

CHURCH TODAY

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ON THE INSIDE

Pope appoints new apostolic nuncio for U.S.

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Deacon Benny Broussard dies at age 77

Deacon Benny Broussard of Alexandria passed away on Sunday, May 8, 2016.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 11 in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, with the Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog, and Rev. Dan O'Connor officiating. Read more about it on page 7.

John Wiltse to be ordained to the priesthood June 11 at the Cathedral

The priestly ordination of Deacon John C. Wiltse will be Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. It is open to the public and a reception will follow.



Flowers for Our Blessed Mother
Catholic students around diocese honor Mary in May

Pope names Archbishop Pierre new nuncio to the U.S.

(CNS) -- Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to Mexico since 2007, to be the new apostolic nuncio to the United States.

He succeeds Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, who has held the post since 2011. Archbishop Vigano turned 75 in January, the age at which canon law requires bishops to turn in their resignation to the pope.

A nuncio is a Vatican diplomat with the rank of ambassador. He is responsible for diplomatic relations with the government, but also serves as the pope's representative to the church in a given country, which includes responsibility for coordinating the search for and vetting of candidates to become bishops.

Christophe Louis Yves Georges Pierre was born Jan. 30, 1946, in Rennes in France's Brittany region, where his family has had roots for many generations. He first attended school at Antsirabe in Madagascar, pursued his secondary education at the College of Saint-Malo in France and also spent one year in Morocco at Lycee Francais of Marrakesh.

He entered Saint-Yves seminary in Rennes in 1963, but he interrupted his studies for two years of military service in 1965 and 1966. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Rennes at the Cathedral of Saint-Malo April 5, 1970.

Then-Father Pierre earned his master's degree in theology at the Institut Catholique de Paris and his doctorate in canon law in Rome. He was parochial vicar of the parish of Saint-Pierre-Saint-Paul de Colombes in the Diocese of Nanterre, France, from 1970 to 1973.

He then earned a diploma at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome, which provides training to priests for eventual service in the Vatican's diplomatic corps. In 1977, he entered diplomatic service, with his first post in Wellington, New Zealand. He then served in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Brazil and at the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva.

In July 1995, St. John Paul II named him an archbishop and



**Archbishop Christophe Pierre
New Papal Nuncio to U.S.**

appointed him as apostolic nuncio to Haiti. He served there until 1999, and then was named nuncio to Uganda, where he stayed until 2007, when he was named nuncio to Mexico.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl said in a statement that he looked forward to welcoming Archbishop Pierre to the archdiocese "where he will make his home as he carries out his responsibilities across the country." The apostolic nunciature is located in the nation's capital.

"Archbishop Pierre is recognized for his distinguished diplomatic career and service to the church," said the Cardinal Wuerl.



15-year-old dies in Texas church carnival ride

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) -- Bishop Mark J. Seitz offered words of condolence to the family of a teenage girl killed when she was thrown from a ride during a carnival held at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.

"Parish communities gather at times outside of church service, religious formation classes and other activities simply to enjoy one another and their families. When such a joyful event turns tragic, the pain of the loss is even greater," Bishop Seitz of El Paso said in a statement April 30, a day after the accident.

"The Diocese of El Paso deeply regrets this terrible loss. Words are incapable of expressing our sorrow at the death of this young girl. We know that no words will alleviate her family's pain, but we will ask our merciful God to do through prayer what words are incapable of doing: bringing consolation in the midst of this sorrow."

Samantha Aguilar, 16, died

after she and another teen were flung from a spinning carnival ride called the Sizzler outside their Texas Catholic Church. The other teen suffered only minor injuries.

Aguilar and the teens attended the carnival hosted by the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in honor of the Dia de Los Ninos, a Mexican holiday.

Investigators were attempting to determine why the girls were ejected from the ride. Bishop Seitz said the diocese is cooperating with authorities.

Father Ed Roden-Lucero, parish pastor, said in a statement released on social media April 30 that he was "shocked, saddened and brokenhearted" by the accident.

He said the festival was "meant to celebrate God's blessing of family life and the great gift of children."

"The loss of her life in this accident on our parish grounds is incomprehensible to my parish-

ioners and me. We pray that the risen Lord give her eternal rest and give consolation to her family and friends. We are all just profoundly sorry. We also offer our prayers for the welfare of the girl who was injured. We pray for her rapid recovery," Father Roden-Lucero added.

A diocesan spokeswoman told the El Paso Times that Playtime Amusements, Inc., of Las Cruces, New Mexico, the owner of the ride, has been used by other parishes and that their equipment has experienced no problems. The investigation is focusing on whether the equipment malfunctioned and how well the safety bar and seat belt were placed on the girls, she said.

The New York Daily News reported that the aunt of the girls said they complained to the ride operator before the ride started that the seat belts would not latch. According to the aunt, the ride operator told the girls they would be fine without it.

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Persecution, murder of Christians continues to rise in Middle East

Knights of Columbus CEO Carl Anderson and bishops urge U.N., others to take action

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) -- While religious freedom in much of the Middle East is under siege and the civil war in Syria seems to have no end in sight, Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, and others called the United Nations to action.

The U.N. plays a crucial role in securing the future of the region, particularly for people being crucified, tortured, kidnapped, sold into slavery, and killed because of their religious beliefs, Anderson said during a daylong conference April 28.

Anderson's presentation came during one of three panel discussions at the conference sponsored by the office of the Vatican's permanent observer to the U.N. and joined by In Defense of Christians and other organizations focusing on human rights abuses in the Middle East.

Presenters included people who experienced or witnessed atrocities being committed against religious minorities.

Led by remarks from Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the Vatican's permanent observer to the U.N., the event had an intensely sensitive agenda.

A 278-page report submitted to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that was co-authored by the Knights of Columbus and the group In Defense of Christians in March outlined what it called "genocide" being carried out against religious minorities by the Islamic State. Its contents focused largely on Christians who have been murdered and those indigenous communities who will or have been displaced from their region.

On March 17, Kerry designated Islamic State actions as genocide, but the United States



CONFERENCE ON PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN SYRIA. (left) Samia Sleman, 15, a Yazidi who was held hostage and raped by members of the Islamic State when she was 13, cries while speaking at a conference addressing the persecution of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East and Africa at the United Nations April 28. Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, as well as Melkite Catholic Archbishop Jean-Clement Jeanbart (pictured above) of Aleppo, Syria, also addressed the U.N. The Vatican mission to the U.N. was a co-sponsor of the conference. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

has yet to offer a plan to respond.

The U.N. estimates that more than half of Syria's pre-civil war population of about 22.1 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Four million Syrian refugees now live outside of their homeland. Overall, at least 8 million people have been displaced throughout the region, human rights organizations estimate.

Anderson mentioned published threats in the Islamic State's magazine, Dabiq, specifying what the group has called the "Crusader army" from the West. Such threats have not only been carried out in many parts of the Middle East but have haunted the lives of innocent men, women and children, he said.

The Knights of Columbus has raised more than \$10.5 mil-

lion for relief since 2014 while partnering with dioceses and religious organizations to provide victims with food, clothing, shelter, education and medical attention, he said.

Anderson concluded his presentation by proposing that the U.N. take legal action against the Islamic State and other terrorist

groups to prevent the eradication of long-standing and indigenous communities in the Middle East. He called for punishment of the perpetrators and for the establishment of international standards of justice, equality, the rule of law and religious freedom.

Sister Maria de Guadalupe Rodrigo, a member of the Con-

gregation of the Incarnate Word who has spent 18 years in the Middle East as a missionary, spoke of her experiences living in Aleppo, Syria, a major battleground in the civil war.

"I remember the first two months when this all started, we all remained inside," she said. "There were constant explosions and gunshots. We couldn't sleep. But these weeks turned into months and the months into years."

Sister Maria de Guadalupe described how children playing on the street collect bullets and trade them with one another because they could find nothing else to play with. Children should not be concerned about safety, but safety is all they think about, she said.

