

# CHURCH TODAY

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## ON THE INSIDE

### **Christian persecutions continue in Iraq**

The Vatican called on Muslim leaders to condemn the “barbarity” and “unspeakable criminal acts” of Islamic State militants in Iraq, saying a failure to do so would jeopardize the future of interreligious dialogue. Read more about the horror and the courage of the Christians in Iraq on pages 2-3.

### **Plans for Maryhill renovations are revealed**

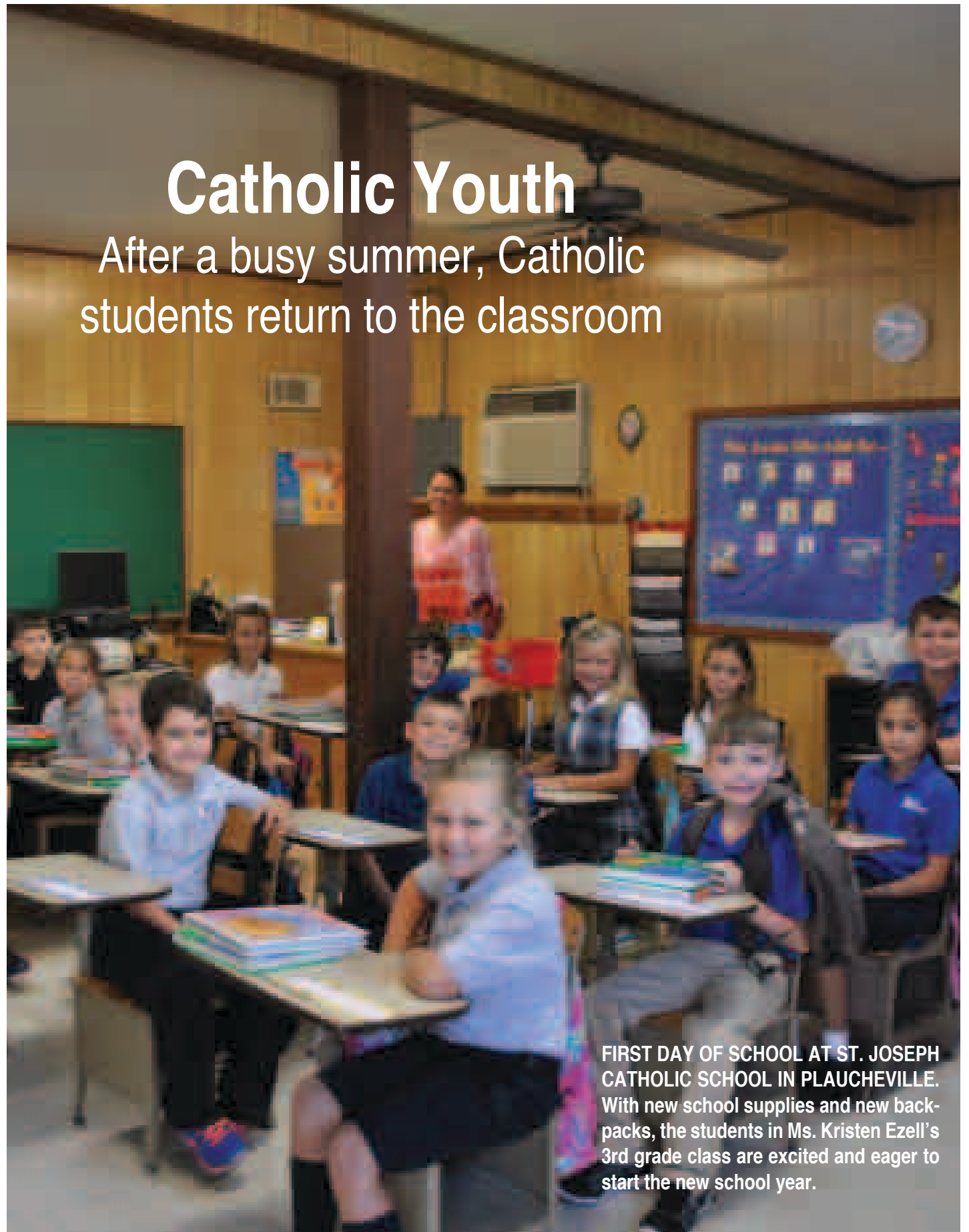
Good news for the thousands of people who use Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville every year -- Maryhill is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation and expansion project, which will include 2-3 new housing units to accommodate an additional 92-138 guests! Read all about the details on pages 10-11.

### **Youth Activities**

Youth ministry has been busy this summer with Vacation Bible School, outings, and Catholic Heart Camp. See what's been happening around the diocese on pages 12-16.

## Catholic Youth

### After a busy summer, Catholic students return to the classroom



**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN PLAUCHEVILLE.** With new school supplies and new backpacks, the students in Ms. Kristen Ezell's 3rd grade class are excited and eager to start the new school year.

# Catholic Iraqi refugees recall horror of militant attacks

By Doreen Abi Raad  
Catholic News Service

BEIRUT (CNS) -- The memory of that brutal June evening in his home near Mosul, Iraq, brought 48-year-old Joseph, now a refugee in Lebanon, to tears.

"These people know no limits of humanity, decency, or respect for human life," he said of the Islamic State fighters.

Meeting with Catholic News Service Aug. 8 at the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center in Beirut, he and other Catholic Iraqi refugees asked that their real names not be used to protect their identities as they shared the traumatic experiences that led to their exodus.

Joseph recalled how his wife and their teenage son, Bachar, were in their living room. Two other children were asleep around 10 p.m. when there was an explosion-like crash. In an instant, four militants barged into the house, guns aimed at the heads of father and son.

"Give us your gold and valuables," he said they demanded.

Filled with fear, Joseph's wife tried to calmly gather all jewelry she had. One of the militants, noticing Bachar's cross, ripped off the chain in a rage and started to beat the boy, accusing the family of withholding their gold.

"What's for sure is they (the terrorists) are not all Iraqis. The ones with the beards are not Iraqis," Joseph said.

After ransacking the home for other valuables, the terrorists warned they would return in 48 hours. Their ultimatum: The family must convert to Islam, pay the



**CATHOLIC REFUGEE FROM NORTHERN IRAQ POSES FOR PHOTO IN LEBANON.** Emil, a Catholic Iraqi refugee, hides his face during a posed photo at the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center in Beirut Aug. 8. The resident of Mosul, Iraq, fled his hometown with family members after receiving threats from Islamic State militants. (CNS photo/Dalia Khamissy)

Islamic jizya tax, or be killed.

Joseph knew he had no choice but to flee quickly with his family.

"We were happy, our life was good," he said, collapsing into sobs.

"All the work of my father and myself and my brothers, all the years ... gone in just a few seconds," he said of the trading company he had to abandon. The next morning, "I went to the cemetery and said good-bye to my father, and I went to Mass in my church to receive the Eucharist. I think it was the last Mass celebrated in my village. And I thought, if I'm meant to die at this time, at least I'm in God's house."

The family fled to Irbil the

night after the attack, eventually boarding a flight to Beirut.

The militants told Joseph's neighbors -- an 85-year-old woman, partially paralyzed by a stroke, and her 60-year-old daughter -- they had six hours to leave their home. The women had no choice but to leave on foot, with the daughter assisting her disabled mother along the road, Joseph said. He added he hoped they were able to get a ride from the convoys of vans and pick-up trucks filled with other Christians fleeing their homes.

Through a relative, Joseph found a furnished apartment in Beirut, but rent is \$850, so he is searching for cheaper accommodations, knowing that his savings

will quickly run out.

Jobs in tiny, economically strapped Lebanon are hard to find. New refugees have to compete with other refugees for work. Currently more than 1.5 million Syrian refugees -- equal to at least one-quarter of Lebanon's resident population -- are living in Lebanon.

