

# CHURCH TODAY

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 19, 2014

## ON THE INSIDE

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The new priest assignments for the diocese are listed on pg. 7.

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### **Diocese to celebrate 1 ordination to priesthood; 3 ordinations of deacons**

Deacon Taylor Reynolds will be ordained to the priesthood June 28 and three seminarians -- Brian Seiler, Dale Meade, and Joseph Desmoine -- will be ordained to the diaconate on May 24. Read more about the details on page 6.

## **Finalist for national Lumen Christi Award Servant House: a quiet presence in Marksville for 25 years**



**SERVANT HOUSE FOUNDERS** Aggie Neck (left) and Donna Culotta (right) opened a Catholic Charismatic House of Prayer in 1989, using their personal savings and relying on donations to operate. Twenty-five years later, they are being recognized for their work by Catholic Extension as one of nine Lumen Christi Award finalists.



## U.S. bishops to meet in N.O. June 11-13 for Spring General Assembly

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will meet June 11-13, in New Orleans, for their annual Spring General Assembly.

The opening Mass of the June general session will be celebrated by Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, USCCB president, at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Louis.

The second day of the general session will include presentations and discussion on two special topics: "Marriage and the Economy" and "the New Evangelization and Poverty." Other agenda items include:

- A presentation on the upcoming Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family.

- A presentation on the World Meeting of Families by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., of Philadelphia and Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

- A presentation from Catholic Relief Services (CRS) regarding the relief efforts in the Philippines in the wake of last November's Typhoon Haiyan.

- Debate and vote on the request for renewal of the recognition granted to the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons.

- Consultation on the cause for canonization of Father Paul Wattson, Servant of God.

- Update and vote on proposal by working group on Faithful Citizenship.



**U.S. BISHOPS ATTEND ANNUAL FALL MEETING IN 2013.** Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski, center left, and other members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (Bishop Herzog is at left) attend their annual fall meeting in 2013 in Baltimore. The bishops will meet June 11-13, 2014 in New Orleans for their spring general assembly. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

- A presentation on the Annual Progress Report of the bishops' efforts to protect children and young people from sexual abuse, presented by Francesco Cesario, Ph.D., chair of the National Review Board.

- Debate and vote on the renewal of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty for an additional three year term..

- An update from Archbishop Leonard P. Blair of Hartford, Connecticut, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catechism, on the work of the Subcommittee.

- An update from Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, on the Subcommittee's efforts.

## Supreme Court ruling allows prayers before public meetings

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Supreme Court ruled May 5 that prayers said before town council meetings in Greece, N.Y., **do not** violate the Constitution.

In their 5-4 decision, the judges noted a historical precedent to opening local legislative meetings with a prayer and stressed that the predominantly Christian nature of the prayers in the New York town were not coercive to those in attendance.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, said the prayers delivered before public meetings in Greece, a suburb of Rochester, "evoked universal themes" such as "calling for a 'spirit of cooperation.'"

He also noted the historical precedence of such prayers, pointing out that the U.S. House and Senate have official chaplains and a majority of the states have the practice of legislative prayer.

Kennedy wrote that the "inclusion of a brief, ceremonial prayer as part of a larger exercise in civic recognition suggests that its purpose and effect are to acknowledge religious leaders and the institutions they represent, rather than to exclude or coerce nonbelievers."

He said that unless the prayers "over time denigrate, proselytize or betray an imper-

... "Unless the prayers 'over time denigrate, proselytize or betray an impermissible government purpose' they will 'not likely establish a constitutional violation.'"

-- Justice Anthony Kennedy

missible government purpose" they will "not likely establish a constitutional violation." He also wrote that because the town had followed a policy of nondiscrimination it was not required by the Constitution to search beyond its borders for those who could offer non-Christian prayers in an attempt to provide balance.

Public prayers have been offered in Greece by local clergy members before town council meetings since 1999. In 2008, two residents sued the town arguing that the prayers violated the Establishment Clause of the First

Amendment of the Constitution.

Since the lawsuit, the town has made an effort to invite a variety of faith leaders to present these prayers but the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2012 found the prayer practice unconstitutional and emphasized that the majority of the prayers were specifically Christian.

The appeals court said the Supreme Court's 1983 ruling in *Marsh v. Chambers* -- where it upheld the Nebraska Legislature's practice of opening its legislative sessions with a prayer as part of a deeply embedded tradition -- did

not apply because the town council meetings in Greece are not just for elected officials but local residents.

In the *Marsh* ruling, Chief Justice Warren Burger described opening prayers as "part of the fabric of our society." The ruling only prohibited prayers that would advance or disparage a particular religion.

Justice Elena Kagan, writing the dissent in the *Greece v. Galloway* case, said the case before the court differed from the *Marsh* ruling because "Greece's town meetings involve participation by ordinary citizens, and the invocations given -- directly to those citizens -- were predominantly sectarian in content."

The majority opinion May 5 relied on the *Marsh* decision, pointing to the historical precedence of opening legislative sessions with prayer and the reluctance of the government to supervise or censor such prayers.

John Vile, dean of the University Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University and co-editor of *The Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*, said all the justices were "respectful both of prayers in general and of religious diversity."

He said the majority "appeared to recognize that undue scrutiny of prayers by public officials was more likely to lead to establishment issues than opening invitations to individuals from diverse denominations."

Vile told Catholic News Service he found it interesting that none of the justices sought to overturn the *Marsh* decision nor did they stress the 1971 case, *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, in which the Supreme Court allowed prayer if it passed a three-pronged test: It has a secular purpose, its primary effect "neither advances nor inhibits religion," and it does not excessively entangle government with religion.



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# Pope Paul VI to be canonized Oct. 19 after Synod of Bishops

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis will beatify Pope Paul VI Oct. 19 during the closing Mass of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family.

Pope Francis signed a decree May 9 recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Pope Paul, who led the church from 1963 to 1978, and authorized publication of the Oct. 19 beatification date, according to a Vatican statement May 10.

The miracle involved the birth of a baby in California in the 1990s. The family's name and city have not been released, but according to news reports, a pregnant woman whose life was at risk along with the life of her baby was advised by doc-

tors to terminate the pregnancy. Instead she sought prayers from an Italian nun who was a family friend. The nun placed a holy card with Pope Paul's photograph and a piece of his vestment on the woman's belly.

The baby was born healthy. For Pope Paul's sainthood cause, physicians continued monitoring the child's health up to the age of 12 and everything was normal.

Pope Paul's connection with the themes expected to be raised at the synod on the family Oct. 5-19 include the encyclical for which he is most known, "Humanae Vitae." The 1968 encyclical, usually described as a document affirming the church's prohibition against artificial contraception, places that conclusion in the context of Catholic teaching on the beauty



Pope Paul VI

and purpose of marriage, married love and procreation.

When St. John XXIII died in 1963, Pope Paul reconvened the Second Vatican Council, presided over the final three of its four sessions and oversaw the promulgation of all of the council's documents. He also led the process of implementing the council's reforms.

Pope Paul VI was the first pope in the modern era to travel abroad, visiting 20 countries from 1967 - 1970. Born Giovanni Battista Montini in 1897 in the northern Italian province of Brescia, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1920 and was named archbishop of Milan in 1954. Elected pope in 1963, he died at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo Aug. 6, 1978.

## Satanic 'black mass' at Harvard cancelled after public outcry

(CNS) -- A Harvard University student group's plan to conduct a satanic ritual "black mass" May 12 on campus brought a public outcry, leading to its formal cancellation and an apparently impromptu off-campus version of the event, as well as a well-attended alternative Catholic holy hour.

The black mass had drawn wide criticism from religious leaders as well as students, alumni and faculty at Harvard. More than 60,000 students, alumni and faculty members signed a petition opposed to holding the event on campus.

University President Drew Faust said earlier that she would attend the holy hour "to join others in reaffirming our respect for the Catholic faith at Harvard and to demonstrate that the most powerful response to offensive speech is not censorship, but reasoned



**AN ESTIMATED 2,000 PEOPLE ATTEND HOLY HOUR** May 12 at St. Paul Church in Cambridge, Mass., in reaction to plans for a satanic ritual "black mass" to be held in a pub on the Harvard University campus. The student group organizing the "black mass" ultimately cancelled the event. (CNS photo/Gregory L. Tracy, Pilot)

discourse and robust dissent."

Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley told reporters May 12 that the archdiocese and the Catholic community took offense to the planned black mass but that "we have no way to prevent it other than to try and explain to people how evil this is," he said.

The cardinal said one could find out why it offends Catholics simply by looking up the phrase "black mass" on Wikipedia.

"A black mass is a ritual performed as a sacrilegious parody of the Roman Catholic Mass," the first sentence of the Wikipedia entry read.

"That says it all," the cardinal said. He added that he was disappointed in Faust's statement, saying he hoped she would ask the group not to perform the ritual on university property.

