

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVII, No. 4

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April 18, 2016

## ON THE INSIDE

### **Pope Francis releases *Amoris Laetitia* (Joy of Love) on the Family**

Pope Francis released *Amoris Laetitia*, (*The Joy of Love*), April 8. The post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation on "Love in the Family", was signed on March 19, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. It brings together the results of the two Synods on the family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015. See page 3.

### **Brothers of the Holy Eucharist honored**

Friends and St. Joseph alumni gathered April 9 at the Plaquemine Community Center to honor and celebrate the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist, who have served St. Joseph School from 1967 - 2013, for a collective 155 years of service. See page 8.

### **Man shares his passion of collecting Sacred Relics, using Holy Water**

If people realized the many benefits of holy water, we would all use it far more frequently and with greater faith and reverence. A local man has made it his mission to spread the use of Holy Water and to share his collection of Sacred Relics with others. See page 10-II.

## Deacon Candidates

10 men continue on formation journey  
toward becoming deacons



**DEACON CANDIDATES.** Bishop Ronald Herzog celebrated the Rite of Candidacy April 9 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral for the diocese's permanent deacon class. Deacon candidates are Mark Adkins, Bill Aldridge, Darrell Dubroc, Bill Endris, Jr., Lawrence Feldkamp, Stephen Gramigna, Buford Jeansonne, Tommy Robichaux, Paul Sunderhaus, and Luke White.



## Mother Teresa to be canonized Sept. 4; pope sets other sainthood dates

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis will declare Blessed Teresa of Kolkata a saint at the Vatican Sept. 4.

The date was announced March 15 during an "ordinary public consistory," a meeting of the pope, cardinals and promoters of sainthood causes that formally ends the sainthood process.

At the same consistory, the pope set June 5 as the date for the canonizations of Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski of Poland, founder of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, and Blessed Mary Elizabeth Hesselblad of Sweden, who re-founded the Bridgettine sisters.

In addition, Pope Francis declared that Oct. 16 he would celebrate Mass for the canonizations of Argentina's "gaucho priest," Blessed Jose Brochero, and Blessed Jose Sanchez del Rio, a 14-year-old Mexican boy martyred for refusing to renounce his faith during the Cristero War of the 1920s.

Setting the dates concludes a long process of studying the lives and writings of the sainthood candidates:

-- Mother Teresa was widely known as a living saint as she ministered to the sick and the dying in some of the poorest neighborhoods in the world. Although some people criticized her for not also challenging the injustices that kept so many people so poor and abandoned, her simple service touched the hearts of millions of people of all faiths.

Born to an ethnic Albanian family in Skopje, in what is now part of Macedonia, she went to India in 1929 as a Sister of Loreto and became an Indian citizen in 1947. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950.

Shortly after she died in 1997, St. John Paul II waived the usual five-year waiting period and allowed the opening of the process to declare her sainthood. She was beatified in 2003.



## Little girl asks to meet Pope before she goes blind

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Jesus brought humanity God's merciful, saving love, not hatred and animosity, Pope Francis said.

"Jesus makes visible a love open to everyone -- nobody excluded -- open to everyone without bounds," he said at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square April 6.

The pope also met with and yes of 5-year-old from Mansfield, Ohio.

Struck by a rare disease that is gradually ring her deaf and blind, was in Rome after a representative from Turkish Airlines heard about her story and offered her and her family free round-trip airfare to any city in the world.

Her parents, Steve and Christine Myers, had created a "visual bucket list" of p s and things they wanted to see before she loses her sight due to Usher Syndrome Type II A. They chose Rome and the Vatican to be their special destination because they are Catholic and because of the city's artistic and historical riches, they told Associated Press.

After meeting with bishops and a few special delegations at the end of his general

audience, Pope Francis went directly to , who was seated wi y in a sec-

tion reserved for those with special needs. He leaned over her for several minutes, speaking

with her and then laid his right hand over her eyes, offering his blessing.

During his general audience, the pope continued a series of talks dedicated to God's mercy and reflected on how this mercy was fulfilled in Jesus.

The New Testament "is truly the 'Gospel of mercy' because Jesus is mercy," he said.

At every moment in his life, Jesus showed love to everyone: a love that is "pure, free and absolute," the pope said.

Jesus began his mission of mercy with his baptism in the Jordan River, the pope said, waiting in line "with the sinners, he wasn't ashamed, he was there with everyone, with the sinners, to get baptized."

He could have begun his public ministry with lots of fanfare, "in the splendor of the temple," to the "blast of trumpets" or "in the garments of a judge," but he didn't, the pope said. Instead he chose to be with the people, taking on "the human condition, spurred by solidarity and compassion."

His driving purpose was "to bring everyone the love of God who saves; Jesus didn't bring hatred, he didn't bring animosity, he brought us love, a great love, an open heart for everyone, for all of us," the pope said.



**BLESSING LIZZY MEYERS.** Pope Francis greets from Mansfield, Ohio, during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 6. , who has a disease that is gradually rendering her blind and deaf, met the pope as part of her "visual bucket list." (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

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Social Security Disability Hearings."

## 318-876-3174

# Pope releases much anticipated document on the family

It is not by chance that *Amoris Laetitia*, (*The Joy of Love*), the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation on "Love in the Family," was signed on March 19, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph.

It brings together the results of the two Synods on the family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015.

The Apostolic Exhortation is striking for its breadth and detail. Its 325 paragraphs are distributed over nine chapters. The seven introductory paragraphs plainly set out the complexity of a topic in urgent need of thorough study.

Here is a summary of each chapter:

## I: In the light of the Word

In chapter 1, the Pope begins his reflections with the Holy Scriptures. The Bible "is full of families, births, love stories and family crises." This impels us to meditate on how the family is not an abstract ideal but rather like a practical "trade," which is carried out with tenderness but which has also been confronted with sin from the beginning.

## 2: The Experiences and Challenges of Families

Building on the biblical base, in chapter 2, the Pope considers the current situation of families.

Families face many challenges, from migration to the ideological denial of differences

between the sexes; from the culture of the provisional to the antibirth mentality and the impact of biotechnology in the field of procreation; from the lack of housing and work to pornography and abuse of minors; from inattention to persons with disabilities, to lack of respect for the elderly; from the legal dismantling of the family, to violence against women. The Pope insists on concreteness, which is a key concept in the Exhortation.

## 3: The Vocation of the Family

Chapter 3 is dedicated to some essential elements of the Church's teaching on marriage and the family. This chapter is important because its 30 paragraphs concisely depict the vocation of the family according to the Gospel and as affirmed by the Church over time. Above all, it stresses the themes of indissolubility, the sacramental nature of marriage, the transmission of life and the education of children.

## 4: Love in marriage

Chapter 4 treats love in marriage --tenderly describing human love in absolutely concrete terms.

The Pope refuses to judge against ideal standards but forcefully stresses the fact that conjugal love by its very nature defines the partners in a richly encompassing and lasting union.

He concludes: "Longer life

## Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)

Reflections of Pope Francis  
on the discussions, debates and suggestions  
raised during the 2014-15 Synod of Bishops on the family

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spans now mean that close and exclusive relationships must last for four, five or even six decades; consequently, the initial decision has to be frequently renewed."

## 5: Love Made Fruitful

The fifth chapter is entirely focused on love's fruitfulness and procreation. It speaks in a profoundly spiritual and psychological manner about welcoming new life, about the waiting period of pregnancy, about the love of a mother and a father. It also speaks of the expanded fruitfulness of adoption, of welcoming the contribution of families to promote a "culture of encounter," and of family life in a broad sense which includes aunts and uncles, cousins, relatives of relatives, friends.

## 6: Some Pastoral Perspectives

In the sixth chapter the Pope treats various pastoral perspectives that are aimed at forming solid and fruitful families according to God's plan. It reiterates that families should not only be evangelized, they should also evangelize. The Pope says formation of seminarians needs to be improved, and families need to be more involved in formation for ministry. He also deals with the preparation of the engaged for marriage; and the accompaniment of separated or divorced persons.

## 7: Better Education of Children

Chapter 7 is dedicated to the education of children: their ethical formation, the learning of discipline which can include punishment, patient realism, sex education, passing on the faith and,

more generally, family life as an educational context. The practical wisdom present in each paragraph is remarkable, above all the attention given to those gradual, small steps "that can be understood, accepted and appreciated."

## 8: Guiding, discerning and integrating weakness

Chapter 8 is an invitation to mercy and pastoral discernment in situations that do not fully match what the Lord proposes. The Pope uses three very important verbs: guiding, discerning and integrating, which are fundamental in addressing fragile, complex or irregular situations. The chapter has sections on the need for gradualness in pastoral care; the importance of discernment; norms and mitigating circumstances in pastoral discernment; and finally what the Pope calls the "logic of pastoral mercy."

## 9: Spirituality of Marriage and the Family

The ninth chapter is devoted to marital and family spirituality, which "is made up of thousands of small but real gestures." The Pope clearly states that "those who have deep spiritual aspirations should not feel that the family detracts from their growth in the life of the Spirit, but rather see it as a path which the Lord is using to lead them to the heights of mystical union"

Source: [zenit.org](http://zenit.org)



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**May:**  
**The Month of Mary**  
**Pray the Rosary!**



# How the 'pirate nun' changed a gay man's life

By Mary Rezac  
Catholic News Agency

(CNA).- Paul Darrow went to his first gay beach at age 15.