Even before the Islamist militant onslaught in Mosul and Iraq's Nineveh province beginning in June, there were already some 9,000 Iraqi refugees in Lebanon, most of whom fled their homeland after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

"I am jumpy and nervous," Joseph told CNS. "What happened is not easy. My children

ask me, 'What will we do? (Islamic State) made us leave Iraq, and now (it) is in Lebanon,'" he said, referring to the incursion Aug. 2 by the Islamic militants into a Lebanese town 55 miles northeast of Beirut. "They are afraid."

Rachid, also from a village near Mosul, told CNS: "All the village has gone. There's absolutely no one left, no one at all." The 49-year-old Chaldean Catholic father of six collapsed into tears.

After regaining his composure, Rachid recounted how he was taking his wife to her regular physical therapy appointment in Mosul June 10 when he was forced to stop at an Islamic State checkpoint. The heavily armed militants demanded to see his identity card and asked him if he was Christian.

"Yes I am," he told them, as Iraqi ID cards indicate the sectarian identity of the cardholder.

"I thought I would be executed on the spot," Rachid said. The militants refused him entry into Mosul, despite his pleas that his wife needed to see a doctor. They told him all Christians should convert to Islam, pay the jizya tax or be killed.

The next day, Rachid was able to sell some of the inventory from his grocery store to scrape up just enough money to flee. "I locked the doors of my shop and my house for the last time, and we left."

"There is no future for Christians in Iraq anymore. I left everything for my religion, so I have to trust in the Lord that he will take

**See Catholic Refugees, pg 4**



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# Christian persecutions continue in Iraq

## Vatican calls on Muslim leaders to condemn Islamic State militants in Iraq

By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican called on Muslim leaders to condemn the "barbarity" and "unspeakable criminal acts" of Islamic State militants in Iraq, saying a failure to do so would jeopardize the future of interreligious dialogue.

"The plight of Christians, Yazidis and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq demands a clear and courageous stance on the part of religious leaders, especially Muslims, those engaged in interfaith dialogue and everyone of goodwill," said a statement from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue released by the Vatican Aug. 12.

"All must be unanimous in condemning unequivocally these crimes and must denounce the invocation of religion to justify them," the statement said. "Otherwise, what credibility will religions, their followers and their leaders have? What credibility would remain to the interreligious dialogue patiently pursued in recent years?"

The document noted that the "majority of Muslim religious and political institutions" have opposed the Islamic State's



**A MAN AND THREE CHILDREN FLEE VIOLENCE** from forces loyal to the Islamic State in Sinjar, Iraq, Aug. 10. Islamic State militants have killed at least 500 Yazidi ethnic minorities, an Iraqi human rights minister said. (CNS photo/Rodi Said, Reuters)

avowed mission of restoring a caliphate, a sovereign Muslim state under Islamic law, to succeed the Ottoman Caliphate abolished after the founding of modern Turkey in 1923.

The Vatican listed some of the "shameful practices" recently committed by the "jihadists" of the Islamic State, which the U.S.

government has classified as a terrorist group. Among the practices cited:

- "The execrable practice of beheading, crucifixion and hanging of corpses in public places."
- "The choice imposed on Christians and Yazidis between conversion to Islam, payment of tribute or exodus."

• "The abduction of girls and women belonging to the Yazidi and Christian communities as war booty."

• "The imposition of the barbaric practice of infibulation," or female genital mutilation.

"No cause can justify such barbarity and certainly not a religion," the document said.

## Prayer for Peace in Iraq

Written by His Beatitude  
Louis Rafael Sako  
Chaldean Catholic  
Patriarch of Iraq

Lord, The plight of our country is deep,  
and the suffering of Christians is severe and frightening.  
Therefore, we ask you Lord to spare our lives,  
and to grant us patience, and courage  
to continue our witness of Christian values with trust and hope.  
Lord, peace is the foundation of life;  
Grant us the peace and stability that will enable us to live with each other without fear and anxiety, and with dignity and joy.

Glory be to You forever.  
Amen.

"Religious leaders also are called on to exercise their influence with the rulers for the cessation of these crimes, the punishment of those who commit them and the restoration of the rule of law throughout the country, ensuring the return home of the deported," the Vatican said. "These same leaders should not fail to emphasize that the support, financing and arming of terrorism is morally reprehensible."

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Diocese of Alexandria

Even though I've been out of pocket this past summer with rehab and travel, I am amazed at the activities that have taken place around the diocese involving our youth. More and more of our parishes are offering Vacation Bible School to the young ones and the participation in each seems to increase every year. I am proud, once again of the success of Steubenville South this summer, and the Catechesis Workshop to be offered this fall, both coordinated by the Office of Religious Formation and Training.

A large group of students from around the diocese -- 138 of them -- participated in a summer mission experience through the efforts of Our Lady of Prompt



## ONE IN THE LORD

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

Succor Youth Ministry. High school and junior high students, as well as chaperones, participated in Catholic Heart Workcamp in Ohio and Illinois. What a great opportunity for our Catholic youth to learn about service and enrich their faith.

Another project I am espe-

cially excited about right now, is the renovation project at Maryhill. I know a lot of people have been asking about the details, but the fact is, we are just now completing the plans for the entire project, although minor renovations and repairs have already begun. All of the details of the project are

explained in this issue on pages 10-11.

On a more serious note, I have been watching the news closely about what's going on to our fellow Christians in Iraq. The Vatican is calling it a genocide of Christians; the U. S. government is calling it a humanitarian effort. Either way, it is a terrible, terrible situation. As Christians on the other side of the world, there's not a lot we can do, but PRAY.

As our Blessed Mother has said many times, praying the Rosary every day can avert wars. Praying is something we can all do in the privacy of our homes. Praying the Rosary every day for peace is something we all MUST do. I challenge each of you to do

this -- today.

I am gradually resuming many of my regular duties, but it is a gradual process. Thank you for your patience and understanding as well as your continued prayers and encouragement. I am scheduled for a formal evaluation to determine if I will be able to resuming driving. If approved, it will allow me much greater freedom and flexibility. I continue to depend very heavily on many of our diocesan staff. Thanks to all for their generosity.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your families as we approach Labor Day weekend!

## Catholic Iraqi refugees

Continued from pg. 2

care of us," he said.

Before the Islamic State attacks in June, 35,000 Christians lived in Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, and more than 60,000 lived there before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, according to the Chaldean Catholic Patriarchate.

Emil, 40, came to Lebanon with his father, a widower with a heart condition, and his wheel-

chair-bound physically disabled adult sister, both of whom he supports.

He said that on June 16, four militants broke down the door of their Mosul home and told him he had five days to pay them about \$20,000.

"We know where you live, what you do, everything about you, we will find you and kill you," he said they told him.

So Emil gathered all the fam-

ily's legal papers, the few pieces of his late mother's jewelry -- including her crucifix and Marian medal -- and fled with his father and sister in the night toward Irbil, leaving behind his home and his sanitation supply shop filled with inventory.

"I want to remain a Christian," Emil said. "Our religion is about peace, not killing."

Rent for the apartment he found in a run-down section of

Beirut is \$500 a month, not including utilities. Lebanon is expensive, he said, and his savings are nearly depleted.

"I look every day for a job,

but I don't know how much longer I can survive," said the neatly dressed man, the tips of his worn black shoes tattered and peeling away.

### VIRTUS Training Sessions

• **Aug. 26 (Tuesday)** --  
6 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic  
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• **Sept. 2 (Tuesday)** --  
6 p.m. St. Mary's School,  
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• **Sept. 13 (Saturday)**  
-- 3:30 p.m., St. Joseph  
Catholic Center, Alexandria

• **Sept. 27 (Saturday)** --  
10 a.m., Our Lady of  
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# What is the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross?

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated every year on Sept. 14.

The feast commemorates three historical events:

- the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine;
- the dedication of churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary; and
- the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by the emperor Heraclius II.