A child captured and tortured by ISIS also addressed the conference. Samia Sleman, 15, of Hardan, Iraq, a village north of Mount Sinjar, gave an emotional speech about her time in captivity. A member of the Yazidi minority, Sleman spent six months sequestered along with other girls who were starved, raped and sold to other Islamic State members.

Sleman brought attention to the many girls whom Islamic State members take as sex slaves while their mothers are killed for being "too old." Some enslaved girls are as young 7 or 8 years old, she said.

Despite the horrific actions of her captors, Sleman, whose family is still being held, spoke on their behalf so the U.N. and world governments would act to end the genocide taking place.

In another session, Jacqueline Isaac, vice president of Roads of Success, a Southern California organization addressing human rights in the Middle East, asked, "Where are you, world?"

Victims of ISIS are more than numbers, but human beings, she said, as many in the audience rose to their feet and applauded.

Where are you, World?

22 million	In urgent need of humanitarian assistance
4 million	Syria refugees now living outside of their homeland
1 million	Christians who lived in Syria in 2013
< 250,000	Christians living in Syria in 2016

Two months ago, Secretary of State John Kerry designated Islamic State actions as genocide, but the United States has yet to offer a plan to respond.

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A Memorial Day Prayer

By Toni Rossi
Director of Communications
The Christophers

Memorial Day has become the annual kickoff to summer, a time for beaches and barbecues and blockbuster movies at the local multiplex. But the holiday's roots commemorating and honoring those who have given their lives for their country should never get lost in the process. After all, the reason we're able to enjoy all these fun activities is because men and women fought and died to preserve our freedoms.

It's easy to lose sight of that nowadays. I'm reminded of a quote by CNN anchor Jake Tapper in his 2012 book "The Outpost: An Untold Story of American Valor." He wrote, "In the modern media world and the modern American pop culture world, we know the names of Kardashians more than we know the names of U.S. troops who have been killed fighting a war, ostensibly for us."

While reflecting on the meaning of the holiday a while back, I composed a Memorial Day prayer that I'd like to share with you. Though I haven't lost any close friends or family to war, several of my "Christopher

Closeup" interviews over the years have focused on the pain endured by families who have experienced that kind of loss, as well as the hope that they will see their deceased loved ones again in God's Kingdom.

I had those people in mind when I wrote these words, so I hope they can offer just a little bit of solace to anyone in a similar situation:

Heavenly Father, today we honor those who have given their life for their country on foreign battlefields and here at home. Though they would have preferred peace to war, they responded to the call to serve and made the ultimate sacrifice defending the ideals in which they believed, defending their brothers-and-sisters-in arms, and defending innocents from violence.

May their courage be honored and remembered; may their example influence current and future generations; may their legacy be one of love and sacrifice; and may their souls be embraced by You.

We also remember those service members whose invisible wounds led them to take their own lives. Their minds, hearts, and spirits were in turmoil due

to the violence they had experienced, and they thought there was no other way to end their pain. We pray that You welcome these men and women into Your loving and merciful heart.

We also pray that those enduring these struggles right now realize that suicide is not the answer. May they find the hope they are looking for because there are good people out there who are willing and able to help them.

We pray also for those designated POW/MIA. Their families have no closure. They don't know if their loved ones are alive or dead. Bring them the answers they seek and, if possible, bring the missing home.

Finally, comfort the families of all the men and women who have been lost to war and terrorism. To them, the deceased are not just military personnel, but rather father, mother, husband, wife, son, daughter, friend.

Help these families remember the good times and look forward to being reunited with their loved ones in Your heavenly kingdom some day where there will be no more mourning.

We ask this in Your loving name, Father.

Amen.



ONE IN THE LORD

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

I have truly enjoyed visiting many parishes to celebrate Confirmation. I specially appreciate the willingness of our priests to consolidate with other communities to reduce the total number to make it possible to resume this special ministry. I also thank those deacons who accompanied me. That made the travel so much easier and safer.

The month of May also brings the school year to a close and it is again so satisfying to take part in the graduation exercises at our three Catholic high schools. Congratulations to all who complete some milestone in their academic journey.

I am looking forward to ordaining Deacon John Wiltse to the priesthood and in July ordaining three men to the diaconate. We are truly blessed. In addition things look very promising for new seminarians next fall. Thanks for your prayerful support.

The month of May is specially dedicated to Mary. What a model and inspiration she is.

Having her as our spiritual mother is a great gift to the Church.

Our 2016 Annual Diocesan Appeal is progressing 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. It is my hope that every household with at least one Catholic will one year participate.

The response to our improvements at Maryhill have been well, even enthusiastically, received. It is getting more difficult to fill all the requests. A great problem!

May is also the month we honor our mothers and by extension, mothers to be. Having such models of love and faith counters the frequent attacks on the family and of life itself.

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

Have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend.

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Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Start date: Thursday, May 26 (traditional Feast of Corpus Christi)
End Date: Friday, June 3: Before Feast of Sacred Heart on June 4

I. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of.....(name your request) Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be to the Father.... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

II. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you." Behold, in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of.....(name your request) Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be To the Father.... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

III. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away." Encouraged by your infallible words I now ask for the grace of.....(name your request) Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be to the Father... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender Mother and ours.
Say the Hail, Holy Queen and add:
St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us.

-- St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Martha Neil Anthony



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June 5: Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Christ's wounded Heart caused by man's indifference to his love

The Friday that follows the Second Sunday in Time After Pentecost is the Feast of the Sacred Heart which brings to mind all the attributes of His Divine Heart mentioned above.

Many Catholics prepare for this Feast by starting a Novena to the Sacred Heart on the Feast of Corpus Christi, which is the Thursday of the week before. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart itself, we can gain a plenary indulgence by making an Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart.

From the earliest days of the Church, "Christ's open side and the mystery of blood and water were meditated upon, and the Church was beheld issuing from the side of Jesus, as Eve came forth from the side of Adam. It is in the 11th and 12th centuries that we find the first unmistakable indications of devotion to the Sacred Heart. Through the wound in the side, the wound in the Heart was gradually reached, and the wound in the Heart symbolized the wound of love." (Catholic Encyclopedia)

This general devotion arose first in Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries of that time, especially in response to the devotion of St. Gertrude the Great, but specific devotions became popularized when St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), a Visitation nun, had a personal revelation involving a series of visions of Christ as she prayed before the Blessed Sacrament.

She wrote, "He disclosed to me the marvels of his Love and the inexplicable secrets of his Sacred Heart." Christ emphasized to her His love -- and His woundedness caused by Man's indifference to this love.

He promised that, in response to those who consecrate themselves and make reparations to His Sacred Heart, that:

- He will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
- He will establish peace in their homes.
- He will comfort them in all their afflictions.
- He will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
- He will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.



- Sinners will find in His Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
- Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
- Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.

- He will bless every place in which an image of His Heart is exposed and honored.
- He will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
- Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in His Heart.
- In the excessive mercy of His Heart that His all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in His disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. His divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O Jesus, divine saviour, deign to cast a look of mercy upon your children, who assemble in the same spirit of faith, reparation, and love, and come to deplore their own infidelities, and those of all poor sinners, their brethren.

May we touch your divine heart by the unanimous and solemn promises we are about to make and obtain mercy for ourselves, for the world, and for all who are so unhappy as not to love you. We all promise that for the future:

For the forgetfulness and ingratitude of men, we console you, O Lord.
For the way you are deserted in your holy tabernacle, we console you, O Lord.
For the crimes of sinners, we console you, O Lord.
For the hatred of the impious, we console you, O Lord.
For the blasphemies uttered against you, we console you, O Lord.
For the sacrileges that profane your sacrament of love, we console you, O Lord.
For the outrages against your divinity, we console you, O Lord.
For the injuries of which you are the adorable victim, we console you, O Lord.
For the coldness of the greater part of your children, we console you, O Lord.
For the contempt of your loving invitation, we console you, O Lord.
For the infidelity of those who called themselves your friends, we console you, O Lord.
For the abuse of your grace, we console you, O Lord.
For our own unfaithfulness, we console you, O Lord.
For the incomprehensible hardness of our hearts, we console you, O Lord.
For our long delay in loving you, we console you, O Lord.
For our tepidity in your holy service, we console you, O Lord.
For your bitter sadness at the loss of souls, we console you, O Lord.
For your long waiting at the door of our hearts, we console you, O Lord.
For the heartless scorn that grieves you, we console you, O Lord.
For your loving sighs, we console you, O Lord.
For your loving tears, we console you, O Lord.
For your loving imprisonment, we console you, O Lord.
For your loving death, we console you, O Lord.