Soon after, he hitchhiked his way to New York, where there was a thriving gay scene and where he could pursue a career in modeling. Once there, he landed a high-end job as an international model and rubbed elbows with celebrities at clubs in the city.

When he wasn't at the studio or at the gym, Darrow spent his time looking for partners. He found himself going through dozens, and then hundreds, and then thousands of lovers.

"It became frantic, and it was never my intention...but I became insensitive to what it means to be with a partner, both body and soul," he said in the documentary film, "Desire of the Everlasting Hills."

But after the AIDS epidemic claimed around 90 percent of his friends, a disease he himself narrowly and miraculously escaped, Darrow decided to move to San Francisco for a fresh start. He met his partner, Jeff, there and they moved to a cabin in Sonoma



Mother Angelica after her stroke.

County.

It was in their shared home that Darrow accidentally discovered a one-eyed, straight-talking "pirate nun" wearing an eye-patch who would change his life forever.

"It was so strange that I said 'Jeff Jeff come in here! You gotta see this!'" he said, pointing to the image on the T.V.

Unbeknownst to them at the time, it was Mother Angelica on EWTN. She had just had a stroke, which pulled the left side of her face into a slump and required her to wear a black eye patch over one eye.

"So (Jeff) comes in and I'm laughing mockingly at this nun with a patch over her eye, a distorted face...and a complete old fashioned habit," Darrow said. "We both mocked her and laughed at her, you know, 'Gosh these crazy Christians.'"

Jeff left the room and Darrow was about to change the channel, when Mother Angelica "said something so intelligent, so real, and so honest, that it really struck me," he said.

"You see God created you and I to be happy in this life and the next," Mother Angelica said through slumped lips, her good eye still twinkling behind her glasses.

Mother Angelica's words struck a chord with Darrow that day, and he found himself secretly snatching glimpses of her episodes every chance he got.

"He cares for you. He watches your every move. There's no one that loves you can do that."

Mother Angelica's words struck a chord with Darrow that day, and he found himself secretly snatching glimpses of her episodes every chance he got.

Mother Mary Angelica of the

Annunciation, foundress of the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), passed away on March 27 after a lengthy struggle with the aftereffects of a stroke. She was 92 years old.

"She really had...a huge influence on my life, and I learned to love her," he said, "but at the same time, I had to hide her."

"So when I turned off the TV, I would always change the channel so that when Jeff or whoever was watching that TV came in, they would never see that I was watching Mother Angelica. And it reminded me as I was doing this of when I used to turn the channel when I was watching porn because I didn't want Jeff or anyone else to see a porn station come up."

Eventually, Mother Angelica's influence convinced Darrow to go back to church after decades of absence. It was a move that made Darrow very wary; he was sure he would lose friends and clients if they saw him going into a Catholic Church.

And in some ways, he was right.

"I lost clients, I lost friends," he told CNA in a 2014 interview, at the premiere of the documentary.

"People were in shock that an educated, relatively intelligent man could believe in Jesus Christ. These were the few friends that were aware that I was back in the Church."

But it's a move that he's never regretted. Since his conversion, Darrow has shared his experience through talks and conferences. Mother Angelica also led Darrow to discover Courage International, the Vatican-approved apostolate that reaches out to Catholics with same-sex attraction with the goals of growing closer to God, engaging in supportive friendships, and learning to live full lives within the call to chastity.

It was through Courage International that Darrow became involved with the film "Desire of the Everlasting Hills," which he saw as a chance to share his story and to give others the same hope that he found in the Catholic Church.

See PIRATE NUN, pg. 9

# Survivor of Brussels terror attack writes letter of hope to unborn baby

(CNA).- "...I just want to tell you that life is a wonderful thing, and the world is really full of remarkable people."

So starts a letter written by one of the survivors of the bomb attacks at the Brussels Zaventem international airport last week, according to CNN. The author of the letter, Sneha Mehta, penned those words to her child, who was only 16 weeks old in utero.

When Sneha and her husband Sameep Mehta arrived in Brussels from Abu Dhabi last Tuesday, they were abruptly greeted with screams and chaos as the ceiling of the airport started to collapse.

The couple was faced with a split-second decision to either remain in the shambles of the arrival section, or try to leave for the hospital to check on their baby.

"I absolutely didn't know which direction to run in," Sneha

told CNN.

Amidst all the uncertainty, Sneha said that she knew one thing "for sure" - that she would survive for the sake of their unborn baby.

Sneha and Sameep fled the airport and ran straight to the highway, where a cab driver stopped to take them to the Sint Augustinus hospital.

Despite the traumatic chaos of the day, the ultrasound exam showed the Mehtas' baby peacefully sucking its thumb - almost unaware of the terror happening outside the womb.

Unlike many memories from that day, Sneha recalled not the hatred and violence that broke loose upon the city, but rather the kindness she encountered from complete strangers.

She remembered the police and rescue crews who were quick to aid the wounded. She

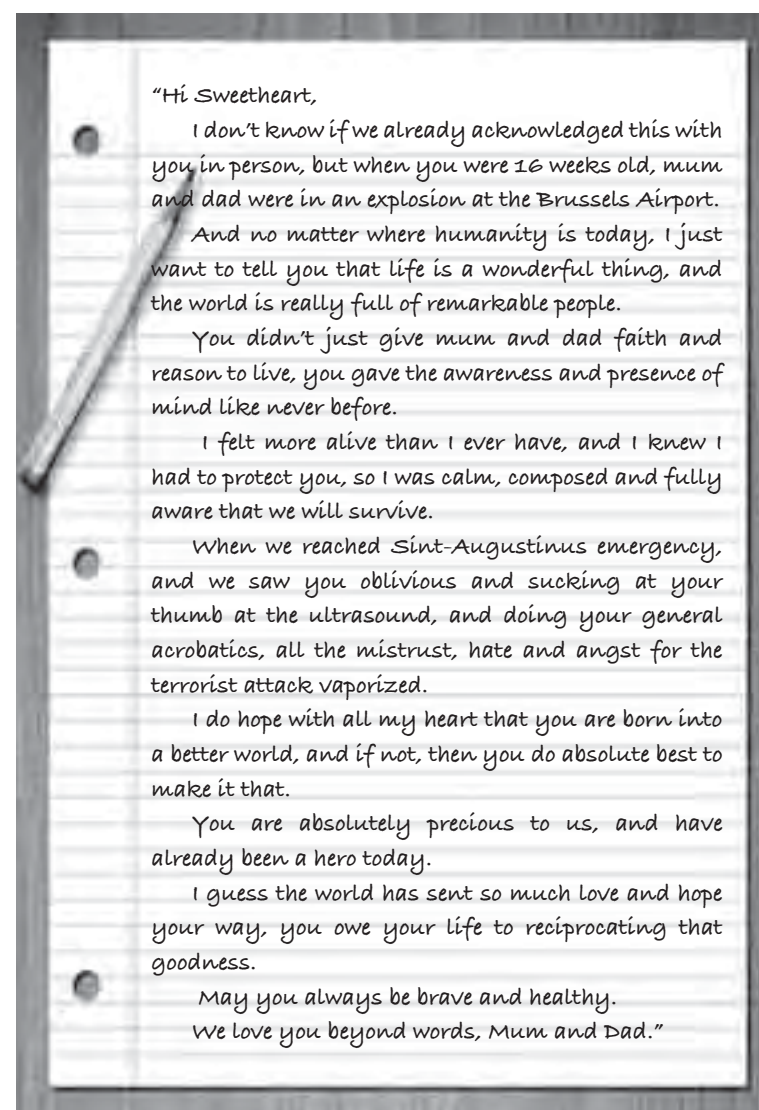
recalled the cab driver who not only brought them to the hospital, but talked to them the whole way there. She thought of the traumatized victims scattered along the highways who were helped by random drivers.

"People are still coming together, regardless of race, color or background," Sneha said, according to CNN.

Now that she is a survivor, and safely back home in Antwerp, Sneha decided to write a letter to her unborn baby as a reminder of all that had happened. (See graphic at right).

CNN reported that Sneha might give the sealed letter to their child at age 16, or they may wait until a later time. Either way, Sneha wants her child to know that love is victorious over hatred.

"It's a very unfortunate event. But it's still largely a beautiful world."



# Mother Angelica, foundress of EWTN, dies after lengthy illness

(CNS) -- Mother Angelica, who founded the Eternal Word Television Network and turned it into one of the world's largest religious media operations, died March 27 at age 92.

Feisty and outspoken, she was a major controversial figure in the U.S. church in the closing decades of the 20th century. At the same time, the international scope of EWTN's media operations gave her a ready calling card at the Vatican.

She built the venture into a network that transmits programs 24 hours a day to more than 230 million homes in 144 countries via cable and other technologies. It broadcasts in English and several other languages.

Mother Angelica had been ill for years. She was operated on Dec. 24, 2001, in a Birmingham hospital to remove a blood clot in her brain after she suffered her second major stroke. It left her with partial paralysis and a speech impediment.

Last November, she was placed on a feeding tube as she continued to battle lingering effects of the strokes. In February, members of her religious order, the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, said she was in delicate condition and asked for prayers for her.

Mother Angelica died at her order's Our Lady of Angels Monastery in Hanceville, where she "was surrounded by the prayers and love of her spiritual daughters, sons and dear friends," said a statement from the Poor Clares.

