- Confessions  
3 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Service (Veneration of the Image, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, short Way of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany, Benediction), OLPS, Alexandria

2 p.m. -- Confessions  
3 p.m.-4 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Holy Hour, SF Cabrini, Alexandria

3 p.m. -- St. Anthony, Natchitoches (Confessions, Adoration, singing of Divine Mercy Chaplet)

3 p.m. -- OL of Lourdes, Winnfield  
3 p.m. -- OLPS, Mansura  
3 p.m. -- St. Louis, Glenmora

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# Pope says married couples called to be icons of God's love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Through the sacrament of matrimony, married couples are called to be living icons of God's love in the world, Pope Francis said; and when they fight -- and all couples do -- they don't have "to call the United Nations," but find simple words and gestures to say they are sorry.

Concluding a series of talks about the sacraments, Pope Francis used his general audience April 2 to focus on marriage, and he asked the estimated 45,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square to pray for the world's families, especially for couples experiencing difficulty.

The sacrament of marriage, he said, "leads us to the heart of God's plan, which is a plan of covenant with his people and with all of us."

"We were created for love as a reflection of God and his love," the pope said. "In the conjugal union, a man and a woman fulfill this vocation under the sign of reciprocity and a full and definitive communion of life."

Marriage is a response to a specific vocation and "must be considered a consecration," he said. "The man and woman are consecrated for love. Through the sacrament, the spouses are given a real mission to make visible -- even through simple and ordinary gestures -- the love with which Christ loves his church."

"The plan that God has for



**NEWLY MARRIED COUPLES** attend Pope Francis' general audience in St. Peter's Square at Vatican. April 2. (CNS photo)

marriage is really something stupendous," he said.

Calling married couples "an icon of God's love for us," Pope Francis also said the fact that husbands and wives are human means that sometimes the image can appear slightly tarnished.

"We all know how many difficulties and trials spouses face. What is important is to keep alive a bond with God, who is the foundation of the matrimonial bond," he said. Marriages are stronger when husbands and wives pray for each other and with each other.

But prayer doesn't mean there always will be peace and harmony, he said. The demands of work, finances and raising children can frustrate couples and lead to arguments.

"There are always fights in a

marriage, aren't there?" he asked the crowd. "Sometimes plates fly. You're laughing, but it's the truth.

"The secret, though, is that love is stronger than an argument," the pope said. "Don't end your day without making peace. It's not necessary to call the United Nations and have them come to your house to broker the peace. A little gesture, a caress, can suffice."

"Marriage is beautiful and we must always safeguard it," he said.

Pope Francis repeated his recommendation that couples make frequent use of three "mag-

ic words": "May I?" "Thank you" and "Sorry." With the three phrases, with prayer and by making up before going to bed, "your marriage will continue," he said.

At the end of the audience, which took place on the ninth anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II, Pope Francis asked people to prepare for the late pope's canonization April 27 with prayers and by "reviving the patrimony of faith he left."

"Imitating Christ, he was an untiring preacher of the word of God, of truth and of goodness," the pope said. "He turned even his suffering into something good."



**THE 2014 YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE.** Paul Hood was the host for this year's Young Adult Conference (Wake Up!) held March 28 - 30 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville and Kelly Pease Lombardi was the music leader. More than 50 young adults, ages 18-40 attended the event, which included speakers Julianne Stanz, director of New Evangelization from the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisc.; Father Keith Ishmael (Spiritual Warfare); Father Marc Noel (How do I know God's Will?) and Holly Carbo and Mandi Chapman, (Couples Communication). Thanks to our sponsors Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, and Dr. Glynn Leckie, American Legion Post 3. Next year's Young Adult Conference ("I Thirst") will be held March 6-8, 2015.

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# Josh Blakesley Band working on 5th album

Join their Kickstarter campaign April 22 to help support their newest project

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

The Josh Blakesley Band, the Louisiana-based Christian rock band, (and actually from Alexandria) is set to release their fifth album by the end of 2014.