Faust's statement called the club's decision to sponsor such an enactment "abhorrent; it represents a fundamental affront to the values of inclusion, belonging and mutual respect that must define our community. But she said she would not cancel or ban the black mass.

"The decision to proceed is and will remain theirs," she said of the student group. Faust added, "It is deeply regrettable that the organizers of this event, well aware of the offense they are causing so many others, have chosen to proceed with a form of expression that is so flagrantly disrespectful and inflammatory."

Harvard's student newspa-

per, The Crimson, reported late May 12 that the Harvard Extension School Cultural Studies Club dropped its sponsorship of the re-enactment of the satanic ritual shortly before it was scheduled to take place in the on-campus Cambridge Queens Head Pub. The club first announced that afternoon that the event would be held off campus, then that it was canceled altogether.

The newspaper quoted an email from the club saying "misinterpretations about the nature of the event were harming perceptions about Harvard and adversely impacting the student community," and led to the decision to move it off campus. The paper said negotiations with the alternative venue subsequently fell through. The 50 or so people who had gathered for the event then organized a scaled-down version at a nearby restaurant and lounge.

Meanwhile, The Pilot, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston, reported that about 2,000 people attended a eucharistic procession to St. Paul's Catholic Church and a holy hour organized by Catholics.

Father Michael E. Drea, the senior Catholic chaplain at Harvard, had condemned the event, saying it mocks the "Holy Sacrifice of the Mass -- the center of our faith and worship."

"As the university attempts to veil this 'presentation' under the guise of 'academic freedom and expression,' people of good

See BLACK MASS pg. 18



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Richard J. Arsenault, Alexandria

As we celebrate the most holy and the longest liturgical season of the year -- the season of Easter -- we are filled with hope in the Living Resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ. I hope you all had a blessed Easter.

As I continue to recover from my recent illness, I think about how blessed I am to be Shepherd of such a wonderful diocese. I am so thankful to Father Stephen Scott Chemino, V.G. and Father Bruce Miller, J.C.L. for acting on my behalf in conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation to students around the diocese. I know what a busy time of the year this is, and how I miss the opportunity to visit the young people getting confirmed.

This weekend, we are privileged to experience the diaconal ordinations of three of our seminarians -- Brian Seiler, Dale Meade, and Joseph Desmoine. I am most appreciative to Bishop Michael Jarrell from the Diocese



## ONE IN THE LORD

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

of Lafayette, who will be there in my absence to confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders (first rank).

On June 28, we will again be blessed to experience the ordination of Deacon Taylor Reynolds to the priesthood. I can remember Taylor as one of the first young men I accepted as a seminarian when I first became bishop, and have enjoyed seeing him through the entire seven-year journey to the priesthood. Unfortunately, I won't be there to confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Deacon Taylor, but I am happy to know

that Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, has graciously accepted my invitation to act on my behalf.

The selection process for men who desire to serve as deacons is completed and classes have begun for 14 men who have answered the call to further serve the Church. The spiritual formation and training for these deacon aspirants is one weekend a month for five years. Once their studies and formation are completed, they will join the 15 active deacons currently serving our dio-

cese. This is a ministry of service that takes many forms. Active deacons in our diocese are assigned to a parish and often to special ministries outside the parish. Their specific responsibilities vary from parish to parish.

The education of seminarians and deacons are all funded by the Annual Diocesan Appeal, which I am told by Ann Masden, director of Development, is going well. If you have haven't made your pledge to the Appeal yet, I encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so. If you have already made a pledge or a donation, I sincerely thank you for your support. It is through the funds of the Annual Appeal that we are able to do so much in the diocese.

This year, for the first time, I am looking forward to being a part of Steubenville South, by watching the live streaming on the Internet. Of course, I'd rather be there in person, but it will give me a different perspective of par-

ticipating in Steubenville. I'll be praying for you all!

Since my last column in March, I have steadily been making progress in my recovery of a stroke I suffered in February. I am working hard in physical therapy and have progressed to the point that I can now walk with the aid of a walking cane. It hasn't been easy and I have had a few setbacks along the way, but I put my faith and trust in the Lord that I will soon return to my duties as your bishop.

In the meantime, I welcome your prayers and deeply appreciate the many gifts and notes of encouragement. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the thoughts and prayers of so many of you in the diocese.

May the Lord bless you during this holy Easter season!

# Sometimes best way to find Christ, is to let yourself find Mary

It is May. That means Catholic schools and parishes will be having May Crowning.

About two years after my conversion, the whole Mary-and-the-month-of-May thing hit my radar. "So what's with Mary and the month of May?" I asked my cradle Catholic friend. She explained that the Church has set aside the month of May to honor the Blessed Mother -- hence, May Crowning. It's time to pray the rosary and present the Blessed Mother with flowers and a crown, she said.

Try explaining that to your Protestant family & friends.

You do what?

We pray the rosary... [You've already lost them, and you haven't even gotten to the part about the crown.]

Have you ever read the children's book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Joffe Numeroff? It's kind of like that.

If you mention May and the Blessed Mother, you have to mention May Crowning. If you mention May Crowning, you have to explain how Mary is the Queen of Heaven & Earth. If you mention that Mary is the Queen of Heaven & Earth, you have to talk about the Assumption, the Immaculate Conception, the Ark of the Covenant, the New Eve and why



## CATHOLIC BY GRACE

Denise Bossert  
Freelance -- [Denisebossert.com](http://Denisebossert.com)

that's all scriptural. You'll have to crack open the Bible and look at the Book of Revelations and the "women clothed with the sun" and explain how Mary was pre-figured by Hannah, Ruth, Queen Esther, and Judith.

And if you make it to Judith, you are going to have to explain why Judith is not in their Protestant Bibles--but they don't know what they are missing because Judith is the most amazing widow in Salvation History.

And if you find yourself back to the Bible, you are going to have to talk about the rosary again and how those prayers come right out of the Bible because Jesus prayed the Our Father, and the Hail Mary is a combination of the words of Archangel Gabriel and Saint Elizabeth.

And if you manage to explain why Catholics pray memorized prayers, you will have to explain that we pray in many different

ways and it all comes together in the Mass and the Mass fits into the Liturgical Calendar and the Liturgical Calendar takes us from Advent to Christmas to Ordinary Time, to Lent to Easter to Pentecost, and then to...

May.

To the Blessed Mother.

And... if you mention the month of May and the Blessed Mother, you'd better put on another pot of coffee because you are about to cover the same ground all over again.

Our Faith is organic. It all fits together. It cannot be reduced to one sound bite. It lives and breathes and has a complexity and beauty that is as mysterious and glorious as the Body of Christ.

And the month of May is connected to that living, breathing intricacy.

Let's face it. The best way to experience Mary's month is to

become a little child. Don't try to figure it all out at once like someone cramming for a final exam.

Just go cut some flowers and lay them at her feet. Pick up your rosary and pray the Glorious Mysteries. Or simply plan to learn the Hail Mary if you have

never tried to do that.

For you see, it all comes down to this:

Sometimes, the best way to find Christ is to let yourself find Mary. Embrace the simple elegance of it and the organic complexity will fall into place.

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# Fr. Michael Gaitley's: 33 Days to Morning Glory

## A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in preparation for Marian Consecration

Three years ago, in a talk to Marian novices, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, confessed that his devotion to Mary Immaculate had gotten “dry” and needed a “jump-start.”

“The prayers of novices are powerful, so please pray for me,” he requested.

It had been a long day. He sensed that some of the novices were getting fidgety.

“Guys,” he said, “this is serious.”

At that moment, an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that had hung for years on a wall of the retreat house on Eden Hill where they were meeting, fell with a crash and broke. The novices gasped.

Point taken.

They must have dedicated many prayers for Fr. Michael's intentions because a month later, while attempting to take some much-needed days off, he woke up with a fully formed idea of how to inspire (as well as jump-start) Marian devotion to a degree he had never imagined. He spent that entire day writing, the evening reading and researching, and slept very little. He spent the following nine days on an identical schedule.

The result is the new book by Marian Press titled *33 Days to Morning Glory: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Marian Consecration*.

Though he jokes that the prayers of the Marian novices “ruined” his vacation, Fr. Michael says writing the book has already



Available through:  
Marian Press  
All Hearts Afire  
Catholic Lighthouse Media

Also free pdf downloads  
available online

### Start of the 33 Days

Jan. 9  
Feb. 20  
April 10  
April 28  
Varies

### Marian Feast

Our Lady of Lourdes  
The Annunciation  
Our Lady of Fatima  
The Visitation  
Immaculate Heart  
  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
The Assumption  
Queenship of Mary  
Nativity of Mary  
Holy Name of Mary  
Our Lady of Sorrows  
Our Lady of the Rosary  
Presentation of Mary  
Immaculate Conception  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Mother of God  
Presentation of the Lord

### Consecration/ Feast Day

Feb. 11  
March 25  
May 13  
May 31  
Saturday after  
Corpus Christi  
  
July 16  
Aug. 15  
Aug. 22  
Sept. 8  
Sept. 12  
Sept. 15  
Oct. 7  
Nov. 21  
Dec. 8  
Dec. 12  
Jan. 1  
Feb. 2

resulted in many graces, including reviving his own Marian zeal and firing up “other tepid souls to a greater love for Mary.”