A funeral Mass was celebrated April 1 at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the monastery by bishops and clergy from around the world. Father Joseph Mary Wolfe, a Franciscan Missionary of the Eternal Word, will be the homilist. Following her funeral, Mother Angelica's



**MOTHER ANGELICA**, founder of Eternal Word Television Network, died March 27 at age 92 at the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration monastery in Hanceville, Ala. (CNS photo/courtesy EWTN)

body was interred in the shrine's Crypt Chapel.

"In the face of sickness and long-suffering trials, Mother's example of joy and prayerful perseverance exemplified the Franciscan spirit she held so dear. We thank God for Mother Angelica and for the gift of her extraordinary life," said Michael P. Warsaw, chairman and CEO. "Her accomplishments and legacies in evangelization throughout the world are nothing short of miraculous and can only be attributed to divine providence and her unwavering faithfulness to Our Lord."

In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI

awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross to Mother Angelica and Deacon Bill Steltemeier, then-chairman of EWTN's board of governors, for distinguished service to the church. The cross, is the highest papal honor that can be conferred on laypeople and clergy.

Mother Angelica was known for ruffling the feathers of high-ranking church officials with whom she disagreed.

In 1997, she got into a public squabble with Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, then archbishop of Los Angeles, when, on her TV show "Mother Angelica Live," she criticized his pastoral letter on

the Eucharist, saying it was confusing about the real presence of Christ.

"I'm afraid my obedience in that diocese would be absolutely zero. And I hope everyone else's in that diocese is zero," she said.

In 1990, EWTN canceled an exclusive contract to air programs produced by the U.S. bishops after disagreements over EWTN's coverage of bishops' conference meetings.

In 1993, she termed "blasphemous" a church-sponsored World Youth Day event during St. John Paul II's visit to Denver because a mime troupe used a woman to portray Jesus in a dramatized Way of the Cross. She said the event showed the "destructive force" of the "liberal church in America."

The criticism sparked Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, then head of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, to call her attack "vitriolic."

"It was one of the most disgraceful, un-Christian, offensive and divisive diatribes I have ever heard," he said. "She invited everyone who disagreed with her to leave the church."

Mother Angelica often said she accompanied her faith with a "theology of risk" that gave her the resolve to undertake large projects without any clear indication she would succeed.

"Faith is having one foot on the ground and the other up in the air, waiting for the Lord to put the ground under it," she once said of her hands-on approach to doing things.

"We have lost the theology of risk and replaced it with a theology of assurance" that says "you have to know what's going to happen before you embark on something new," she said on another occasion.

Before starting EWTN,

Mother Angelica wrote what she called "mini-books" on moral and inspirational themes. The popularity of the mini-books attracted media attention, and Mother Angelica began appearing on television talk shows. She said these appearances made her aware of the tremendous influence television has in spreading messages.

Prior to starting EWTN, Mother Angelica was renting studio space from a Birmingham television station to produce videotapes of her talks on religious issues for airing on the Christian Broadcasting Network. She broke the relationship with the network after it aired a movie she considered blasphemous.

With the support of her religious community, Mother Angelica began consulting with media experts about starting her own TV station, hatching the idea of EWTN. She was granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission, and EWTN went on the air in August 1981.

She began with \$200 and little knowledge about TV production. The operation started in a building meant to be a garage on the grounds of the Our Lady of the Angels Monastery she headed in the Irondale suburb of Birmingham. Originally its daily programming of several hours was carried by three cable systems.

In 1992, Mother Angelica launched the short-wave EWTN Global Catholic Radio which broadcasts in English and Spanish. In 1996, EWTN started a satellite-delivered AM/FM radio network with programming also available for rebroadcast by local stations.

In 1998, Mother Angelica stepped down as the head of EWTN and Deacon Steltemeier was appointed chairman and CEO. He died in 2013.

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**HAPPY  
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DAY!**

**SUNDAY, MAY 8**





## A True Devotion to Mary

Today we often hear of having a personal relationship with Jesus, but we never hear of having a personal relationship with Mary. Yet Father H.J. Junemann, in the Handbook of the Spirituality of St. Louis de Montfort defines true devotion to Mary as:

*"A personal love relationship with the mother of the Lord (p. 490)."*

He goes on to say it finds its highest expression in total dependence upon her, which among other things, keeps us from losing the grace of God.

Having a relationship with Jesus and his mother Mary is not an either/or proposition. Rather it is an and/both occurrence. We are not devoted to Jesus or his mother to the exclusion of one from the other. We are devoted to both. We love both. We pray to both. We depend on both. Not to say they are equal. Jesus is God. Mary is merely a creature.

Ultimately all our devotions have to be aimed at Jesus or they are false. True devotion to Mary has Jesus as its end and so we know it is true. We give ourselves to Mary to better belong to Jesus. And we pray to Mary knowing she

### Guest Editorial

Greg Wasson • Diocese of Alexandria

goes straight to Jesus with our petitions. We depend on Mary and by doing so depend on Jesus.

Father Junemann says that true devotion to Mary finds its highest expression in dependence on Mary. He does not just pull this out of thin air. The scriptural evidence to dependence on Mary is the Annunciation. Jesus comes into the world through Mary and his dependence on her is the foundation on which we build our dependence. As it works out Jesus comes to us through Mary and we are to go to him the same way. "To Jesus through Mary"

Father Junemann also says that among other things Mary keeps us from losing grace. When the Father entrusted his Son to Mary she took the responsibility very seriously. If God would entrust his Son to her she must be very reliable.

Can we do better than to imitate the Father when we entrust ourselves to Mary? Vatican II did not think so when it encouraged "everyone to entrust themselves

to her maternal care."

Once we entrust ourselves to Mary, we immediately benefit from a special exercise of her maternal care. She keeps for us what we give her. Most especially she keeps us in grace. It's not that we cannot sin after the entrustment, but rather that the devil will have a harder time, if we cooperate with Mary, than he otherwise would. Mary views it as a matter of Justice that she preserves us in grace after we have trusted her with our most precious possession.

True Devotion to Mary can be further explored by reading the book of this name by St. Louis de Montfort. It is a powerhouse of a book and one which John Paul II claimed "reading it changed my life." Mother Teresa of Calcutta also practiced Montfort's True Devotion.

What two better witnesses could there be?



## ONE IN THE LORD

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

We continue to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection which concludes on Pentecost. During these weeks I have had the blessing and privilege of visiting a number of parishes to celebrate confirmation. It is always inspiring to see so many young Catholics move to a new dimension in their journey of faith.

The men who have been taking part in the diaconate formation process have taken one more step on the road to ordination. They have been formally admitted to candidacy for Holy Orders. Congratulations to all as we continue to assist them with our prayers.

Two weeks ago, I was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden untimely death of Todd Eric Roque, the 32-year-old son of our superintendent of Catholic Schools, Tommy Roque. The loss of a child is truly one of the hardest crosses to bear in this life. On behalf of the entire diocese,

I wish to offer prayers and my deepest sympathies to the Roque family.

Our 2016 Annual Diocesan Appeal has begun very well. Thanks to all of you who have already made your gift or pledge to our Annual Diocesan Appeal. If you have not yet done so, it is never too late.

There are many special celebrations taking place in many parishes in the coming weeks. Please take time to read the feature articles in this issue.

It was so wonderful to again be able to celebrate all of the Holy Week liturgies. That proves that my recovery continues. Thanks again for your prayers and encouragement.

May the Lord continue to call people to ministry in the Church. We have been greatly blessed.

## CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVII, No. 4 • April 18, 2016

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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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## April 17: World Day of Prayer for Vocations

### A letter from His Holiness Pope Francis

*(The following is a message from His Holiness Pope Francis on the occasion of the 53rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It has been edited to fit this space.)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is my great hope that, during the course of this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, all the baptized may experience the joy of belonging to the Church and rediscover that the Christian vocation, just like every particular vocation, is born from within the People of God, and is a gift of divine mercy.

The Church is the house of mercy, and it is the "soil" where vocations take root, mature and bear fruit.

For this reason, on the occasion of the 53rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, I invite all of you to reflect upon the apostolic community, to give thanks for the role of the community in each person's vocational journey, and to urge all the faithful to assume their responsibility for the care and discernment of vocations.

When the Apostles sought someone to take the place of Judas Iscariot, Saint Peter brought together one hundred and twenty of the brethren (cf. Acts 1:15); and in order to choose seven deacons, a group of disciples was gathered (cf. 6:2). Saint Paul gave Titus specific criteria for the selection of presbyters (cf. Titus 1:5-9).

Still today, the Christian community is always present in the discernment of vocations, in their formation and in their perseverance.

**Vocations are born within the Church.** From the moment a vocation begins to become evident, it is necessary to have an adequate "sense" of the Church. No one is called exclusively for a particular region, or for a group or for an ecclesial movement, but rather for the Church and for the world.

In responding to God's call, young people see their own ecclesial horizon expand; they are able to consider various charisms and to undertake a more objective discernment. In this way, the community becomes the home and the family where vocations are born.

Candidates gratefully contemplate this mediation of the community as an essential element for their future. They learn to know and to love their brothers and sisters who pursue paths different from their own; and these bonds strengthen in everyone the communion which they share.

**Vocations grow within the Church.** In the course of formation, candidates for various vocations need to grow in their knowledge of the ecclesial community, overcoming the limited perspectives that we all have at the beginning.

