

CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVI, No. 10

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

October 19, 2015

ON THE INSIDE

The Pope's visit to the United States

Pope Francis visited the United States last month in a five-day whirlwind trip, making stops in Washington, New York and Philadelphia. Read about the many messages of hope he left for the people (page 2) and read about some of the people from our diocese who were there to see him (pages 11-13).

Synod of Bishops on the Family about to end

The World Synod of Bishops on the Family is not a parliament, but a place of prayer where bishops speak with courage and open themselves to "God who always surprises us." The synod has been meeting since Oct. 4 and will conclude on Oct. 25. Read more on page 3.

Sacred vessels stolen from church are recovered

Father John O'Brien and the parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Natchitoches are giving thanks and praise to God today for the safe return of numerous sacred vessels that were stolen from the church recently. See page 9.

Flowers for the Forgotten

200 gravesites will get flowers this All Saints/Souls Day thanks to a few ladies at St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer



HELPING TO DISTRIBUTE FLOWERS. A group of students from the St. Alphonsus Youth Group will help place flower bouquets Nov. 1 on 200 graves located behind St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer. The ladies who made the bouquets are (standing from left) Kathy Scallan, Missie Kelone, Francine Sons, Carol Adams, and Lindia Guillory (not pictured). Read the details of the story on page 8.

Pope Francis visits America: Pope urges U.S. Catholics to keep enthusiasm, welcome newcomers

By David Agren
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- Pope Francis ended his trip to the United States with a call for Catholics to keep the enthusiasm of the visit, while continuing to welcome newcomers and care for creation.

"Do not let your enthusiasm for Jesus, his church, our families, and the broader family of society run dry," Pope Francis said at Philadelphia International Airport, prior to flying back to Rome. "I pray that our days of prayer and reflection on the importance of the family for a healthy society will inspire families to continue to strive for holiness and to see the church as their constant companion, whatever the challenges they may face."

In just over five full days in the U.S., Pope Francis reaffirmed the importance of church and family life, pleaded for inclusive attitudes toward immigrants, reiterated the right of religious freedom and called for action on climate change and care for creation.

The trip reaffirmed the pope's enormous popularity with Catholics and non-Catholics alike as large crowds convened -- even with tight security -- while media coverage was comprehensive.

Pope Francis, who met again with Vice President Joe Biden just prior to leaving Sept. 27, acknowledged the warmth of the welcome in his final remarks.

"Your care for me and your generous welcome are a sign of your love for Jesus and your faithfulness to him. So, too, is your care for the poor, the sick, the homeless and the immigrant, your defense of life at every stage,



THREE CHEERS FOR POPE FRANCIS. People cheer for Pope Francis as he enters the Benjamin Franklin Parkway for the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Sept. 27. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

and your concern for family life," Pope Francis said. "In all of this, you recognize that Jesus is in your midst and that your care for one another is care for Jesus himself."

Philadelphia

The pope visited Philadelphia as part of the World Meeting of Families. He delighted droves of well-wishers with an off-the-cuff speech on family life. At Independence Hall, he spoke in Spanish on respect for religious freedom and urged immigrant communities -- and all Americans -- to remember their roots and embrace diversity.

"You should never be ashamed of your traditions," he said.

New York

Pope Francis also stopped in New York, where he visited a Catholic school in Harlem, addressed the U.N. General Assembly and led a multireligious gathering at ground zero -- a "place which speaks so powerfully of the mystery of evil."

"We know with certainty that evil never has the last word," Pope Francis said. "In God's merciful plan, love and peace triumph over all."

Washington

In Washington, the pope addressed a joint meeting of Congress, visited later with the homeless and canonized St. Junipero Serra, "who reminds us all of our call to be missionary disciples."

The visit involved political and pastoral aspects. Pope Francis arrived first in Cuba, having helped the decades-long estrangement between the communist country and the United States.

In the United States, his speech to Congress was widely watched and touched on topics such as protecting life in all its stages, religious liberty and acting against climate change. He

touched on his environmental encyclical, "Laudato Si'" again in his parting remarks.

"This land has been blessed with tremendous gifts and opportunities," the pope said. "I pray that you may all be good and generous stewards of the human and material resources entrusted to you."

His message of unity, kindness and caring captured Catholics and non-Catholics alike -- especially in Philadelphia -- though it was criticized as un-American in some conservative circles.

"He's bringing a sense of unity that I've not seen here," said Rodney Barnes, a social work student and non-Catholic attending the papal Mass in Philadelphia.

"The biggest thing for me (in this message) was the small things in life that you can do for each other every day," said Rona Iredale, whose family saw the Mass from a rooftop bar.

"I'm not very religious, but it was very moving," said Iredale's daughter Hannah, 16, who found much to like about the pope. "He's just a chill guy and I agree with his views."

The exact impact of the visit remains to be seen, though early signs are promising.

"In terms of articulating his message and generating enthusiasm and connecting with Americans, it was a tremendous success," said Andrew Chesnut, religious studies professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. "Only time will tell if there's lasting impact in terms of more parishioners in the pews and a new spirit of partisan cooperation for the common good."

In his final speech, as in some others, Pope Francis ended with the words, "God Bless America."

For all of your
Catholic and Diocesan

NEWS

visit our website:
www.diocesealex.org



TERRY'S D.J. SERVICE
Music & Light Show
Country, Rock, Zydeco, Oldies, Rap

The Cajun D.J.
Terry Laborde
(318) 253-8949
Cell (318) 305-7186
E-mail: tlaborde@avoyellespsb.com

Telephone 318-445-1446
Fax 318-445-1449

Certified Gemologists
Registered Jewelers



Synod of Bishops on the Family: Oct. 4-25 in Vatican City

Pope says synod is not parliament, but place to listen to Holy Spirit

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The World Synod of Bishops on the Family is not a parliament where participants will negotiate or lobby, Pope Francis said, but it must be a place of prayer where bishops speak with courage and open themselves to "God who always surprises us."

The synod has been meeting since Oct. 4 and will conclude on Oct. 25.

Arriving about 15 minutes before the first session began, Pope Francis welcomed to the synod hall the members, delegates from other Christian communities and the men and women who will serve as experts and observers.

The synod is not a convention or a parliament, Pope Francis said, "but an expression of the church; it is the church that walks together to read reality with the eyes of faith and with the heart of God."

Synod members must be faithful to church teaching, "the deposit of faith, which is not a museum to be visited or even simply preserved, but is a living spring from which the church drinks to quench the thirst and enlighten" people, he said.

The synod hall and its small working groups, he said, should be "a protected space where the church experiences the action of the Holy Spirit."

In a spirit of prayer, the pope said, the Spirit will speak



SYNOD OF BISHOPS ON THE FAMILY. Pope Francis participates in prayer at the opening session of the Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican Oct. 5. Bishops from around the world will be in Vatican City Oct. 4-25 for the Synod which will focus on "the family." (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

through "everyone who allows themselves to be guided by God, who always surprises us, by God who reveals to the little ones that which he has hidden from the wise and intelligent, by God who created the Sabbath for men and women and not vice versa, by God who leaves the 99 sheep to find the one missing sheep, by God who is always greater than our logic and our calculations."

The synod, he said, is not a place "to mourn or lament" the challenges families face, but to rejoice and seek perfection and to help families do the same.

The discussions aim at "the unanimity that comes from dialogue," he said, but can be disturbed by "ideas defended to the extreme."

Hungarian Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest, chosen by the pope to introduce the discussion, spoke for close to an hour, outlining the questions the synod will be called to discuss over the course of three weeks.

Looking at the situation of families around the world, he said, one of the primary challenges is economic. Too many families do not have food, shelter or

employment. Young people delay marriage and parenthood because they do not have or think they do not have the means to support a family. Millions of families are torn apart by war and migration.

In addition, the cardinal said, with an exultation of individualism there is a widespread distrust of institutions -- including of the church, the state and the institution of marriage.

The Catholic Church at every level, he said, must affirm the missionary role of families, ensuring married couples are part of marriage preparation programs,

family support groups and outreach to families in crisis emotionally or economically.

"The life of the human being and of humanity is part of a great project, that of God the creator," he said. "As in all aspects of life, we find our fullness and our happiness if we are able to freely and wisely put ourselves into this great project that is full of wisdom and love."

Turning to the widely debated topic of the pastoral care of divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, Cardinal Erdo said pastors must be ready to help couples verify whether or not their church marriage was valid.

If it was a valid marriage, he said, it is indissoluble, as Jesus himself taught.

Responding to reporters later, Cardinal Erdo said his report's affirmation of the indissolubility of marriage, and moving away from seeking a pastoral approach to allowing those couples to receive Communion, were the result of the input the synod sought from Catholics around the world after the extraordinary synod on the family last year.

Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris, added, "If you are looking for a spectacular change in church doctrine you will be disappointed."

At the same time, Italian Archbishop Bruno Forte said, "the synod is not gathering to say nothing." The goal is to find new pastoral methods to bring the church "closer to the men and women of its time."

Serving Central Louisiana for 140 years and 5 generations.

Please join our staff as we celebrate "The New Kramer Funeral Home"

KRAMER
Funeral Home
2005 Masonic Drive
Alexandria, LA 71301

Open House
Wednesday, November 4, 2015
7:30 A.M. till 10:00 A.M.
Ribbon cutting at 8:30 A.M.