### What does a Marian consecration mean?

In the simplest of terms, by means of Marian consecration, we give ourselves to Mary to be formed into the image of her Son, Jesus.

“This is why we’re encouraging so many of our Marian

Helpers to consecrate themselves to Mary, because she brings us most intimately into that encounter with Jesus,” says Fr. Michael, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers and author of the critically acclaimed book *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* (Marian Press). “The Association of Marian Helpers is dedicated to knowing and proclaiming the mercy of God, and the key ally, the key person to help us, is Mary Immaculate.”

Saint Louis de Montfort (1673-1716), author of the seminal book on Marian consecration, *True Devotion to Mary*, described total consecration to Jesus through Mary as “the surest, easiest, and most perfect means” to becoming a saint.

Long an enthusiastic promoter for Marian consecration, Fr. Michael says his book updates and modifies the 33-day regimen typically followed to prepare for such a blessing — the de Montfort

Fathers’ esteemed Preparation for Total Consecration.

“Updated, because since St. Louis de Montfort’s death there have been even more insights into Marian consecration by great contemporary saints of Marian consecration, namely St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Blessed John Paul II,” says Fr. Michael. “So it’s an updated version of the consecration preparation, because it includes these other three Marian giants who have most dramatically added to the beauty and richness of consecration spirituality.”

Also, instead of what can seem like a “33-day marathon” of litanies and prayer, Fr. Michael’s book prescribes 33 days of “spiritual reading and prayerful pondering.” The book is broken down so that readers spend seven days each on the Marian consecration teachings of St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa, and Blessed John Paul II. Then the final five days are for review before reciting the Prayer of Consecration (preferably after receiving Holy Communion).

### So how does it work?

1. Get the book. Buy it through Marian Press or any other on-line dealer. Free pamphlets or free downloadable pdfs are also available on the internet.

2. Decide when to start. You can start the retreat anytime, but Fr. Gaitley suggests that you start on a date that will end 33 days on the vigil of a Marian feast day. (See the chart above).

3. Start the 33-day retreat. This means reading about 1-3 pages a day in the book.

On the last day, you will recite a consecration prayer, preferably after a good confession and receiving the Holy Eucharist, and wearing or carrying the Miraculous Medal with you. The last three things are recommendations and are not essential to the consecration.

Using *33 Days to Morning Glory*, Hearts Afire is being tested in pilot programs around the country. It was introduced on April 15 on EWTN.



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Deacon Taylor Reynolds



Brian Seiler



Dale Meade



Joseph Desmoine

## Diocese to celebrate 4 ordinations

The Diocese of Alexandria will celebrate the ordination of three men to the diaconate in May and one to the priesthood in June.

### Deacon Taylor Reynolds

Deacon Taylor Reynolds will be ordained a priest on June 28 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. The public is invited to attend.

Deacon Reynolds, currently studying at the North American Pontifical College in Rome, is expected to complete his studies at the end of May, and graduate with a Masters of Divinity (M. Div.)

He received a BA in Philoso-

phy from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

He is the son of Agnes and Billy Reynolds of Bunkie, where he is a parishioner at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church.

### Diaconate ordinations

Seminarians Brian Seiler, Dale Meade, and Joseph Desmoine will be ordained deacons on Saturday, May 24 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. The public is invited to attend.

All three are currently studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

Brian is the son of Drs. Brenda and Jeff Seiler of Alexandria, where he is a parishioner at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria.

Dale is the son of Charlene Meade of Pollock, and is a parishioner at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Joseph is the son of Gary and Mary Desmoine of LaPlace. He also attended St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict.

In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions there are three ranks of Holy Orders, each part of the one sacrament: deacon, priest, and bishop.

## Fr. Peter Faulk leaves for Rome in July to pursue canon law degree

Father Peter Faulk will leave in mid-July and travel to Rome, Italy where he will spend the next three years pursuing a degree in canon law for the Diocese of Alexandria.

Fr. Peter will attend the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, where he will work toward a J.C.L. degree (Latin: Juris Canonici Licentia) or a Licentiate of Canon Law.

"It is a very exciting opportunity," he said. "I am grateful to Bishop (Ronald) Herzog, Fr. Miller and the entire Tribunal staff for working with me and encouraging me to pursue this path of study."

Fr. Peter has been working in the Diocese of Alexandria's Tribunal Office, where he has served as the Assessor for the calendar year of 2013-2014. After earning the J.C.L. degree, he will return to the Diocese and work in the Tribunal Office.

Although registration and classes don't start until late Sep-



Rev. Peter Faulk

tember, Fr. Peter will leave two months early to participate in an Italian language immersion program.

"All of the classes at the University are taught in Italian," he said, "so, I will participate in a two-month immersion program to prepare me for studies and life in Italy."

Fr. Peter says that his knowledge of the Spanish language and working with Hispanic ministry will assist in learning the Italian language since the two (Span-

ish and Italian) are so similar and are even referred to as "sister languages."

Fr. Faulk will reside at an international priest house called Casa San Carlo Borromeo, about a 10 minute-walk from the Vatican. The majority of the students who live in the "Casa" (Italian for "house") are from Italy, Latin America, Africa, India and Poland.

Father Peter received a B.A. in Philosophy from St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict, La., and a M.Div. in Theology from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

There are currently three other priests in the diocese who hold a J.C.L. degree, including Fathers Scott Chemino, Bruce Miller, and James Ferguson. Canon law requires that each diocese maintains several canon lawyers at all times.

Father Peter is the son of Nancy Pinckley and Tommy Faulk, both of Alexandria, LA.

## Seminarian Burses

### April Donations

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Dr. Joseph Landreneau .....	\$25.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach .....	\$200.00
Msgr. Steve J. Testa Burse	
Total this month .....	\$690.00

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## Clergy Assignments (Effective June 25, 2014)



**Fr. John Pardue**  
Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church,  
Powhattan; St. Anne Chapel



**Fr. Adam Travis**  
Pastor, St. Martin, Lecompte;  
OL of Guadalupe Mission



**Fr. Ramji Shoury**  
Pastor, St. Peter, Bordelonville;  
St. Michael Mission



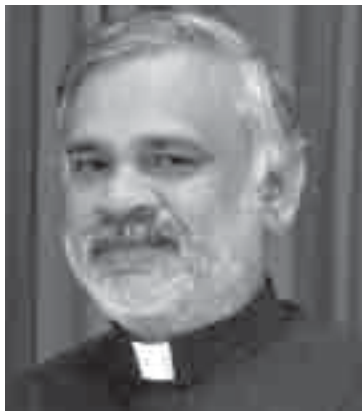
**Fr. Thomas Paul**  
Pastor, St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle;  
St. Anne Mission



**Fr. Abraham Varghese**  
Pastor, Holy Ghost, Marksville;  
St. Richard Mission



**Fr. Antonio Velez**  
Pastor, St. Mary, Jena  
St. Edward Mission, Fishville



**Fr. Joseph Xavier**  
Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Church,  
Vidalia



**Fr. Dan O'Connor**  
Pastor, Our Lady of Prompt Succor  
Church, Alexandria



**Fr. Michael Craig Scott**  
Pastor, St. Rita, Alexandria;  
Reappointed Vicar for Clergy

(Not Pictured):  
Fr. Gabriel Uzundu, SOLT,  
Pastoral Administrator  
St. James, Alexandria  
Assist with Hispanic Ministry

Fr. Paul LaPalme  
Pastoral Administrator  
Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth  
Chaplain, LSU-Alexandria



**Fr. Stephen Soares, MSFS**  
Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Concep-  
tion, Natchitoches; Hispanic Ministry



**Fr. Charles Ray**  
Parochial Vicar, St. Anthony of  
Padua, Bunkie



**Msgr. Steve J. Testa, V.F.**  
Retiring from active ministry



**Fr. Antony Aelavanthara**  
Retiring from active ministry



**Fr. Pedro Sierra Posada**  
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### 4 discerning vocations at LSU-A

Fr. Kenneth Michiels, director of Vocations, talks to four students at LSU-A's Catholic Student Center who are seriously discerning vocations to either the priesthood or the religious life. One student, Nicole Orzeck (sitting on the sofa to the right of Fr. Michiels) has definitely decided to pursue the religious life in the fall and is currently exploring several religious orders. The other students are Yogi Patel, Cory Miller, and Maddie Runyan. "It is remarkable that four young people, from one place at the same time, are considering vocations," said Father Michiels.