In an effort to help fund their latest project, the band is looking to Kickstarter, an independent on-line platform, used to fund independently created projects by donors are friends, fans, and inspired strangers from all over the world, who visit the site and are inspired by a creator's project to support the endeavor.

According to Kickstarter's website, it has received more than \$1 billion in pledges from 5.7 millions donors to fund 135,000 projects world-wide, such as films, music, state shows, comics, journalism video games, and food-related projects.

If the goal is reached, donors will be billed for their pledge through Amazon.com. The band can receive the funding as early as two weeks after the deadline.

If the goal is not reached, donors will not be billed and the band receives nothing for their project.

"It's an 'all or nothing' deal," said manager Cari Williams, who is working with the group to secure funding. "We have to meet



**THE JOSH BLAKESLEY BAND.** Band members Grae McCullough, Josh Blakesley, Christian Gaudet and Blake Powell are excited to be working on their fifth Christian album expected to come out by the end of 2014. For the first time, the band will be using Kickstarter, an on-line platform used to fund independently-created projects by inviting communities to financially support a project. Friends and fans of the Josh Blakesley Band are asked to go to [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) between April 22 and May 21 to pledge your support to the project.

the goal of the project to receive any of the funds that people go on-line to pledge."

Friends and fans of the Josh Blakesley Band are asked to go to [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) beginning April 22 and make a pledge to the "Josh Blakesley Band" project. The project is open for pledges for only 30 days.

"After May 21, it will be too

late to make a pledge to the campaign," said Williams, "Supporters are asked to give financially through the Kickstarter website, or to share on social media.

Members of the Josh Blakesley Band (besides Josh) include Grae McCullough, Blake Powell, and Chris Gaudet. The foursome have dedicated their lives to making phenomenal Christian music,

and hope to bring this new album to even more listeners than before.

As a singer, songwriter, and producer, Josh has led worship for nearly two decades at World Youth Day celebrations in Italy, Canada, Germany, Australia, Spain and Brazil; and at Franciscan University of Steubenville conferences, Life Teen International gatherings, Catholic Heart

To to:

[www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com)

and make a pledge to:

**The Josh Blakesley Band project**  
April 22 - May 21

Work Camps, and parish events of all sizes.

"Josh and his Band her known all over the United States and many parts of the world," said Williams. "Sometimes we don't realize the significance of the talent we have right here in our own hometown."

The Band is just coming off of their latest release, *You Are the Light*, including their first official music video. Additional tour dates, new collaborators, and multiple projects are all on the horizon as the band moves into this new album.

"I'm excited to announce that we're starting number five," said Blakesley. "God is still moving and we're hoping to do things we've never done before with this particular album."

To follow the project or learn more about the Josh Blakesley Band, visit [joshblakesley.com](http://joshblakesley.com).

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# 'I AM the Pro-Life Generation'

## OLPS confirmation group organizes more than 250 students to Stand for Life

By Sandra West  
OLPS Church, Alexandria

When the Confirmation students from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria were told they had to do a small group service project, five of those students formed a small group and began thinking.

Kelly Robichaux, Christian Gaspar de Alba, Midori Mickel, Leah Aldridge, and Chase Bertrand wanted to do "something real" for their project. They wanted to make a difference.

They thought of different things, such as feeding the poor and giving out items to needy people. Then they decided to do something for those who are totally helpless to do for themselves -- the unborn.

The idea for "Operation Stand for Life" was born.

After talking to Benjamin Clapper, executive director of

Louisiana Right to Life, and hearing his recommendations, the event changed to a Life Chain, to be held on a busy thoroughfare, where people could see the witness of the praying people for the unborn and elderly victims of death.

"We wanted everyone to come, -- every Christian, every member of every church, to come out and pray together for life," said Christian Gaspar de Alba, one of the group members.

They began talking to everyone, handing out flyers, bringing signs to businesses to put up in windows, and contacting pastors through email, phone, and fax. They arranged to be guests on KALB-TV's morning show *Jambalaya* and promoted it to youth groups. The group talked the event up for five weeks.

On Saturday, March 29, the day of the event had finally ar-

rived. The weather was cool and unpredictably cloudy. Workers, -- mostly teenagers -- began the day with Mass at 8 a.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church then began working to set up the stage, the sound system and everything for the Stand for Life.