Let us pray: O Jesus! divine savior, from whose heart comes forth this bitter complaint, "I looked for one that would comfort me, and I found none," graciously accept the feeble consolation we offer you, and aid us so powerfully by your grace, that we may, for the time to come, shun more and more all that can displease you, and prove ourselves in everything, and everywhere, and forever your most faithful and devoted servants. We ask it through your sacred heart, O Lord, who live and reign with the father and the Holy Spirit one God, world without end. Amen.

St. Augustine honors Sisters of Divine Providence for 127 years of service

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

St. Augustine Catholic Church in Isle Brevelle hosted an Appreciation Banquet April 23 for the Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP) Sisters for their 127 years of service at the parish and St. Joseph School.

More than 150 friends, family members, and parishioners attended the banquet that included 11 sisters from the mother house in San Antonio, and Sister Ann Petrus, superior general.

In 1889, Bishop Durier invited the Sisters of Divine Providence to reopen St. Joseph School, located next to St. Augustine Church. They remained active in the parish until the school closed in 1967.

The sisters continued their service at "the Isle," but in other ministries such as teaching CCD, and helping the poor.

Long time parishioners Tommy Roque and Gloria Jones, both former students at St. Joseph School, talked about their days at St. Joseph School and the influence that the sisters had in their lives.

Sisters Tiolinda Marcotta, Annalee Prather, and Dale Van Gossen, sisters who recently served in the parish, briefly talked about their experiences at the parish and about the kindness and faith of the people they served.



SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE who attended the Appreciation Dinner April 23 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Isle Brevelle are (front row) Sister Tiolinda Marotta, Sister Ann Petrus, superior general; Sister Lourdes Leal, first assistant; Sister Patricia Regan, Sister Alma Rose Booty, and Sister Theresa Anne Billeaud. Back row: Sister Annalee Prather, Sister Antoinette Billeaud, general councilor; Sister Helen Marie Miksch, general councilor; Sister Jane Ann Slater, and Sister Dale Van Gossen. Of the 150 years, that the Sisters of Divine Providence have been existence, a CDP sister has served at St. Augustine Church 127 of those years.



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John Wiltse to be ordained to the priesthood June 11

The priestly ordination of Deacon John C. Wiltse will be Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. It is open to the public and a reception will follow.

Bishop Ronald Herzog will confer the sacrament of Holy Orders as the main celebrant of the Mass and concelebrated by the priests of the diocese and guests of Deacon Wiltse from his years in seminary.

The son of Tracy and the late Larry Lee Wiltse of Tioga, he was baptized at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in August 1981. He received his First Holy Communion, First Penance and Confirmation at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Pineville, which his family has called home for 31 years.

He graduated from Tioga High School in 1999. He was heavily involved in the leadership and creation of the SALT Team at Sacred Heart.

He attended St. Joseph Seminary in Covington for two years, finishing his undergraduate degree at Louisiana College in history in 2004. While in undergraduate college, he worked with



Deacon John Wiltse

Radio Maria as the promotions and volunteer coordinator.

He attended the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio from 2005-2010 and 2014-2016, receiving a bachelors in philosophy and masters in divinity.

Seminarians Derek Ducote, Daniel Hart, and Gus "Dutch" Voltz, III will be ordained as deacons on Saturday, July 9 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. The Mass is also open to the public.

Deacon Benny Broussard dies at age 77

Deacon Benny Broussard of Alexandria passed away on Sunday, May 8, 2016.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 11 in Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, with the Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog, and Rev. Dan O'Connor officiating. Interment followed in Alexandria Memorial Gardens under the direction of John Kramer & Son Funeral Home.

Benny is preceded in death by his father, Wilmore Joseph Broussard, Sr.; his mother, Edna Casey Broussard; brother, Wilmore Joseph Broussard, Jr.; and his sisters, Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Broussard Doucet, and Melba Dolores Broussard Middleton.

Benny was born in Elizabeth, LA on February 21, 1939. He was a 1957 graduate of Menard High School; and attended LSU before graduating from Northwestern State University with a B.A. degree. He also graduated from Nicholls State University with a Masters of Education. Benny was a teacher and principal in the Terrebonne Parish School System for 33 years. During his tenure he served terms as president of the Terrebonne Principals Association and the Louisiana Association of Principals. His love was working with junior high students.



Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard

Upon retirement, he and his wife Joy returned to Alexandria. Benny felt a calling by God to work toward becoming a deacon in the Catholic Church. In preparation to becoming a deacon he completed a ministry program from Loyola University; he then completed a 4 ½ year program through St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Through God's blessings, he was ordained as a Deacon in the Catholic Church on March 4, 2012. Deacon Benny served at St. James and St. Julianna from the time of his ordination to the present. He served his God by ministering to people in need.

Benny was a 3rd degree

Knight of Columbus and a member of Council 8029 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church.

He loved people and loved serving them. Benny always greeted everyone with a smile and kind words. His greatest joy was teasing his family and friends and making them laugh.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 55 years, Joy Oxley Broussard; his brothers-in-law, Glenn Middleton, Sr., and Jesse Powers; sisters-in-law, Kay Oxley Powers and Nancy Oxley; nephews, Glenn Middleton, Jr., Bill Broussard (Cindy), David Stefaniak (Fran), David Oxley and Joey Oxley; nieces Laura Middleton Case (Mike), Kristin Powers and Kristal Joy Powers Jones (Todd); and great nephews, Candor Jones, Bradley Oxley, and Kyle Oxley.

Pallbearers honored to serve were fellow Deacons, and the members of Knights of Columbus Council 8029.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be sent to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church, Capital Building Fund, 401 21st Street, Alexandria, LA 71301; to St. Mary's Residential Training School, Post Office Drawer 7768, Alexandria, LA 71306; or to St James Catholic Church, Building Fund, 714 Winn Street, 71301.

Seminarian Burses

April Donations

Knights of Columbus Council 9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian L. Molenschot Burse	
Deacon and Mrs. Rodrick Broussard.	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
Catholic Daughters Court #2072	\$50.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco Burse	
Father Peter Kuligowski	\$50.00
Father Peter Kuligowski Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach.	\$100.00
Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center.	\$100.00
Floyd J. LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Holy Savior Menard MAC Team	\$200.00
Father Taylor Reynolds Burse	
Total.	\$575.00

Donations to Seminarian Burses should be sent to:
Diocese of Alexandria Chancery Office
P.O. Box 7417 • Alexandria, LA 71306-0417



CDA #1459 GIVES \$1,000 TO SEMINARIANS. Catholic Daughters Court Bishop Desmond #1459 from St. Rita Church recently donated \$1,000 to the seminarian education fund. Pictured are Nancy Hadley, treasurer; Ona Wilson, regent; Bishop Ronald Herzog; Jane Roth, financial secretary; and Barbara Cancienne, vice regent.



NATIONAL ART EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR, Barbara Clover, was invited to the White House May 3 for a reception honoring all National Educators of the Year. Mrs. Clover (far right) is pictured above with Monica DeLacerda, HSM Librarian, during a private tour of the Capitol building with the majority whip's intern.



SACRED HEART (Moreauville) 5TH GRADE TEACHER HONORED WITH KALB'S GOLDEN APPLE AWARD. Joel Tassin, a 5th grade teacher at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville was honored recently with the KALB Golden Apple Award. The Golden Apple Award, sponsored by KALB-TV and Hixson Auto, honors outstanding teachers who believe in the true spirit of teaching by making classrooms a fun and safe place of learning. KALB reporter Mark Klein interviews Mr. Tassin, while

the two students who nominated Mr. Tassin for the award wait to present him with flowers. Mr. Tassin received gifts and a chance to be selected for a new car for one year from Hixson Auto in Alexandria in May. Congratulations Mr. Tassin!