## Pope tells priests, show your mercy; tells faithful, pester your priests

(CNS) -- Always be merciful, just like Jesus, who came to forgive, not condemn, Pope Francis told new priests.

"Always have in front of your eyes the example of the Good Shepherd, who didn't come to be served, but to serve and to look for and save those who were lost," he said in his homily May 11 -- the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The pope's remarks came during an ordination Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, where the pope ordained 13 new priests.

Pope Francis reminded the men that they were called by Jesus to continue his mission as teacher, priest and shepherd, and to serve the church and the people of God. He urged them to read, reflect on and teach the word of God and to be a living example of what they preach.

Nourish God's people with his word and doctrine, "which isn't yours. You do not own the doctrine (of the faith). It is the doctrine of the Lord and you must be faithful to the Lord's doctrine," the pope said.

In their new role of administering the sacraments, including reconciliation, he asked them to "never tire of being merciful!"

He said it pains him terribly "when I see people who don't go to confession anymore because they had been clobbered, yelled at. They felt that the doors of the church had been closed in their face. Please, don't do this!"

"Pester your priests!" he said, much like a baby calf pesters its mother for milk and nourishment. Ask for God's guidance.

**ANNIVERSARY MASS FOR PRIESTS.** Priests in the Diocese of Alexandria who are celebrating anniversaries this year were honored at the annual Jubilarian Mass held May 15 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. Rev. Stephen Scott Chemino, V.G. was the main celebrant of the Mass, with the priests of the diocese as concelebrants. Msgr. Steve Testa, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary this year on May 30, was the homilist. Msgr. Testa has been the last "monsignor" in the diocese in active ministry for several years; after his retirement in June, there will be no more. Those celebrating anniversaries this year are:

Rev. John Ryan	June 6, 1954	60 years
Rev. Nino Viviano	May 30, 1964	50 years
Msgr. Steve J. Testa	May 30, 1964	50 years
Rev. Charles Morgan	March 17, 1979	35 years
Rev. James Nellikunnel	April 17, 1979	35 years
Rev. Christian Ogbonna	July 22, 1979	35 years
Rev. Robert Garrione	May 20, 1989	25 years
Rev. Antonio Velez	July 8, 1989	25 years

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# Thousands join the Catholic Church in the US this Easter

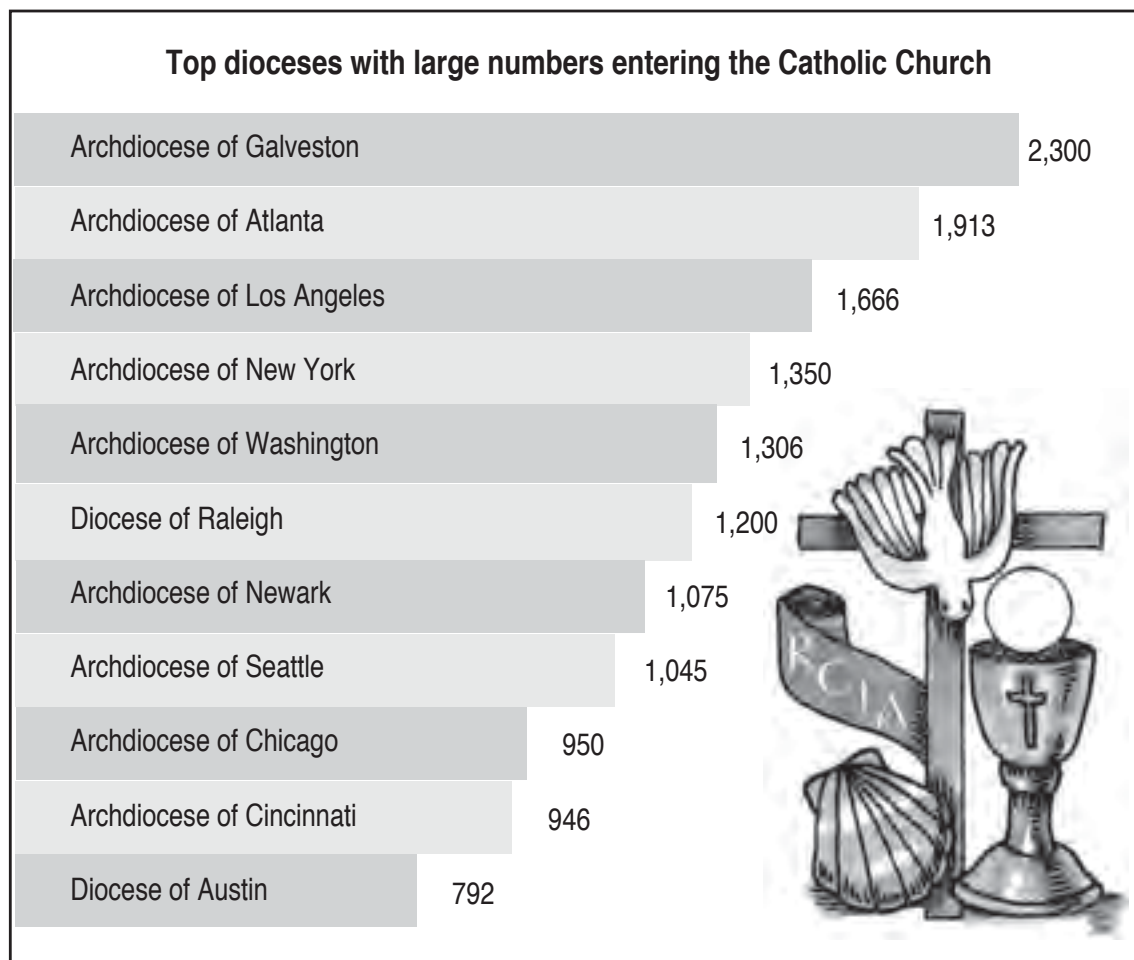
Thousands of new Catholics have joined the Catholic Church in the United States this Easter.

All have participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a process of conversion and study in the Catholic faith for catechumens and candidates coming into full communion with the Church.

Catechumens, who have never been baptized, will receive baptism, confirmation and first Communion at the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil. Candidates, who have already been baptized in another Christian tradition whose baptism is recognized by the Catholic Church, will enter the Church through a profession of faith and reception of confirmation and Eucharist.

David Cupp, a candidate from the Archdiocese of Detroit who admits he had not “practiced much of anything for years,” came to the Catholic Church after the sudden death of his wife of 40 years, who was a devoted Catholic. He is grateful for his new journey in the Catholic Church despite his circumstances. “What keeps you sane is that you have to believe that there is a true God,” Cupp says. He is one of 520 catechumens and 660 candidates in the archdiocese who will receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Only a few months ago, an online video of the Ave Maria moved Jian Wang, a civil engineering student at Rutgers Uni-



versity, to become Catholic. He is a native of China who is no stranger to hardship and poverty. At age 2, his mother left the home and while in college, he lost his father. A simple Google search got him in touch with the university’s Catholic Center where his journey to become Catholic began.

Wang is among 114 catechu-

mens and 156 candidates from the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey, looking forward to receiving the sacraments. As in many communities around the country, a growth in cultural diversity is reflected in the diocese, where some of the catechumens and candidates come from different countries. Some churches are preparing celebrations and initiations

that will include languages such as Chinese, Korean and Spanish.

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston will welcome about 2,300 catechumens and candidates. The Archdiocese of Washington will welcome 1,306 new Catholics, the largest number of candidates and catechumens in its history. Also welcoming large numbers of converts this year are

the Archdiocese of Atlanta, with 1,913 new Catholics; the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with 1,666; the Archdiocese of New York with 1,350; the Diocese of Raleigh with 1,200; the Archdiocese of Newark with 1,075; the Archdiocese of Seattle with 1,045; the Archdiocese of Chicago with 950; and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati with 946.

Other dioceses reporting hundreds of catechumens and candidates include:

- Oklahoma City (283 catechumens, 485 candidates)
- Austin, Texas (374 catechumens, 416 candidates);
- Baltimore (238 catechumens, 462 candidates);
- Columbus, Ohio (239 catechumens, 331 candidates)
- Philadelphia (309 catechumens, 386 candidates)
- Lansing, Mich. (295 catechumens, 351 candidates)
- Boston (650 new members)
- Milwaukee (642 new members)
- St. Augustine, Fla. (592 new members)
- Grand Rapids, Mich. (506 new members)
- Mobile, Ala. (482 new members)
- Omaha, Neb. (168 catechumens, 312 candidates)
- Lafayette, Ind. (158 catechumens, 225 candidates)

These numbers are based on participation in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, the final phase of RCIA.



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# Servant House: a quiet presence in Marksville for 25 years

## Chosen as one of nine finalists in Catholic Extension's Lumen Christi Award

(Editor's Note: Twenty-five years ago, two selfless laywomen made a life-changing commitment to open a Catholic Charismatic House of Prayer in Marksville.