SAVE up to 40% with



Alexandria Business Machines

Copiers • Printers • Printer Supplies
Faxes • Office Supplies
Cost Management for your Business

318-443-0435

5527 Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria, LA 71303-3708

The Holy Father has given us a lot to digest this past month --first, with his historic visit to the United States Sept. 22-27; and secondly, his current Synod of Bishops on the family still in session in the Vatican City until the end of this month (Oct. 25).

Although I was unable to witness the pope's visit in the U.S., there were several from our diocese who did. Read about their experiences on pages 11-13.

The gathering of bishops in Rome for the synod on the family, is sure to bring out some meaningful discussions about many of the issues facing our families today. Some of the "hot topics" I'm sure, will include divorce and



ONE IN THE LORD

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

receiving Communion, as well as pastoral approaches to homosexual couples. Let us all keep the members of the assembly in our prayers, as they are guided by the Holy Spirit.

For several years now, October has been designated as the

"Month of the Rosary" and as "Respect Life" month. Throughout the diocese, so many of our Catholic schools, churches, and Catholic organizations held beautiful events of publicly praying the rosary -- the Living Rosary, the Public Square Rosary, Marian

Processions, and the outdoor Illuminated Rosary. Thank you to all who organized and participated in these beautiful Marian devotions.

Remember, too, to pray for life choices during Respect Life month. We continue to be challenged by our culture of death that consistently attacks our belief that all human life is sacred. Thanks for all you do to promote the defense of life.

Even though the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy doesn't start until Dec. 8, it is not too early to begin thinking about how you will take advantage of God's many special graces that will be available. Look for a list of special events and opportuni-

ties that will be offered to you during this special year, in the next issue of the Church Today.

Finally, thank you to all of those involved in the recent Bishops Annual Golf Tournament held Oct. 12. This annual event has always been one of my favorite fundraisers for seminarian education because it brings so many of you together for a fun, competitive event. To all of the sponsors, the donors, the organizers, and the players -- I can't thank you enough for your generous support of our seminarians.

May God bless you.

Don't believe what you hear or read on the Internet

By Karen Osborne
Catholic News Service

It all started when we heard unconfirmed reports that the pope had met with Kim Davis in a private audience during his visit to Washington.

Davis, a Kentucky county clerk, recently denied marriage licenses to same-sex couples on religious grounds. Since same-sex civil marriage is now legal in the United States and county clerks are required by law to issue licenses, her actions sparked controversy -- and rumor -- especially after Davis met with the pope.

My Facebook feed exploded. Some friends said the pope was "no longer cool." Another said the pope opposed the Supreme Court, while another dismissed the pope altogether.

"Wait a sec," I said.

I was amazed that such smart

people would jump to conclusions so easily. After only one unconfirmed report of Pope Francis giving a rosary and encouraging words to Kim Davis, my friends were ready to discount the pope's teachings on helping the poor, on climate change, and on humility and service.

But that's the power of a good rumor.

A rumor has just enough truth to carry a story and just enough scandal to sell it. Some are based on lies that are easy to believe and easy to repeat, leading a lot of people to jump to conclusions. In the short run, believing a rumor can make you look stupid. In the long run, believing a rumor can ruin a life.

That's why rumors are so insidious and dangerous for everyone, whether you're in high school or reigning from on high. It almost didn't matter to my

friends that the Vatican released a clarification that there had been no private audience and that the meeting "should not be considered a form of support of her position."

It didn't matter to my friends that I explained Catholic teaching on the subject. It didn't matter when I explained how local notables get to meet the pope. Nothing mattered because the first rumor was so good.

That's what happens in high school, too, on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. Somebody says something false, but it's dressed in the clothing of truth. If Christy was at the party, it's much easier to tell a rumor about her kissing Adam, even if she didn't even talk to him all night. If Clarence doesn't like Tisha, it's a lot easier to believe that she'd say something nasty about him, even if she never did.

Why do we believe everything we're told without checking it out, first? What really happened was a misunderstanding. Getting to meet the pope is a big thing, but a lot of people meet the pope. Immigrants, babies, notables, nobodies, Fidel Castro.

For some people, though, what they heard falsely meant that they could no longer believe in Pope Francis' message of love and brotherhood. That's really sad!

Don't jump to conclusions when you hear a salacious story

on the Internet or in the halls of your high school. Don't believe a rumor just because someone repeats it or because it seems as if it could be true.

Make sure it is actually true. Do your research. Talk to the people involved. Try not to make snap judgments about people or what they believe based on things you've heard, and don't hang out with people who do. Before you jump to conclusions, get the whole story.

And don't worry -- the cool pope is still very, very cool.

CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVI, No. 10 • October 19, 2015

P. O. Box 7417 • Alexandria, LA 71303
churchtoday@diocesealex.org 318-445-6424

Publisher: Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog, Bishop of Alexandria
Editor: Jeannie Petrus, ext. 255; jpetrus@diocesealex.org
Advertising: Joan Ferguson, ext. 264; joanferguson@diocesealex.org
Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209; starver@diocesealex.org

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

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

The CHURCH TODAY is a member of the Catholic Press Association.

Website: www.diocesealex.org

To receive a free subscription, call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or e-mail jpetrus@diocesealex.org



NEBLETT, BEARD
& ARSENAULT
INJURY LAWYERS

561-2500

www.nbalawfirm.com

Richard J. Arsenault, Alexandria



Act of Dedication of the Human Race to Jesus Christ King

(A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful, who piously recite the Act of Dedication of the Human Race to Jesus Christ King. A plenary indulgence is granted, if it is recited publicly on the feast of our Lord Jesus Christ King.)

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before you. We are yours, and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart.

Many indeed have never known you; many, too, despising your precepts, have rejected you. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to your Sacred Heart.

Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger.

Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one Shepherd.

Grant, O Lord, to your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give tranquility of order to all nations; make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer Source: Enchiridion of Indulgences, June 29, 1968

Nov. 22: Feast of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Celebration of this feast is especially appropriate today

On Sunday, Nov. 22, the Church will celebrate the Feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (formerly known as the Feast of Christ the King).

This feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 and was originally celebrated on the last Sunday of October.

The 1920s saw a rise in secularism, in which people increasingly lived their lives as if God did not exist. Dictatorships flourished and many people were taken in by these earthly leaders. Many Christians (including Catholics) began to doubt the authority and existence of Christ and to question the power of the Church to continue Christ's authority.

Pope Pius XI felt that a feast celebrating the kingship of Christ over all humanity would be especially appropriate at this time when respect for Christ and for the Church was declining rapidly.

As he stated in his encyclical *Quas primas*, by which he instituted this feast day, Pope Pius XI hoped that this feast would have three effects:

1. That nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, and immunity from the state (*Quas Primas* 32)
2. That leaders and nations would see that they are bound to give respect to Christ (*Quas Primas* 31)
3. That the faithful would gain

strength and courage from the celebration of the feast, as we are reminded that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills and bodies (*Quas primas* 33).

The need for such a feast continues to exist in our world today, as the problems observed by Pope Pius XI have not vanished but appear instead to have worsened.

The embrace of individualism in today's society moves Jesus from the central role He is meant to occupy in the lives of Christians. This feast allows us to reaffirm and refocus our faith and respect in the kingship of Je-

sus just as it did when it was first established.

With the calendar reforms of 1969, the celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe was moved from the last Sunday in October to the final Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Sunday before Advent.

It is fitting to celebrate Christ's kingship right before Advent, when we liturgically prepare for the arrival of the promised Messiah. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the infant, we also meditate on the Second and Final coming of Christ the King.



LEGLUE NISSAN INC.

NEW & USED CARS •
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

6400 COLISEUM BLVD.
WWW.LEGLUENISSAN.COM
318-767-3300



KRAMER

FUNERAL HOMES
The Complete Funeral Services
Three Convenient Locations

2905 Masonic Drive
Alexandria, LA
(318) 445-6311

128 Second Street
Colfax, LA
(318) 627-3511

1924 Hwy. 1
Fifth Ward, LA
(318) 240-8305

Advance planning is a loving, caring thing to do for your family.

Our Family Serving Your Family Since 1875

Msgr. Murray Clayton, former editor of Church Today, passes away

SHREVEPORT -- Monsignor Charles Murray Clayton, a faithful priest of both the Alexandria and Shreveport dioceses passed away in the company of his immediate family in Vidalia, La. on Sept. 25, 2015.

Father Clayton was born in Natchez, Miss. on Jan. 6, 1929, to Robert Waddell and Lucille Murray Clayton, Sr. He received his undergraduate degree from Springhill College in Mobile, Ala., before attending seminary at St. Joseph Seminary in Covington. He completed his priestly training at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio, before being ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport on May 26, 1956.

During his initial assignment as parochial vicar at Our Lady

of Prompt Succor in Alexandria, Bishop Charles P. Greco asked young Father Clayton to serve as editor of The Church Today (formerly the North Louisiana Catholic Register), which he did for 12 years. In 1967 he was named Chancellor of the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport. He served in that capacity until Bishop Greco named him pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shreveport in September of 1969.