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Dupont) PARISHIONERS OF THE YEAR. Two couples from Immaculate Conception Church in Dupont were named "Parishioners of the Year" by Father George Krosfield, pastor. Each couple was presented with a special plaque. Pictured with Father George are (left) Dr. Harris and Josie Poret and (right) Jim and Georgia Guillory.



PILGRIMS ON SPAIN AND PORTUGAL TRIP. Twelve people joined Marie Michiels from Travel & Cruise with Me on a 15-day pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal. The group traveled March 11-25 and visited many historical landmarks in the two countries. The highlight of the trip for many was the visit to Fatima, where the world is celebrating the 99th year of apparitions of Our Lady to the three children in Fatima.



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CDA #2141 SERVE AT MANNA HOUSE. The Catholic Daughters from Court Padre Pio 2141 of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cottonport, served at Manna House April 12. Pictured are (from left) Carmel Lemoine Dupuy, Sharon Lemoine Juneau and Elaine Chenevert Juneau.



KC COUNCIL 1199 (Cottonport) COOKS FOR LSUA. Knights of Columbus Council #1199 in Cottonport, cooked and served the Wednesday noon meal at the Catholic Student Center April 13. Pictured are Mike Ducote, Bill Sweeny, Al Lemoine, Carl Ducote, Darrel Tassin and Don Jeansonne. Not pictured is Mark Tigner, James Bernard and Fr. Jose Robles-Sanchez.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRESENT AWARD AT NSU ROTC CEREMONY. The Northwestern State University's ROTC program conducted its Spring Awards Day ceremony May 5. This year's recipient of the Knights of Columbus Patriotic Award is Cadet Gavin T. Bazer. Making the presentation are Sir Knights Mike Menou, Tim Felchie and Robert Watson.



JOB FAIR (Avoyelles). Martha Coulon (far left), principal at St. Anthony School in Bunkie and Sister Sandra Norsworth, principal at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville interview job applicants who attended the second annual Diocesan Job Fair held in both the Avoyelles (April 27) and in Alexandria (April 28). Most schools throughout the diocese have several job opportunities available in the areas of teaching, office help, custodial, and food services. Interested persons should send their resume to the Office of Catholic Schools at vpichon@diocesealex.org.

ST. MARY'S (Cottonport) CDA EDUCATIONAL WINNERS. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from grades 4-8 are pictured with Father Walter Ajaero along with some of the members of Court Padre Pio. The students competed in the category of Computer Art, Poetry, Essay and Art.

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LHSAA Softball State Championship Tournament April 29-30

HOLY SAVIOR MENARD (Alexandria) LHSAA 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RUNNER UPS. The Menard softball team made it to the championship game April 30 of the LHSAA State Championship in Sulphur, but were defeated by Calvary Baptist of Shreveport 8-4.



ST. MARY SCHOOL (Natchitoches) SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPION RUNNER UPS. The St. Mary's softball team lost to Catholic of Point Coupee April 29 in the championship game by a score of 8-3 in the LHSAA 1-A State Championship Tournament in Sulphur.

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) SOFTBALL TEAM. For the fourth time in ten years, the St. Joseph softball team made it to the semi-finals for the LHSAA Class C State Championship Tournament April 29. The Lady Eagles were defeated by defending Class C champions Hackberry High School by a score of 4-2.



ST. MARY'S (Natchitoches) LHSAA ALL-ACADEMIC BASEBALL TEAM. Three senior baseball players from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches have made the LHSAA All-Academic Composite Boy's Baseball team. To earn Composite Team honors, a student-athlete's six-semester GPA must be one of the 18 highest in all seven classifications. The composite team are all 4.0 students.

LHSAA Division III State Tennis Championship Tournament:

Menard's and win state championship in tennis doubles; girls win 2nd

By LaMar Gafford
TheTownTalk
(Reprinted with permission)

In its first season in Division III, the youngsters of Menard's tennis team showed what they could do.

The Menard boys doubles team of junior and freshman the doubles team and the girls tennis team finished as a runner up in Division III.

and navigated through the bracket and defeated Evangel's pairing of

7 and ts.

and win gave the Eagles their state championship in boys doubles in nearly 40 years and hope tons of potential, according to coach Todd Urbina.

"I'm real excited," Urbina said. "We had a singles player in the last 10 years that made it to the finals twice and a double team in the last 10 make in to the finals two or three times, but before that it was a long dry spell. I'm extremely excited and proud. It's nice to see hard work recognized. talented and hits the ball h

Tied at eight with St. Louis in the race for the Division III girls team title, the Lady Eagles eventually settled as runners-up with eight points.



LHSAA BOYS TENNIS DOUBLES STATE CHAMPIONS. Menard junior and freshman clinched the Division III state championship title in boys tennis doubles April 24-29 in Monroe. and win gave the Eagles their first state championship in boys doubles in nearly 40 years, according to Menard tennis coach, Todd Urbina.

This is Menard's first year in Division III after moving up from Division IV

"We're the second-smallest school in that division, so we didn't know what to expect and they didn't know what to expect from us," Urbina said. "It was pretty nice to have people looking at us at the end of Day 1 and say 'Where did you guys come from?' and 'Why are you all so

good?' We've worked hard all year long."

who made the Division III girls b

St. Louis won 6-3, 6-4.

Menard's other

i

— reached the quarterfinals before eventu-



LHSAA GIRLS TENNIS. The Menard girls fared well in the Division III state championship tournament held April 24-29 in Monroe. Pictured are (from left) Georgia Sharbino, who made it to the singles quarterfinals; Abby Urbina (and her doubles partner Sonni Tarver not pictured), and Nancy Texada and Katherine Vaughn, doubles partners.

a got th r

o made the quarterfinals.

"It's the epitome of team," Urbina said. "We got points from all of them and they all played well. Quite honestly, our expectations going to state weren't that high, but they just overachieved and they rose to the occasion.

They looked St. Louis in the eye."

Also in the state meet, Pineville's did not drop a set en ing a semifinal run before falling to Mount Carmel's in straight sets, w Christian's reached the Division finals before losing to Ascension Episcopal's



ST. MARY'S (Natchitoches) COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE DAY. Seniors from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches were recognized April 27 with their college acceptance letters.



MAY CROWNING AT ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL.



MAY CROWNING was held May 6 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School. At the beginning of the 8 a.m Mass the 2-5 graders presented Our Blessed Mother with a flower as they processed into Mass. Following the Mass, the 6th graders and the May Crowning Court crowned Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Pictured is the 6th grade May Crowning Court.

VIRTUS

- Wednesday, May 11 -- 6 p.m.
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches (church hall)
- Tuesday, May 24 -- 6 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria
- Wednesday, June 8 -- 6 p.m.
St. Anthony Church, Bunkie (Brother Francis Hall)

To register, go to www.virtus.org

If you have questions, need more information, or need assistance with pre-registration, please call Pam Delrie, Diocese of Alexandria Safe Environment Coordinator at 318-445-6424 x 213.

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OLPS MAY POLE CELEBRATION was held May 9.



places a red rose at the foot of Our Blessed Mother during Our Lady of Prompt Succor's May Crowning.

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ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) MAY CROWNING. The May Crowning Court crowned our Blessed Mother May 5, and presented her tons of flowers.



ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CATHOLIC CHURCH (Alexandria) MAY CROWNING. Altar server crowns Our Blessed Mother May 1 during Mass at St. James Memorial Catholic Church, while communicant watches and Rodessa Metoyer plays the organ. (Partially hidden altar server is .)

SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville) MAY CROWNING. May Crowning was held on May 6 at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville. 8th grader and 2nd grader crowned our Blessed Mother in the grotto. Fr. Jose Pallipurath led the school in the Consecration of the Most Holy Virgin. led the school in a decade of the rosary. The entire school sang Marian hymns and brought flowers to honor our Blessed Mother.