To that end, it is helpful to undertake some apostolic experience together with other members of the community, for example: in the company of a good catechist, to communicate the Christian message; together with a religious community, to experience the evangelisation of the peripheries sharing in the life of

the cloister, to discover the treasure of contemplation; and in the company of diocesan priests, to deepen one's experience of pastoral life in the parish and in the diocese.

For those who are already in formation, the ecclesial community always remains the fundamental formational environment, towards which one should feel a sense of gratitude.

**Vocations are sustained by the Church.** After definitive commitment, our vocational journey within the Church does not come to an end, but it continues in our willingness to serve, our perseverance and our ongoing formation. The one who has consecrated his life to the Lord is willing to serve the Church wherever it has need.

Among those involved in pastoral activity, priests are especially important. The pastoral care of vocations is a fundamental part of their ministry. Priests accompany those who are discerning a vocation, as well as those who have already dedicated their lives to the service of God and of the community.

All the faithful are called to appreciate the ecclesial dynamism of vocations.

We ask the Lord to grant to all those who are on a vocational journey a deep sense of belonging to the Church; and that the Holy Spirit may strengthen among pastors, and all of the faithful, a deeper sense of communion, discernment and spiritual fatherhood and motherhood.

-- Franciscus



### Pope Francis' Prayer for Vocations

Father of Mercy,  
who gave your Son for our salvation and  
who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit,  
grant us Christian communities  
which are alive, fervent and joyous,  
which are fonts of fraternal life, and  
which nurture in the young the desire to consecrate  
themselves to you and to the work of evangelization.

Sustain these communities in their commitment  
to offer appropriate vocational catechesis and  
ways of proceeding towards each one's particular consecration.

Grant the wisdom needed for vocational discernment, so that,  
in all things the greatness of your merciful love may shine forth.

May Mary, Mother and guide of Jesus,  
intercede for each Christian community,  
so that, made fruitful by the Holy Spirit, it may be a source  
of true vocations for the service of the holy People of God.  
Amen.



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## Friends, supporters honor Brothers of the Holy Eucharist for 155 years of service to the Avoyelles area

Close to 200 friends and St. Joseph alumni gathered April 9 at the Plaquemine Community Center to honor and celebrate the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist, who have served in the Avoyelles area from 1967 - 2013, for a collective 155 years of service.

Brother Paul Casey, Brother Andre Lucia, Brother Brian Kozdroj, and Brother Anthony Dugas were the guests of honor at the celebration that started off with a 4:30 p.m. Mass celebrated by Rev. Stephen Scott Chemino and Father Abraham Varghese. An appreciation dinner followed at the Plaquemine Community Center.

"The students and alumni of St. Joseph School are indebted and grateful to the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist for their service and dedication to the school for almost 60 years," said Father Chemino. "Their solid teaching of the Catholic faith to generations of students who have attended St. Joseph School, is an immeasurable gift. We thank you and pray God's richest blessing upon you."

One of the speakers at the dinner was Harmon McDonald, a former resident of the Don Bosco Boys Home. He said he was only 7 years old when he first arrived at the Boys Home as an orphan.

"The Brothers were kind to me and took me under their wing," he said. "Because of their love, guidance, and teaching me the Catholic faith, I stand strong today in my faith. I owe the Brothers a lot."

Each of the Brothers were then presented with a gold cross



**THANK YOU BROTHERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST!** Friends and organizers of an appreciation dinner for the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist, gather around the four brothers -- (from left) Brother Paul Casey, Brother Anthony Dugas (standing), Brother Andre M. Lucia, (sitting), and Brother Augustine Brian Kozdroj. Most of the Brothers have been at the school since 1967-68 and taught generations of students over the years, including Father Scott Chemino, now the Vicar General for the diocese.

with their names engraved on it.

The Brothers of the Holy Eucharist, a local diocesan community founded by Brother Aloysius Scafidi, under the auspices of Bishop Charles Greco, brought their apostolate to help staff St. Joseph School in 1967. Brother Andre M. Lucia arrived first in March 1967, when Msgr. Marcel Anderson was pastor. In 1968, Brother Augustine Brian Kozdroj came to teach in the high school followed by Brother Paul Casey, who taught religion to the lower

grades. Eventually the Brothers relocated their Motherhouse and formation center to Plaquemine.

**Brother Paul Casey, F.S.E.**, was born an Irish Catholic in Dover, New Hampshire. He made profession of vows in 1960 and final vows on Feb. 11, 1964. Soon after, he completed a degree in Elementary Education from Dominican College in New Orleans.

Throughout his 56 years of being a Brother, he has served as an elementary teacher at St.

Mary's School in Natchitoches, St. Anthony's School in Cottonport, Holy Ghost School and Presentation Academy in Marks-ville, and St. Anthony School in Bunkie. For the past 49 years, he has served in the Avoyelles.

**Brother Andre M. Lucia, F.S.E.** is originally from New Orleans. He entered the community in 1965 and spent time at Church of the Little Flower in Evergreen, Don Bosco's Boys Home in Cottonport, St. Anthony School

in Cottonport and St. Anthony School in Bunkie before arriving at St. Joseph School in Plaquemine in 1967. He taught there for 13 years before becoming principal of the elementary school in 1980 and then principal of the whole school in 1985. Brother Andre served a total of 48 years of service in Avoyelles.

**Brother Augustine Brian Kozdroj, F.S.E.**, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich., entered the community in 1965, along with Brother Andre. He too spent time at Evergreen and Don Bosco's Boys Home in Cottonport before arriving at St. Joseph School in 1968. He taught in the high school intermittently from 1968-2001, when he became principal. He served as principal for five years. He currently serves as associate superintendent of Catholic Schools in Baton Rouge.

**Brother Anthony Dugas, F.S.E.**, from Vinton, La., served as an affiliate of the community for eight years while he discerned his vocation and taught full-time in Calcasieu Parish. He entered the community in 2003 and began serving as choir director at St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport. He taught one year at St. Anthony School in Bunkie and three years at St. Joseph School. He then served as principal for six years. Brother Anthony continues to serve at St. Mary's Assumption as choir director and music teacher. Last year his choir won the State Choir Championship.

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# Bishop celebrates Rite of Admission to Candidacy for deacon class

Bishop Ronald Herzog celebrated the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for the diocese's permanent deacon class April 9 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

The 10 men who participated in the Rite are Mark Adkins, Bill Adridge, Darrell Dubroc, Bill Endris, Lawrence Feldkamp, Steven Gramigna, Buford Jeansonne, Tommy Robichaux, Paul Sunderhaus, and Luke White.

In this rite, the one who aspires to ordination publicly manifests his will to offer himself to God and the Church to exercise the sacred Order of Deacon, should he be called to that Order in the future.

The deacon candidates are nearing completion of their second year of formation for the diaconate. Once a month, an instructor from St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana will continue to come to Alexandria each September to June to teach the candidates philosophy and the theory of ministry.

Some of the courses they study are Church History, the Sacraments, Preaching, Moral Theology, and Scripture.

Just as priests and bishops are ordained, a deacon is the third order in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

After ordination, the deacon becomes incardinated into the Diocese of Alexandria. The bishop assigns the deacon to a parish or charitable ministry.

The next deacon class will not begin until after this class is ordained.

The qualifications for the permanent diaconate include: must be at least 35 years old at the time of ordination, must have wife's consent (90 percent are married) and can be married, but can't marry or re-marry after ordination). Wives of married inquirers are required to attend the classes with their husbands.

For more information about becoming a deacon, contact Father Dan O'Connor, director of the Permanent Diaconate program at 318-445-9748, ext. 205.



**ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY.** Bishop Ronald Herzog celebrated the Rite of Admission Candidacy for the diocese's permanent deacon class April 9 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Pictured are (from left) Mark Adkins, Bill Aldridge, Darrell Dubroc, Bill Endris, Jr., Lawrence Feldkamp, Stephen Gramigna, Buford Jeansonne, Thomas Robichaux, Paul Sunderhaus, and Luke White.

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## Pirate nun

Continued from pg 4

“I was not discriminated against at the beginning of my journey back to the Catholic Church, I was never told that I was a bad person, that I was doing something wrong, even in confession,” he said.

“The Catholic Church really is, according to its teachings, open to everybody.”

Darrow said he felt he owed it to God to share his story through courage and through the film because of all that God had done in his life.

“I wanted to express my love to God and my appreciation for all that He has done for me,” Darrow said, “that He had never forgotten me during the decades that I had forgotten him or turned against him.”

The full documentary is available for free online at: <https://everlastinghills.org/movie/>

# Leesville man's letter from St. Padre Pio is among most cherished in collection of sacred relics, religious articles

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

As an orphan at the St. Joseph Home in Pineville in 1944, 5-year-old Marcus Descant can remember watching the Sisters of Divine Providence make hosts in the kitchen.

"I treasure that memory because I remember that I got to eat the leftover broken pieces when they were finished," said Descant, now a retired pharmacist and a parishioner of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville.

When I left St. Joseph's Home in 1945, Sister Florentine gave me a crucifix, said Descant. "Throughout the ups and downs

in my life, the crucifix followed me wherever I made my home. It seemed to give me a sense of peace and comfort."

And now, 71 years later, Descant still has that crucifix. But today it is in his Leesville home, that also houses a collection of more than 16 Sacred Relics, statues, and other holy artifacts he's collected over the years.

"Besides my holy relics, my most prized possession is a letter I received from St. Padre Pio in 1968 (a second class relic)," said Descant. "That same letter was later signed by Vicka, one of the visionaries from Medjugorje."