Aggie Neck left her job, and Donna Culotta, together with her husband, Joseph, sacrificed personal savings to buy and restore a house that would become, among other things, a hub of ministry to the needy in Marksville -- and soon became known as Servant House.

This month, Aggie and Donna were named one of nine finalists in the Lumen Christi Awards, sponsored by Catholic Extension. If selected, they could be awarded a \$25,000 grant.)

**By Jeannie Petrus**  
CT editor

The dream of a house of prayer in Marksville was revealed to Aggie Neck one day while she was out walking in her neighborhood more than 27 years ago.

*Wouldn't it be great to have a Catholic Charismatic House of Prayer, a place where people could be ministered to?*

Although she shared the idea with others they thought it was a

good idea and told her to let them know when she got it together. But she didn't know how to get it together. Finally she shared it with Donna Culotta whom she had met through the Charismatic Renewal.

"I'm supposed to be in there with you," Donna confidently said after hearing Aggie's idea.

Their husbands, on the other hand, were not quite as excited about their wives' dream to start such a project.

For Aggie, it meant leaving a paying job as the DRE at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marksville --- and her husband Clyde wondering "How are you going to get it together?"

For Donna's husband Joseph, this meant selling his hardware store in Leesville that had been in his family for years.

It meant taking their two teenage sons away from their friends and their school, and moving them to Marksville.

It meant selling their home and leaving everything they had known in Leesville for the past 22 years and moving to Marksville to start a project that would provide no salary.

It meant using their own savings to purchase, restore and fur-

nish a facility for the project.

Eventually, however, with the support of their husbands, the move was made and an old, run-down house was purchased.

"We thought it was a dump," said both Aggie and Donna. "We couldn't see the potential in a house that needed so much work."

But with Joseph's background in the hardware business and knowing a lot about plumbing and electrical work he also had the connections to get the work done.

Clyde had the ability to see beyond the old house and envision the finished product with an eye for architecture and an appreciation for old houses.

While the husbands worked on the physical structure of the house, Aggie and Donna with a large number of volunteers from local prayer groups and the community worked on cleaning up the place -- often turning some of the trash into cash.

Old record albums (left behind by the former occupant) were sold to a record dealer in New Orleans. Raleigh cigarette coupons, scattered all over the house, were redeemed for daffodil bulbs planted in the front flower bed.



AGGIE NECK AND DONNA CULOTTA, founders of Servant House.

A small, worn-out library table with part of a leg missing and a warped top, was taken from the trash pile, repaired, restored, and now holds the display of string rosaries that are sold.

Everything about the small house was completely redone or restored from the roof to the brick pilings, the porches, window screens, floors, walls, lawn and landscaping. The work was done mostly by volunteers who showed up at the right time to do a specific job.

After a year of renovations, the house was finished. On Oct. 15, 1989, with the unwavering support of their pastor Father Jerry Bordelon, Bishop Sam Jacobs came to bless and dedicate the new facility, which they named "Servant House."

### Open for Business

Once the facility was opened, the two ladies were approached by a local businessman and his

wife who wanted to form a youth group.

Marc Dubroc, who owned a pharmacy in Marksville, and his wife Sally, asked if the four of them could meet regularly to pray about organizing a group.

"Eventually the group of young people who began to meet, called themselves the Servant Squad," said Donna, "and through this group of exceptional, faith-filled young people, (I believe) the seeds of faith were planted for the beginning of Steubenville South.

Mark and Sally, as well as Servant House, played a part in nurturing the seeds of faith of so many of the faith leaders in the diocese today -- (Among them -- Josh Blakesley, Kelly Pease Lombardi, Paul Hood, Heather Bennett Blakesley, Holly Bennett Carbo and Michelle Lemoine.)

The youth prayer group met every Sunday night at Servant House, sharing music praise, wor-



**OCT. 19, 1989 BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF SERVANT HOUSE.** Donna Culotta and Aggie Neck were joined by friends and family and Father Jerry Bordelon on Oct. 19, 1989 when Bishop Sam Jacobs came to Marksville to bless and dedicate Servant House.



Servant House is one of the nine finalists (out of 38 nominated nation-wide) in the Lumen Christi Awards, sponsored by Catholic Extension. Please go to:

**[www.catholicextension.org](http://www.catholicextension.org)**

and vote for Servant House. Accompanied by a \$50,000 grant (\$25,000 for the honoree and \$25,000 for the nominating diocese), the Lumen Christi Award is presented to a priest, woman religious, lay person or group of people who have demonstrated how the power of faith can transform lives and society.

**Deadline to vote is Sunday, June 15, 2014**





**SERVANT HOUSE**, located at 117 N. Monroe Street in Marksville, is a Catholic Charismatic House of Prayer. It offers an emergency food pantry, a healing Mass once a month, a prison ministry, religious education, and an Inner Healing Ministry. Servant House is also involved in the National Day of Prayer, the Right to Life Movement, and Magnificat's Family Life Conference. It is open Monday - Friday, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

ship, teachings and fellowship.

"Eventually we moved to the church hall at St. Joseph. Those were the days when the place was filled with young people who really WANTED to be there and were so filled with the grace of God," said Donna. "There were times when Sally had to say 'go home!' at the end of the evening, because the kids enjoyed being together so much."

Word spread in the community about the new house of prayer, where anyone in need was welcome to find food for the soul and mind.

"Food for the body came later," Aggie explained, "people

who needed food started coming and we realized we needed to do something, so we did." That's how the emergency food pantry at Servant House began and thrives today after 24 years.

Servant House offers two important ministries: inner healing and spiritual direction. Other activities include a monthly Mass with healing prayer, a prison ministry, a monthly prayer calendar for priests of the diocese and a monthly newsletter, Bible studies and workshops, sponsorship of the Avoyelles Right-to-Life which meets monthly at Servant House, a weekly prayer meeting, and co-ordination of a National Day of

Prayer. They work closely with the local Magnificat Chapter and have been involved with Steubenville South since its inception 20 years ago.

"Many times when people come here they remark on how peaceful it is," said Aggie. "They 'feel the peace and presence of 'something good' when they come in." That something good is the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel, where Mass is celebrated once a month.

Servant House, which exists on free will donations, is located at 117 N. Monroe Street in Marksville and is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



**INSIDE SERVANT HOUSE.** (left) A nice large sitting room welcomes guests to Servant House from the front door. (right) A bookcase filled with books on spiritual guidance and lives of the saints stands in one corner, among the framed pictures of Servant Squad groups since 1990.

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## USCCB's 3rd annual Fortnight for Freedom to be held June 21- July4

WASHINGTON—Catholic dioceses and parishes across the United States are once again encouraged to raise awareness for domestic and international religious freedom concerns during the third annual Fortnight for Freedom, June 21-July 4.

The two-week celebration will focus on the theme, "Freedom to Serve," emphasizing the link between religious liberty and service to the poor and vulnerable.

"During the Fortnight, our liturgical calendar celebrates great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More, John the Baptist, Peter and Paul and the first martyrs of the Church of Rome," said Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"This is a time when Catholics can unite themselves in prayer to the men and women throughout history who spread the Gospel and lived out Jesus' call to serve the 'least of these' in even the direst of circumstances."

Two nationally televised Masses will bookend the Fortnight. Archbishop Lori will celebrate Mass at the Baltimore Basilica on June 21, at 5:30 p.m. EDT. Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington will celebrate Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on July 4, at noon EDT. USCCB President Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, will be the homilist at the July 4 Mass.

USCCB has prepared materials to help dioceses and parishes participate in the Fortnight, including templates and guides for special prayer services, a list of frequently asked questions about religious liberty, one-page fact sheets on current threats to religious freedom in the U.S. and around the world, and a study guide on *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Religious Freedom.

These materials and more information on the Fortnight and related issues can be found online at [www.fortnight4freedom.org](http://www.fortnight4freedom.org) and [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/).





## St. Anthony (Bunkie) Spring Fair

**Top:** Kids line up to try and win a goldfish.

**Middle:**

prepare for a crawfish race.

**Top right:** Fr. Scott Chemino enjoys calling a few games of BINGO during the fair.

**SAS Queens:** Tiny Miss SAS, ; Junior Miss SAS, ; Miss SAS, ; Little Miss SAS, ; People's Choice,

**Princess Anna & Elsa**, characters from the movie *Frozen* came out to St. Anthony's School fair. Pictured are Princess Anna, , Princess Elsa and .