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WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK. Students and volunteers from St. Mary's Catholic School, the First Baptist Church, and Northwestern State University came together on April 16 to clean the ninety-five-year old wall, columns and stairs on the former site of St. Mary's Academy. Although St. Mary's Catholic School moved in

1966 and the property was later sold to the First Baptist Church, which is adjacent to the former site, the wall, column and stairs remain, thanks to the pastors and congregation at First Baptist Church, who have recognized the historical significance of the site.

Cleaning 95 year-old columns unite St. Mary's students with First Baptist, NSU

It was an unlikely group to show up on Saturday morning, April 16, on Toulaine Street in Natchitoches at the site of the original St. Mary's Academy.

Armed with rubber gloves, plastic orange buckets and spray bottles filled with a special cleaning solution, the students and volunteers came from St. Mary's Catholic School, the First Baptist Church, and Northwestern State University to clean the wall, stairs and 15 concrete columns that bordered the site of the former St.

Mary's Academy.

It was Volunteer Day at NSU and Reatha Cox, the university's activities coordinator, had been searching for community work for the college students and discovered a much needed project -- cleaning the former site. After 95 years of remaining unprotected in the elements, the wall, columns and stairs were dirty, gray and weathered. Many of the family names of the school's early benefactors, which were engraved on the columns, could barely be

read.

Payne Williams, a local attorney and St. Mary's alum, directed Cox to the original site and as an alum, he thought it would be great if present St. Mary's students participated in the project. Since the area was owned by the First Baptist Church, Pastor Tommy Rush was contacted for permission.

"He was very supportive of the project and wanted his church members to be involved," said Williams.

St. Mary's Academy was established in 1888 on Toulaine Street. Due to the condition of the school buildings, a new school was constructed in 1966 at its present location on East Fifth Street. In 1970, the property, where the original school was located, was sold to the First Baptist Church. Although the school was later torn down, its wall, stairs and columns remained.

After several hours of cleaning, students from three very different parts of the town had the

area looking almost new again. Now, most of the names of the original donors can be seen, including, -- J. Ducasse, M. Magoun, P. Cloutier, Sam Aaron, E. Watson, Ed McClung, M. Hill, D. Lawton, S.O.S. '81, J. D. Rusca, J. C. Deblieux, High School Pupils, and D.W. -- (unreadable).

"It was nice to see the students mixing and talking to each other as they worked," said Melissa Frye, Director of Development at St. Mary's. "We are proud that our students were involved."



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL circa 1929. The wall and 15 columns which bordered the front of the school in the early years were almost white when initially constructed. The Marian grotto, (seen in the lower right hand corner of the picture) is believed to have been added in 1921 (the same time as the columns), but was moved from the site in 2005. It is now located at the school's present campus.



ALMOST AS GOOD AS NEW. The original wall, stairs and columns which bordered the front of St. Mary's Academy during the early 1900s still stand. St. Mary's Academy was established in 1888, relocated in 1966 and the property was sold to the First Baptist Church of Natchitoches in 1970. The school was later torn down, but the original wall, columns and stairs have remained. In the background is First Baptist Church, who still own the property. St. Mary's Catholic School is very appreciative to the First Baptist Church's current pastor, Pastor Tommy Rush, its former pastors and its congregation, who have allowed the site to remain as a symbol of the historical significance St. Mary's Academy played in the early years of the Natchitoches' educational system.

SACRED HEART (Moreauville) CDA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER.

daughter of Tex and Christy Reed of Marksville, won the Catholic Daughters Court Padre Pio Court# 2141 "2016 Education Contest". is an eighth grader from Sacred Heart School in Moreauville. The \$200 scholarship will be used toward education. She will attend Holy Savior Menard High School in the fall.



ST. ANTHONY 8TH GRADE RESPECTFUL DATING AND TABLE ETIQUETTE CLASS. St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie held its annual 8th grade luncheon April 19. This event is held each year after the students complete a Respectful Dating and Table Etiquette class where they put their knowledge into practice.



ST. MARY'S (Natchitoches) SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS. Congratulations to the winners of the 4th-8th grade Science Fair at St. Mary's School in Natchitoches.



PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR 12 YEARS. On May 10, Holy Savior Menard senior graduated without having ever missed a single day of school. For her entire academic career spanning kindergarten through her 12th grade year, has been front and center at every class.

"It was something I really wanted to do," said . "My mom motivated me, my teachers were always proud of me. Classmates thought I was a little crazy, but in the end being present and attentive at school was important to me, so I made sure I was always there."

started school within the Rapides Parish public school system before attending Holy Savior Menard. It's been more than five years since Menard has had a student achieve perfect attendance for all of the year's they've been enrolled in school.

" is a joy on our campus," said Menard assistant principal, Becca Foltz. "Her dedication is something to really be commended. Even as adults, we need the occasional day to decompress. I think her commitment is something a future employer is truly going to value."

Next year, hopes to keep her perfect attendance going. She will be a freshman Kinesiology student at Northwestern State University.

Pictured during Awards Day are They all had perfect attendance this year, but only has never missed a single day of school.



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Summer Programs for You and the Kids!



The Office of Religious Formation and Training will be celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy with a visual one-day conference: *Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told*. Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC will guide us through the dramatic history of God's Love and Mercy through the stories of St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Our Lady of Fatima, and Pope St. John Paul II. We are encouraging everyone to come watch this remarkable video experience as part of your personal faith formation. It will be especially helpful to catechists. The conference is Saturday, June 4, at Maryhill Renewal Center, 9:00am- 3:15pm. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. To register, please email emccullough@diocesealex.org, or call Emily Ann McCullough: 318-445-6424 ext. 251

Vacation Bible Schools

OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, Alexandria

June 6-10, 2016

8 a.m. - noon, for kids entering K-5th. Must register by May 20. Cost is \$10. Register by calling 318-445-3693; or email: youth@olpschurch.org

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, Bunkie

June 13-17, 2016

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. for kids entering PreK - 4th grade. The cost is FREE. The theme will be "Parachuting with the Angels and St. Catherine Laboure: the story of the Miraculous Medal." On Saturday, (June 18) before the 4 p.m. Mass, the VBS students will present a VBS program. After Mass, all are invited to attend a covered dish dinner in the church hall to celebrate the accomplishments of the VBS students! To register call Karson Coulon at 318-305-0667.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS, Pineville

June 13-17, 2016

8 a.m. - noon for kids entering K-6th. The cost is FREE. The theme is, "Surf Shack"! If you wish to volunteer to help and your VIRTUS training is up to date, or you may attend the next VIRTUS on Tuesday, May 24th at 6:00 p.m., you may contact Cheryl Paul at 318-308-5026.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Fifth Ward

June 20-23, 2016

6 p.m. - 8 p.m., for kids 5-10. Free. Registration forms are available in the back of church or from the church office.

MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS, Woodworth

July 11-15, 2016

8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL, Alexandria

July 11-15; and July 18-22, 2016

8 a.m. - 5 p.m., for children ages 3 to 6th grade; \$150 per child includes breakfast, lunch, snack, and activities like water slides, games, crafts, movies, swimming, obstacle course and more! The theme this year is "Year of Mercy."

*Note -- St. Rita Church in Alexandria will not have a VBS this year, due to renovations.

SACRED HEART PARISH FESTIVAL 2016, Pineville

May 20 - 22, 2016

Friday, May 20:

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: Crawfish Boil 4lbs. w/fixin's and Music (children's food available) Cost: \$15, Advance-Sale Ticket or \$20 at the door

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.: Silent Auction

Saturday, May 21:

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.: Fun Run and 5k (pre-registration available)

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: Carnival Day: kids games/prizes, space jumper, dunking booth, live band, fire truck/police car, cake walk, carnival food, snow-cones, vendors, face painting, photo booth, and more!!!

Sunday, May 22:

11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: BBQ 1/2 Chicken plate w/fixin's

Cost: \$9, Advance-Sale Ticket, \$15 at the door

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Silent Auction

Crawfish, BBQ chicken meal tickets, Fun Run/5k registration forms, and Festival 2016 T-shirt orders are available at the church office

ST. MARTIN CHURCH'S 'EVENT 2016', Lecompte

June 3-5, 2016

St. Martin Catholic Church's annual spring festival (Event 2016) will be held Jun 3-5 at the church in Lecompte.