During 24 years as pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Father Clayton's remarkable pastoral abilities transformed the Broadmoor congregation into the largest Catholic worship community in North Louisiana, with a vibrant school and vast array of programs and outreach ministries including sponsorship of an

orphanage in Saltillo, Mexico. Hispanic Ministry was something very dear to Father Clayton's heart and his fluency in the language along with his personal leadership helped spark the early formative years of outreach to the Latino community by Shreveport's Catholic faithful.

Prior to his retirement, Father Clayton in his last years of active priesthood, brought his special brand of ministry to the Catholics of West Shreveport by serving as pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, who embraced his loving nature and benefited from his strong pastoral leadership.

A truly gifted man of God, Father Clayton was a wise spiritual counselor, a dedicated prison minister, ecumenical pastoral



Msgr. Murray Clayton

leader, a talented musician who could play the trumpet quite well in his youth, a community activist and dear friend to so many who

were connected to him through the countless weddings, baptisms and funerals he performed as a priest. His sharp sense of humor combined with his gifted ability as a storyteller and homilist made him a joy to be with. He will live in the hearts of thousands of area Catholics for many years to come.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Oct. 1 at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Bishop Michael G. Duca as the principal celebrant joined by the priests of the Diocese of Shreveport and Diocese of Alexandria. Burial followed at Rose-Neath Cemetery in Bossier City.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Doctors Without Borders, 333 7th Avenue, 2nd floor, New York, NY 10001.

Sister Madeleine Hebert, MSC, passes away at age 103

Sister Madeleine Sophie Hebert, MSC (Marianites of Holy Cross), passed away Oct. 3, 2015 at. She was 103 years old.

Sister Madeleine served in the Diocese of Alexandria from 1982 - 1991, serving as co-director of the Permanent Diaconate Program and assisting in the Archives Office and at Maryhill.

Sister Madeleine was born Fay Wilhelmina on August 29, 1912 in Morgan City, La. At 18 years of age, she entered the Marianites on Sept. 8, 1930. She made her first vows on August 9, 1932, her final profession on August 9, 1935 and embarked on what would become a lifetime of remarkable experiences.

While completing a degree in education at Loyola University in New Orleans, her early years in education were spent as teacher and principal in several Catholic schools in New Orleans, Franklin, Morgan City, and Ville Platte.

In early 1955, she began studying hospital administration at St. Louis University. After successfully completing the course of studies, she became the first administrator of Opelousas General Hospital in Opelousas.

In 1964, she was elected Superior General or Mother Superior of the Marianites to lead the world-wide Congregation. From the Mother House of the Congregation in Le Mans, France, she served in this position for 13 years, learning to converse and carry out business affairs in French while overseeing the implementation of the changes demanded by the Second Vatican Council for all religious congregations.

In 1977, she returned to New Orleans and was named to a two-fold role of provincial councilor for the Louisiana Province of the congregation and as the president of Our Lady of Holy Cross Col-



Sr. Madeleine Hebert, MSC

lege.

After serving in the Diocese of Alexandria from 1982 - 1991, Sister Madeleine went on to serve her congregation by writing a history of the Marianites, assisting in the Development Office, and in the Archives.

Since her retirement, she has been a resident at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home in Opelousas.

A Mass of Resurrection was held Oct. 8 in the OLPS Chapel, followed by the burial at St. Landry Cemetery in Opelousas.

Seminarian Burses

September Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217.....	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Deacon and Mrs. Rodrick B. Broussard.....	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau.....	\$50.00
Edna Rabalais Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center.....	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour Burse	
Tri-Community Nursing Center.....	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour Burse	
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau.....	\$200.00
Monsignor Henry Beckers Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller.....	\$200.00
Fr. Daniel Corkery Burse	
Total.....	\$725.00

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to:

Diocese of Alexandria Chancery Office,
P.O. Box 7417,
Alexandria, LA 71306-0417

Like us on
Facebook



Diocese of Alexandria

**Listen to the Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass on**

KLIL 92.1 KZLG 95.9

8 a.m. Sunday Mass

7 a.m. Sunday Mass



SAINT JOSEPH SEMINARY COLLEGE, located near Covington, La., welcomed a record 137 students this year for the Fall 2015 semester, an 83 percent increase from just five years ago.

St. Joseph Seminary sees 83% increase in students in past 5 years

Saint Joseph Seminary College, located near Covington, La., welcomed a record 137 students this year for the Fall 2015 semester, an 83 percent increase from just five years ago, when 75 seminarians enrolled.

Saint Joseph Seminary College is a community of faith and learning in the liberal arts rooted in the Benedictine tradition that promotes the development of the whole person. The formation program fosters the commitment of seminarians to the Roman Catho-

lic priesthood in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Program of Priestly Formation. The Seminary College also supports preparation for service in lay ministries and makes available its educational and other resources to the local community.

Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., president and rector of the seminary college, credits not only the presence of the Benedictine community to the growing student body over the years, but also the

reputation of the baccalaureate and pre-theology programs.

"Our seminarians not only have the opportunity to live, learn and grow spiritually alongside the Benedictine community, who have made this their home since 1889, but also benefit from a stellar group of faculty and staff who are dedicated to making sure students achieve their full potential," Boquet said.

"We realize the decision to attend Saint Joseph Seminary is a defining moment for students and

strive to make sure everybody is on the right path. This sentiment goes a long way with our students and is a big part of the reason so many young men decide to pursue their education here," Boquet added.

Students this year are representing 20 archdioceses and dioceses from across the Gulf South region, including: Atlanta, Ga.; Galveston-Houston, Texas; Mobile Ala.; New Orleans; Alexandria, La.; Austin, Texas; Baton Rouge, La.; Beaumont, Texas;

Biloxi, Miss.; Corpus Christi, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Houma-Thibodaux, La.; Jackson, Miss.; Lafayette, La.; Lake Charles, La.; Memphis, Tenn.; Shreveport, La.; St. Augustine, Fla.; and Victoria, Texas.

The Diocese of Alexandria currently has three seminarians attending St. Joseph seminary. They are Thomas Kennedy, from Natchitoches; Andrew Flynn, from Alexandria; and Bryce Veillon, from Leesville.

Seeking
Fundraising Development
Coordinator

 **The St. Mary's
Residential
Training School in Alexandria,
Louisiana is looking for a
Development Coordinator who
will be responsible for leading
and managing the fundraising
development program, raising
funds for the school and
programs, and managing all
committees involved in fund
development activities.**

For more information on St. Mary's and
this position and how to apply, visit
www.petrusdevelopment.com

Petrus
FEED & SEED

2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA

442-2325

Brigitte Paul Kelso Insurance, LLC

Brigitte Kelso
Owner/Agent

2918 S. MacArthur Dr.
Alexandria, La. 71301

Phone: 318.448.2226
Fax: 318.448.2280
kelsoins@yahoo.com



Louis Lowrey, M.A.

*Licensed Professional Counselor
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist*

Offices located at 207 Church Street, Natchitoches
(318) 332-8422 • Pager (318) 252-2945
lowrey@cp-tel.net

Mail: 109 Royal Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457

BAIT SHOP



1923 RAPIDES AVE.
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301
(318) 442-8221

WEEKDAYS: OPEN 5:30 A.M.
WEEKENDS: OPEN 5:00 A.M.
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

CLOSED WEDNESDAY
WWW.BAITSHP.INFO

**Oxygen
Bags**

"Our bait is guaranteed to catch fish or die trying!"
**Live Bait! Shiners, Red Worms, Cold
Worms, Crickets**

Relics of Saints

What is a relic?

A relic is a piece of the body of a saint (first class relic); an item owned or used by the saint (second class relic); or an object which has been touched to a first class relic (third class relic).

What is a reliquary?

A reliquary is a container for relics. These may be the purported or actual physical remains of saints, such as bones, pieces of clothing, or some object associated with saints.

Why do Catholics venerate relics of the saints?

The use of relics, which include the physical remains of a saint, originates in Sacred Scrip-




A reliquary holds a relic.

ture. In 2 Kings 2: 9-

14, the prophet Elisha picked up the mantle of Elijah after Elijah had been taken up to heaven. With it, Elisha struck the waters of the River Jordan, which then parted to allow him to cross the river. Also, the Acts of the Apostles tells that when handkerchiefs which had touched the skin of Saint Paul were applied to the sick, they were cured and evil spirits departed from them (Acts 19:11-12).

The Code of Canon Law states: "The ancient tradition of keeping relics of martyrs and other saints... is to be preserved according to the norms contained in the liturgical books." The faithful are encouraged to venerate them. In all, relics remind us of the holiness of a saint. Relics also inspire us to ask for the prayers of a saint so that we may receive the grace of God to live a faith-filled life much like that which was modeled for us in the life of that particular saint.

Keep in mind what the Church says about relics. It doesn't say there is some magical power in them. There is nothing in the relic itself, whether a bone of the apostle Peter or water from Lourdes, that has any curative ability. The Church just says that relics may be the occasion of God's miracles, and in this the Church follows Scripture.



ST. ANTHONY CHURCH

B U N K I E

THERESIAN FAMILY FETE

OCTOBER 24-27, 2015

Plan for your family to attend the events scheduled for our parish Fete de Famille that will be held October 24-27, 2015. The following events outline the celebration.