So how did he acquire all these relics?

"Most of the relics were given to me," he said. "Others were acquired over the years in my quest to promote the devotion of the Sacred Heart."

"You see, even though I was raised by the CDPs and was a altar boy at one time, I wasn't always on the straight and narrow," he said. "I got off the trail completely for a few years."

Then something later in life brought him back. He ended up making a retreat with Father Fidelis, OFM. During the retreat, Descant was inspired by Padre Pio and decided to write him a letter.

"I received a letter from him that encouraged us "to have complete trust in the goodness of

God and to pray always according to his Divine Will," he said. "In 1973, I decided to spread the devotion of the Sacred Heart."

It was through spreading the devotion of the Sacred Heart that he met Father Francis Larkin, who was the founder and spiritual director of the "Men of the Sacred Heart"; Al Barrone, national president of the Men of the Sacred Heart, and even Mother Angelica (foundress of EWTN).

"It was through my friendships with Father Larkin, Al Barrone, and many others that I gained an appreciation and love of the Sacred Heart devotion," he said. "It was also through these friendships that I acquired most of the relics and religious articles."

## 8 Ways to Use Holy Water

**1. Bless yourself** – Keeping a holy water font in the home by the front door is a great idea so that you, your family, and guests can be blessed in the comings and goings from your home.

**2. Bless your house** – You can sprinkle holy water in your home yourself, or have a priest formally bless your home as part of the house blessing ceremony.

**3. Bless your family** – Use holy water to pray and make the Sign of the Cross over your spouse and children before they go to sleep at night. Keep a holy water bottle by the bedside for this purpose.

**4. Bless your work space** – If you work outside of the home, sprinkling your work space with holy water is a great idea, not only for spiritual protection but to sanctify your daily work for the glory of God.

**5. Bless your car** – Never underestimate the power of holy water applied to your vehicle to keep you safe from harm's way, when used in faith and trust in God. In fact, you can also have a priest bless your car with holy water.

**6. Bless your vegetable garden or crops** – In times when people were very dependent on crops for their livelihood, using holy water to bless and sanctify the plants that would be used for the family's sustenance showed their reliance on God's grace.

**7. Bless the sick** – If you visit the sick in a hospital or nursing home, bless their living space with holy water and leave a holy water bottle with them as a comfort in their time of need.

**8. Bless your pets** – Even pets can be blessed with holy water because all creation has the end of giving glory to God. This also applies to livestock and farm animals that provide labor, livelihood, and nourishment to humans.

## Descant's collection of Sacred Relics and Holy Articles



**MARCUS DESCANT**, a semi-retired pharmacist from Leesville, holds the case of sacred relics he has collected over the years, included a letter from St. Padre Pio. He holds his collection very near and dear to his heart and enjoys sharing his many stories to others.

- 1st class relic of St. Margaret Mary of Alacoa
- 1st class relic of St. Claude de LaColombiere, confessor of St. Margaret Mary
- 1st class relic of St. Martin de Porres
- 1st class relic of St. Junipera Serra
- 1st class relic of St. Catherine LaBoure, of the Miraculous Medal
- 1st class relic of St. Anthony of Padua
- 1st class relic of St. Arnold Jansen
- 1st class relic of St. Terese of Lisieux -- The Little Flower
- 1st class relic of the True Cross  
(originally owned by Cardinal John Wright & blessed by six popes)
- 2nd class relic of Blessed James Alberione, (founder of the Daughters of St. Paul)
- 2nd class relic of St. Damien de Veuster
- 2nd class relic letter Descant received from St. Padre Pio  
(and later signed by Medjugorje visionary Vicka Ivankovic-Mijatovic)
- 3rd class relic of Pope Pius II
- 3rd class relic of a picture of the Holy Face
- Had a 1st class relic of St. Dominic & St. Benedict, but gave it to Father Kenneth Michiels to put in the altar at St. Micheal the Archangel Church in Leesville.

### Other statues and holy articles he owns includes:

- Sacred Heart statue that once stood inside Providence Academy
- A gold chalice used during Mass by Father Francis Larkin and many other priests.



# Retired pharmacist initiates successful Holy Water ministry

## Marcus Descant enjoys spreading the good news about benefits of Holy Water

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

If people realized the many benefits of holy water, we would all use it far more frequently and with greater faith and reverence.

Marcus Descant, a semi-retired pharmacist and parishioner of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville, is a strong advocate of the benefits of holy water and has made it his personal mission to promote it.

"Most people don't know that much about holy water," said Descant. "Catholics dip their fingers into the holy water font when they enter or exit a church and make the sign of the cross, but why? There are so many powerful benefits of holy water. No Catholic home should be without it."

As part of his mission, Descant has visited many schools and churches in Louisiana giving out thousands of holy water containers and teaching others about the merits of holy water. It's a personal ministry he pays for himself.

In addition to plastic bottles for holy water, Descant leaves a small pamphlet of information with the church or school that explains the merits of holy water. The pamphlet has an imprimatur by the Most Rev. Albert G. Meyer, Archbishop of Milwaukee, Jan. 13, 1958.

It is the desire of Descant to spread the word about holy water:

### What is holy water?

Holy water is water, that through a priest, is blessed by God in virtue of Christ's baptism. The Catholic Church possesses enormous power of imparting sacramental grace. Holy water is a sacramental and receives its power through the prayer and authority of the Church.



**BRINGING HOLY WATER AND RELICS TO ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL.** Marcus Descant and Mrs. Agnes Reynolds (mother of Father Taylor Reynolds) stand with some students at St. Anthony School who heard his talk on Holy Water and Sacred Relics. Pictured are

### What makes the water 'holy'?

God makes the water holy, when a priest says these words:

*"O God, ... grant that this creature of Thine (water) may be endowed with divine grace to drive away devils and to cast out diseases, that whatever in the houses or possessions of the faithful may be sprinkled by this water, may be freed from everything unclean, and delivered from what is hurtful. Let everything that threatens the safety or peace of the dwellers therein be banished by the sprinkling of this water; so that the health, which they seek by calling upon Thy Holy Name, may be guarded from all assault."*

### What actually happens when I use holy water?

The prayers a priest says when he blesses the water, ascend to heaven each time you take holy water and sprinkle even a small

***"By this holy water  
and by Thy Precious Blood,  
wash away all my sins, O Lord."***

drop on yourself or another person. God's blessings descend on the soul and body.

### Can I bless someone with holy water, even if he/she is not present with me?

Holy water, sprinkled with faith and piety, can move the Sacred Heart to bless your loved ones and protect them from all harm of soul and body, even if they are at a distance. When worry and fear of a loved one far away, takes possession of your heart, hasten to your holy water font and give your dear ones the benefit of the Church's prayers.

### What are the 'powers' of holy water?

Untold spiritual wealth is concentrated in a tiny drop of blessed water. The basic powers of holy water are:

- **It washes away venial sins** -- Because holy water is one of the Church's sacramentals, it removes venial sins. Keep your soul beautifully pure in God's sight by making the Sign of the Cross, while devoutly praying:

*"By this holy water and by Thy Precious Blood, wash away all my sins, O Lord."*

When we bless ourselves at the holy water font upon enter-

ing church, we are asking God to wash away our venial sins, in preparation for our reception of the Holy Eucharist as Mass.

- **It protects us from evil** -- The devil hates holy water because of its power over him. He cannot long abide in a place or near a person that is often sprinkled with this blessed water.

St. Theresa Lisieux, in her autobiography, *The Book of Her Life*, wrote of the power of holy water: "From long experience I have learned that there is nothing like holy water to put devils to flight and prevent them from coming back again. They also flee from the Cross, but return; so holy water must have great virtue. For my own part, whenever I take it, my soul feels a particular and most notable consolation." (Chapter 31).

- **It protects us** -- Because of the blessing attached to it, the Holy Mother Church strongly urges its use upon her children, especially when dangers threaten, such as fire, storms, sickness and other calamities. Every Catholic home should always have a supply of holy water.

- **It relieves the souls in Purgatory.** -- Only in Purgatory can one understand how ardently a poor soul longs for holy water. If we desire to make a host of intercessors for ourselves, let us try to realize now some of their yearning and never forget them at the holy water font. The holy souls nearest to Heaven may need the sprinkling of only one drop to relieve their pining souls.

- **You gain an indulgence.** -- Whenever the faithful make the Sign of the Cross with this invocation, "In the name of the Father, etc.) and with holy water, they gain an indulgence of seven years. Without holy water: three years. (Raccolta, No. 678, 1952.





**OLPS/ CATHEDRAL PASSION WALK.** Volunteers carry the Cross during the Passion Walk March 25 from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral to Prompt Succor Church.



**CHRIST THE KING WAY OF THE CROSS.** Father Dwight de Jesus, pastor of Christ the King Church in Simmesport, leads some of his parishioners in an outdoor Way of the Cross on Good Friday, March 25.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** The 8th graders of Sacred Heart School, lead the entire student body Feb. 12 in the Stations of the Cross.



**OLPS/ CATHEDRAL PASSION WALK.** The Knights of Columbus lead the Passion Walk March 25 from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral to Prompt Succor Church.



**ST. MARY'S (Natchitoches) LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** The senior class at St. Mary's School in Natchitoches performed the Living Stations of the Cross March 24 for the student body. Also pictured with the seniors are their kindergarten buddies.