Friday, June 3

8 p.m. - 11 p.m.: A dance featuring the music of Ronnie Bryant and Friends from 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. in the church hall. Admission is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple.

Saturday, June 4

6 p.m.: Family Night starts Saturday at 6 p.m. with Bingo.

Sunday, June 5

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Sunday is a BBQ dinner (\$8 per plate) from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. with a Sweet Shop, Live Auction, and more! For more info, call 318-776-9480.

Summer Dance Camp



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD DANIELINE CAMP FOR KIDS

July 25-29, 2016

Young dancers, entering Kindergarten through 6th grade, are invited to attend a Summer Dance Camp July 25-29 at Holy Savior Menard, sponsored by the Golden Eaglettes and Emerald Eaglettes dancelines. The camp will be held from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. daily, with a final dance performance for parents on July 29 at 1 p.m. Extended daycare is available until 4 p.m. for only \$25 per day. Cost is \$85. For more information or to register, email Sandy Oestricher at nurses0@aol.com.

FOCUS: the cost of hands-on evangelization, Catholic outreach

Campus ministry seeks funds, volunteers to help bring missionaries to NSU

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Seventy percent of Catholics are no longer Catholic by the time they turn 23, according to a report by Dr. Taylor Marshall, founder of the St. Thomas Institute.

"They fall away because they have not encountered Christ," stated the report.

The largest decline comes during the college years, when students are on their own (away from parents), and heavily influenced by new ideas, new cultures, and new friends, continues the report.

That's why campus ministry is so important.

Father Marc Noel, pastor of Holy Cross Church in Natchitoches and coordinator of campus ministry at Northwestern State University, wants to bring a new approach to campus ministry at the Natchitoches campus.

Father Marc envisions having a new full-time campus minister with a passion to bring college students to Christ, a core team of volunteers and FOCUS missionaries (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) all working together as a team in campus ministry.

Meghan Nulty from West Chester, PA was recently hired as the new campus minister, chosen out of more than 20 resumes submitted from across the nation for the job," said Father Marc.

"Meghan's life was profoundly impacted as a college student through campus ministry



HOME IMPROVEMENTS. This parish-owned two-story house across the street from Holy Cross Church, adjacent to the Catholic Student Center and rectory, and one block from NSU, is being considered for rental housing for the four-member outreach team. It's been rented to NSU students in the past, and is currently in bad need of repair. Anyone interested in donating their time or talent to help paint, repair, or clean-up at the house is asked to call Father Marc Noel at 318-352-2615.

and she feels a call from God to be a campus minister."

Meghan is a graduate of Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH with a degree in Theology. She has served on SENT ministries (an evangelization team), led retreats for college student, helped with Steubenville youth conferences and as a team member of LEAD, served as a CORE team member for parish youth ministry, has been on several mission trips to third world

countries, and has been a member of a music ministry team at Franciscan University.

In addition to a new campus minister, Father Marc hopes to bring a new Catholic outreach ministry to college students -- FOCUS -- Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

With permission and support from Bishop Ronald Herzog, Father Marc would like to bring the highly successful Christ-centered evangelization, discipleship, and

friendship ministry to Northwestern in the Fall of 2016.

"We're very excited about having FOCUS missionaries at NSU," said Father Marc. "But the cost of this campus outreach is more than what Holy Cross has available in its current operating budget. That's why we are asking for donations to get FOCUS missionaries at NSU."

What is needed

- **\$60,000.** -- The annual cost

of bringing FOCUS to a campus is \$60,000. The cost covers the recruiting and extensive training of four individuals (two men and two women), who come to the campus ready to implement a one-on-one approach to evangelization. (Read more about how the ministry works in the story on the next page.)

"These young people are true missionaries in every sense of the word," said Father Marc. "They fundraise their own living expenses for the year, they dedicate a minimum of two years of their lives as missionaries, and commit to a prayer life that includes daily Mass and a daily Holy Hour in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament."

- **Home improvements** -- A parish-owned two-story house across the street from Holy Cross Church, adjacent to the Catholic Student Center and rectory, and one block from NSU, is being considered for rental housing for the four-member outreach team. It's been rented to NSU students in the past, and is currently in bad need of repair.

Providing housing is not required for the FOCUS missionaries, but renting the house to the evangelization team, rather than students, would be an added benefit. Anyone interested in donating their time or talent to help paint, repair, or clean-up at the house is most welcome.

- **Home furnishings.** Any home furniture -- beds, side tables, sofas, dining room set, etc -- are needed to furnish the home with the basics. Small kitchen appliances, dishes and pots and pans, or bed/ bathroom linen are also appreciated.

- **Cash.** Any donations for purchasing paint and paint supplies, or other items needed for repairing things around the house.

Anyone interested in making a donation towards the \$60,000 needed to get a FOCUS missionary team at NSU, or donating any of the above items, should call Father Marc Noel at 318-352-2615. Workdays at the house will be scheduled, so if you are interested, call Father Marc, so he will know how to reach you.



Holy Cross Church

In 1909 Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven, bishop of the Diocese of Natchitoches, founded the Apostleship of Prayer at the State Normal College meeting with Catholic students on Sunday evenings. In 1925 he established the Newman Club. A building on campus was used, which was also shared with the other religious denominations. In 1953, Bishop Charles P. Greco constructed the present building as the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. For the next 15 years, the Newman Center served the Catholic students at Northwestern State College. On Feb. 11, 1968 Bishop Greco established Holy Cross as a "non-territorial" parish for campus ministry. Holy Cross is the only campus ministry parish in the diocese.

FOCUS: A new approach to Catholic campus ministry

Missionaries use 'we'll bring the light to you' approach to college students

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Think about it.

If, -- out of the approximately 9,000 students enrolled at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, -- only 10 percent are Catholic, that would mean there are approximately 900 Catholic students on campus.

"How can we effectively reach out to the Catholic students at NSU in our campus ministry efforts?" asks Father Marc Noel, pastor of Holy Cross Church in Natchitoches and coordinator of campus ministry for NSU.

"In the 4-6 years Catholic students attend NSU, how can we help them to encounter Christ in a deeper way, grow in their relationship with God, be formed as disciples of Jesus and equip them to be leaders in the Church?"

"I feel we need of a whole new approach in our campus ministry to students. In the next decade, the impact our ministry has on the lives of college students will be determined by what is put in place now to reach out to them."

That's why Father Marc is eager to implement a new vision of campus ministry at NSU which entails hiring a new Campus Minister, developing a core team of volunteers and bringing in FOCUS missionaries (Fellow-



FOCUS PRESENTATION. Members of a FOCUS team currently ministering on the campus of ULL (University of Louisiana at Lafayette) spoke April 23 to a group of invited guests and members of the NSU Catholic Student Organization about FOCUS campus outreach. NSU president Dr. Jim Henderson was present. He is very supportive of the new approach to campus ministry at NSU and looks forward to having a team of four missionaries on the NSU campus this fall. Pictured are missionary Sean Flack, Dr. Jim Henderson, missionary Brena and Father Marc Noel.

ship of Catholic University Students).

FOCUS is a nationwide Catholic outreach whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the gospel in colleges and universities across the U.S. Young adult missionaries, extensively trained in Church teaching, sacred Scripture, evangelization and discipleship are essential parts of the outreach.

Partnering with chaplains and campus ministers, FOCUS missionaries go out to colleges and universities to meet students where they are: in the dorms, on the field, at the student union and in every corner of campus. Through outreach events and one-on-one conversations, students make meaningful connections with members of Christ's body — growing in friendships,

sharing life and coming together in authentic community.

For decades, campus ministry has been characterized by a "we'll leave the light on for you" or a "light on the hill" approach. That is, campus ministers maintained a welcoming environment for students. They were there for students, wherever they happened to be on the faith spectrum and whenever they were

ready to come through the church doors.