Saturday, October 24, 2015

- 3:00 pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary for Families
- 3:20 pm Confessions
- 3:55 pm Procession of Roses by Representative Families
- 4:00 pm Solemn Procession and Reception of First Class Relic of St. Therese of Lisieux with Veneration and Blessing of Shrine

Vigil Mass: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Novena Prayer to Saint Therese following Prayer after Communion

Sunday, October 25, 2015

- 7:15 am Recitation of the Holy Rosary for Families
- 7:20 am Confessions
- 7:55 am Procession of Roses by Representative Families
- 8:00 am Veneration of First Class Relic of Saint Therese of Lisieux
First Mass: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Novena Prayer to Saint Therese following Prayer after Communion

9:45 am Recitation of the Holy Rosary for Families

- 9:50 am Confessions
- 10:25 am Procession of Roses by Representative Families
- 10:30 am Solemn Procession and Reception of First Class Relics of Saints Louis and Azelie-Marie Martin, Parents of Saint Therese, with Veneration and Blessing of Shrine
Second Mass: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Novena Prayer to Saint Therese and Parents following Prayer after Communion

11:30 am Parish Covered-Dish Family Dinner immediately following Mass -- Knights of Columbus Hall
3:00 pm Special Presentation of Award Winning Film: *Therese* -- St. Anthony Church

Monday and Tuesday, October 26-27, 2015

- 6:30 am Morning Mass
Novena Prayer to Saint Therese and Parents following Prayer after Communion
- 8:20 am Power-Point Presentation to Students of Saint Anthony School
- 5:00 pm Afternoon Mass
- 5:30 pm Confessions
- 5:30 pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary for Families
- 6-7 pm *Fete de Famille* Parish Mission with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Mardel Products Co.

Custom Millwork

Residential/Commercial Woodworking

www.mardelproducts.com

(318) 253-7730

Need Disability Benefits?



NBA NEBLETT, BEARD
& ARSENAULT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria

Budget Blinds

a style for every point of view™

Custom Window Coverings
Shutters • Draperies • Blinds



Huge selection of the best brands!

(318) 443-9730
FREE In-Home Consultation & Estimates

Professional Installation • Low Price Promise
Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated
www.budgetblinds.com



Refueling & Refreshing Communities

www.ynotstop.com



Sacred vessels stolen from St. Anthony Church are recovered

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Father John O'Brien and the parishioners at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Natchitoches are giving thanks and praise to God today for the safe return of numerous sacred vessels that were stolen from the church recently.

"We are extremely grateful to God for the safe return of the many sacred vessels that were stolen Sept. 15 from St. Anthony of Padua Church," he said. "By the grace of God, and by the quick response of the Natchitoches Police Department and the Natchitoches Sheriff's Department, all of the articles have been recovered and the persons involved arrested."

When Father John celebrated Mass late in the evening on Sept. 15, everything seemed in order. But when his secretary, Lillian Dugar, arrived at the church the next morning to set up for Mass, she noticed the locked cabinet, where all of the sacred vessels were stored, had been broken into, and the vessels gone.

Missing sacred vessels included the reliquary holding the sacred relic of St. Anthony, four chalices, four candle holders, three pattens, several pyx (small container used to hold a few con-



STOLEN SACRED VESSELS RECOVERED. Some of the sacred vessels that were stolen from St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Natchitoches Oct. 15 are shown here after they were recovered by the Natchitoches Police Department. At right is the reliquary that holds the sacred relic of St. Anthony of Padua. With the exception of a few dents in a few of the chalices, almost all of the items were returned to the church in good condition.



secrated hosts for distribution by laity to the sick and home-bound), an aspergillum (used by priest to publicly bless people), an aspersorium (the bucket filled with holy water, used by priest to dip the aspergillum in), holy oil

containers (used in administering the sacraments), the cross off of an unused tabernacle, and a few other miscellaneous articles.

Four people have been arrested in connection with the theft. After police questioning,

it was discovered that the group had planned to burglarize several churches in the Natchitoches area, including the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. St. Anthony Church was the first target of their plan.

"The strange thing is that they didn't take the monstrance, the reliquary holding the True Cross, and my own personal chalice that is almost 200 years old," said Father John. "All of these things were right there, within easy reach, but none were taken."

Father John's personal chalice was a gift given to him by another priest in Canada, when he was first ordained. An Augustine monk during the 1800s was the original owner and it has been passed down through several generations of priests.

"I am just eternally grateful, that all of the sacred vessels were recovered."

A few of the chalices were dented, and have to be sent for repairs. One of the pyx was burnt from what appears to be drug use. Police reports confirmed the motive for the burglary was drug-related.

"It's really tragic to see what drugs can do to the soul of a person," said Father John. "We are praying for these people and asking the angels of God to bring them back to deliverance, healing and peace."

At the following weekend Mass, after the arrests were made and the items were returned, Father John said a prayer of blessing with the relic of St. Anthony of Padua for those who had been arrested and then blessed the congregation with the relic.

"St. Anthony truly is the wonder worker of Padua and the patron of lost items," said Father.

VIRTUS

- **Oct. 29 (Thursday)** -- 6 p.m., Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- **Nov. 3 (Tuesday)** -- 6 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Ceneter, Alexandria

Every adult who works/volunteers with children/youth in the Diocese of Alexandria's churches/schools must attend the VIRTUS™ Protecting God's Children sexual abuse awareness training. On-going training must be maintained in order to stay certified. To register, go to www.virtus.org

For more information, contact Pam Delrie at 318-445-6424, ext. 213



Panda Restaurant
Chinese Cuisine & Mongolian Grill

Dine in or Take out . . . order from our extensive menu or enjoy our all-you-can-eat buffet and Mongolian grill . . . We do party trays . . . all major credit cards accepted.

2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA
Ph: (318) 767-8596/Fax: (318) 767-2250

Lunch:
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Dinner:
Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m.-10 p.m.

Sunday:
11 a.m.- 9 p.m.



Great food
Fabulous view
Oyster Bar
(with Live Music)

All you can eat:
Monday & Thursday:
Fried catfish

Tuesday: Boiled shrimp
Wednesday: Fried shrimp

Join us on Facebook! 

On Hwy. 28 West
8.5 Miles past the Coliseum
487-4014
www.oystercypressinn.com
Monday thru Saturday
Visa • MC • AmEx • Discover





FLOWERS FOR THE FORGOTTEN. Lindia Guillory sorts donated silk flowers on her kitchen table, according to colors. She and a few other ladies from St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer, made 200 flower arrangements to place on the graves of "the forgotten" in time for All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

Ladies at St. Alphonsus make 200 bouquets of Flowers for the Forgotten

Last November, when walking through the cemeteries and mausoleums of St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer, Lindia Guillory noticed that many old graves had no flowers for All Souls Day.

Father Edwin Rodriguez, pastor, encourages his parishioners (beginning in early October) to clean and paint the graves of loved ones. But in many cases, there are no family members remaining to care for the grave sites.

So, Guillory came up with Flowers for the Forgotten, asking parishioners to place discarded flowers from the burial sites of their loved ones into large boxes placed in the two mausoleums. The boxes remained all year, collecting thousands of flower donations.

In September, Guillory, Kathy Scallan, Caleb Sons, Francine Sons, and Carol Adams sorted the flowers by color and painted the cans that would hold each bouquet. The ladies spent one Saturday rearranging the donated flowers into nice bouquets to be placed upon graves with no flowers on All Saints Day. Due to the amazing generosity of the people and families of St. Alphonsus, they were able to make more than

200 lovely bouquets!

Several members of the Youth Group, under the direction of Missie Kelone, will help place the bouquets on graves prior to All Saint's Day. While the cemetery is always beautiful for All Saint's Day, it will be especially beautiful this year.

What is All Souls Day?

All Souls Day commemorates the faithful departed on Nov. 2, and follows All Saints Day (Nov. 1).

The Roman Catholic celebration is associated with the doctrine that the souls of the faithful who at death, have not been cleansed from the temporal punishment due to venial sins and from attachment to mortal sins cannot immediately attain the beatific vision in heaven, and that they may be helped to do so by prayer and by the sacrifice of the Mass. All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation (but not this year since it falls on a Sunday); All Souls Day is not.

The official name of the celebration in the Roman Rite liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church is "The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. In English countries, it is also known as the Feast of All Souls; in Spanish-speaking countries, it is known as the Day of the Dead.

The Western tradition identifies the general custom of praying for the dead dating as far back as 2 Maccabees 12:42-46. The custom of setting apart a special day for intercession for certain of the faithful on Nov. 2 was first established St. Odilo of Cluny at his abbey of Cluny in 998. The celebration was soon adopted in several dioceses in France, and spread throughout the Western Church.

What should I do on All Souls Day?

- Pray for those in your family, your friends, who have died
- Pray for those who have died and have no one to pray for them.
- Offer the sacrifice of the Mass to All Souls in Purgatory
- Visit the graveyard of family or friends
- Bring flowers to graves of loved ones
- Clean area (of leaves and debris) around gravesite. (Check with tombstone cleaning experts before cleaning. Cleaning some tombstones, can actually damage the stone, and cause rapid deterioration.)



**SABINE STATE
BANK**
& Trust Company

Member FDIC



Call your local
branch for
information.
(318) 256-7000

BAKER
LAND & TIMBER MANAGEMENT, INC.