## Holy Savior Menard Girls Softball Runner-ups in State Championship Tournament!

**MENARD GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM CLINCHES 2ND PLACE AT THE LH-SAA STATE TOURNAMENT.** The Holy Savior Menard Softball team made it to the LHSA Fastpitch 56 State Softball finals May 3 in Sulphur, but lost 5-4 in the final game to Oak Grove. It was the first time since 2007 that Menard advanced to the finals. Pictured are (front row)



**STATE RUNNER UPS.** Holy Savior Menard clinched the State Runner-up title in the LHSA State Softball Championship held in Sulphur on May 3. Holding the State Runner Up trophy are (left to right):



### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

St. Anthony School has several vacancies open for the 2014-15 school year. We are accepting applications for a 2nd grade teacher, a math teacher for grades 5-8, and an English/Language Arts teacher for grades 5-8. Certification and knowledge of basic computer skills is required. Send a resume to Martha Coulon, St. Anthony School, 116 South Knoll, Bunkie, LA 71322

**St. Anthony of Padua School**  
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### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

St. Joseph School is currently taking applications for a certified High School Math Teacher, Custodian and a part-time Counselor for ther 2014-2015 school year.

Please send resumes to Mr. Bryan Runyan at St. Joseph School, P.O. Box 59, Plaquemine, LA 71362, OR call (318) 922-3401 to make an appointment.

**St. Joseph School**  
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May Day Celebrations



**ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL MAY CROWNING.** Father Chad Partain prays before the Blessed Virgin Mary during the school’s annual May Crowning celebration May 2. All of the students in the school brough flowers to place before our Lady



**ST. PATRICK’S CATHOLIC CHURCH** (Montgomery) celebrated Mother’s Day with the Crowning of the Blessed Mother by \_\_\_\_\_ 7th grader and his sister, \_\_\_\_\_, 10th grader at Montgomery High School.

**OLPS MAY POLE” CELEBRATION.** (above) May 5 marked the 27th year that the OLPS 4th grade students led the school in the grand traditions of the “May Pole” celebration. This spring event marked the revival of life in early spring.



**OLPS MAY CROWNING COURT.** Students in all the grades at OLPS placed flowers at the foot of Our Lady before Mass on May 2. The May Crowning Court, who crowned Mary as Queen of Heaven, are 2nd graders (front row) \_\_\_\_\_ and King \_\_\_\_\_; and 6th graders Queen \_\_\_\_\_



**MAY CROWNING AT RADIO MARIA.** Students from the Divine Providence Catholic Homeschooling group participated in the live ‘on air’ May Crowning May 13 at Radio Maria in Alexandria. Father Robert Young, program director of Radio Maria, lead the 15-minute prayer program in the presence of volunteers and the students. Pictured are (front row) \_\_\_\_\_ . Middle row: \_\_\_\_\_ . Back row: \_\_\_\_\_ , Fr. Robert Young, and \_\_\_\_\_



Good Friday throughout the Diocese



**ST. PATRICK CHURCH (Montgomery).** After Mass and Adoration of the Holy Cross, members of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Montgomery remembered the Passion of Christ on Good Friday by walking the Stations of the Cross all around the town. The Stations of the Cross were placed at intervals along the roads. As Father Blake Deshautelle read the scripture at each station, the ladies of the parish read the reflections of Mary on that day and the men of the parish carried the Cross to each station. A light supper was shared in the fellowship hall after the walk.



**SACRED HEART (Pineville) LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** Veronica wipes the face of Jesus during the Live Stations of the Cross presented April 16 by the Youth Group at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville for the CCD students. Other teens who participated in the Stations were (Pilate), (Mary), (voice of Mary), and (soldiers), (Simon), (Joseph of Arimathea), and (women of Jerusalem), (men of Jerusalem), (leader), and and (lights and sound effects).



**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR FIRST GRADE EASTER PASSION PLAY** celebrated it's 15th year on Wednesday, April 16 in the OLPS Church at 9 a.m. (for OLPS students) and 1 p.m. (for OLPS parents and supporters). Each year the three first grade teachers (Amy Heitzler, Katherine Leglue, and Des Brunet) along with Megan Thiels, first grade teachers' aide, work together with the children for about a month to prepare the play. The production included all 62 students in the first grade as they travel the journey Christ took to the Hill at Calvary and then rising on the third day with His greatest gift to us all.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville) EASTER TRIDUUM** production was presented April 17 by the students in PK, and 6-8. The production included a re-enactment of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and the Living Stations of the Cross.

Pictured are: (left)  
Guard (left):  
Simon:  
Jesus -  
Guard (right) -  
  
Pictured are: (right)  
Pilate's assistant: Left -  
Pilate -  
Guard (front) -  
Guard (back left)  
Jesus -  
Guard (back right) -





## Celebrating Easter Sunday



**ST. JOSEPH (Marksville) EASTER EGG HUNT.** Winners of the Easter Egg Hunt and Sack Races held April 12 at St. Joseph Church in Marksville include



**HOLY ROSARY (Emmanuel) OUTDOOR EASTER SUNRISE MASS.** Father Kenneth Obiekwe, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Cloutierville and of Holy Rosary Mission in Emmanuel, celebrates an outdoor Mass at sunrise (7 a.m.) on Easter Morning. More than 100 people attend the outdoor Mass every year.



**ST. RITA CHURCH (Alexandria) EASTER EGG HUNT** was held April 20 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. More than 1,000 eggs, including six prize eggs, were hidden for children ages 7 and under.

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**ST. JOSEPH ALTAR.** The seniors from St. Joseph High School in Plaucheville proudly show off the monstrence made of bread for the St. Joseph Altar held March 19.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL'S 5TH GRADE COLUMBIAN SQUIRES AND CHILDREN OF MARY** groups collected 665 pounds of non-perishable items and can goods. The food was distributed to needy people of the community. This Lenten activity also gave the students an opportunity to meet people in the surrounding area. Pictured with the groups are Columbian Squire sponsor Marvin Guillot and Children of Mary sponsor Sister Delnise Silva.



**MISS ST. JOSEPH PAGEANT.** St. Joseph School in Plaucheville held its 2014 Miss St. Joseph Pageant March 16. The queens are expected to hold themselves up to a high moral Christian standard. They will participate in charity events such as the relay for life, toy drive, food drive, etc. for the year of their reign. Pictured are (from left) \_\_\_\_\_, Jr. Miss St. Joseph; \_\_\_\_\_, Miss St. Joseph; and \_\_\_\_\_, Teen Miss St. Joseph.



**YAY FOR POPSICLES!** Students in Mrs. Katherine Leglue and Mrs. Megan Thiels' 1st grade class enjoy popsicles after the Map Pole celebration at Prompt Succor School. The whole student body enjoyed popsicles.



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# LSU-A Catholic Student Center wins top award on campus



**STAYING UP LATE TO WITNESS CANONIZATIONS OF POPES.** Students at the LSU-A Catholic Student Center participated in a "lock-in" April 26 and 27 to stay up late and witness the canonizations of Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII live on TV. The live streaming was on TV was at 3:30 in the morning. The night started with a talk by Fr. Peter Faulk on the life and history of Blessed John Paul II. The presentation was followed by a wonderful dinner, midnight Adoration in the Chapel and then the live canonizations at 3:30 a.m.



**CATHOLIC STUDENT ORGANIZATION -- 2nd BEST ORGANIZATION ON LSU-A CAMPUS.** Some of the members of the Catholic Student Organization on the LSU-A campus proudly show off the 2nd place award that names the CSO as one of the best and most active organizations on campus. "We are especially proud of this award because we are a small organization competing against most organizations that are much larger than we are," said Campus Ministry coordinator Lynn Ray. "We have come in 5th and 9th place before, but never have we won 2nd place. I am very proud of these young people." The CSO is open to any student on campus and offers participation in activities such as Mardi Gras parade, Spring Fling, cookouts, weekly free lunches, retreats, Adoration, Mass, and much more.



**NAME THAT TUNE.** A student who correctly "named that tune" volunteered to sing the song on stage with the Josh Blakesley Band.



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**JOSH BLAKESLEY BAND OUT-DOOR CONCERT.** Grae McCullough (left) and Josh Blakesley (right) perform on the Front Street stage in Natchitoches for a free outdoor concert May 7. St. Augustine, St. Anthony and Holy Cross parishes all sponsored the popular Christian band for the concert. For more information on the Josh Blakesley Band, go to [www.joshblakesley.com](http://www.joshblakesley.com)



## Black mass

From page 3

will recognize it for what it truly is: an act of hatred and ridicule toward the Catholic Church and her faithful," Father Drea said.

Faust's statement said she would attend the holy hour "to join others in reaffirming our respect for the Catholic faith at Harvard and to demonstrate that the most powerful response to offensive speech is not censorship, but reasoned discourse and robust dissent."

In a letter published May 12 in the *Crimson*, the Rev. Luther Zeigler, president of the Harvard chaplains, said: "We do not think the issue presented here is primarily one of academic freedom. Just because something may be permissible does not make it right or good. Whether or not these students are entitled to express themselves through the ceremony of a black mass as a matter of law or university policy is a distinct question from whether this is a healthy form of intellectual discourse or community life. We submit it is not."

Rev. Zeigler, an Episcopal priest, added: "We urge the student organizers of the black mass to reconsider going forward with this event. If the event does go forward as planned, we would urge the rest of the community not to dignify it with your presence."