But in a deeper sense, the feast also celebrates the Holy Cross as the instrument of our salvation.

After the death and resurrection of Christ, both the Jewish and Roman authorities in Jerusalem made efforts to obscure the Holy Sepulchre, (Christ's tomb in the garden near the site of His crucifixion). The earth had been mounded up over the site, and pagan temples had been built on top of it. The Cross on which Christ had died had been hidden (tradition said) by the Jewish authorities somewhere in the vicinity.

According to tradition, first mentioned by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem in 348, Saint Helena, nearing the end of her life, decided under divine inspiration to travel to Jerusalem in 326 to excavate the Holy Sepulchre and attempt to locate the True Cross.

A Jew by the name of Judas, aware of the tradition concerning the hiding of the Cross, led those excavating the Holy Sepulchre to the spot



**Reliquary of the True Cross in Jerusalem**

in which it was hidden.

Three crosses were found on the spot. According to one tradition, the inscription *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* ("Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews") remained attached to the True Cross.

According to a more common tradition, however, the inscription was missing, and St. Helena and St. Macarius, the bishop of Jerusalem, assuming that one was the True Cross and the other two belonged to the thieves crucified alongside Christ, devised an experiment to determine which was the True Cross.

In one version of the latter tradition, the three crosses were taken to a woman who was near death; when she touched the True Cross, she was healed. In another, the body of a dead man was brought to the place where the three crosses were found, and

laid upon each cross. The True Cross restored the dead man to life.

In celebration of the discovery of the Holy Cross, Constantine ordered the construction of churches at the site of the Holy Sepulchre and on Mount Calvary. Those churches were dedicated on Sept. 13 and 14, 335, and shortly thereafter the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross began to be celebrated on the latter date. The feast slowly spread from Jerusalem to other churches, until, by the year 720, the celebration was universal.

In the early 7th century, the Persians conquered Jerusalem, and the Persian king Khosrau II captured the True Cross and took it back to Persia. After Khosrau's defeat by Emperor Heraclius II, Khosrau's own son had him assassinated in 628 and returned the True Cross to Heraclius. In 629, Heraclius, having initially taken the True Cross to Constantinople, decided to restore it to Jerusalem.

Tradition says that he carried the Cross on his own back, but when he attempted to enter the church on Mount Calvary, a strange force stopped him. Patriarch Zacharias of Jerusalem, seeing the emperor struggling, advised him to take off his royal robes and crown and to dress in a penitential robe instead. As soon as Heraclius took Zacharias' advice, he was able to carry the True Cross into the church.

## How much do you know about The True Cross

1. Where was the True Cross hidden for centuries after the death of Jesus?
  - a. In Jesus's tomb
  - b. Buried on Mt. Golgotha (Mt. Calvary)
  - c. In the home of one of the Apostles
2. Who is credited with finding the True Cross of Jesus?
  - a. Mary Magdeline
  - b. St. James
  - c. St. Helena
3. How many crosses were found when it was discovered?
  - a. one
  - b. two
  - c. three
4. How do we know it is the real Cross that Jesus died on?
  - a. It had Jesus' name on it
  - b. A bishop placed the cross on a woman near death and she was healed; and a dead man was placed on the cross and he was brought back to life.
  - c. The inscription "King of the Jews" was still on the cross in both traditions
5. What did Constantine do to celebrate the discovery of the True Cross?
  - a. He ordered that a church be built at the site of Jesus' tomb and on Mt. Calvary
  - b. He ordered that a festival be held every year
  - c. He ordered that a pedestal for the cross be made
6. What is the name of the Church where Jesus is buried and where the cross is located?
  - a. Church of the True Cross
  - b. Holy Cross
  - c. Church of the Holy Sepulchre
7. When was the Church dedicated?
  - a. Sept. 14, 335
  - b. Sept. 14, 335
  - c. Sept. 13 and 14, 335
8. Where was the True Cross temporarily taken to in 628?
  - a. Constantinople
  - b. Persia
  - c. Jerusalem

ANSWERS: 1-A, 2-C, 3-C, 4-B, 5-A, 6-C, 7-C, 8-B.



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**Rev. Jack Kayalaparambil**  
Parochial Vicar  
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## Red Mass

Diocese of Alexandria

### Bishops Herzog, Duca to celebrate Red Mass Sept. 19

The annual Red Mass will be celebrated Friday, Sept. 19 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

Bishop Ronald Herzog will be the main celebrant and Bishop Michael Duca, from

the Diocese of Shreveport, will be guest homilist. The Red Mass is open to the public.

A Red Mass is a Mass celebrated annually in the Catholic Church for judges, attorneys, law school professors, students, and government officials. The Mass

requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice, and offers the opportunity to reflect on what Catholics believe is the God-given power and responsibility of all in the legal profession.

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# La. Catholic Charismatic leader meets Pope Francis

By Patti Gallagher Mansfield  
Contributing wrtier

"The pope is talking about Mom!" my daughter Marie-Therese exclaimed to my husband Al as they sat in Rome's Olympic Stadium in the midst of 52,000 people at an international conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in June.

My daughter was wearing a headset that provided a simultaneous translation of Pope Francis' words from Italian into English. Al and I did not have headsets. At that moment, we were not seated together because I was a speaker at the event, and those on the program were placed in the front row in order to greet the pope.

As Pope Francis began his address, I thought I heard my name, but I could scarcely believe my ears. I turned to the Argentinian woman next to me, who understood Italian, and asked her, "Did the pope just mention my name?"

She excitedly confirmed, "Yes!"

Not until I returned home a week later did I see the full translation of the pope's text, in which he said, "I am grateful also for the presence of the first person who had an intense experience of the power of the Holy Spirit; I believe that it was Patti who is here..."

## Pope knows the Spirit

Quite beyond the personal joy of hearing my name on



**MEETING POPE FRANCIS.** Patti Gallagher Mansfield, who was present at Duquesne University in 1967 when the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was born, greets Pope Francis at an international charismatic conference in Rome.

the lips of Pope Francis was the joy of discovering that he knows the Charismatic Renewal "from the inside." He knows our history (the Renewal began at a retreat in 1967 at which I was present). He knows our mission (to bring the grace of a personal Pentecost to the whole church).

Pope Francis told us he felt "at home" as he joined us in singing his favorite Charismatic Renewal song, "Vive Jesus el Senor," with his hands lifted in a charismatic gesture of prayer. And, so characteristic of this humble man, he knelt while the assembly prayed for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon him, in song, in Italian, in the gift of tongues. It was a truly moving and inspiring experience!

In the pope's address, he

affirmed the Renewal in unequivocal terms: "You were born of the will of the Spirit as "a current of grace" in the church and for the church . .

. I expect from you that you share with all, in the church, the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit (expression that is read in the Acts of the Apostles)."

Hearing this, I was emboldened to give him my letter, (which can be seen under my arm in the photo).

When Pope Francis stood in front of me and took my hand, I said, "I'm Patti" and he replied, "Oh, one of the first," and he pulled me to his chest to embrace me. Then I said, "Holy Father," and he leaned closer to hear me. "I have an idea to bring this grace of baptism in the Spirit to the whole Church."

I'm not sure he understood my English and he replied to me in Italian, which I didn't understand. But I handed my letter to the archbishop behind

him, who then handed it to a security guard. Perhaps Pope Francis will read it one day.

In the letter, I explained that the grace of baptism in the Spirit was released in the lives of millions of Catholics when a college student on retreat with me in 1967 suggested that we "renew our sacrament of confirmation." I am asking Pope Francis to call the whole church, every Pentecost, to "renew our sacrament of confirmation," in much the same way we renew our baptismal promises every Easter. We need a New Pentecost for a New Evangelization!

Patti and her husband Al are archdiocesan liaisons for the Catholic Charistmaic Renewal of New Orleans. Mansfield can be reached at mansfield@ccrno.org.