Tables were loaded and transported, tent-canopies were erected, and Gatorades were iced-down as an eager group of teens awaited the unknown turnout for the Stand for Life at Vilar and Elliott's Law office at 3709 Masonic Drive, next door to Julia's Mexican Restaurant at the Traffic Circle.

By noon the sky cleared and the temperature warmed. It was truly the most beautiful day so far in Alexandria, in 2014!

At 12:30 p.m., people began arriving. Each person signed in, with his or her name and church membership. They received a t-shirt and either made a sign or



**OLPS SMALL GROUP SERVICE PROJECT MEMBERS.** Members of the OLPS small group service project who coordinated the idea for the Stand for Life pro-life event are (bottom left and going clockwise)

The students organized the event (with the help of OLPS youth ministers), and promoted it with posters, appearances on TV, emails, letters, and word of mouth.



**MAKING PRO-LIFE SIGNS.** Wally Smith (standing left) and Paul Hood (standing right) make sure the students have the right supplies to make pro-life signs for the Stand for Life events held March 29.

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**STAND FOR LIFE.** More than 250 students and adults participated in the Stand for Life held March 29 in front of Vilar and Elliott's Law Office on Masonic Drive.

pital, Simpson Security, Hixson Autoplex, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Vilar and Elliott Law Office, Lily of the Valley, and Bayou T-Shirts. (These sponsors donated 265 shirts that were given to everyone that came to the event. All shirts were given out.)

Kelly Robichaux, another group member, introduced Ryan Verrett, director of the Center for Medical Ethics; Benjamin Clapper, from the Louisiana Right to Life; and three women from Lake Charles and the Silent-no-More Organization, who gave testimonies about how abortions affected their lives.

Lastly, Chase Bertrand, another group member, gave directions about how to form the chain, where to stand, how to act and explained that this was a time of prayer, silent reflection for those lives lost to abortion and to pray for our country and the many lives hurt from abortion.

"It was beautiful to see and experience everyone praying together in silence (except for the Bible verses being read every 10 minutes)," said Sandra West, an

OLPS volunteer youth minister. "It was truly a coming together of many faiths."

Adults and young people from 15 churches participated in the event including Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, Alexandria; St. Rita Catholic Church in Alexandria; Holy Cross Catholic Church in Natchitoches; St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, and Christ the King Catholic Church in Simmesport; Oak Grove Baptist Church in Hinston; Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, and Philadelphia Baptist Church; The Word Christian Center, Word of Grace Ministries, Grace Christian, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Church of God of Prophecy, Lone Pine Assembly of God, and the Pentecostals of Alexandria.

At the end of the hour-long Stand for Life, Paul Hood, OLPS youth minister, led the closing prayer followed by refreshments provided by the OLPS Catholic Daughters and the Knights of Columbus.



**15 CHURCHES JOIN IN STANDING FOR LIFE.** Fifteen churches from 7 denominations participated in the Stand for Life held March 29 in front of the Vilar and Elliott's Law Office on Masonic Drive. Sponsors who donated 265 shirts included Christus St. Francis Cabrini Hospital, Simpson Security, Hixson Autoplex, St. Anthony Church, Vilar and Elliott Law Office, Lily of the Valley, and Bayou T-Shirts.

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## 4-year-old experiences the after-life in *Heaven is for Real*

*Movie based on true story of boy's experience opens in theatres April 16*

By Alex Murashko  
Christian Post Reporter

"Heaven Is for Real" is based on the true story of a 4-year old son of a small-town Nebraska pastor who experienced heaven during emergency surgery. Consider "experienced" as the operative word here, and I will tell you that there is no doubt in my mind that Colton experienced a divine appointment, whether he was in heaven or not.

Colton, played breathtakingly by newcomer Connor Corum, talked about looking down to see the doctor operating for a ruptured appendix and his dad praying in the waiting room. The family, like most of us would have reacted, didn't know what to believe, but soon the evidence was clear.