The Harvard student group promoting the black mass -- said to be an "inverted" re-enactment of the Catholic Mass -- was working with the New York-based Satanic Temple, a group known for promoting controversy such as pushing to have a Satan statue built outside the Oklahoma Capitol.

While one of the concerns raised about the event was that participants would desecrate a consecrated host, Boston newspapers quoted representatives of the Satanic Temple saying it had not obtained one.

The *Globe* said the sponsoring club had said the event "was meant to be educational, not offensive." The paper quoted a spokesperson for the group as asserting that many satanists are animal rights activists, vegetarians and artists with a strong sense of community.

**CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE.** Members of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from the Diocese of Alexandria attended the Southern Regional Conference sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans. This event was held at the Landmark-Best Western Hotel in Metairie March 28-30th. Those attending were Elizabeth Vanderberg, Sharon Bourgoynne, Joanne Michiels, Clyde Neck, Aggie Neck, Fran Allen, Cheryl Chambers, Eve James, Diane Ardoin, Joan Gahagan, (kneeling) Mary Wilson, Melba Birdsall, and Madeline Meziere.



## Alexandria group makes 12-day pilgrimage to Prague & Germany

**PILGRIMATE TO PRAGUE.** Ed and Marie Michael of *Travel and Cruise with Me*, along with other Catholics and friends from the Diocese of Alexandria, made a 12-day pilgrimage to Prague and Germany March 31-April 7 through Viking River Cruises. The group visited the Church of Our Lady of Victory in Prague (where the original mid-16th century statue of the Infant Jesus is located); and cities in eastern Germany including Dresden, Potsdam, Berlin, and Brandenburg. Pictured on the steps of the Church of Our Lady of Victory are: (front row) Melinda Mikkell, Judy Kinberger (Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches), Lynda Winegaert (St. Rita, Alexandria), Elizabeth Rice (St. Margaret, Boyce). Second row: Jessie Sykes (Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria), Marie and Ed Michael (St. Rita, Alexandria), Ellen Alexander. Back row: Henry Kinberger, (Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches) and Thomas Winegaert (St. Rita, Alexandria).

Travel and Cruise with Me is offering another Viking Riverboat Cruise to Holland and Belgium March 25-April 4, 2015. An informational meeting will be held July 9 in the foyer of St. Rita Church at 4 p.m. For more information, call Ed or Marie Michael of Travel and Cruise with Me at 318-449-9746.





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## Leesville group makes 10-day pilgrimage to Rome for canonizations



### PILGRIMAGE TO ROME FOR THE CANONIZATION OF STS. JOHN PAUL II AND JOHN XXIII.

Fourteen people from the Leesville area went on a 10-day pilgrimage to Rome (April 21- April 30) for the canonizations of Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII. The Louisiana group, with Father Kenneth Michiels as their spiritual director, were paired with a group of 18 from Michigan, with "Father Jems" as their spiritual director. Some of the sites included in the pilgrimage were St. Peter's Basilica, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Cecilia, St. Peter in Chains, the Colosseum, and a general audience with Pope Francis outside the Vatican. The highlight of the trip was experiencing the canonization of Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII. Those who participated in the pilgrimage were Amy and Berneda Broussard, Melody Dowden, Florence and Bill Endris, Gary and Louise Lirette, Michael and Virginia Lozano, Victor Pantuso and Tammy Roque, Renee Shumake, John Wilson, and Katherine Wolbert.

**ENJOYING LUNCH OUTDOORS.** Father Kenneth Michiels looks at the menu outside a popular Italian restaurant with five of the fourteen pilgrims who participated in the 10-day pilgrimage to Rome. In addition to a general audience with Pope Francis, the group was also present for the canonization of Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII.



**THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP.** Bill Endris, Father Kenneth Michiels, Melody Dowden, and Florence Endris stand on the rooftop of the North American Pontifical College residence of Alexandria Deacon Taylor Reynolds and Alexandria seminarian Daniel Hart holding a copy of the L'Observatore Romano showing the new saints. From the rooftop of the apartment, the group had a perfect view of the Vatican (in the background) and the entire canonization ceremony. According to Bill Endris, the group watched from the rooftop, but also had a big screen TV inside the apartment that they could watch as well.

**WELCOMING VISITORS FROM HOME.** Seminarian Daniel Hart and Deacon Taylor Reynolds stand on the rooftop of their residence with Father Kenneth Michiels during the canonizations while they opened up their apartment at the North American Pontifical College in Rome to the group of pilgrims from Leesville. It was a comfortable place to gather for all of the Louisianians.



*(All photos courtesy of Florence and Bill Endris.)*



# Register now for Vacation Bible Schools scheduled this summer

**June 2-6**

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor  
VBS - *Weird Animals***

Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria will host a Vacation Bible School June 2-6, from 8 a.m. - 12 noon for those entering K-5th grade at the OLPS Divine Providence Center.

Participants must register by May 23. Cost is \$10 (includes a t-shirt). Register online at [www.olpschurch.org](http://www.olpschurch.org) or stop by the church rectory and pick up a registration form. For more information, email Paul Hood at [youth@olpschurch.org](mailto:youth@olpschurch.org) or call 445-3693.

**June 16-20**

**St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie  
VBS -- *Weird Animals***

St. Anthony of Padua in Bunkie will host a free Vacation



Go to [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) for VBS updates

Bible School June 16-20 from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for those in pre-school - 4th grade.

**July 7-11 & July 14-18**

**St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria  
VBS - *Saints Around the Word***

St. Frances Cabrini School is offering two weeks of full-day

Vacation Bible School -- July 7-11 and July 14-18. VBS is held from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., for Pre-K through 6th grade. Cost is \$125 per child for the two weeks. Register at [www.cabrinischool.com](http://www.cabrinischool.com). For more info, call 318-448-3333 or email [lhines@cabrinischool.com](mailto:lhines@cabrinischool.com)

**July 14-18**

**St. Rita, Alexandria**

**VBS -- *Son Treasure Island***

St. Rita Church will host Vacation Bible School July 14-18 from 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at the St. Rita Family Life Center. The VBS is open to all students entering grades Pre-K - 5. Free for registered parishioners; all others pay \$25 per family. Register after all Masses June 21-22 or at the Church Office.

**July 21-25**

**Sacred Heart, Pineville**

**VBS -- *Weird Animals***

Sacred Heart Church in Pineville will host a FREE Vacation Bible School July 21-25 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon for students in grades K-6. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Carla Rachal at 318-332-0905.

**Camp Abbey**

**Covington, LA**

Camp Abbey, a Catholic summer camp sponsored by the CYO Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, is for boys and girls who have completed grades 2-8. Camp dates for 2014 are:

- Boys -- June 8-14, June 15-21, and June 22-28
  - Girls -- June 29-July 5, July 6-12, July 13-19, and July 20-26.
- For info, go to [campabbey.org](http://campabbey.org).

**Camp Stanislaus**

**Bay St. Louis, MS**

Camp Stanislaus, sponsored by St. Stanislaus and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, is a Catholic day/resident camp for boys and girls ages 8-15. Camp dates for both boys and girls are: June 15-21, June 22-28, June 29-July 5, and July 6-12 (boys only)

## Fun Faith Activities for Summer is great resource for parents & kids

Whether you are a stay-at-home mom (or dad) or working parents, involving your child or children in faith-centered activities this summer can be easy with Connie Clark's *Fun Faith Activities for Summer*.

Published by Twenty-Third Publications, this 32-page easy to use booklet is packed full of puzzles, games, and activities to help you follow Jesus! Parents have lots of choices when it comes to summer activity books for children, but finding Catholic-themed books isn't so easy.

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Bible verses, and prayers, every page covers themes such as summer sports and foods, Mary, the Mass, and much more. There are special sections on summer saint days and thoroughly Catholic destinations, making it a perfect companion for family travel.

At the affordable price of \$2.95, you may want to consider buying one for each of the kids.

This very affordable booklet also makes a great end-of-year gift for families in Catholic schools or parish programs. Best of all, as children complete each page, they can grow in apprecia-

tion for God's glorious creation as they experience it—all summer long.

Use this summer as a time to connect your child with God in everyday activities as they play sports, travel, eat and attend Mass with the family.

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Connie Clark is the author of 50 Prayer Services for Middle Schoolers (Twenty-Third Publications), and other books for young people, parents, and teachers.

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# Comic book superheros return to Big Screen in amazing 3D

## The Amazing Spider-Man 2

(CNS) -- Patrons are unlikely to walk away from the overstuffed but diverting 3-D comic-book sequel "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" (Columbia) feeling that they've failed to get their money's worth. In fact, director Marc Webb's follow-up to his 2012 reboot covers enough material for at least a movie and a half.

In doing so, the film showcases a good deal of mostly stylized mayhem that's too intense for little kids. But the positive use to which the web-slinger -- once again played by Andrew Garfield -- puts his powers, together with a script that's virtually free of objectionable vocabulary, makes this adventure acceptable for just about everyone else.