**ST. JOSEPH (Marksville) EASTER EGG HUNT.** St. Joseph Catholic Church held its annual Parish Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 20 from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Church Hall. Activities included Easter Egg Hunt, Duck Pond, and Sack Races. Refreshments were served and prizes were awarded. Pictured with Fr. Rusty Rabalais, pastor, and Fr. Brian Seiler, parochial vicar, are the winners of the Egg Hunt, golden egg, and sack races.



**HISPANIC COMMUNITY AT ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, (Leesville).** Members of the Hispanic community at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville, walk in procession during a Palm Sunday service held March 20.



**WIPES FOR WES.** Mrs. Liz Miller's 6th grade class at St. Mary's School in Natchitoches, collected Clorox wipes for Wes Rollo to take to St. Jude when he goes for his last treatment. The students won a lunch from Raisin' Cane's compliments of the Rollo family for collecting the most wipes of any class in the community. We wish the very best for Wes and we were very happy to be able to help him with this project!



**ST. ANTHONY CARES.** Ms. Ashley Flook's Preschool class and Mrs. Doris Moreau's 2nd grade class at St. Anthony School in Bunkie recently participated in Operation: Cenla Cares, a program sponsored by KALB TV. The students made handmade thank you cards to deployed Fort Polk troops. Pictured are (standing)

Sitting:



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**ST. ANTHONY (Bunkie) VISITS AVERY ISLAND.** The 7th grade class at St. Anthony School in Bunkie visited the Tabasco Plant in Avery Island March 22. Pictured are





# Medicare Patients

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**ST. JAMES DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.** The Ladies and Knights of St. Peter Claver Bishop Desmond Council and Court #91 at St. James Church in Alexandria participated in the Divine Mercy Sunday service held April 3 after the 10 a.m. Mass. Leonard Stiell, past National Gulf Coast Deputy of St. Peter Claver, was their special guest. Pictured are (Ladies-- front row) Grand Lady Millie Price, \_\_\_\_\_, and Sadie Dupas. Row 2: Joan Sampson, Madeline LaCour, Mary Sampson, Carolyn Smith, Tamara Augustine, Sharon Metoyer Jones, and Alicia Polk. Row 3: Lisa Willis, Linda LaCour, Tiffany Hargrove Victor, Mary Diane Tolbert and Elaine Price.



**ST. JAMES DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.** Knights of St. Peter Claver who participated in the Divine Mercy Sunday service April 3 are (front row)

Row 2:

Grand Knight, Richard Smith, Leslie Sarpy, Daniel Pennywell, and \_\_\_\_\_. Row 3: Grand Knight Joseph Augustine, \_\_\_\_\_ and Stanley Pierre. Row 4: Emeal Jones, Sir Knight Quentin Price, Jerry Sarpy, Stanford Sampson, Donald LaCour, Sir Knight Hebert Jones and Leonard Stiell, Past National Gulf Coast Deputy.



**SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE.** Twenty people from the Diocese of Alexandria attended the Southern Regional Charismatic Conference April 1-3 in Metairie. Michelle Moran, president of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, which has its office at the Vatican, was one of the speakers, as well as Father Mark Goring from Houston.



**TOWELS FOR THE HOMELESS COALITION.** Members of the CDA Bishop Desmond Court #1459 from St. Rita Church collected towels for the Homeless Coalition during Lent (Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday). On April 8, 113 towels, 328 wash cloths and 17 hand towels were delivered to the Homeless Coalition. Pictured are Mabel Aillet, Helen Schexnyder, Ona Wilson, and Myrtis D. Peychaud. The court would like to thank all of those who made donations.

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**CAST OF ST. RITA'S 'MAD, MAD WORLD.'** St. Rita Church held a Valentine Dinner and Show Feb. 14 at the Holy Family Center. Pictured is the entire cast of the performers in "Mad, Mad World."





**BARBARA CLOVER**, (center) was named the National Art Teacher of the Year recently by the National Art Education Association.

## Menard teacher Barbara Clover wins 2016 National Art Teacher of the Year

The National Art Education Association has named Barbara B. Clover, art teacher at Holy Savior Menard Central High School, to receive the 2016 National Art Educator of the Year Award.

This prestigious award, determined through a peer review of nominations, recognizes the exemplary contributions, service, and achievements of one outstanding NAEA member annually at the national level. The award was presented at the NAEA National Convention in Chicago, IL,

March 17-19.

As a result of the award, Clover has been invited to attend a special White House event honoring the nation's top educators May 3.

"This award is being given to recognize excellence in professional accomplishment and service by a dedicated art educator," said NAEA President Patricia Franklin. "Barbara B. Clover exemplifies the highly qualified art educators active in education today: leaders, teachers, students,

scholars, and advocates who give their best to their students and the profession."

"We are very proud of Mrs. Clover and the artistic talent she has shared with Menard students for the past 22 years," said Joel Desselle, Menard principal. "I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award."

Clover has spent the past 22 years at Menard teaching basic design, painting, ceramics, digital photography, and other classes. She plans to retire this year.



**MENARD'S SPRING MUSICAL PRODUCTION: DAMN YANKEES!** The players of the Washington Senators prepare for the Game against the Yankees to win the pennant in Holy Savior Menard Theatre Arts' production of *Damn Yankees*. The production, directed by Cherise Rino, was held April 6-10 at the Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center in Alexandria. Congratulations Mrs. Rino and the entire cast and crew for another outstanding production!

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## Menard Jr. High wins Bible Quiz Bowl; OLL-Winnfield is runner-up



**BIBLE QUIZ BOWL CHAMPIONS.** Fourteen teams from across the diocese participated in the 4th annual Bible Quiz Bowl held April 9 at Maryhill Renewal Center. Holy Savior Menard Jr. High won 1st place with and Wally Smith, team leader. Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield won 2nd

place with and Tracy Kelley, team leader. Others participating were Father Taylor Reynolds and Will Travis, judges; Melinda Norris, scorekeeper; and Father Chad Partain, moderator and 'Quiz Master.' St. Frances Cabrini teams 1 and 2 came in 3rd and 4th place.



The following teams participated in the BibleQuiz Bowl:

**Menard Jr. High, Alexandria**  
Wally Smith, team leader  
\* Team 1 -- 1st place

**St. Anthony School, Bunkie**  
Allen Wanersdorfer and  
Melissa East, team leaders  
Team 1

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Winnfield**  
Tracy Kelley, team leader  
• Team 1 -- 2nd place

**Prompt Succor School, Alex.**  
Heather Blakesley, team leader

**St. Frances Cabrini School, Alex.**  
Clayton Cobb, team leader  
Team 1

**St. Mary's Church, Winnsboro**  
Linda Garrett, team leader

**Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin**  
Karen Hemphill, team leader

**Sacred Heart, Pineville**  
Carla Rachal and Randal Morino,  
team leaders  
Team 1

**St. James Memorial Catholic Church, Alexandria**  
Millie Price, team leader

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**READY TO BUZZ IN.** Father Chad Partain reads the next question, while students from St. Anthony School in Bunkie (left) and Sacred Heart Church in Pineville (right), get ready to buzz in with the correct answer.

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# Evidence reveals that Virtus program is protecting our children

*When a child becomes the victim of sexual abuse, it's always a tragedy and a serious tragedy. But even more so when it involves the Church. It's more tragic because that person, first of all, represents the Church and, for the young child, represents God. And so many times, we know, psychologically, the child cannot make the difference between seeing that coming from God and the Church... And we must be honest that sometimes the accusation that these cases have not been handled in a way that has been effective—in a way that has been just, must be admitted. —Archbishop Gregory Aymond*

**By Crispin Ketelhut**

The reality of child sexual abuse is devastating for many. As described by Archbishop Gregory Aymond, the Catholic Church has not always responded in the way it should have to cases of abuse.

The Catholic Church's proactive response in 2002 was the approval of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter). Since then, there is substantial, tangible and consistent evidence that the Church has worked diligently to be a better protector of children. Efforts include, but are not limited to the fact that each diocese throughout the country now has a safe environment program to protect children, an avenue for healing and reconciliation for survivors, a streamlined process to swiftly respond to allegations, transparency in cooperating with civil authorities and measures to discipline offenders.<sup>2</sup>

Safe environment efforts now span the entire United States, and beyond. The reason we've come so far is because of each and every one of you, and your

commitment toward the protection of children. It means that:

When you're coaching and teaching our youth, you recognize proper boundaries and work to uphold them.

When you decide to volunteer at your youth's school, you willingly participate in standard screening measures such as a background check.

When you're volunteering within faith formation and youth ministry, you ensure that your actions and behavior are transparent.

Even though you haven't done anything wrong, you might modify your behavior to ensure that a child isn't more susceptible to inappropriate behavior from someone else.

You're brave when it comes time to communicate your concerns about questionable behavior—and you keep communicating if it appears that nothing is being done.

You're willing to participate



in training to learn warning signs and trust your instincts.

If you've ever completed safe environment training in a live setting, read one of the training bulletins, completed a module or recertification, listened to someone recount their story, shown compassion toward a survivor, etc.—you've been a part of these efforts to protect the vulnerable by learning more about the problem and what you can do about it.

Did you know that 6,907 victim survivors have come forward to tell their stories since the publication of the Charter?<sup>3</sup> There will likely be more. Thus it is crucial

to dress the person's feelings, and let them know that you trust and believe them. Limit questions. Do offer discretion; don't offer confidentiality. Depending on the situation, you may need to report the information, with discretion.