In heaven, Colton meets his miscarried sister whom no one ever had told him about and his great-grandfather who died 30 years before Colton was born. He shared impossible-to-know details about each, according to his father. Colton went on to describe the horse that only Jesus could ride, about how "reaaally big" God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power" from heaven to help us.

"Told by Colton's father often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is that heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and to be ready ... there is a coming last



**HEAVEN IS FOR REAL.** Todd Burpo (played by Greg Kinnear) is a small-town Nebraska pastor who asks his son Colton (played by Connor Corum) if this is the man he saw in heaven (a picture of Colton's grandfather, whom he never met). "No," said Colton, "the man I saw was much younger. Everyone in heaven is young." Heaven is for Real is based on a true story of a 4-year-old who experiences heaven during emergency surgery.

battle," the film's producers say.

The movie is based on the #1 New York Times best-selling book of the same name, *Heaven Is for Real*, and "brings to the screen the true story of a small-town dad who must find the courage and conviction to share his son's extraordinary, life-changing experience with the world."

Talking to Todd Burpo, I knew I was talking to a father and pastor that was still trying to find that courage to go to the world with his son's message – now through Hollywood's big screen.

He shared that the most im-

portant part of his family's day is when they all gather for prayer, even if it means family members have to call in, and share their prayer requests. Flying into the convention, Burpo said he really missed Sunday's prayer session because on that day everyone gets to share their prayer request, instead of just one family member sharing during the rest of the days of the week. He said, "It was tough," and you could see it in his eyes that it certainly was.

"When Hollywood approached us, and I think, to put it into perspective, if someone

from Hollywood came up to you and said, 'I would like to make a movie about your life, and by the way, you can trust us,' what would you be feeling? Right then, you are like 'I don't think so,'" Burpo told CP during the interview. "And this is sacred to us. What my son experienced was life-changing for us, but we didn't want that to get messed up, so from the very beginning, DeVon Franklin, Joe Roth, and T.D. Jakes came, and these are the people that God picked and said that 'I want you to trust these guys.'"

### MOVIE REVIEW

He said, "The very first discussions we had were [about them saying] 'you have to protect this story' because at the end of the day my son is 'going to see what you put on a movie screen' and one day he is going to hold me accountable for it. I'm not going to risk that and they said, 'We understand.'"

Colton Burpo watched the movie for the first time last week.

"My son saw the whole movie for the first time and we had the talk the next day, but with his younger brother and his sister in the room, too," Todd Burpo said. "And they were like 'Dad, we can support this. This is good.' He still had a few things, 'Well, I wish they'd change this or that,' but all three of my kids said, 'Dad, this is a good thing.' For me as a Dad, that was huge."

"At 4, he understood more than any 4-year-old could ever know," Burpo told CP. "A lot of people say, 'Well, you are a pastor and he's a pastor's kid. Yes, but he went to pre-school. I've never met an adult that could explain God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit like my 4-year-old can."

## Baton Rouge mom writes book about her son's experience in heaven

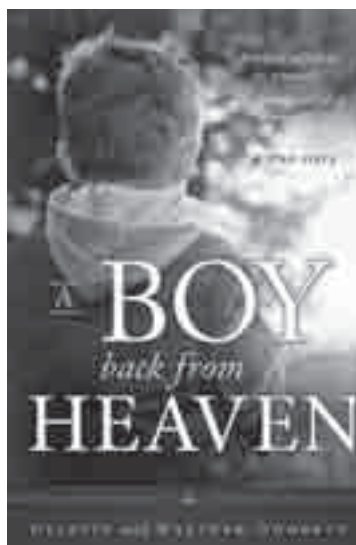
Celeste and Billy Goodwin, from Baton Rouge, sighed in deep relief when their four-year-old son Matthew finally regained consciousness after critical surgery. But just when they seemed to be in the clear, Matthew's eyes rolled back in his head and he became unresponsive for several harrowing minutes.

Doctors called the episode a medical anomaly, but what really happened can only be described as a miracle. When Matthew returned, it was with a perspective and wisdom about life and love that was far beyond his years. Experience the serenity of heaven

through a child's eyes as you read the true account of Matthew's walk with angels and his shocking revelation months later about the angels' identities.