FOCUS follows more of a "we'll bring the light to you" approach. They're on campus, too, but are more actively seeking out students and getting them to talk about their faith. FOCUS missionaries organize retreats, invite students to Bible studies, and enter into one-on-one mentor relationships.

Eventually, through Bible studies, outreach events, mission trips and one-on-one discipleship, missionaries inspire and build up students in the faith, sending them out to spread the good news and to live out the Great Commission: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations (Mt. 28:19).

FOCUS was founded in 1997 by Curtis Martin and Dr. Edward Sri at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan. A year after the pilot program was started, Martin met with Pope John Paul II and shared the vision of FOCUS with him. The Pope's words to him were, "Be Soldiers."

So far, the organization has already set up bases at nearly 90 university campuses across the U.S., and the numbers keep growing. The Catholic Campus Ministry Association estimates there are more than 400 Catholic campus outreach centers in the United States.

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Ministry resources for the ‘second half of life’

Even in your “old age” discover what graces and missions God has planned for you



Your Second to Last Chapter: Creating a Meaningful Life on Your Own Terms
By Paul Wilkes

Noted author Paul Wilkes blazes a path strewn with new and exciting possibilities for what is an uncharted time in our lives.

With millions of Americans entering their so-called “retirement years” — many with few material needs but a hunger in their souls to make this “second to last chapter” count — Wilkes offers the practical counsel of one who has already been there.

“The last thing we want to do in our remaining productive years is count the daisies and days,” he says. “We want to matter, to accomplish something that matters. Something is stirring within us and demands a response.”

Your Second to Last Chapter is a time when you are at the peak of your powers — wise in years, brimming with experience, ready to take on fresh new challenges.

Wilkes shows how to match your passion and abilities with human needs in new ways that will use your talents to fullest and provide you the deepest personal satisfaction possible.

Wilkes, one of Catholicism’s most respected writers on individual spirituality and the founder of Homes of Hope India, provides touchstones for your adventure: voices to listen to and voices not to listen to, how to develop a poised readiness to see where you might be called to help or serve, what barriers you will face and how to confront them.

www.thepastoralcenter.com
116 pages -- \$13.46



Senior Moments: Prayertalks with God about Aging Gracefully
By Bernadette McCarver Snyder

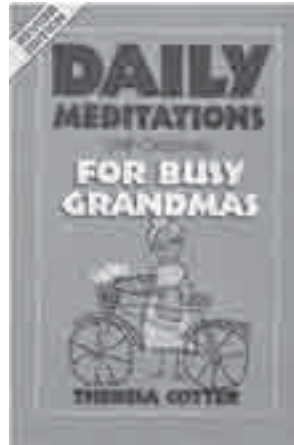
“Just when you’ve conquered a lot of life’s problems and are ‘living in the moment,’ you might find it is a ‘senior moment.’”

With trademark humor, author Bernadette Snyder invites us to pray in those moments, and all the others in between.

Whether sitting in her kitchen, waiting in the doctor’s office, or staring down a new DVD player that “keeps spitting out discs because I have pushed the wrong button,” she shares her warm-hearted, comfortable way of chatting with God— full of wonder, thanksgiving, a few complaints, and lots of laughter. Perfect for people of all ages who could use a prayer or two during those “senior moments.”

Bernadette McCarver Snyder is the bestselling author of over 30 books of humor and inspiration. Her writing combines faith with fun, mixing a little laughter with a little prayer to reveal God’s heavenly surprises in everyday life. She invites readers to join her in “looking for the holy in the ho-hum.”

www.thepastoralcenter.com
112 pages -- \$11.66



Daily Meditations (with Scripture) for Busy Grandmas
By Theresa Cotter

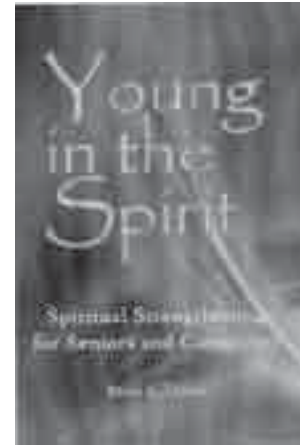
Newly revised and updated with a new introduction, this clever and entertaining collection of meditations provides 366 days worth of inspiration for today’s grandmas.

Grandmas nowadays are “everywhere,” and Theresa Cotter offers a book that not only captures the spiritual essence of grandmotherhood but also provides hope, encouragement and support for grandmas of all ages, whether they are chairing a meeting, pursuing a degree, or in the kitchen baking cookies.

Each brief daily reflection includes a Scripture reading and a reflection for the day. Enlightening, refreshing, and upbeat for any Grandma, Grandmother, Meme, Nana, G.G. or whatever favorite name you are called.

Theresa Cotter is a wife, mother, grandmother, writer, theologian and perpetual student. She and her husband are active in an inner-city parish and faith community.

www.thepastoralcenter.com
265 pages -- \$8.96



Young in the Spirit: Spiritual Strengthening for Seniors and Caregivers
By Mary K. Doyle

Looking for the Fountain of Youth? Research shows that spirituality is a key to longevity and vitality. People with a strong faith do indeed live longer, happier, and healthier lives.

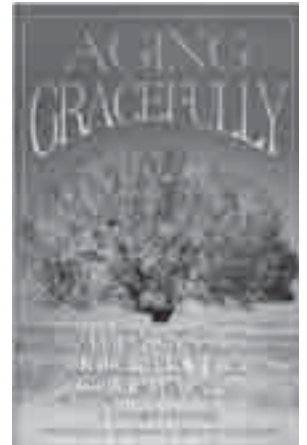
Young in the Spirit explores the impact of spirituality on aging and care giving as well as how to strengthen our faith during our “golden years.”

Our spirit requires daily attention to sustain the trials and tests of this life and ease the transition to the next, and this book offers suggestions on how to do that.

Topics include:

- Making personal prayers and devotions part of our daily routine
- Participating in a faith community
- Serving and caring for seniors
- Reaching for the Lord in our suffering and loss
- Sharing our spiritual story

www.thepastoralcenter.com
125 pages -- \$9.86



Aging Gracefully: the Keys to Holier, Happier Golden Years
By J. Daniel Dymski

Aging Gracefully promotes an upbeat, affirming approach to life that helps older adults blend spiritual insights, practical suggestions, gentle exhortations and common sense into a formula for happier, healthier, holier golden years. Twelve keys urge older adults to:

- Adopt a Positive Attitude
- Pardon Yourself and Others
- Appreciate the Present Moment
- Accept God’s Plan for You
- Share Yourself with Others
- Be Aware of the Love of Others
- Appreciate Yourself
- Trust in God
- Accept Change
- Embrace Suffering
- Find Humor in Life
- Validate Your Feelings

For each of the twelve keys there is a collection of positive, life-affirming sayings and aphorisms intended to spark reflection. Each key concludes with five questions for reflection or discussion and two suggestions for action. A great gift for older adults and the perfect book for senior groups.

www.thepastoralcenter.com
128 pages -- \$8.96

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Mother's Day harbors secrets within six subplots of 'marriage'

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Nearly everyone in the sprawling ensemble comedy "Mother's Day" (Open Road) harbors a secret.

They are, quite often, terribly complicated mysteries involving racist beliefs, homophobia and even children abandoned at birth. Each story line could, in theory, be a compelling and instructive drama on its own terms.

Garry Marshall's uneven direction, however, added to a discursive script by Tom Hines, Lily Hollander, Anya Kochoff and Matthew Walker, turns all of this into a leaky slop bucket of bromides.

Not only are none of the themes seriously examined, some of the characters are given equally short shrift. This is particularly noticeable with regard to the few African-Americans on screen. They're always on the sidelines of the plot, and appear to be written only as wisecracking comic relief.

In the manner of Marshall's "Valentine's Day" in 2010 and "New Year's Eve" from the following year, there are six subplots, with more threads than a Tolstoy novel. This time, the setting is the upscale Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta.

Sandy (Jennifer Aniston) and Henry (Timothy Olyphant) are divorced and share custody of their two sons on the friendliest of terms. But conflict develops when Henry announces he's married the much-younger Tina (Shay Mitchell).