## Patti Mansfield to speak at Cenla Magnificat brunch



Patti Gallagher Mansfield

Cenla Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic Women, will host a brunch Oct. 25, from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Merci Beaucoup in Natchitoches.

The speaker will be Patti Gallagher Mansfield, who was present at Duquesne University in 1967 when the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was born. She has written several books and most recently was mentioned by Pope Francis during one of his general audiences.

Tickets (\$15 per person) are

on sale Oct. 13-22 by calling Mary at 318-359-7735, Joan Gahagan, 318-352-8701 (Natchitoches area); Sue Dauzat, 318-240-1256 (Avoyelles Deanery);

Servant House, 318-253-7810 (Avoyelles Deanery); Donna Reason, 318-240-3824 (Avoyelles Deanery); June Giglio, 318-876-3712 (Avoyelles Deanery); and Diane Ardoin, 318-419-1547 (Alexandria area).



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# Twin brothers saved from abortion are now twin priests

CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY. Two twin brothers in Chile say that their mother's determination in protecting them from abortion despite the advice of doctors helped to foster their vocations to the priesthood.

"How can I not defend the God of life?" said Fr. Paulo Lizama. "This event strengthened my vocation and gave it a specific vitality, and therefore, I was able to give myself existentially to what I believe."

Fr. Paulo and his identical twin brother, Fr. Felipe, were born in 1984 in the Chilean town of Lagunillas de Casablanca.

Before discovering her pregnancy, their mother, Rosa Silva, had exposed herself to x-rays while performing her duties as a paramedic. Consequently, after confirming the pregnancy, her doctor conducted ultrasounds and informed her that he had seen "something strange" in the image.

"The baby has three arms and its feet are sort of entangled. It also has two heads," he told her.

Although abortion for "therapeutic" reasons was legal at the time in Chile and doctors told her that her life was in danger, Rosa opposed the idea and said



**TWIN BROTHERS, TWIN PRIESTS.** Identical twin brothers, Fr. Paulo and Felipe Lizama, from Chile were saved from abortion by their mother and are now priests serving in Chile.

she would accept whatever God would send her.

"The Lord worked and produced a twin pregnancy. I don't know if the doctors were wrong or what," Fr. Felipe said.

"I always think with special affection and tenderness in the heart of my mother who gave her life for me, for us," Fr. Paulo added.

The two brothers were born on Sept. 10, 1984. Felipe was

born first, and when the placenta would not detach, doctors suggested scraping her womb. Silva refused however, saying she felt another baby was coming out. Paulo was born 17 minutes later.

"This last detail is very significant for me," Fr. Paulo said. "The doctors inserted instruments to remove the placenta because it wouldn't come out. My mother knew that I was there. I was late, but I came out." Had doctors

scraped his mother's womb, he would likely have been "gravely injured."

The twins learned about the circumstances of their birth when they were in the sixth year of seminary formation.

"It was surely the wisdom of my mother and her heart that allowed us to learn of such an amazing event at the right time," Fr. Paulo said, reflected that while he had always thought his priestly vocation came during adolescence, he later realized that God was working in his life from the beginning, thanks to the 'yes' of his mother.

Although they grew up in a Catholic home, the Lizama brothers drifted away from the faith and stopped attending Mass. However, their parents' separation and divorce led them back to the Church, and they received the sacrament of Confirmation.

At the time, Fr. Paulo said, he lacked conviction in his faith but was attracted by the Blessed Sacrament, Gregorian chant, and the silent reverence of prayer.

Fr. Felipe said he was drawn to God through a priest, Fr. Rinaldo Osorio, who would later become his formation director at the seminary.

"God was calling me. I realized that it was in God and in the things of God that I was happy, there was no doubt: I wanted to be a priest," he recalled.

Despite being close, the two brothers did not talk about their vocations with each other.

"I don't know who felt the call first," Fr. Paulo said. "I think God did things the right way in order to safeguard the freedom of our response."

In March 2003, they both entered the seminary. The twins were ordained priests on April 28, 2012, and celebrated their first Mass at Our Lady of Mercies in Lagunillas.

Now, a year after their ordination, Fr. Felipe serves at the parish of Saint Martin of Tours in Quillota, and Fr. Paulo serves at the parish of the Assumption of Mary in Achupallas.

"God doesn't mess around with us. He wants us to be happy, and the priesthood is a beautiful vocation and that makes us completely happy," Fr. Felipe said.

Following Jesus is not easy but it is beautiful, added Fr. Paulo.



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# 10 ways to let your parish priest know you appreciate them

By Jonathan Teixeira  
Denver, Colo.

This month (Aug. 4) we celebrate the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests.

Our parish priests are some of the hardest working members of the Church. The typical parish priest works every weekend and holiday, lives in the same building as their office, and only gets one day off a week, not to mention they're being asked to care for more souls and take on more responsibilities and roles than ever before.

To mark the occasion, we asked some parish priests how we could best let them know we're thankful for them and all the work they do for us.

Here's what they said:

## 1. Pray for Your Priest

- The most important thing a parishioner can do for his/her priest is pray for them. We are always praying for someone, even required to offer a Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation on behalf of our parishioners. It's just good to know that they pray for us everyday.

- A rosary, a holy hour, a small offering or a daily suffering offered for the priest.

- Send cards to priests with assurances of prayer for their intentions.

## 2. Cook Him a Meal, Especially on His Busy Days

- It would be nice if someone made sure that the priest(s) of the parish had a nice cooked meal on Sundays and major holidays. We often have no cooks and after a long morning, it would be nice to come home to something we didn't have to make.

- Find out his favorite meal and make it for him.

## 3. Celebrate His Special Days

- Celebrating the priest's birthday and ordination day are good thoughts, too.

- It's nice to be remembered on the day of my priestly ordination.

## 4. Pray More, Complain Less

- Avoid and discourage gossip about priests and parishes. Instead offer to help and to build up. I wonder how many vocations were ruined when young people hear adults tear down the priest, usually because of some petty parish dispute.

## 5. Offer to Help

- Don't wait to be asked! Priests are ordained to give, and it's hard for us to ask for things.

- Volunteer your time to the parish as a sign of support and service.



## A Prayer for Priests

by John Cardinal O'Connor, March 1995

Lord Jesus, we your people pray to You for our priests.

You have given them to us for OUR needs.

We pray for them in THEIR needs.

We know that You have made them priests  
in the likeness of your own priesthood.

You have consecrated them, set them aside, anointed them,  
filled them with the Holy Spirit, appointed them to teach,  
to preach, to minister, to console, to forgive,  
and to feed us with Your Body and Blood.

Yet we know, too, that they are one with us  
and share our human weaknesses.

We know too that they are tempted to sin, as we are,  
needing to be ministered to, as we do,  
to be consoled and forgiven, as we do.

Indeed, we thank You for choosing them from among us,  
so that they understand us as we understand them,  
suffer with us and rejoice with us,  
worry and trust with us, share our beings, our lives, our faith.

We ask that You give them this day  
the gift You gave Your chosen ones on the way to Emmaus:

Your presence in their hearts,

Your holiness in their souls,

Your joy in their spirits.

And let them see YOU, face-to-face  
in the breaking of the Eucharistic Bread.

We pray to You, O Lord, with Mary, the mother of priests,  
for Your priests and for ours. Amen.

- Consider increasing your tithe to show your support for the parish and priest.

## 6. Go to Mass / Confession

- Nothing will make a priest happier.

- Pick a day, go to a Mass that he's celebrating, and get a bunch of people to sit in the front rows. When Father asks you after Mass why, tell him you were offering your participation at Mass in thanksgiving for His priesthood.

## 7. Say Thank You

- My favorite thing to receive from people is a letter. Not a card with a few words. Those are nice too, but I love receiving a letter or a card with a substantial message in it. It is very powerful to hear somebody describe exactly HOW the thing I said or did was so fruitful for them.