P.O. Box 5624
Alexandria, LA 71307

3306 Giamanco Street

Phone: (318) 473-8751
Fax: (318) 473-4045
Email: DonaldJBaker@aol.com

Donald J. Baker, ACF/RF/CF
CONSULTING FORESTER
Licensed Urban Tree Consultant

Daniel Lacombe Floor Finishing

404 Bordelon Rd., Hessmer, LA 71341

Specializing in installation

- Floor Finishing
- Ceramic Tile Floors
- Hardwood Floors
- Reseal Tile Floors

Ph: (318) 563-4753 • Cell (318) 305-0241

Martha Neil Anthony



Feline Canine Coach

- Behavior Modification
- Obedience and Therapy
- Pet Training
- 30-day Money Back Guarantee
- In home, Individual, and Group Sessions Available
- Phone Consultations and Phone Assessments

985.226.6458 • www.felinecaninecoach.com

Two local couples, college students experience pope's visit

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Seeing Pope Francis, attending the World Meeting of Families, and witnessing the canonization of St. Junipero Serra, was the experience of a lifetime for several individuals from the diocese.

Father Scott Chemino

Father Scott Chemino, vicar general for the diocese, traveled to Washington D.C. to attend Pope Francis' visit and the canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra on Sept. 23.

Father said that Washington was very crowded and that it took considerable maneuvering to attend the Canonization Mass at the

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"We could not get the taxi any closer to the event than Trinity College, about eight blocks from the basilica. Police security was everywhere," said Father Chemino.

"I tried to visit the Dominican House and Theological College where I had lived while attending seminary, but no one was being admitted to the properties because the Secret Service had already closed the area since it was so close to the Holy Father's planned route for the Mass.

"The Mass was held on the east side entrance to the shrine. The area surrounding the altar was so well designed and pre-

pared for the Pope's arrival and Mass. Most of all, I will remember how fine the music was throughout the celebration," he continued.

"The Catholic University choirs and orchestra combined with the shrine choirs making the liturgy spectacular."

Fr. Chemino said he wanted to attend the canonization because in 1977 he visited the Mission Carmel in California where Junipero Serra lived and died. The saint is buried in the mission.

Father spoke of kneeling at his grave asking that Serra intercede in the hope that Chemino would one day become a priest.

"My prayer was answered and I have never forgotten Junipero Serra for that reason," said Chemino.

Two local couples

Almost a year ago, the organizers of the World Meeting of Families, invited every diocese in the U.S. to select two married couples to send to the WMF conference in Philadelphia.

Representing the Diocese of Alexandria were Lynn Ray, coordinator of Campus Ministry, and her husband Greg; and Laura Gaspar de Alba, director of Hispanic Ministry, and her husband Fernando.

The two couples attended the 5-day conference in Philadelphia and had special seating to see the Pope when he said the final Mass at the end of his trip.

"It was a wonderful, spiritual conference for me AND for



THIS CLOSE TO POPE FRANCIS. Father Scott Chemino, V.G., snapped this picture of Pope Francis as his motorcade drove past him in Washington. Father Chemino was in Washington to witness the canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra on Sept. 23. (Photo by Father Scott Chemino, V.G.)

my family," said Laura. Laura and Fernando's 16-year-old son, Evan, who is a junior at Menard, also attended the conference with his parents.

Throughout the conference, the common thread at the root of every breakout session, was the Book of Genesis, both Laura and Lynn agreed.

"Every talk started out with Adam and Eve and the first married couple," said Lynn. "God saw that Man was alone in the world, so he made a Woman for him. God told them to be fruitful and multiply. This is, and always will be, God's Divine Plan."

"I especially enjoyed the talk about Marriage, Parenting, and Procreation," said Laura. "It's important to have God and Our Lady present in the home."

Laura said she brought some Family Prayer Cards (in Spanish) from the conference to give to the Hispanic families in her ministry.

In addition to attending the conference, Lynn and two other chaperones -- Chris Riche and Terri Blaisdell -- brought 10 students from LSU-A and two students from Louisiana College to Philadelphia to see the pope.

See WORLD MEETING, page 12



REPRESENTING THE DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA. Two couples from the Diocese of Alexandria, chosen last year, to attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia are (from left) Fernando and Laura Gaspar de Alba, director of Hispanic Ministry; and Lynn Ray, coordinator of Campus Ministry and her husband Greg.



CALL IN YOUR ORDER - WE WILL HAVE IT READY IN 20 MINUTES
COMPARE QUALITY - TASTE - QUANTITY & PRICE
WE DELIVER EVERYTHING FROM CHEESE TO "FULL HOUSE"
WITHIN LIMITED AREA SUN-THUR 11 AM-10:30 PM
CHECK ACCEPTABLE FRI & SAT 11 AM-11 PM

#1 ALEXANDRIA
902 VERSAILLES
BLVD.
448-4104

#2 BALL
6301 MONROE HWY.
640-2983

#3 PINEVILLE
CORNER HWY. 28
EAST & STILLEY RD.
445-9249

VALUABLE COUPON
Two Medium Pizzas \$17.99

Single Topping - Additional Toppings Extra
Not valid with any other coupon

Coupon
Expires
11/16/15

All prices subject to change



Oestriecher Financial Management Services

**Let us help your family
manage your financial goals.**



Emile P. Oestriecher, III, CPA

*Education Funding
*Family Risk Management
*Small Business Planning

*Retirement Planning
*Mutual Funds
*Annuities



Anne Oestriecher, CPA, CFP®

4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71303
318-448-3556 • www.o-fms.com

*Securities offered through HD Vest Investment ServicesSM, Member: SIPC
Advisory services are offered through HD Vest Advisory ServicesSM
6333 North State Highway 161, Fourth Floor, Irving, Texas 75038, 972-870-6000

Oestriecher Financial Management Services is not a broker/dealer or independent investment advisory firm.

World Meeting of Families

Continued from page 11

"The student group arrived in Philadelphia near the end of the WMF," said Lynn. "They came primarily to see Pope Francis."

A highlight of the Philadelphia meeting was the Knotted Grotto centered around a painting of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots -- a favorite devotion of Pope Francis. The grotto was a place where visitors could write their prayer intentions on a ribbon. Before tying their ribbon to the grotto, visitors were told to "untie" or "undo" the ribbon of someone else, pray for that prayer intention, and tie both intentions back on the grotto. The idea behind this was that

you can't always undo your own knots in your lives; sometimes you need the support of others.

When Pope Francis was enroute to the final Mass on Sunday, he stopped at the Knotted Grotto, blessed all the prayer intentions, and spent a few moments in prayer to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots.

"It was a beautiful thing to see the prayer intentions of so many in one place," said Laura. "People from all parts of the world wrote their intentions in their own language. I wrote mine in Spanish; the one I untied and prayed for was in English."

Another highlight of the conference was the WMF mural.

Artist Cesar Viveros, a Philadelphia muralist, designed a paint-by-numbers mural on 153 panels measuring 5 feet by 5 feet.

Participants at the conference had the opportunity to paint a section of the mural. The number of participants who contributed to the painting reached more than 2,263 -- enough to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the most contributors to a painting.

Lynn and her husband Greg (as well as the students and the Gaspar de Alba family) all contributed to the painting, but Lynn's contribution eventually gained extraordinary status.

"Pope Francis signed the

mural on the blue flower that I painted," she said. "I feel such a special blessing from that."

On the final day of the Mass where Pope Francis would be celebrating, Lynn and her husband and the student group were up at 4 a.m. to make their way to their spot for the Mass at 4 p.m.

"By starting out at 4 a.m., we didn't have much trouble making it through traffic and clearing security. We made it to our spot inside the Mass area by 6 a.m. -- and waited for the next 10 hours, standing up, for the 4 p.m. Mass.

The student group went to a different area and waited too, but they didn't seem to mind.

"The students said they enjoyed visiting with other students from all over the world," said

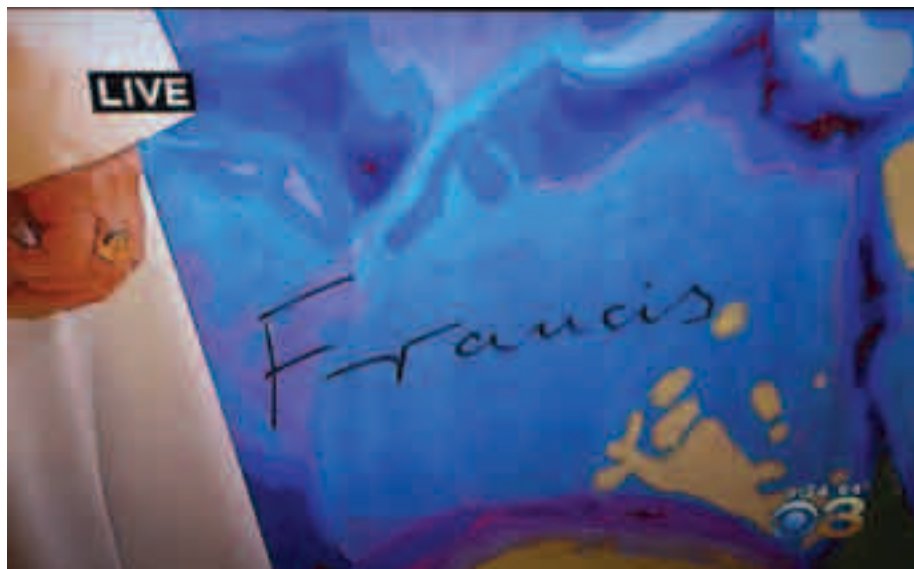
Lynn. "They didn't seem to mind the wait at all."