Garfield brings an appealing -- and approachable -- goofiness, both to his titular persona and to the superhero's alter ego, average teen Peter Parker. Peter's high school graduation provides the setting for some early scenes during which we see that Spider-Man is so busy protecting the people of New York that Peter misses his girlfriend Gwen Stacy's (Emma Stone) valedictorian address and barely arrives in time to claim his



own diploma.

Webb gives those viewers who may not have seen his earlier movie only a minimum of information about Spider-Man and how he got that way. He does let us know, via flashbacks, that Peter's father (Campbell Scott) was a genetics researcher with uber-conglomerate Oscorp who, together with Peter's Mom (Embeth Davidtz), disappeared under mysterious circumstances when Peter was still a small child.

Raised by his kindly Aunt May (Sally Field) and now-deceased Uncle Ben, Peter's quest to learn the truth about his parents led to his being bitten by a genetically altered arachnid

-- with results familiar to every 4-year-old who cherishes a "Spider-Man" figurine.

While Peter's initial conflict involved balancing his new powers with a concomitant sense of responsibility, he now struggles to reconcile the dangers of his mission with his desire to safeguard Gwen. Is there any way for him to do so short of parting with her forever?

Giddy special effects and a lively pace help pass the long running time and make the excess of storylines somewhat less noticeable. More substantially, moviegoers will appreciate Spider-Man's knack for making the ordinary people he routinely rescues feel good about themselves. He thus not only battles evil but affirms and encourages goodness as well.

Rated PG-13.

## Captain America

(CNS) -- The big guy with the red, white and blue shield returns to save the planet in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" (Disney).

This 3-D popcorn movie is sure to please fans of the Marvel Comics superhero with its patriotic, gung-ho tone and grandiose action sequences. But screenwriters Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, who penned the first Captain America script, expand their horizons with a smart and



timely story touching on national security, government surveillance and the price of freedom.

For those unfamiliar with the Marvel universe, a brief recap: Captain America, aka Steve Rogers (Chris Evans), was a 98-pound weakling transformed

## MOVIE REVIEWS

into a he-man fighting machine by the U.S. government during World War II. He leads a successful campaign against a terrorist organization, then goes to sleep in a cryogenic state for 70 years.

Thawed out in the current century, Captain America is recruited by the intelligence agency S.H.I.E.L.D. to defend Earth from an alien invasion. His sidekicks include Iron Man and the Incredible Hulk.

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier" takes place two years after "The Avengers." Rogers is living in Washington, struggling to fit in, a man (literally) out of time and place. He takes his orders from two S.H.I.E.L.D. bigwigs, Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) and Alexander Pierce (Redford).

Fury and Pierce are at odds over Pierce's pet project, a plan to circle the planet with massive "helicarriers" equipped with super-intelligence gadgetry to root out and destroy security threats. Fury suspects a hidden agenda, and fears that innocent people may be the real targets.

The film contains intense but largely bloodless violence, including gunplay. Rated PG-13.



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## St. Joe Altar Society's Vintage Tea

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

## Eagle Alumni Association Picnic

Holy Savior Menard Central High School is forming the school's first official alumni association. To welcome new members, the Eagle Alumni Association will host a picnic on Saturday, May 31, from 1 -5 p.m. at Menard High School. All alumni and friends of Menard are invited to attend. The festivities will begin at 1 p.m. with an alumni Mass celebrated by Father Martin Laird, a 1985 Menard graduate. After Mass, there will be a short presentation about the alumni association, followed by a family picnic, games and music. For more information, call Menard's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 318-445-8233.

## Menard Garage Sale

Holy Savior Menard will host a community garage sale June 7 to help raise money for the school. Donations for the sale are being accepted at the school at this time. Please think about us as you do your spring-cleaning!

## Fr. Jonathan Morris to speak at luncheon

Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital is proud to present Father Jonathan Morris as the guest speaker for a benefit luncheon June 11, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the OLPS Divine Providence Center. Father Morris, who is an analyst for Fox News, a contributor for the Wall Street Journal, and the host of a weekly Fox News internet program, is a motivational speaker who will help you to renew your faith, refresh your energy and recharge your soul. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the Office of Christus Hospice and Palliative Care or by calling 318-447-7978. Sponsorships are available

## Hosts for exchange students needed

Christian volunteers, with or without children at home, are needed to host Christian international high school students for 2014-2015 school year. The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, have spending money for their personal expenses, and hope to arrive in AUGUST for enrollment in their new high school. For more information, please contact Yvette at SHARE! at 800-941-3738, info@sharesouthwest.org, or visit sharesouthwest.org.

## Pilgrimage to Holy Land

The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Southeastern Lieutenancy, is offering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Nov. 1-11, 2014 at a cost of \$3,735 per person, double occupancy. The trip departs Newark, non-stop

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS



**ST. GENEVIEVE LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY** in Brouillette hosted its first St. Joseph Altar on Saturday, March 22 in St. Jude Hall. There were a variety of breads, pasta, cakes and cookies to sample. Pictured are Christie Reed, Allyson Reed, Patricia Lachney, and Fr. Jose Pallipurath

to Tel Aviv and includes first class hotels, private motor coach transportation, breakfast and dinner and all fees and taxes. Fr. Peter Vasko, O.F.M., and president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land will be the spiritual leader throughout the trip. Fr. Peter has lived in Jerusalem for the past 27 years and is internationally known for his work in the Holy Land. For more information, contact Pierre or Roz Allemond, co-masters of pilgrimages at 318-452-6443 or 318-452-6442.

## Illuminated Rosary

St. Joseph Church in Marksville will begin its annual 5-month Illuminated Rosary beginning Thursday, May 15, and every Thursday from May 15 -Oct. 30. The Illuminated Rosary coincides with May, the Month of Mary, and concludes in October, the Month of the Holy Rosary.

The Rosary is prayed at 8:15 p.m. before an illuminated Rosary located outside on the grounds of the parish hall. As each prayer is recited, a light on the 16' X 16' Rosary board lights up. When the Rosary is completed, the entire Rosary is lit up on the board against the night sky.

In September, the time will change to 7:15 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary is prayed in the church.

Bring the whole family and pray the Rosary with us!



**KC COUNCIL 2395 (St. Anthony, Bunkie).** At the May 6 meeting of the St. Anthony of Padua Knights of Columbus, Council #2395 donated \$500 to Bayou Vista Nursing Home in Bunkie for their patient activity fund. Pictured is (left to right) Gerald Normand, Deputy Grand Knight of KC Council 2395 to Deirdre McCoy, Marketing Director for Bayou Vista.



## Menard winners of CDA Essay Contest

Winners of the Essay Contest, sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Bishop Desmond #1459 from Holy Savior Menard are (seated)

, first in Essay I (Gr. 9-10);  
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puter Art; and in Computer Art.  
Standing are A education chairman;  
Essay I (Gr. 9-10);  
II (Gr. 11-12);  
II (Gr. 11-12); ssay II (Gr. 11-12);  
12); ssay I (Gr. 9-10); and Sister  
Nina dance counselor at Holy Savior Menard  
High School.

## VIRTUS

• June 10 (Tuesday), St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria, 6 p.m.  
To pre-register, go to [virtus.org](http://virtus.org), and click on Registration (on left side of screen) For more information, call 318-445-6424 x 213.



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							Kickstarter Campaign for Josh Blakesley Band ends
							Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville
PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE	PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL	Vintage Tea 2:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI	
26	27	28	29	30	31	JUNE 1	
							Diocesan Offices Closed
							Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville
MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR FR. F. KUMAI	PRAY FOR FR. J. KUMBLUMKAL	PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM	PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA	PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD	Eagle Alumni Association Family Picnic 1:00 p.m. Holy Savior Menard HS	THE ASCENSION PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
							Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville
							Menard Garage Sale
Vacation Bible School -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria -- 8:00 a.m.-12 noon						SOLEMNITY of the PENTECOST PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER	
PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	PRAY FOR FR. C. MAURICIO	PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER	PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
							VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria
							CHRISTUS Luncheon featuring Jonathan Morris 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Divine Providence Center, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN	PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK	PRAY FOR FR. J. NELLIKUNNEL	PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL	PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE	PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN	SOLEMNITY of THE HOLY TRINITY FATHER'S DAY PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
							Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville
							Steubenville South Youth Conference -- Alexandria Riverfront Center
Vacation Bible School -- St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie -- 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.						SOLEMNITY of MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD of CHRIST (Corpus Christi) PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL	
PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA	PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM	PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL	PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH	PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE	PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN		





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# May 31 & June 1

SAT: 7pm - 10pm  
SUN: 8am - 5pm

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# BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

**Sunday, June 1**

Cabrini Outpatient Center (Corner of Texas & Prescott)

From 10:00am 'til the last tasty bite is sold

**\$5 each**