Because you've participated in the safe environment training, you're also now more aware of red-flag behaviors and the proper avenues to communicate your concerns. For example:

If you're aware of an adult exhibiting behavior that is against the code of conduct, speak directly to the person and/or speak to a supervisor.

If you're aware that a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

If you're not positive, but you suspect that a child is being abused, call the child abuse hotline for the area.

If you suspect or know a child is being, or has been abused by a diocesan employee or volunteer, first call the child abuse hotline, and then notify the diocese to potentially remove the person from public ministry during the investigation.

If, and when, you are faced with any of these types of situations, you'll have the ability to be a conduit of hope and healing. Your reactions have the potential to positively or negatively affect a victim survivor's reality—and your response can have long-lasting effects into his or her future.

## Virtus Training Upcoming Sessions

- Tuesday, April 19 -- 6 p.m.  
St. Joseph Catholic Center  
Alexandria
- Thursday, May 5 -- 6 p.m.  
St. Joseph Church, Marksville  
(church hall)
- Wednesday, May 11 -- 6 p.m.  
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate  
Conception, Natchitoches  
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**STATE SCIENCE FAIR WINNER.** \_\_\_\_\_, (at left) from St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport, won third place in the Engineering Mechanics category at the State Science and Engineering Fair (Junior Level) held March 22 in Baton Rouge. Twenty-one students (pictured below) from St. Mary's Assumption School participated in the Region IV Science Fair at LSUA March 5, but \_\_\_\_\_ was the only one who placed at the state fair. Congratulations!



\_\_\_\_\_ a student at St. Joseph School in Plaquemine, was recently named a Louisiana National Geographic State Bee Semifinalist.

### named Louisiana National Geographic State Bee Semifinalist

\_\_\_\_\_ a student at St. Joseph School in Plaquemine, was recently named a Louisiana National Geographic State Bee Semifinalist by National Geographic Society.

As a semifinalist, \_\_\_\_\_ competed in the 2016 Louisiana National Geographic State Bee held April 1 at the Catholic Life Complex in Baton Rouge.

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 28th year. School Bees were held in schools with 4th-8th grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took an online qualifying test. The National Geographic Society invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, to compete in the State Bees.

\_\_\_\_\_ was the only student from \_\_\_\_\_ parish to qualify public or private.

Congratulations, \_\_\_\_\_!

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**EXCEPTIONAL GENIUS AWARD.** \_\_\_\_\_, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bordelon of Moreauville, won "The Exceptional Genius Award" at the Regional Science Fair at L.S.U.A. on March 5. \_\_\_\_\_ project was titled: "Landslides." This honor was given because of his excellent work on the environment. Now he has the opportunity to compete in Oswego, New York this summer at Oswego State University. Students from more than 65 countries and 35 states will participate in the "GENIUS Olympiad." Congratulations from all of us at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville.

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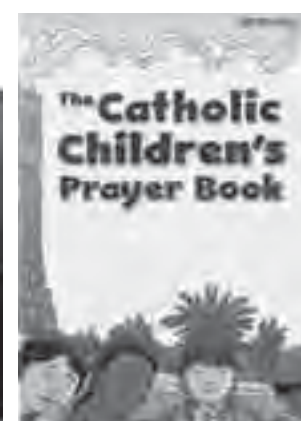
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## St. Mary's Press has the first “best” Catholic Bible for children!

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

### BOOK REVIEW

I can't begin to tell you how long I have looked for a really good Catholic Bible for children -- one that was a complete Bible with all 73 books and yet colorful and interesting enough to pique the interest of a child.

Until now, there were only two choices in Bibles for children: one created for adults and one that was simply a collection of stories written for children.

I found it! The Catholic Children's Bible from St. Mary's Press! It's the first-ever complete children's Bible that not only in-

spires, but empowers children to read, live, understand, and love the Word of God. The stories of our Catholic faith come alive with vivid, awe-inspiring artwork, larger text, and many more design features that not only enhance comprehension but create enjoyment as well.

So why is this Bible so great?

#### 1. It's easy for children to read

Intentional design elements

such as fonts built for early readers, increased line spacing, bold vocabulary words, colorized text, minimal hyphenation, and simple column dividers help make this a Bible children can read on their own.

#### 2. It's easy to find verses.

Unique navigational features such as colorized tabs, large chapter and verse numbers, full Scripture references, and clear and concise story titles, are all designed specifically for early readers and to help children easily locate passages and stories.

#### 3. It's easy to understand

Young children will be able to understand and relate to God's Word through the *Understand It!* and *Tell It!* sections, bold vocabulary words and easy-to-understand definitions, the realistic artwork and borders, the introductions to the Old and New Testaments, and the many pictures, maps, and time lines that are included throughout the Bible.

#### • It has so many components!

One of the best things about this Bible is that it has so many resources that come with it, designed to help not only the child, but the parent or teacher who wants to take an active role in

sharing the faith. Resources are:

- An Activity Book
- A Leader's Guide
- A Strategic Reading Resource
- A 99-cent app of the Bible for the iPad.
- A 99-cent Matching Game App for the iPad.
- A Catholic Children's Prayer Book that contains basic Catholic prayers, and a "Mass Prayers" section that will help your child follow along at Mass.
- *Go Seek Find: Discover God's Treasures*, a First Communion & Reconciliation preparation kit
- All titles available in Spanish

For more information, go to [www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org)

## Welcome to *Go Seek Find: Discover God's Treasures!*

What kid doesn't like a treasure map?

To complement the Catholic Children's Bible, St. Mary's Press has put together *Go Seek Find: Discover God's Treasures* for First Communion and Reconciliation preparation.

Engaging, active, and best of all . . . fun! Explore the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist with *Go Seek Find: Discover God's Treasures*. This one-of-a-kind sacrament prep program will help children discover how preparing for the sacraments is an exciting adventure!

Through this new and unique program, children are led on an adventure of discovery as they explore the rich and beautiful significance of the sacraments in their lives.

*Go Seek Find* will engage and inspire children, creating a spirit of excitement and joy

around their journey toward encountering Jesus through the treasures that are the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

This program was developed with the real needs of children at its center. The core text of this program is the Saint Mary's Press® Catholic Children's Bible.

By using a Bible designed specifically for them and engaging with the Featured Stories within it, children will explore the sacraments through the biblical lens of Jesus' life and works and learn more about their faith in language they can understand.

They will also experience interactive core activities that bring the chapter lessons to life in a fun and memorable way. And they will learn important information about the sacraments and reinforce this new knowledge through

a variety of activities and family learning opportunities offered in the activity booklets that accompany each lesson.

The entire kit (containing the Bible and all its components) is packaged in a fun and convenient blue backpack!

For more information go to [www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org) or visit your local Catholic bookstore.





# God's Not Dead 2 debates religious freedom in the classroom

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The very real threats to religious freedom in contemporary society could serve as the theme for a valuable documentary or a thought-provoking drama.

What we get with "God's Not Dead 2" (Pure Flix), however, is a flawed message movie undermined from the start by a fictional premise that feels thoroughly implausible.

In following up on his 2014 original, director Harold Cronk, along with returning screenwriters Chuck Konzelman and Cary Solomon, shifts the scene from the groves of secularist academe to the halls of an Anywhere, USA, public high school.

("God's Not Dead" was filmed on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Much of the production for "God's Not Dead 2" unfolds in Little Rock, Arkansas, inside the state Supreme Court.)

In the public high school, history teacher, and committed evangelical believer, Grace Wesley (Melissa Joan Hart) is asked a question regarding the Christian antecedents of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s strategy of non-violence during the civil rights movement. (She has already covered the influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Rev. King.)

Grace responds by citing Jesus' famous admonition, recorded



**GOD'S NOT DEAD 2.** Hayley Orrantia stars in a scene from the movie "God's Not Dead 2." The sequel to a 2014 film in which a Christian college student and his atheist professor debate the existence of God, "God's Not Dead 2" is the story of a Christian high school teacher (Melissa Joan Hart) who finds herself on trial for answering a student's (Orrantia) question about similarities between a quote from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and another from Jesus. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. (CNS photo/Pure Flix)

in the Gospel of Matthew: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." Whereupon all hell breaks loose.

Never mind that Grace has done nothing that could possibly be seen as proselytizing in the classroom; that she has invoked no specifically religious belief such as the divinity of Christ or

his role as mankind's savior; that her answer is strictly factual and thoroughly within the appropriate confines of the discussion. Faster than you can say Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the administration is down on her like a pack of wolves -- closely followed by the school board and the American Civil Liberties Union.

If only Grace would apologize for her lapse in judgment, all would be forgiven. But she

remains steadfast. So it's off to court, where she'll be represented by untried but good-hearted lawyer Tom Endler (Jesse Metcalfe).

Cheering Grace on from the sidelines -- and providing her with emotional and spiritual support -- is her kindly grandfather, Walter (Pat Boone). Leading the charge against her is the American Civil Liberty Union's serpentine lead attorney, Peter Kane (Ray Wise).

## MOVIE REVIEW

Kane oozes sweet reasonableness, yet he rests his case on the thoroughly irrational notion that Jesus never existed. The debate that follows showcases the interesting work of J. Warner Wallace, a veteran Los Angeles County cold-case detective who applied police investigative techniques to examining the evidence about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. But the fact that Kane is a straw man pursuing an unrealistic strategy compromises the impact of Wallace's rebuttal.