*A Boy Back from Heaven* by Celeste Goodwin and published by Cedar Fort Publishing & Media, was just released in bookstores across the country on March 11, 2014. It is available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

Celeste and Matt Goodwin will be holding a Book Launching Party at the Perkins Roe Barnes and Noble on April 27 from 3-5 p.m. The address is 7707 Bluebonnet Blvd #100, Baton Rouge, LA 70810.



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# Low-budget film *God's Not Dead* nets \$22 million at box office

*Christian faith movie filmed on LSU campus; challenges students, "Is God Dead?"*

(CNS) -- Filmed in Baton Rouge, on the campus of Louisiana State University, *God's Not Dead* (Freestyle) is a low budget film that was not expected to do as well as it has at the box office, especially when it is competing against big Hollywood films like "Noah" which boasted a budget of \$125 million.

But after its second week at the box office, the small independent faith-based movie expanded its release by nearly 400 theaters and took in \$9 million, bringing its total box office earnings to \$22 million.

*God's Not Dead* portrays Josh Wheaton (Shane Harper), a freshman away at college for the first time. No sooner does Josh stroll onto the picturesque campus of his new university than he encounters Professor Radisson (Kevin Sorbo), the militantly atheistic faculty member who presides over the introductory philosophy course for which committed believer Josh has ill-advisedly registered.

Nearly the first order of business in Radisson's class is for each student to write out, sign and pass to the end of the row the succinct formula: "God is dead." Not surprisingly, Josh demurs; astoundingly, no one else in the packed lecture hall seems to have the least objection to fulfilling so flagrantly inappropriate a requirement.

Josh's stand-out obstinacy drives his infuriated instructor to challenge him to a multipart debate on the subject of the Al-



*God's Not Dead*. Willie and Korie Robertson star in the movie "God's Not Dead." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children. (CNS photo/Icon Media Group)

mighty's existence, with Josh's classmates as the jury and the lad's grade for the course hanging in the balance.

Josh takes up the gauntlet, despite the active discouragement of his believing but ambitious girlfriend Kara (Cassidy Gifford), who thinks he should go with the flow to avoid ruining their perfect future together. He is pre-law, after all.

So the stage is set for a rather dreary exchange of views -- angry on Radisson's side, meek

but steadfast on Josh's -- during which such names as Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking get bandied about for one side's benefit or the other's. Josh -- no flat-Earther he -- insists that both the Big Bang theory and the hurried pace of early evolution weigh on the side of a Creator and correspond to the symbolic details contained in the Book of Genesis.

Subplots abound around this core story. One involves strictly brought-up Muslim lass Ayisha (Hadeel Sittu). Though she dis-

likes the headscarf her traditionalist father makes her wear, and ditches it as soon as he drops her off on campus each morning, her inclusion in the movie seems, initially, to hold out the hope that the filmmakers are taking a broad view, and that believers of all stripes are eventually to be seen rallying to the cause. Take that, Professor Radisson!

Alas, not a bit of it. Ayisha harbors a secret, one that only reinforces the rigid presuppositions on offer here.

## MOVIE REVIEW

Other characters being made to conform to the script's cramped and caricatured worldview include crassly materialistic business exec Mark (Dean Cain), his hippy-dippy main squeeze Amy (Trisha LaFache) and Josh's fellow student and newfound pal, People's Republic of China-bred Martin (Paul Kwo) -- to whom any mention of matters divine apparently comes as a shock.

Willie Robertson, the CEO of Duck Commander, and his wife Korie, who play themselves in the *God's Not Dead*, recently told *The Christian Post* that he felt the film "really raised the bar."

"I've seen some Christian movies where the acting's not as good or the story's not as good, or it's just a lower budget film," he said, noting that he found the storyline "very compelling."

The film contains mature themes, brief domestic violence, a potentially upsetting accident scene and vaguely implied cohabitation.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may be not suitable for children.