- Thank the priest for every Mass. Even if you don't necessarily like the priest, as the Mass is always about the presence of Jesus.

## 8. Invite Him Over

- It's nice when people think to invite me to family gatherings: special birthdays or anniversary celebrations, holiday dinners (even though I usually decline because I'm with my own family -- it's nice to be invited).

## 9. Give Him Space

- Sometimes it's good to be just left alone, too. Stay away from what is called "unkind kindness" which is assuming Father is (lonely, depressed, stressed, anxious, etc) when sometimes he needs to just blow off some steam.

## 10. Strive for Holiness

- Ultimately, being the saint God desires them to be! There's nothing more exciting for a priest than witnessing holiness in the lives of the people to whom he ministers; not only is that an experience of grace that his labor is bearing fruit but it's also tremendously edifying in his own pursuit of holiness.

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# Renovation project for Maryhill is underway

## 2-3 new buildings will accommodate finer facilities for overnight guests

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

Good news for the thousands of people who use Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville every year -- Maryhill is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation and expansion project, which will include 2-3 new housing units to accommodate an additional 92-138 guests!

According to Tommy Robichaux, project chairman, the initial phase of adding at least 92 beds is expected to be completed in late Summer of 2015.

"The ultimate goal of this project is to make the necessary improvements and additions so that Maryhill will be capable of hosting two events on campus at the same time," said Robichaux. "This means that each side of the lake must have at least one large meeting room, housing accommodations for approximately 100 people, and a kitchen and dining facility to accommodate the guests."

According to Robichaux, Maryhill has always been a well-used, popular retreat facility not only by groups in the Diocese of Alexandria, but by groups from other dioceses as well. But the cost of running the facility far has exceeded the money generated from people using it.



**ARCHITECTURAL PLANS FOR NEW HOUSING UNITS.** Modern and elegant new housing units, accommodating 46 guests each, will be constructed on both sides of the lake. Plans include construction of three housing units.

In 2005, Maryhill's staff was reduced from seven to two full-time employees. The facility remained opened, but only a skeleton crew of two people remained for maintenance. Administrative duties and bookings were delegated to employees at the St. Joseph Catholic Center.

Despite the cutback in personnel and services, groups continued to book the facility, for meetings, conferences, and re-

treats. To date, Maryhill Renewal Center is booked every weekend through 2016!

"The problem at Maryhill became increasingly evident, that more revenue could be generated if more people could use the facilities at the same time," said Robichaux. "We are having to turn people away because we are always booked solid."

Another problem was the condition of the facilities. One of

the more frequent users of Maryhill is the A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service) retreat groups. Every retreat requires housing for sometimes 80-100 guests. Only about 46 beds at Maryhill are in "decent" condition; leaving the other 54 guests to spend the weekend in "less than satisfactory" conditions -- one toilet and one shower for eight guests, leaky and eroding bathrooms, and overcrowded sleeping quarters.

"Something had to be done," said Robichaux. "This is a place of spiritual development and renewal, so at the end of an uplifting, spiritual day, our guests de-

serve a nice, comfortable place to retreat to for the night. We think this huge renovation and expansion project will do just that."

Bishop Herzog has committed some funds to the project for the initial work, and will initiate a capital campaign soon to generate funding for the remainder of the project.

For more information about the project or supporting this project, contact Ann Masden, director of Development at 318-445-6424, ext 210.

### Project details

Phase I -- (now in full operation) includes lawn and landscaping improvements, painting and repairing of existing outdoor structures, as well as general clean-up and maintenance around the campus.

"In this phase, we've been doing things that can easily be repaired and improved, with limited funds and with the limited workforce we have employed at Maryhill right now (three employees)," said Robichaux. "The three men there now have worked diligently to keep Maryhill safe and functioning."

Among some of the projects completed in Phase I:

- Stations of the Cross Garden -- grass cut, trees and shrubs trimmed and cleared, statues power-washed and cleaned, and gardens enhanced with flower beds and lights.

- Ducote Hall -- exterior of building replaced with alumi-



**THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS GARDEN** was cleared of overgrown trees and shrubs, statues power-washed and cleaned, and the gardens enhanced with flower beds and lights.



**DUCOTE HALL** looks fresh and clean now with new aluminum siding. Inside renovations of Ducote Hall are in progress.





**GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS.** In one of the buildings currently used by Maryhill guests, 13 people sleep in one room and share this one bathroom.



**MEETING ROOM TO COME DOWN.** Due to the deterioration of this old meeting room, it will be torn down to make room for one of the 46-bed housing units.



**OLD BOOKSTORE.** The old bookstore will be renovated into a meeting room to accommodate 100 people.



**OUT WITH THE OLD; IN WITH THE NEW.** The four metal buildings on the youth side of Maryhill will be torn down to make room for one of the new housing units. Accommodating 46 guests, the new housing unit will face the lake.

num siding and aluminum fascia boards, which will dramatically reduce the cost of maintenance in the future. The building is now light gray with white trim. A new roof is in the renovation plans.

- Main Chapel -- outside windows and doors scraped, cleaned, and re-painted. Decorative metal light posts outside the chapel were also scraped, cleaned and re-painted.

- Purchased two large 52-inch riding lawn mowers to replace the one small 48-inch riding lawn mower. This will dramatically decrease the time it takes to mow the lawn, freeing up more time for other maintenance work.

Phase II -- is the planning stage (conducted simultaneously with Phase I). While some basic renovations are taking place at Maryhill, more extensive plans for 2-3 new buildings are under-

way.

Phase III -- is the construction phase. Among the plans in Phase III are:

- Tear down and remove the four metal buildings on the youth side of the lake and prepare the ground for construction.

- Build a single-story, 23-room housing unit, to accommodate 46 guests. The building will face the lake and will be located directly across from the Youth Center.

- Build another single-story, 23-room housing unit to accommodate 46 guests, across the lake in front of the existing housing units located behind the administration building.

- Tear down and remove two buildings on the youth side (a metal dorm building and the Christ House) to make room for a third single-story, 23-room

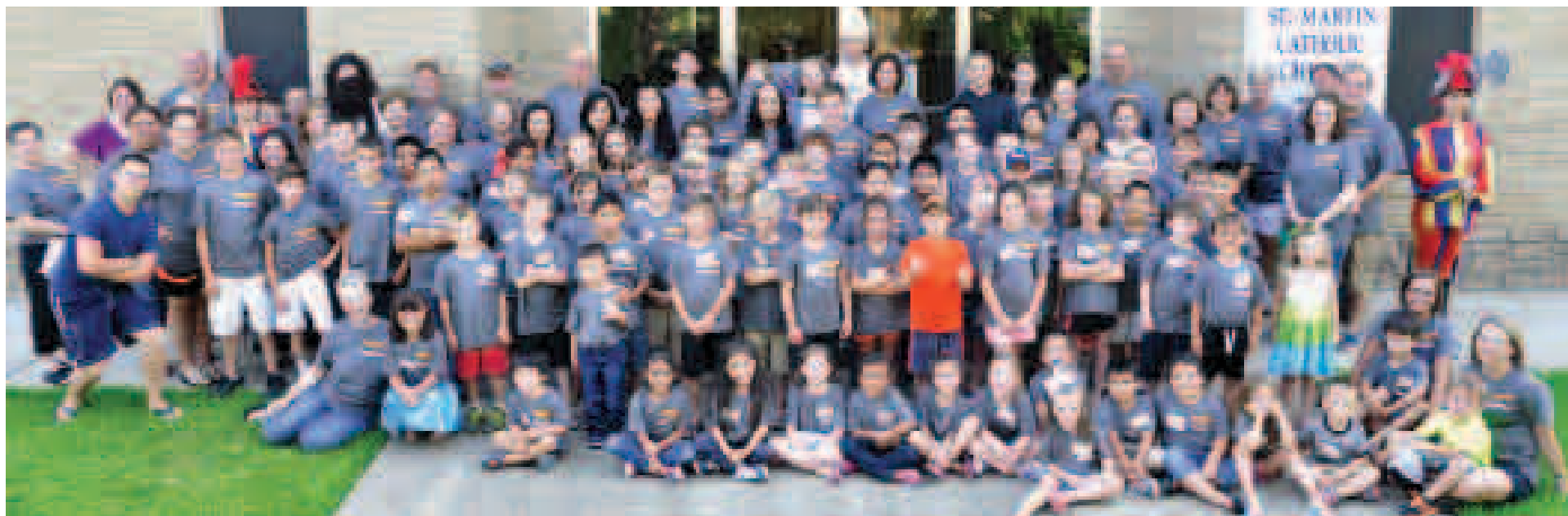
housing unit to accommodate 46 guests.