Audiences may also be slightly unsettled by the fact that Kane's backup counsel, who hovers around with little to say, looks like a thin Seth Rogen playing a young Henry Kissinger. His persona implicitly evokes a stereotype far better left alone.

Taken as a whole, this reaffirmation of belief, though appropriate for most moviegoers, suffers from an off-key tone, a pervasive sense of victimhood and sometimes painful sentimentality.

The film contains mature themes and an instance of harsh parental violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested.

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**April 19: Jubilee of Mercy Concert**

The St. Martin Choir and the Young Artist Chamber Orchestra will present a Jubilee of Mercy concert at St. Martin Catholic Church in Lecompte April 19 at 7 p.m. The concert is free and donations will be accepted to benefit the St. Mary's Residential Training Facility. For more information, call the church at 318-776-9480.

**April 20: Menard Fine Arts Night**

Miss Louisiana April Nelson will be the guest entertainer at Holy Savior Menard's annual Fine Arts Night, April 20, at 5 p.m. The evening will include an art show, dinner, and an Eaglette Extravaganza, (featuring the talents of the HSM Golden Eaglettes, cheerleaders and special performers. Dinner is \$5 and the Eaglette show is \$5 also. The art show is free. Dinner tickets must be pre-ordered. Email Sandy Oestrieher at soestrieher@holysaviormenard.com.

**April 21: Living A Resurrected Life**

*Living A Resurrected Life - A Course in Catholic Spirituality*, is being offered at Cabrini Church by Father Chad Partain on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. in the school library. All are invited to attend.

**April 23: Cabrini Crawfish Boil**

St. Frances Cabrini Church invites you to help celebrate Father Chad Partain's 40th birthday with a Cabrini Crawfish Boil on Saturday, April 23 from 5:30 -9 p.m. on the church grounds. \$100 provides crawfish with sides and non-alcoholic beverages for two adults. Tickets are \$30 for children ages 12-16. (No children under 12 will be admitted due to space limitations and alcohol.) Live auction and door prizes given throughout the evening. Tickets are available for purchase at [www.cabrinischool.com](http://www.cabrinischool.com) or through the school office.

**April 23: Magnificat Brunch**

CENLA Magnificat will host a brunch April 23 from 10 a.m. -noon at St. Mary's Assumption Church Hall in Cottonport. The guest speaker will be Dorinda Bordlee, a pro-life lawyer dedicated to the protection of life from conception to natural death. She will share her story of how God moved in her life and her heart to protect His people. She has dedicated her law practice to sanctity of life constitutional issues since 1994. Tickets are \$18 in advance and must be purchased by April 10. No tickets sold at the door. For tickets call Mary Wilson @ 318-359-7735.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

**April 27: Catholic Schools Job Fair  
-- in Avoyelles**

The Diocese of Alexandria Catholic Schools Office will host a job fair on Wednesday, April 27 at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville from 3 - 6 p.m. Be prepared to interview for jobs in elementary and high school education, paraprofessional, custodial and cafeteria service. For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext 227.

**April 28: Catholic Schools Job Fair  
-- in Alexandria**

The Diocese of Alexandria Catholic Schools Office will host a job fair on Thursday, April 28 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria from 3 - 6 p.m. Be prepared to interview for jobs in elementary and high school education, paraprofessional, custodial and cafeteria service. For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext 227.

**April 28-May 1: Men's ACTS Retreat**

A Men's ACTS Retreat will be held April 28 - May 1 at Maryhill Renewal Center. Registration is open to persons from all church parishes. To register, call St. Joseph's Church office at 318-253-7561 or stop by the office located at 141South Washington Street in Marksville to obtain a registration form. A \$50 deposit is required when your completed registration form is returned to the office. This deposit will be applied toward the total payment of \$175 due.

**April 30: Softball Tournament**

St. Francis & Anne Church in Kolin will sponsor the 2nd annual Softball Tournament April 30 starting at 8 a.m. in the Wardville Complex (off Hickory Street in Pineville). The first 16 teams to sign up will be accepted. To sign up, call Roman at 318-623-6690. Come out and enjoy a fun-filled day. Admission is \$2 per person. Concessions available. T-shirts also available for \$12.

**April 30: WRC Run, Baby, Run**

The Women's Resource Center in Natchitoches will hold its annual Run, Baby, Run 1 Mile and 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, April 30 at the Natchitoches Riverbank. Check-in at 8 a.m.; 1 mile starts at 8:30 a.m., 5K at 9 a.m. Cost is \$20/\$25 for 1 mile; \$25/\$30 for 5K; and virtual runners \$15. To pre-register go online at [www.wrcfriends.com](http://www.wrcfriends.com). All proceeds benefit the Women's Resource Center.

**May 15: Adult Confirmation**

Bishop Herzog will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to adults from throughout the diocese on Sunday, May 15 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. All candidates must register with the Cathedral by Monday May 9, accompanied by a recent copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate.

**May 21: Sacred Heart 5K/ Fun Run**

Sacred Heart Church in Pineville invites everyone to join the fun May 21 for a 5K and 1 mile Fun Run on Saturday, May 21. The 5K is \$25; 1 mile is \$20; virtual runner is \$18; and both the 5K and fun run are \$40. Price includes a t-shirt. For more information, contact Melanie Dupre at [dupre.melanie@gmail.com](mailto:dupre.melanie@gmail.com).

**July 14-17: Women's ACTS Retreat**

A Women's ACTS Retreat will be held July 14-17 at Maryhill Renewal Center. Registration is open to all church parishes. To register, call St. Joseph's Church office at 318-253-7561 or stop by the office located at 141South Washington Street in Marksville to obtain a registration form. A \$50 deposit is required when your completed registration form is returned to the office. This deposit will be applied toward the total payment of \$175 due.

**July 23: Charismatic Day Rescheduled**

A Day of Renewal (titled Have Mercy On Me) sponsored by Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Louisiana (CCRC) and CENLA Magnificat has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 23 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church Hall in Natchitoches. Denise Beyer will be the speaker. Registration is \$20 made payable to "CENLA Magnificat" and mailed to either: Diane Ardoin, 1415 Creed St, Pineville, La. 71360 or Mary Wilson, 4569 Parhams Road, Jonesville, La. 71343. Open to men and women. Register online at [cenlamagnificat@gmail.com](mailto:cenlamagnificat@gmail.com)

**May 12: OLPS Faith  
Formation Series**

Thursday, May 12  
6:30 -7:30 p.m.  
Divine Providence Center

Father Chad Partain will talk on  
the Tradition of the Church.

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April - May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>18</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. FIGREDO</div>	<div>19</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria  Jubilee of Mercy Concert 7:00 p.m. St. Martin Church, Lecompte</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Menard Fine Arts Night 5:00 p.m. Holy Savior Menard High School, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Living a Resurrected Life: A Course in Catholic Spirituality - by Fr. Partain 6:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Library Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Holy Cross Church, Natchitoches</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Magnificat Brunch 10:00 a.m.-noon St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport  Confirmation 5:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura  Cabrini Crawfish Boil 5:30-9:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Confirmation 11:30 a.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville</div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>
<div>25</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</div>	<div>26</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Catholic Schools Job Fair 3:00-6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart School, Moreauville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Catholic Schools Job Fair 3:00-6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center Alexandria  Living a Resurrected Life: A Course in Catholic Spirituality - by Fr. Partain 6:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Library Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE</div>	<div>29</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Run Baby, Run 1 Mile/5K Run 8:00 a.m. Natchitoches Riverbank  Softball Tournament 8:00 a.m. St. Francis &amp; Anne, Kolin</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</div>	<div>MAY 1</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>
<div>2</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</div>	<div>3</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</div>	<div>4</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Living a Resurrected Life: A Course in Catholic Spirituality - by Fr. Partain 6:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Library Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</div>	<div>6</div> <div>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</div>	<div>7</div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</div>	<div>8</div> <div>MOHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</div>
<div>9</div> <div>Graduation St. Mary's School 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's School Gym, Natchitoches</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Graduation Holy Savior Menard 7:30 p.m. Guinn Auditorium, LC Campus, Pineville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Graduation St. Joseph School 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph School, Plaquemine</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</div>	<div>12</div> <div>OLPS Faith Formation Series 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Divine Providence Ctr. Alexandria  Living a Resurrected Life: A Course in Catholic Spirituality - by Fr. Partain 6:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Library Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</div>	<div>13</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</div>	<div>14</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Adult Confirmation 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. MUNOZ</div>
<div>16</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</div>	<div>17</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. NELLIKUNNEL</div>	<div>18</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Living a Resurrected Life: A Course in Catholic Spirituality - by Fr. Partain 6:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Library Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</div>	<div>20</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Sacred Heart 5K and 1 mile Fun Run 8 a.m. Pineville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</div>	<div>22</div> <div></div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM</div>



Children's Miracle Network  
**Open Bass  
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**SATURDAY  
APRIL 23**

Registration/Weigh-in - BIG BASS MARINA, Toledo Bend  
363 Big Bass Lane, Many, LA - 318-586-4721

Mandatory Registration 4-7pm Friday, April 22

At least ONE (1) team member **MUST** be present on Friday!

**TRAILING TOURNAMENT!**

Lines in: 6:45am - Lines out: 3:00pm

Weigh-in closes at 4:00pm at Big Bass Marina



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SAT: 7pm - 10pm

SUN: 8am - 5pm

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