By mid-morning, the wait to get through security was 4-5 hours. But, according to Lynn, knowing that every bag, every single person who entered had been thoroughly checked, made her feel safe.

Despite the special seating, neither Laura or Lynn and their husbands were close enough to see the pope celebrate Mass.

"We watched the whole thing on the jumbotron -- which is what probably most of the people at home saw.

"But the spirit and excitement of the faithful, -- at one time and in one place -- was overwhelming," said Lynn. "I've never felt more proud to be Catholic!"



THIS CLOSE TO THE POPE. Lynn Ray took this picture as Pope Francis rode past her in his pope mobile.

WORLD RECORD PAINTING. Lynn Ray and her husband Greg, take their turn at painting a panel used in a giant mural for the pope's visit. When Pope Francis visited the mural project (which set a World Guinness record for most contributors to a painting), he signed his name on a blue flower -- the same blue flower that Lynn painted.





LSU-A AND LC STUDENTS and chaperones Chris Riche and Terri Blaisdell, started their day off at 4 a.m. on the day to see Pope Francis at the final Mass which didn't start until 4 p.m. Traffic and tight security forced visitors to be patient and wait 10-12 hours in their quest to see the pope.



OUR LADY UNDOER OF KNOTS.

Prayer petitions written on ribbons were tied in knots to a grotto around this painting of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. Pope Francis prayed at the site and blessed all the prayer petitions.

AMELIA BERTRAND, president of the LSU-A Catholic Student Organization, attaches her prayer petition to the Knotted Grotto. Amelia was one of 12 college students from our area who traveled to Philadelphia to see Pope Francis.

MEETING THE POPE (not really!)

Laura Gaspar de Alba and her husband Fernando, one of the couples from the Diocese of Alexandria who attended the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, stand next to a life-size cardboard cut-out of Pope Francis.



IN 1930, CASPER KRAMER SR. (John Kramer's son) moved the funeral home from its original location on 4th Street, next door to the remodeled home of his father on the corner of 4th and Scott Streets in downtown Alexandria.



NEWLY RENOVATED KRAMER FUNERAL HOME. Kramer will host an Open House Nov. 4 to dedicate its new 5,000 sq. ft. expansion project. The additions included a new visitation room, new family room, new bathrooms, new kitchen area, and an elevator going to the second floor.

Kramer Funeral Home completes expansion project, celebrates 140 years

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

When John deBaptiste Kramer established Alexandria's first funeral service in 1875, he probably never dreamed that it would still be owned and operated by the same Kramer family 140 years later.

Today, in 2015, Kramer Funeral Home is still owned and operated by the 4th generation of Kramer sons (Graham Kramer) and as of November 2014, Sarah D. Kramer joined the staff representing the 5th generation and the first female member of the family to become active in the business.

"We've been lucky over the past 140 years to keep the business in the family," said Graham. "It's been an honor for the Kramer family to serve the community for 140 years."

When John established Kramer Undertakers in 1875, he and his wife were busy raising 13 children. In 1890, only one of his 13 children joined him in the family business, so the name was changed to John Kramer & Son.

Casper believed the funeral home should own its own horse drawn hearse like funeral homes in New Orleans. His father disagreed. As a result, Casper went to New Orleans, bought Alexandria's first horse-drawn hearse and then leased it to his father as families requested its use.

But that's just how the Kramer's have run their business the past 140 years -- always reaching out to meet the needs of a new generation.

Kramer's most recent effort to meet the needs of a new generation is the completion of an expansion of the current facility located at 2905 Masonic Drive, originally built in 1950.

According to Sarah Kramer, the expansion project added 5,000 sq. feet which includes:

- an expansion of the front lobby
- the addition of large, sunny kitchen and eating area
- a new, modern men's and women's restroom
- one additional visitation room
- the addition of a family room
- the addition of an elevator to get to the second floor.

"The goal of the expansion

project was to provide more space and a more home-like family atmosphere," said Sarah. "We want people to feel like they are coming into someone's living room in their home, not a funeral home."

The plans called for warm colors, lit-up shelving in the visitation room to display pictures and mementos of loved ones, and large windows to let the sun in.

The modern restrooms feature granite countertops, individual stalls, a seating area, and a baby-changing station in both the men's and women's restrooms.

In addition to the improvements to the facility, Kramer is proud of its updated package of

Open House

Wednesday, Nov. 4
7:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Ribbon-cutting at 8:30 a.m.

The public is invited!

services.

"Funeral services are a celebration of life," said Sarah. "Yes, it's a time to share the grief among friends, family members,

and co-workers, but it is also a big celebration of this person's life."

At Kramer's, the family is encouraged to celebrate that person's life with what was most important to him or her.

Whether that person's life evolved around hunting and fishing, or grandkids, gardening, motorcycles, or sports, family members are encouraged to bring pictures or sentimental objects to the visitation room where they can be displayed on shelves, tables, or even the walls.

"The idea is to bring that person's life and his/her love of life into that room, where others can celebrate and remember," she said.

Sarah said the funeral home also produces a DVD made from pictures provided by the family. The DVD plays continuously on a large flat-screen TV during visitation hours.

Other services include a portfolio of the deceased, laminated bookmarks, prayer cards, and holy cards.

Pre-planning is always encouraged. A convenient pre-planning package is available, which includes all the information and steps detailed for filling out all the papers and forms needed for planning a funeral.

"About 50 percent of our funerals are pre-planned, which makes it so much easier when the time comes," said Sarah.

For more information about Kramer Funeral Home, the Open House, or to pre-plan a funeral, call 318-445-6311.

Alfred Cook Jr. named Funeral Director of the Year

Graham Kramer and the Staff of Kramer Funeral Home are proud to announce that the Louisiana Funeral Directors Association— Northern District, awarded Funeral Director of the Year to Alfred E. Cook Jr., Director of Operations at Kramer Funeral Home. Alfred began his career with John Kramer & Son on November 1, 1976 and has served the families of Central Louisiana for 38 years. From the age of 8 years old, Alfred always knew that he wanted to be a funeral director. Alfred is married to the former Terri Willis (at left) and has two children, Alfred, III and Ellen Cook (at right).



Dr. Tom Stanley brings his Value Life talk to Catholic schools



Dr. Tom Stanley, speaks to students at St. Mary's School in Natchitoches (above and below and at St. Frances Cabrini School (at right).



By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Keep the message simple.
Engage the kids.

That's how Dr. Tom Stanley, a Catholic pediatrician from Jacksonville, Fla., delivered his "Value of Life" presentation to all the Catholic school students Sept. 21-24 in the Diocese of Alexandria.

Dr. Stanley was brought to Central Louisiana by the Catholic Medical Association of Alexandria, a group of local Catholic doctors committed to promoting the value of life. Dr. Joseph Landreneau, a local cardiologist, saw him on EWTN and invited him to come and speak to the children of our diocese.

As a cradle Catholic, Dr. Stanley grew up around Rosaries, prayer and daily Mass. He attended Catholic elementary school and high school and loved serving as an altar boy throughout his school years.

While learning about the amazing and complicated nature of the human body in medical school, Tom's belief in God's sovereignty was strengthened and he marveled at God's creation. After medical school, he served many years as an ER doctor before starting his practice in Pediatrics.

Since 1990, Dr. Stanley has lived in Jacksonville, Fla., where he established a pediatric practice and began giving inspiring talks to children about the value of human life at various parishes and schools. Two years ago, Dr. Stanley decided to quit his practice and travel around the country speaking to kids full-time.

Whether it's a group of

4-year-olds, or a group of high school seniors, or a group of senior citizens, Dr. Stanley tells the same story, but uses different language to deliver the message.

"I absolutely love to speak to children about pro-life issues," he said. "I firmly believe that the earlier they understand the value of life, the more likely they will be pro-life."

So how do you talk to a group of children about being pro-life?

"You teach them to VALUE life," he said. "I feel that you cannot oppose abortion without first embracing life."

With his fast talking, non-stop pacing, props, and audience interaction, he keeps the kids engaged and the message simple. Most talks last only 15-25 minutes.

He tells them God made all of creation -- the stars and the land, the animals and the fish. But man did not come to life until he breathed life into him. God's breath into our soul is what makes us so special.

Then he opens his briefcase and shows realistic models of a human fetus at different stages of life and explains what each "baby" can do at that stage.

The eyes of the children widen and their jaws drop when he tells them the two inch-fetus has a brain, a beating heart, and all of its fingers and toes. Surprisingly, the kids are totally engaged and hang on to his every word.

But their attention spans are usually quite short, so he has to emphasize his message again before he ends.

Value life.

Value all life.

Skiff and AJ's Fantastic Voyage

Produced by Lumen Entertainment

Every 2nd grader who hears Dr. Stanley's talk about the value and sanctity of life, receives a free DVD titled *Skiff and AJ's Fantastic Voyage*. If your parish is interested in distributing the DVD in your parish, go to www.lumen.tv





HOLY GHOST FIRST ANNUAL 5K RUN WALK. Holy Ghost Church in Marksville and St. Richard's Chapel in Hickory Hill held its First Annual 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk Oct. 3. Pictured with the pastor, Father Abraham Varghese (wearing the number 8), are the participants and the winners.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL JUNIOR BETA. 45 students were inducted Oct. 2 into the Junior Beta Club, an honorary academic organization for students in grades 5-8.