Jesse (Kate Hudson) and



MOTHER'S DAY. Caleb Brown, Jennifer Aniston, Brandon Spink, Shay Mitchell and Timothy Olyphant star in "Mother's Day." Following the format of "Valentine's Day" and "New Year's Eve," the movie has six subplots about marriage and relationships, all going on at the same time. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (CNS photo/Open Road)

Gabi (Sarah Chalke) are sisters who live next door to each other. Both are keeping secrets from their clueless parents, bigoted Texans Flo (Margo Martindale) and Earl (Robert Pine).

Jesse is married to South Asian doctor Russell (Aasif Mandvi) with whom she has a son and shares a stepson; Gabi is in a long-term lesbian relationship with Max (Cameron Esposito). But Jesse has told her parents she's engaged to a lawyer, while Gabi's cover story involves a fi-

ance named Stan.

Fledgling stand-up comic Zack (Jack Whitehall) has an infant daughter with -- and longs for a marital commitment from -- live-in girlfriend Kristin (Britt Robertson). Kristin has abandonment issues because she's not sure who she really is. She was adopted, and she knows the identity of her biological mother, but is afraid to meet her.

Widower Bradley (Jason Sudeikis), a gym owner whose wife died overseas while serving in the

Marine Corps, navigates being a single father of two young daughters while fending off the matchmaking schemes of his friends at the gym.

Hovering over all of this like Titania, the fairy queen of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," is Miranda (Julia Roberts). She hawks costume jewelry on a home-shopping network, and her occasional interaction with other characters is marked by a mix of brittleness and compassion.

MOVIE

REVIEW

It would require considerable focus and aplomb to keep an audience engaged with all this. Instead, Marshall and the screenwriters decide that the easiest way to better the outlook of their more recalcitrant figures is to place them in enlightening peril.

Serious issues involving blended families get brushed aside in favor of slapstick sequences and soppy expressions about mothers. Thus Zack observes: "In every atom of their bodies they know what's best for their children."

Such aesthetic flaws are matched by a faulty moral outlook. While the screenplay presents an ultimately positive view of marriage, other arrangements clearly at odds with scriptural values, though they may be dealt with only fleetingly, are given an unthinking pass.

There's no question of an agenda; cohabitation and same-sex unions, treated as marriages, are simply presented as aspects of contemporary society that the audience is meant to take for granted. Well-grounded grownups will know how to assess -- and resist -- this skewed thinking.

The film contains tacit acceptance of immoral lifestyles, some distasteful humor, at least one rough term and occasional crude language. The Catholic News Service rates it L -- limited adult audience and the Motion Picture Association rates it PG-13.



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May 19: Illuminated Rosary every Thursday

Join St. Joseph Church in Marksville every Thursday, which began May 12 at 8:15 p.m. to pray the Rosary before an illuminated Rosary located outside on the grounds of the parish hall. (Time changes to 7:15 p.m. in September). In case of inclement weather, the Rosary is prayed in the church.

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.

May 21-22: Seminars on Christian Healing

Christos Encounter Seminars on Christian Healing Prayer, will be offered again this summer, at Maryhill Renewal Center, by Jim and Dr. Christy Gootee and the Two Hearts Team. The class brings you much healing and teaches you to pray for others as well. The course is progressive and will be taught over 3 weekends: May 21-22, July 16-17 and July 30-31. The hours are from 9 a.m. Saturday to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. It will also include a Saturday night healing service. Each weekend costs \$100, which includes course manual and teaching material. Overnight stay is available for \$40 extra per night. To register, email christygootee@outlook.com or call 318-290-1642.

May 27: Priest Jubilee Mass

The Jubilee Mass for Priests celebrating anniversaries this year will be held on Friday, May 27 at 12:05 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. The public is invited to attend.

May 28: Pro-life Memorial 5K Run/Walk

Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield will host a 5K Run/Walk in memory of Chuck Weeks. All ages are welcome. The cost is \$20 per person and includes a t-shirt,

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

if registered by May 16. All proceeds will go to the Louisiana right to Life and to the Chuck Weeks Memorial Fund. For more information or to register call Tracy Kelley at 318-727-4591 or Laure Derr at 318-628-4079.

June 1: Self Defense Awareness

Join us on four dates in June to learn Self Awareness/ Self Defense. Classes are held on Wednesdays, (June 1, June 8, June 22 and June 29) from 6 -8 p.m. at the Sacred Heart (Pineville) Activities Building. Classes are free and open to the public. For more information contact Joe Thompson (after 4 p.m.) at 318-451-3548.

June 4: Divine Mercy Conference

The Office of Religious Formation and Training will be celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy with a visual one-day conference: *Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told*. Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC will guide us through the dramatic history of God's Love and Mercy through the stories of St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Our Lady of Fatima, and Pope St. John Paul II. We are encouraging everyone to come watch this remarkable video experience as part of your personal faith formation. It will be especially helpful to catechists. The conference is Saturday, June 4, at Maryhill Renewal Center, 9 a.m. 3:15 p.m. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. To register, please email emccullough@diocesealex.org, or call Emily Ann McCullough: 318-445-6424 ext. 251.

June 4: St. Mary School fundraiser

St. Mary's Catholic School in Natchitoches will host a Memorial Garden Fundraiser on Saturday, June 4 at 5 p.m. at the school. Enjoy a dinner by Chef Henry Chandler ('77), as well as music, entertainment, a silent and live auction, and a St. Mary's memorabilia display -- all for \$75 per person. Proceeds will benefit a Memorial Rosary Garden to be constructed around the current Marian grotto on the school grounds. To purchase tickets, call Melissa Frye at 318-352-8394, or mfrye@smstigers.org

June 9: OLPS Faith Formation Series

The Spirituality and Education Commission at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria will offer an Adult Faith Formation series once a month, throughout 2016.

- The June presentation will be held June 9 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the OLPS Divine Providence Center and will feature a Summary of Laudato Si, which will include Pope Francis' Encyclical video.

June 11: St. Joseph School Co-Ed Softball Tournament

Plan to join us for a fun field day of softball and good times with family and friends at the 2016 Co-ed Softball Tournament at St. Joseph School Age groups: 8-12, 13-17, 18+. Register as a couple for all age groups. Registration fee is \$40 per couple. Teams will be pulled out of the hat. To register call Sheila Aymond at 318-359-4674. Deadline to register is June 8. Payment is expected on day of the tournament.

June 18: Marriage Enrichment

Please join us on Saturday, June 18 at 10 a.m. in the Madonna Room at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church when Father Charlie Ray will give a marriage enrichment talk on the "Mission of Marriage." Childcare will be provided, free of charge, for all ages in the church nursery.

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 141 South 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 22-24: Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Rekindle your love for another on a get-away weekend. What better way to celebrate the gift of your unique love than to make time to focus on each other and your marriage? Consider attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to renew those feelings you had during your first few years together. The next two weekends are July 22-24 and Oct 14-15 at the Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. You can get more information or register online at LAMS-wwwme.org or by calling 470-297-8560.

Happy
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Sunday, June 19

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				Sacred Heart Festival			
				PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN	PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR	PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
PRAY FOR FR. A. PALLAKATTUCHIRA	PRAY FOR FR. B PALLIPPARAMBIL	PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH	PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE	PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN	PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL	PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU	
30	31	JUNE 1	2	3	4	5	
PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS	PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS		St. Mary's Fundraiser 5:00 p.m. St. Mary's School, Natchitoches		
					1-Day Video Conference on Divine Mercy 9:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Maryhill Renewal Center		
				St. Martin Fair -- Lecompte			
				FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ	PRAY FOR FR. J. ROY	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
		VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie	Adult Faith Formation Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria		Ordination Mass for John Wiltse 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria		
							VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN	PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT	PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER	PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY	PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA	PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	PRAY FOR FR. S. SOARES	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
			Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville		Marriage Enrichment 10:00 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria		
							VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville							
PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA	PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS	FATHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. D. TRAVIS	

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