- Make improvements to the existing 46 single rooms housing unit (located behind the administration building) with paint and minor repairs (as funds allow).

- Make improvements to existing kitchen on the administration side.

- The Old Bookstore -- Paint the exterior and add aluminum fascia and a new roof. The interior would receive a facelift, which would include painting the ceiling and walls and refinishing the floors. The idea is to make this into a meeting room to accommodate up to 100 people.

- Major renovations to the existing Cedar House, another 24-room housing unit, which needs extensive repairs and updating.



TOP: VBS at St. Martin, Lecompte

CENTER 3 PICS: VBS at St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria

BELOW: VBS at St. Joseph, Marksville







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## Vacation Bible School

TOP 3 PICTURES: VBS at St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria

CENTER: VBS at Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin

BELOW: Balloon Rosary Release during VBS at St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria



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**HIGH SCHOOL GROUP.** 109 students and 20 chaperones participated in Catholic Heart Workcamp this summer in Springfield, Ill.

JR. HIGH student



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# Students participate in mission work at Catholic Heart Workcamp

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

While the younger Catholic students were in the home parishes enjoying a week of Vacation Bible School, a group of 138 junior high and high school students from around the diocese travelled to the Central Plains of the U.S. for the 10th annual Catholic Heart Workcamp, sponsored by the OLPS Youth Ministry.

Heart Camp (for short) is about service, connection, and loving others. It provides parish youth groups, teens and adult leaders service opportunities to restore homes and hearts.



Paul Hood, director of Youth Ministry at Our Lady of Prompt Succor, and Renee Aldridge, assistant director said they were amazed at the spirit and enthusiasm of the student participants who volunteered more than 3,850 hours during the week of June 28 - July 5.

The 138 students were divided into two groups -- 29 junior high kids and 109 high school kids.

The 29 junior high kids and six chaperones went to Cincinnati, Ohio and the 109 high school stu-

dents and 20 chaperones went to Springfield, Illinois. Both groups stayed at local high schools.

Each day began with prayer (junior high) or daily Mass (high school) and then a program that ignited and inspired the participants to help others in need.

During the day, the kids painted houses, worked on repair and building projects, volunteered at food pantries, soup kitchens and day care centers, did maintenance and yard work, and engaged others in activities to restore hope and happiness.

Every night was "fun night," where the students enjoyed outdoor skits, dance parties, videos

and games. There were always opportunities for prayer, Adoration, and Reconciliation.

The day before departure, each group also enjoyed a day of fun and relaxation at local fun parks, including Kings Island (junior high) and Six Flags (high school).

Hood and Aldridge are already making plans for next year's Catholic Heart Camp.

"It's something that not only the kids look forward to every summer, but the chaperones as well," said Hood. "What better way to teach our kids about service and mission work, than Heart Camp."



**JUNIOR HIGH** students visit King Island on the last day of their trip.

**JUNIOR HIGH GROUP.** 29 junior high students and 6 chaperones participated in Catholic Heart Workcamp in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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**ALTAR SERVERS** from Our Lady of Lourdes in Fifth Ward and St. Martin of Tours in Belledeau were treated to Slinkee's and a movie July 23 in celebration of Altar Servers Appreciation Day. Fr. Silverino Kwebuza, pastor accompanied the group on the trip.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** for Our Lady of Lourdes in Fifth Ward and St. Martin of Tours in Belledeau was held July 14-17.



**ALTAR SERVER NEW ROBES.** Altar Servers of St Martin of Tours in Belledeau take a group picture wearing their new altar server robes. Pictured are (front row) Deacon Ted Moulard, [redacted], and Fr. Silverino Kwebuza, [redacted], and AJ, pastor. Back row: seminarian Daniel Hart,



**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, (Tioga) CONFIRMATION** - Ten students received the Sacrament of Confirmation June 7 at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Tioga. Pictured are (front row) [redacted] and [redacted]. Back row: Roger Christopher, catechist; [redacted] Fr. Rickey Gremillion, pastor; Rev. Bruce Miller, J.V, celebrant; Deacon L.G. Deloach, [redacted], and Helen Craig, D.R.E. (Editor's note: This confirmation picture was left out of the July issue of the Church Today, where all Confirmation and First Communion pictures were published.)

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# Diocese welcomes 2,580 students back to school in 2014

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

Catholic school superintendent Thomas Roque is optimistic about the new school year that opened last week.

"From enrollment increases to new programs, new staff members, and renovations to the schools, this school year is off to a great start," said Roque.

By last Friday (Aug. 15) all of the eight Catholic schools had opened their doors for the 2014-2015 year.

Some of the highlights at each of the other schools include:

**St. Frances Cabrini School** in Alexandria is report-



ing the most significant increase of students this fall -- 30 percent! The number of students has increased from 105 to 150.

**St. Joseph in Plaquemine** is offering ACT Prep for the first time and expanding its athletic program to include football and cross country. The first JV game for St. Joseph will be at Menard on Sept. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

**St. Mary's School, Natchitoches**

-- Mrs. Jacque Horton has been named principal of St. Mary's School beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year. Horton has served as interim principal last year and as director of curriculum for three years prior to that.

While at St. Mary's, Horton was instrumental in attaining the first national accreditation for the school through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). She has been the recipient of several educational grants that have benefited the school during her four-year tenure.

**Sacred Heart, Moreauville** -- Construction of the Sr. Marisa Ricci Junior High Media Center is currently underway. The junior high students are having class in the gym this fall until the building is completed, hopefully in early Spring 2015.

**St. Anthony School in Bunkie** spent the summer cleaning up the interior classrooms and sprucing up the outside landscaping.

**Holy Savior Menard's** enrollment maintained its enrollment of approximately 513 students. This year, principal Joel DeSelle will serve dual roles as principal and head football coach.

Menard also added a new



**BACK TO SCHOOL WITH GOD EVENT.** Approximately 200 teens attended the Back to School with God Event held Aug. 5 at the OLPS Divine Providence Center. The event, which featured the Josh Blakesley Band and Paul Hood as the guest speaker, was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Religious Formation and Training. Pictured are \_\_\_\_\_ and two of her friends, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

salad bar to the lunch program. The new salad bar will offer more choices for creating salads including grilled chicken.

Menard is also offering bus transportation for students in Avoyelles. Pick-up is every morning at 6:45 a.m. at St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer. \$150 per person/per month.

**St. Mary Assumption in Cottonport** spent the summer upgrading its security around the school campus and renovating the secretary's office.

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor** spent the summer renovating the 5th and 6th grade wing with new flooring and painting.

## Cool School Stuff

### Juice in the Box

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In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following statement is published:

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA  
NON-DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL POLICY  
August, 2014

The Diocese of Alexandria School System re-affirms its non-discriminatory policy on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, activities and employment policies in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Sections 4.03(a) and 4.03 (c) Revenue Procedure 75-50.