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## Marriage Prep Workshop

*Strong Foundations: A Marriage Preparation Program for Catholic Couples* will host a one-day workshop on Sunday, May 4 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The presenters for this workshop are Mandi Chapman and Holly Carbo. To register visit [www.comprehensivetherapygroup.com](http://www.comprehensivetherapygroup.com) or call 318.445.1651.

## St. Joseph Altar Society plans three upcoming events

The Altar Society of St. Joseph Church in Marksville is sponsoring a "Spring Plant/Outdoor Festival" on Saturday April 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the church hall grounds. Come join us as you shop the different vendors for plants, outdoor furniture, Mother's Day gifts, graduation gifts, etc. Vendor booths are available for \$10. Call 253-7561 for more information.

The St. Joseph Altar Society in Marksville is also hosting a raffle for a 8mm mother of pearl sterling silver capped rosary. Raffle tickets for rosary are \$1.00 donation and will be raffled off on Sunday May 18. You may contact an altar society member or church office for tickets.

The St. Joseph Altar Society in Marksville is also hosting an Avoyelles parishwide Altar Society Vintage Tea, on Saturday May 24 in the St. Joseph Church Hall at 2 p.m. To RSVP, call the St. Joseph Altar Society at 253-7561.

## One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies

The St. Michael the Archangel Organization in Memphis, Tenn., is once again organizing the annual "One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies" the weekend of May 2-4. If you or your church, school, or organization would like to pray a rosary for this intention, please register your intention by going to [www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org](http://www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org)

## Menard, Providence Class of 1964 plan 50-year Reunion

Save the date and pass the word around that the Classes of 1964 from Menard Memorial High School and Providence Central Academy plan to get together on Saturday May 3 for their 50-year Reunion. The day begins at 8 a.m. with a golf tournament at Alexandria Golf and Country Club. Mass will celebrated at 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, followed by a Celebration with Friends from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at the Alexandria Golf and Country Club. Cost is \$50 per person (\$100 a couple, and/or \$50 per guest).

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- or go to [www.providencemenard.org](http://www.providencemenard.org)

## Menard Garage Sale

Menard is hosting a community garage sale to help raise money for the school on June 7. We're accepting donations at the school for items to include. Please think about us as you do your spring cleaning!

## Pilgrimage to Holy Land

The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Southeastern Lieutenancy, is offering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for the period of November 1-11, 2014 at a cost of \$3,735 per person, double occupancy. The trip departs Newark, non-stop to Tel Aviv and includes first class hotels, private motor coach transportation, breakfast and dinner and all fees and taxes. Fr. Peter Vasko, O.F.M., and President of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land will be our spiritual leader throughout the trip. Fr. Peter has lived in Jerusalem for the past 27 years and is internationally known for his work in the Holy Land. For more information, contact Pierre or Roz Allemond, Co-Masters of Pilgrimages at 318-452-6443 or 318-452-6442.



**DAY OF RENEWAL IN THE SPIRIT.** The Diocesan Service Committee for the Diocese of Alexandria and Cenla Magnificat co-sponsored a Day of Renewal in the Spirit Feb. 22 at St. Anthony's Church hall in Natchitoches, LA. Speakers included Fr. Ron Mathews, Diane Ardoin, Aggie Neck and Mary Wilson, who spoke on topics of God's love, Salvation, New Life, Fire of the Spirit, Growth and Transformation. Cenla Magnificat and students of the Holy Cross Prayer Group provided the Praise and Worship music. More than 95 people attended.

## CDA Education Contest Winners

(Court Notre Dame # 1452)

### ART DIVISION, 4th-5th

- 1st: Taylor Rachal (OLPS)  
2nd: Madison Kidd (OLPS)  
3rd: Ansley Bellino (OLPS)

### POETRY

- 1st: Jacy Faraldo (OLPS)  
2nd: Gabby Wrightstone (OLPS)  
3rd: Meredith Seeling (OLPS)  
HM: Jacob Giordano (OLPS)

### ESSAY

- 1st: Shawn Gallagher (OLPS)  
2nd: Emma Babin (OLPS)  
3rd: Blake Milton (OLPS)  
HM: Briggs Juneau (OLPS)