OLPS FALL FESTIVAL.

perform karate kicks during the entertainment part of the Fall Festival Oct. 10. Students provided entertainment throughout the day singing, dancing, and performing.



OLPS BIKE SAFETY COURSE.

show off their cool bike helmets. All 3rd graders at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School participated in a Bike Safety Course Sept. 30, presented by Fit Families for Cenla and sponsored by Joseph's Paint & Flooring.

YOU GET IT ALL AT



SAYES
OFFICE SUPPLY

WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM

OFFICE SUPPLIES • OFFICE FURNITURE • OFFICE MACHINES
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES • JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT

7603 Highway 71 South • Alexandria, LA 71302
318.448.4225 • Toll Free: 1.800.766.4819



CABRINI SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX. Father Chad Partain, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church, and deacon aspirant Larry Feldkamp, wait on the altar as the students from St. Frances Cabrini School process into the church with roses in celebration of the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux Oct. 1, commonly referred to as St. Therese of the Little Flower.



SACRED HEART LIVING ROSARY. Students at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville participate in the annual Living Rosary Oct. 2 around the school's Marian Grotto.



OLPS LIVING ROSARY. Students process down 21st Street praying the Rosary Oct. 6, during the annual Living Rosary.



**DIOCESE OF JACKSON
CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL POSITIONS
AVAILABLE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR**

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
Natchez, MS
Pre-K3 — Grade 12:
(669 students)

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Madison, MS
Grades 7-12:
(399 students)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Practicing Roman Catholic in good standing
- Hold or working toward a Master of Education degree in School Leadership
- Hold or be eligible to obtain a Mississippi Educator License in School Leadership
- Previous teaching and/or administrative experience in Catholic education
- Instructional and spiritual leadership and financial management skills

Application and additional information available online at
www.jacksondiocese.org/school-information.php
or email a request to: cathy.cook@jacksondiocese.org

Application Deadline: **NOVEMBER 15, 2015**



BLESSING OF THE PETS was held at Sacred Heart School by Father Jose Pallipurath, pastor.



GRAND LADIES OF THE KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER FOURTH DEGREE. Msgr. H. A. Thompson Chapter #27 held an exemplification ceremony Sept. 26 at Cardinal Cushing Activity Building in Mansura. New members of the Ladies Auxiliary are (from left) Rose Noel, Dorothy Washington, Colette Wright, Linda Prevost and Linda Thomas. The ceremony was conducted by Faithful Navigator, Christine Demouy and Faithful Captain, Marjorie James, along with other members (Doris Prevot, Julia Boston, Rachal James, and Ida Babino) of Chapter #27.



ST. RITA CHURCH VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR. Father Craig Scott presents a plaque to Patti and Dennie Williams as Volunteers of the Year for 2015 at the annual St. Rita Church Volunteer Appreciation luncheon held Sept. 17.

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE **PETER J. LEMOINE** Social Security Disability Law

Offices in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Cottonport
Adjunct Professor (1994-1997), Northwestern State University

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives, Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State Bar Association).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited," "Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C," "Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Disability Hearings."

318-876-3174



CELEBRATION OF LIFE SCHOLARSHIP. Charlotte and Bill Cross (center) of Natchitoches established the Celebration of Life Scholarship recently to benefit single mothers who are seeking to obtain a college degree while caring for a young child. From left are Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Cross, NSU President and First Lady Dr. Jim and Tonia Henderson and Jill Bankston, associate director for development. Mr. and Mrs. Cross are active in right to life initiatives through their church, the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches, and have supported the Women's Resource Center in Natchitoches, a pregnancy help center that provides free and confidential education and resources for women. The Celebration of Life Scholarship will be awarded to an expectant mother and/or mother of a child aged 12 months or younger. Single mothers will be given first preference. The recipient must be enrolled in a minimum of six hours per semester, maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or better and demonstrate financial need. The scholarship will be awarded to the student through graduation as long as criteria are met. Applications are available at the Women's Resource Center, NSU Counseling Services, NSU Health Services, Immaculate Conception Church, Holy Cross Catholic Church and other local participating churches and agencies.



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHURCH (Belledeau) Public Square Rosary Rally held Saturday, Oct. 10.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR (Alexandria) Public Square Rosary Rally held Saturday, Oct. 10.



MATER DOLOROSA (Plaucheville) AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Dupont) CONFIRMATION. Sixteen students from Mater Dolorosa in Plaucheville and Immaculate Conception in Dupont were confirmed Sept. 9 by Bishop Ronald Herzog.



ST. JULIANA EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST. Four more members of St. Juliana Church in Alexandria were installed as Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist Sept. 20 after pledging the Oath of Service & Fidelity. Pictured are Marjorie James, Yashera Gilliard, Fr. Remi Owuamanam, Delores Landry and Jonathan Roque.

ST. JULIANA CHURCH PILGRIM

STATUE. The family of Beryl Chesser presented the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Mother Mary to St. Juliana Catholic Church Sept. 27 during Mass. Pictured are Jeffrey and Patricia Chesser Hicks, who serves as president of the St. Juliana Legion of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Praesidium. The statue will travel to homes in the parish for one week. During the week that it is in a home, the family agrees to pray the Rosary together each day. Each time the statue is moved, it is escorted by two members of the St. Juliana Legion of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Praesidium. More than 30 families signed up to have the statue come to their homes.



PASTORS OF SCHOOLS. Superintendent of schools Thomas Roque met with the pastors of all of the Catholic schools Oct. 8 to report on the state of the Catholic schools in the diocese. Pictured are (from left) Father Dan O'Connor, OLPS, Thomas Roque, Vanessa Pichon, administrative assistant in schools office, Father Scott Chemino, St. Anthony School; Father Ryan Humphries, St. Mary's School in Natchitoches; Father Jose Pallipurath, O.S.B., Silv., Sacred Heart School; and Father Chad Partain, St. Frances Cabrini School.

THE EVANGELINE BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

A Louisiana Banking Tradition for over 100 years.

3700 Jackson Street • Alexandria

3355 Masonic Drive • Alexandria	497 West Main Street • Ville Platte
3907 Parliament Drive • Alexandria	2020 East Main Street • Ville Platte
3403 Highway 28E • Pineville	420 West Main Street • Ville Platte
3700 Monroe Highway • Pineville	425 North Avenue G • Crowley



Jeansonne's Millworks & Cabinet Shop

- * Architectural Millwork
- * Custom Cabinets & Moulding

Phone 445-5665 * FAX 445-5276

GUY JEANSONNE
Owner

1843 Sterkx Road
Alexandria, LA 71301

PEST AID CO.

We Sell
Do-It-Yourself
Pest Control
Supplies



Termites • Ants
Ticks • Roaches
Mice • Fleas
Mosquitoes

COMPLETE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

6 Month Service Agreements

Home Owned & Operated • Raymond J. Constantino, Sr.



473-0228
1-800-256-0450

2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA



USCCB introduces its first mobile app: USA Catholic Church

WASHINGTON—Leadership of the Catholic Church in the United States has introduced its first mobile app: USA Catholic Church. Designed to draw Catholics closer to their faith by providing access to Church information on all screens and devices, this is the only app that brings together information from all Catholic sources: parishes, dioceses, the U.S. bishops and even the Vatican. Not only will the app include religious news, daily Scripture readings and local parish content, it also featured exclusive, in-depth coverage of Pope Francis' September visit to the United States.



"This is the most comprehensive virtual connection to the Catholic faith available," said Bishop Christopher Coyne, chair-elect of the Committee on Communications of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which created the app.

"We understand many people are looking for more ways to connect with the Church and

incorporate Catholic living into their busy lives—that's exactly what this app is designed to do."

App content is available in both English and Spanish and lets users:

- Follow Pope Francis with the latest news and communications, including videos and photos.
- Access unique mobile features: view daily readings, make mobile

donations, receive news alerts, get Vatican and Catholic News Service updates, and have the ability to share via social media.

Additionally, the USA Catholic Church app offered up-to-the minute coverage of Pope Francis addressing a joint session of Congress and the United Nations, as well as the public at the World Meeting of Families.

In October, new parish and diocese functionality will be released, allowing users to stay in contact with local dioceses and parishes through individual pages with Mass and confession times, homilies, events, blog posts, videos and bulletins, and locate local parishes at home or when traveling with a "Church Finder" tool that works by location, city, state or ZIP code.

The USA Catholic Church app is free to download at Google Play and Apple iTunes in English and Spanish. To download, visit www.USACatholic.church from your smartphone or tablet device.

New EWTN youth series: *You're Amazing! with Justin Fatica*

(EWTN) – *You're Amazing With Justin Fatica* is more than just the title of EWTN's newest series, which will premiered last month. It's also more than just a slogan to the host, author/speaker/evangelist Justin Fatica of "Hard as Nails."

Recently, this young dynamo was at a book signing when a teenager came up to him and said, "I think your message is baloney." Most people would have been offended. Not Justin.

"I'm an East Coast guy," he said, "I'm thinking, 'I like this kid.' I said, 'Why do you think that?'"