All students, faculty members and staff, without exception, are admitted to all rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available at the schools which do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its employment policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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St. Joseph Elementary and High, Plaquemine  
St. Mary Assumption School, Cottonport

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Holy Savior Menard Central High, Alexandria  
OL of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria  
St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

Most Rev. Ronald Herzog  
Bishop of Alexandria

# Coach Wally Smith:

## 29 years of coaching cross country

### .. and still running

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

Ask Wally Smith “How many pancakes does it take to feed a cross country team?”

“150,000,” he’ll say after calculating a few seconds in his head.

150,000?

“And that’s assuming each kid eats only three pancakes -- not eight like one of our small 7th graders; and that’s assuming there’s only 20 kids -- not 40 sometimes -- who show up for pancakes each Friday during the summer.; and . . .

Well, you get the picture. He sounds like a human calculator that won’t stop.

The fact is, Wally Smith, the cross country and track coach at Holy Savior Menard, has been cooking pancakes for his cross country team every Friday during the summer for the past 25 years. But that’s “nothing.”

Ask him, “How many state championships has Menard Cross

Country won?”

“Since 1985, Menard Cross Country has won 10 state championship (girls won it 8 times; boys won it 2 times), state runner ups 7 times, and 3rd place, 11 times.”

And who holds the record for the fastest runner at Menard?”

“Mallory Robichaux holds the girls record (18.17 minutes) for running the fastest 3 mile race in 2011, when she was a 9th grader; . . . and my son, Doug Smith holds the boys record (15:00 minutes) for running the fastest 3 mile race in 1986 when he was a senior. No one has broken his record since then.”

It’s that last statistic that makes him beam with pride every time. His son, Doug, is one of the main reasons Wally is where he is at Menard, doing what he absolutely loves, and leaving an impression on the more than 1,000 kids he’s coached over the last 29 years. This fall, he’ll start his 30th year of coaching at Menard.

Flash back to 1985 when

Smith had a high paying job as a civil engineer and his wife Becky was a registered nurse. All three of their children (Doug, Wally Jr., and Jenny) were attending Catholic schools in Alexandria. But when Doug wanted to run cross country as a junior, they needed a coach. Wally stepped up to the plate as a volunteer parent coach.

During Lent of 1988, Smith embarked on a six-week, at-home lent retreat (Father David Knight’s *Armchair Retreat*). It was during that retreat that Smith decided to change the direction of his life and give back to the Lord some of the many gifts he had been blessed with and to make a difference in the lives of others.

With a master’s degree and 20 years of experience, he quit his lucrative job as a civil engineer and started working at Menard as a math teacher, at about 75 percent less pay.

“I thought I was being bold and demanding when I told them I would be a math teacher, ONLY IF I could be the cross country/



track coach,” he said. “Little did I know then, that math teachers in high school are hard to come by.”

In 1988, after Doug had graduated, Wally began his new career of the first “paid” cross country coach at Menard and turned it into one of the most successful programs, not only a Menard, but in the state as well. He has earned the reputation of taking ordinary students with no prior running experience, and turning them into very accomplished runners.

“Everyone can achieve success in cross country,” said Smith. “If you start out the season running a mile in 15 minutes and at the end of the season, you can run it in 13 minutes -- you have achieved success! Personal records (PRs, they call it) are achieved almost every day and it’s those small, steady goals that each runner attains, that makes him/her successful.”

So how does he do it?

• **He is the master of stats.** Using

his famous clipboard and writing with his left paw, he keeps track of each student’s time from yesterday, today, and probably tomorrow before he/she even runs it. He can tell you who ran what, at what time, what year, what grade they were in, and probably what color tennis shoes they wore when they were running.

In the unlikely event that he would forget a stat, he keeps them all written out in the official “stats book” that keeps track of everything -- dates, times (down to the one hundredth second), PRs, grade levels, etc. You’d have to be an engineer to keep track of it all.

• **He creates a team.** Even though cross country is an “individual” sport, Smith is a genius at bringing the kids together as a team. Whether it’s chanting a song as a group when running, eating pancakes after a Friday morning run, allowing the kids to dye his hair pink after a win, or spending a



**TOP:** Coach Wally Smith serves pancakes to a hungry cross country team at his home after a Friday morning run. Coach Smith has treating his team to pancakes every Friday during the summer for the past 25 years.

**RIGHT:** Coach Smith clowns around with cross country team members

and







**BELOW:** Coach Smith watches the progress of the boys race.

**LEFT CENTER:** Coach Smith prays a prayer of thanksgiving after the state championship win.



week together at “running camp,” Smith believes in team bonding to create team success.

• **He stays positive.** Whether it is something physically, emotionally, or mentally, each of the students has their good days and bad days. Either way, Smith is there to praise and encourage. He makes the students believe they can do anything, if they just keep working on it.

• **He includes God on the team.** Whether it’s saying a prayer before practice, or going to Mass before a meet, or wearing a cross on his/her shirt, the cross country team includes God in every practice, race, or meet.

At the end of the year, each student receives a 72-page book that includes tons of pictures, newspaper articles featuring the team, charts of each of their workouts, individual logs of miles, and tons and tons of stats.

Every student record, every mile, minute and second of every race, meet and championship is in this book. Very impressive.

Thanks Coach Smith for 29 years of cross country/track, teaching life skills, keeping up with all the stats, and for . . . all 150,000 of those Friday morning pancakes.



**2013 GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONS.** The Menard girls clinched the 8th state championship title last November at Northwestern State University. Pictured are  
and

**GOING PINK.** The girls dye Coach Smith’s hair pink to make good on a challenge he made to them -- “Win the upcoming meet and I’ll let you dye my hair pink!” The girls won, so they carried out his promise. The next day Smith had to attend a wedding, and the pink dye had not washed out yet. His wife Becky humbly stood by her pink-haired husband for the wedding.



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# Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Comic book stars return to the screen ramped up in vivid 3-D action

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Thirty years after bursting onto the comic book scene, the wise-cracking, pizza-loving "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" (Paramount) re-emerge from the sewers of New York City. Their mission, once again: to save the world.

This reboot marks the fifth film to feature the reptilian heroes, created by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman. With Michael Bay of the "Transformers" franchise on board as producer, action and destruction (and noise level) are ramped up in vivid 3-D, with the turtles effectively rendered through live action and motion-capture technology.

Fortunately, the script, by Josh Appelbaum, Andre Nemec and Evan Daugherty, honors the ridiculousness of the subject matter and keeps tongue firmly in cheek. Director Jonathan Liebesman ("Wrath of the Titans") joins in the fun while slipping in a few good lessons about honor and family.

The backstory and mythology surrounding the Turtles are extensive, to say the least. Simply stated, there are four, each named (for no particular reason) for an Italian Renaissance artist: Leonardo (Pete Ploszek), Raphael (Alan Ritchson), Michelangelo (Noel Fisher), and Donatello (Jeremy Howard).



'TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES'. Animated characters Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael, Donatello and actress Megan Fox as April, center, appear in the movie "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (CNS photo/Paramount)

Products of an experiment gone wrong, they have grown into rambunctious anthropomorphic teenagers, mask-wearing 6-footers who shout "Cowabunga!" and scarf down 'za.

The turtles live beneath the Big Apple with a wise Japanese rat named Splinter (Danny Woodburn), who has trained them in the martial arts.

"My sons, you will become the warriors that legends are made of," Splinter says. "You live, you die, you fight as brothers. Remember, nothing is as strong as family."

As Leonardo admits, "We

were created as weapons, and we knew the world would never accept us ... but one day, it would need us."

That day is now, for a reign of terror has gripped Gotham, thanks to the notorious Foot Clan, a seemingly invincible gang of criminals led by a razor-sharp monster appropriately dubbed Shredder (Tohoru Masamune).

At first, the turtles do battle at night, fighting the Foot Clan while protecting their identity. All that changes when April (Megan Fox), an intrepid TV reporter, stumbles upon their ninja moves.

Excited by her first big scoop,

April has a hard time convincing Vern (Will Arnett), her cameraman, and Bernadette (Whoopi Goldberg), her skeptical boss, of the turtles' existence.