### COMPUTER ART

- 1st: Gracie Heitman (St. Frances Cabrini)  
2nd: Lianne Kho (Cabrini)  
3rd: Hadley Ryland ((OLPS)

### ART DIVISION, 6th, 7th, 8th

- 1st: Jullian LeMarie (Menard)  
2nd: Sydney Bolton (OLPS)  
3rd: Frankie Aymond (Menard)

### POETRY

- 1st: Jordan Willis (Menard)  
2nd: Gentry Freeman (OLPS)  
3rd: Michael Simpson (Menard)  
HM: Emille Juneau (OLPS)

### ESSAY

- 1st: Abby Daigle (OLPS)  
2nd: Miccale Mincey (Cabrini)  
3rd: Gunnar Mitchel (Cabrini)

### COMPUTER ART

- 1st: Jalen Bell (Cabrini)  
2nd: Leanne Baker (Cabrini)  
3rd: Gunnar Mitchel (Cabrini)

### DIVISION III, 9th - 12th

#### ESSAY

- 1st: Gabrielle Crockett (Menard)  
2nd: Gabrielle Lessen (Menard)  
3rd: Amelia Lessen (Menard)  
HM: Kathleen Branan (Menard)

### PHOTOGRAPHY

- 1st: Rebecca Jeanfreau (Menard)  
2nd: Abbi Miller (Menard)  
3rd: Emily Mayeaux, (Menard)

## VIRTUS

- April 28 (Monday) -- Sacred Heart Church (Lacour Hall), Moreauville, 6 p.m.
  - April 29 (Tuesday) -- St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria, 6 p.m.
- To pre-register, go to [virtus.org](http://virtus.org), and click on Registration (on left side of screen) For more information, call 318-445-6424 x 213.

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# April - May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>14</div> <div>Funeral Mass for Msgr. Roland Bordelon 11:00 a.m. St. Peter Church, Bordelonville</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Chrism Mass 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Catherdral, Alexandria</div>	<div>16</div> <div>PENANCE Service 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Way of the Cross 1-Mile Walk 1:30-3:00 p.m. Sacred Heart, Moreauville</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>
Holy Week -- End of Lent			-----EASTER Triduum-----			-----EASTER-----
PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA	HOLY THURSDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	GOOD FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON	HOLY SATURDAY PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS	EASTER SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS
<div>21</div> <div>EASTER MONDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Kickstarter Campaign for Josh Blakesley Band begins through May 21</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</div>	<div>23</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. VELEZ</div>	<div>24</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO</div>	<div>25</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</div>	<div>26</div> <div>St. Joseph Altar Society Spring Plant/ Outdoor Festival 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. YOUNG</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Divine Mercy Sunday -- see page 15 for list of DM services</div> <div>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</div>
<div>28</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart, Moreauville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</div>	<div>29</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</div>	<div>30</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</div>	<div>MAY 1</div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>	<div>2</div> <div>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Menard/Providence 50-Yr Class Reunion Class of 1964 Alexandria Country Club</div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. CATELLA</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Strong Foundations: Marriage Prep Program 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sacred Heart Church Pineville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO</div>
<div>5</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY</div>	<div>6</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. COURVILLE</div>	<div>7</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</div>	<div>8</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</div>	<div>9</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</div>	<div>10</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Baccalaureates Menard, 7:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral St. Mary's, 9:00 a.m. Basilica of the Immaculate Conception</div> <div>MOTHER'S DAY PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</div>
<div>12</div> <div>Graduation: St. Mary's School 7:00 p.m. Natchitoches</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Graduation: Holy Savior Menard 7:00 p.m. Gwinn Auditorium, LC Campus, Pineville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY</div>	<div>14</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Graduation: St. Joseph School 7:00 p.m. Plaucheville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</div>	<div>16</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</div>	<div>17</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</div>	<div>18</div> <div>St. Joseph Altar Society Rosary Raffle</div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>





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# BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

**Sunday, June 1**

Cabrini Outpatient Center (Corner of Texas & Prescott)  
From 10:00am 'til the last tasty bite is sold

**\$5 each**