So she turns to an old family friend, billionaire industrialist Eric Sacks (William Fichtner), for help. He's a scientist, with more than a passing interest in mutated reptiles -- and a wicked secret alliance with Shredder for (of course) world domination.

If it all sounds silly, it is, and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" is more thrill-ride than serious drama. As such, the action sequences may be too intense (and loud) for young viewers. Everyone else, however, will have a ball careening down sewer tun-

## MOVIE REVIEW

nels as though they were water slides on steroids.

The film contains intense but bloodless cartoon violence, some bathroom humor, and a few vague references to sexuality. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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**CDA CONTEST WINNERS.** State winners of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education contest were presented checks and certificates at the June 9 meeting of Court Notre Dame #1452. Pictured are \_\_\_\_\_, 1st place winner in Computer Art with her father Dr. Daniel Heitman; and \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd place winner in Poetry with her mother, Candi. Two other winners not pictured are \_\_\_\_\_, 1st place in Photo; and \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd place winner in Art. Connie Stemmann is the education chairperson.

## Pro-Life Town Hall

Join the Louisiana Right to Life on Monday, Sept. 8 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Holy Savior Menard High School for a Pro-Life Town Hall rally. Admission is free and a free dinner! RSVPs are appreciated, but not required. Join us to Stand for Life! For more information, call Ryan Verret at 337-257-3029.

## Catechist Training

A training workshop in teaching skills for all catechists will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the large conference room at the Diocese of Alexandria Office (4400 Coliseum Blvd.-Hwy. 28 West). The cost is \$10, including lunch. Registration is required by Sept. 10. To register, email [emccullough@diocesealex.org](mailto:emccullough@diocesealex.org) or leave a message at (318) 445-6424 ext. 251.

## Youth Ministry Formation Day

A Youth Ministry Formation Day will be held Saturday, Sept. 6 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria. Tom East, director of the Center for Ministry Development, will be the keynote speaker. All youth ministers and their volunteers are invited. The cost is \$10 per person (includes lunch). For more information, call 318-445-6424 ext. 221 or go to [www.diocesealex.org/youthministry](http://www.diocesealex.org/youthministry) for a Parish Registration Form.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### Schoenstatt Centennial Pilgrimage

In celebration of the centennial of the founding of the Schoenstatt movement, the Louisiana branch of the International Schoenstatt Movement is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the dedication of the newest Schoenstatt Daughter Shrine in Austin, Texas. The bus will depart Friday morning Sept. 12 and return Sunday night Sept. 14. The cost is approximately \$330 per person. For more information, visit the Louisiana Schoenstatt website at [www.schoenstattla.com](http://www.schoenstattla.com), or call Nita Brouillette at 318-481-2725.

### Beginning Experience

Widowed, separated or divorced? Don't know where to turn? Struggling with grief or loss? Beginning Experience is registering now for a weekend away toward a lifetime of change at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville, Sept. 19-21. Program helps grieving single-again persons emerge from the darkness of grief into the light of a new beginning, and move into the future with renewed hope. Cost is \$185, which includes two nights' lodging and meals. To register, or for more information, call Martha at 985-226-6458.

### Celebration of Life Gala

Gordon Douglas will be the guest speaker for the annual Women's Resource Center Celebration of Life Fundraising Gala, to be held Sept. 25 at the Natchitoches Events Center in Natchitoches. Learning from his comedy heroes, Bill Cosby and Red Skelton, Gordon's comedy mixes real life stories with "off the wall" physical comedy and his own hilarious view of life. All proceeds from the Gala, will benefit the Women's Resource Center, a Pregnancy Help Medical Clinic. For more information visit [www.wrcfriends.com](http://www.wrcfriends.com)

### Bishop's Golf Tournament

The 2014 Bishop Invitational Golf Tournament will be held Oct. 13 at the Oak Wing Golf Course. Lunch begins at 11 a.m. followed by tee-off time at noon. The cost for the four-person scramble is \$540 per team (or \$135 per person) and includes green fees, cart, range balls, lunch, and refreshments. Sponsorships are available at \$100 for Hole sponsor; \$250 for Silver sponsor; \$540 for Team sponsor; \$1,000 for Gold Chalice sponsor; and \$2,500 for Platinum Chalice sponsor. To register or to be a sponsor, call 318-445-6424, ext. 209.



**KC COUNCIL 4010 (St. Paul the Apostle, Mansura) NEW OFFICERS.** The installation of officers ceremony was held July 19 for the Knights of Columbus Council #4010 from St. Paul the Apostle Church. Pictured are (front row) Ted Chatelain, KC member; Bert Dorgant, parish trustee; Lionel Guidry, KC member; Gaston Rabalais, chancellor/trustee; David Flanders, Deputy Grand Knight; Fr. Irion St. Romain, chaplain/pastor; Larry Breaux, advocate; Thad Rabalais, inside guard; Thomas Mayeux, KC member. Back row: Linster Guillot, warden; Leonard Bernard, recorder; Merrick Bernard, KC member; Richard Ducote, treasurer; Gaon Escude, financial secretary; Donald Laborde, district deputy; Carl Chapman, grand knight; and Melvin Harris, KC member. Not pictured is John Mitchell and Bruce Novo, trustees.

### Silent Retreat

The Alexandria Community of Lay Carmelites, OCDS, invites all to a Silent Retreat Oct. 3-5 at Maryhill Renewal Center. The theme for the retreat is *St. Teresa of Avila -- Spiritual Wisdom for a New Millennium*, in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Teresa. The retreat is open to all who are interested in Carmelite Spirituality. Cost is \$175 per person (\$50 deposit required with pre-registration). Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 26. For more information or to register, call Deacon Bill Travis at 664-7069 or Mary Jo McCoy at 346-6860.

### Catholic Charismatic Conference

The Diocesan Service Committee of the Diocese of Alexandria will host the 2014 Women's Catholic Charismatic Conference on Saturday, October 4, 2014, at the Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville, LA. Registration and Continental Breakfast begins at 8:00 am and the Conference begins promptly at 9:00 am. We will close with a vigil mass at 4:00 pm. The theme of the conference is "BE NOT AFRAID". Our speakers are Aggie Neck and Tracy Simpson. Conference fee of \$50 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Please contact Diane at 318-419-1547 for more information.

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# August - September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>18</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</div>	<div>19</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Last Day to enter Radio Maria Sweepstakes</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</div>	<div>22</div> <div>QUEENSHIP of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</div>	<div>23</div> <div>An Evening with David Magee benefitting St. Mary's Residential Training Facility 7:00 p.m. Paragon Casino, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</div>	<div>24</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</div>
<div>25</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. NELLIKUNNEL</div>	<div>26</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</div>	<div>27</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR.K. OBIEKWE</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Illuminated Rosary 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</div>	<div>29</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</div>	<div>30</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</div>	<div>31</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM</div>
<div>SEPTEMBER 1</div> <div>Diocesan Offices and Catholic Schools Closed</div> <div>LABOR DAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>	<div>2</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Mary's School, Natchitoches</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL</div>	<div>3</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</div>	<div>5</div> <div>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</div>	<div>6</div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</div>	<div>7</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU</div>
<div>8</div> <div>Pro-Life Town Hall 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Menard High School Alexandria</div> <div>NATIVITY of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</div>	<div>9</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</div>	<div>10</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. RETNAZIHAMONI</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</div>	<div>12</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Catechist Training 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center -- Alexandria Virtus 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Ctr  Rosary for America 5:30 p.m. Radio Maria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</div>	<div>14</div> <div>FEAST of the EXULTATION of the CROSS PRAY FOR FR. J. ROY</div>
<div>15</div> <div>OUR LADY of SORROWS PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN</div>	<div>16</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</div>	<div>17</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Red Mass 9:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</div>	<div>20</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. SOARES</div>	<div>21</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</div>

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