The teen said, "My dad left me. He's not amazing. Everybody is not amazing."

Justin said, "That really must have hurt, but your dad is still amazing."

The teen got indignant. "You can't say that. You don't know what I went through. He left us. I had to take care of my brother."

Justin looked at the teen and said, "That must have been really hard for you. What your dad DID was not amazing, but your DAD is amazing."

"You can't say that," the teen insisted.

"Did it hurt you when your dad left?"

"Yes, I was a little kid."

"Did you ever cry about it?"

"Yeah, I cried about it! It hurt!"

"If your dad wasn't amazing, it wouldn't have hurt so bad," Justin said. "Your dad just has



YOU'RE AMAZING WITH JUSTIN FATICA. Wildly dynamic speaker Justin Fatica and a team of young missionaries are on a cross-country road trip spreading their message of hope in Christ. Tune-in to see how you are awakening to the power of God's love. Thursdays at 9 p.m. on EWTN, or watch past episodes on www.youtube.com/ewtn.

to know how amazing he is so he won't hurt people anymore. When you sin, it hurts others and yourself."

That's just a taste of the kind of straight talk that Justin uses to begin cracking open the doors to wounded hearts in need of the

healing only Jesus can bring.

EWTN says the series will take viewers on a journey to high schools across the United States. In each episode, you will experience Justin as he brings young people – and their parents – to Christ. You will be there as he

speaks with teens about the many issues they face such as pornography, broken families, premarital sex, self-mutilation, and lost loved ones.

Find out more about the series and view the trailers at www.ewtn.com/amazing. or watch past

episodes on www.youtube.com/ewtn

EWTN Global Catholic Network, now entering its 35th year, is the largest religious media network in the world. EWTN's 11 networks broadcast the Gospel message in multiple languages 24 hours a day, seven days a week to over 250 million television households in more than 140 countries and territories. EWTN's outreach includes direct broadcast satellite television and radio services; AM & FM radio networks transmitted through SIRIUS/XM, iHeart Radio, and over 300 Catholic radio affiliates across the U.S.; a worldwide shortwave radio service; the largest Catholic website in the U.S.; print and electronic news services.

Find out more about Hard as Nails at www.amazingnation.org

HIXSON-DUCOTE
FUNERAL HOME

AVOYELLES
MONUMENTS

Ray & Marie Ducote
Owners

302 St. John Street
Bunkie, Louisiana 71322

(318) 346-6346
Fax (318) 346-6347

TIRE

DESPINO'S

SERVICE

Monday-Friday 7 am-5 pm
Saturday 7 AM to 12 PM

We also sell propane, please call (318) 473-4124

3011 MacArthur Dr.
Alexandria
445-4561



1721 Hwy. 3175
Natchitoches
356-8811

Hotel Transylvania 2: The Drac pack is back; but a little more violent

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- "Hotel Transylvania 2" (Warner Bros.) turns out to be a less than ideal spot for a family vacation. That's because director Genndy Tartakovsky's follow-up to his 2012 animated comedy is both light on laughs and surprisingly violent.

In the original, bloodsucker-turned-hotel-keeper Dracula (voice of Adam Sandler) was forced to overcome his aversion to humans when his daughter Mavis (voice of Selena Gomez) fell for -- and wed -- mortal slacker Johnny (voiced by Andy Samberg). Though the count has since made his peace with this mixed union, the limits of his enlightenment are tested afresh with the arrival of his grandson Dennis (voice of Asher Blinkoff).

Grandpa dotes on the lad -- but also insists that he must grow up to be a vampire. (The film's mythos holds that the boy has only until his fifth birthday to sprout his telltale fangs.) Mavis, by contrast, maintains that she's indifferent to the outcome, and will love Dennis no matter what.

Illogically convinced that nurture will somehow prompt -- or alter -- nature, granddad works to cultivate Dennis' inner vein-drainer. He's aided in his efforts by the assortment of iconic but mild-mannered monsters who



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2 is a humorous movie, with some positive values, but extreme caution is advised because of the movie's violence, references to the occult and mixed messages. The film contains some potentially frightening dust-ups as well as mildly scatological images and wordplay. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

make up his hostelry-based rat pack, Kevin James' Frankenstein, David Spade's Invisible Man and Steve Buscemi's Werewolf among them.

The humor generated by all this, at least for parents, is hit-or-miss at best. As for the little ones, the climactic mayhem toward which the plot builds, though thoroughly stylized, may well prove too intense for their liking or comfort.

Attentive adult guardians may also wonder whether Sandler's script -- co-written

with Robert Smigel -- is aiming at something more specific than mere tolerance at its most generic. They'll catch the inclusion of the phrase "lifestyle choice" in the dialogue, and notice the effeminate manner of an incidental character charged with the rearing of youthful vamps.

While Hotel Transylvania is an entertaining sequel, it has some mixed elements. On the positive side, the movie promotes the importance of family. Also, Dracula's daughter wants her young son to be able to live a normal life and

be a human being rather than a vampire. On the other hand, the movie is filled with monsters and references to the occult often, but used for comical effects to make fun of traditional monster stereotypes, such as Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, the Wolfman, etc.

Also, throughout the movie Dracula encourages Dennis, his grandson, to be scary and to be unkind to people. He often yells at the other monsters for becoming nice and getting along with humans. At the end of the movie, none of this is really resolved and

MOVIE REVIEW

there is no mention that being a kind person is better than being mean and scary.

The overall theme of the movie, however, is to accept people for who they are. This can be interpreted in either a Romantic, politically correct way where accepting people as they are has no moral implications or in a moral way where we accept people as God has made them or transformed them.

Finally, Hotel Transylvania is more violent than the first movie. There are many scenes where monsters are scaring people and injuring people. The movie's climax includes a big fight scene where the monsters and humans fight off vampire bats, who want to suck out the souls of the humans. Although animated, this scene is very violent and involves the monsters beating up vampire bats and eating them.

Overall, HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2 is a humorous movie, with some positive values, but extreme caution is advised because of the movie's violence, references to the occult and mixed messages.

The film contains some potentially frightening dust-ups as well as mildly scatological images and wordplay. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Successions • Probate • Wills

Larry Minton, Attorney

An experienced, compassionate attorney who can help you make difficult decisions after the death of a loved one.



(318) 487-0115
to schedule a free consultation

5515 John Eskew Blvd., Alexandria, LA 71303

LET US FILL YOUR TANK Jim's South Propane



Complete Installation & Service
Available for Commercial & Residential

318-473-4124

3011 N. MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA 71301

Diocesan Directory

The 2015-2017 Diocesan Directories are in now and most have been distributed. If you would like to purchase a copy, come by the St. Joseph Catholic Center, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am-12 noon; 1:00 pm-4:30 pm.
\$20 per copy

Fall Adult Faith Series

The Adult Faith Series on “The Christian Experience of God in our Daily Lives” continues at St. Joseph Church in Marksville, on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Office Bldg. A Bible is needed for the sessions. Please contact St. Joseph Office (253-7561) to sign-up.

- Oct. 22 Experience of God through Devotions
- Oct. 29 Unconditional, Radical Following of Christ
- Nov. 5 Synthesis of Experience of God

Oct. 24: High School Rally

A High School Rally will be held Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (includes Vigil Mass) at the St. Frances Cabrini Church Activities Building in Alexandria for students in grades 9-12. Brian Butler, a national speaker and coach, will be the guest speaker with music by the Josh Blakesley Band. Cost is \$20 per person; after Oct. 21, it is \$25. For more information, go to www.diocesealex.org/youth-ministry, or email inoel@diocesealex.org, or call 318-445-6424, ext 221.

Oct. 30-Nov. 1:
Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

What have you done for your marriage today? Successful marriages don’t work on automatic pilot – at least not for long. Like a garden, they require constant attention: fertilizing, watering, and weeding. Join us for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter and discover God’s plan for joy, romance and passion in your marriage. The next available WWME weekend is at the Tracy Center in Baton Rouge Oct. 30-Nov. 1. For more information or to register go to LAMS-WWME.org or call Jack & Angel LaBate, 470-297-8560 or at jackandangel@bellsouth.net

Nov. 1: Marriage Prep Workshop

The next one-day marriage prep workshop, Strong Foundations Marriage Preparation, will be held Sunday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Family Center at St.



BISHOP CHARLES P. GRECO COUNCIL #1134 of the Knights of Columbus recently raised \$2,100 through donations and raffles, with the proceeds going to help the residents at St. Mary’s Residential Training School. Pictured is Victor “Vic” Tolito and Tony L. “Bo” Vets II, both Past Grand Knights of Council #1134. St. Mary’s Residential Training School was founded by Bishop Greco in 1954, and currently serves 202 residents with intellectual disabilities and autism. Bishop Greco was also the longest serving Supreme Chaplain in the Knights of Columbus.

DIOCESAN
BRIEFS



KC COUNCIL #3088. Grand Knight Bradley Bordelon of KC Council 3088 of Hessmer, presents a check for \$2,700 to Father Edwin Rodriguez Hernandez for the future needs of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Hessmer. The money was raised through a 5K Run/1 Mile Walk held May 2. More than 100 people participated in the event. Awards were given to overall top 3 males/females for both the 5K and 1 mile walk and for different age groups. The council hosted a post-race party including gatoraid, water, fruit, and a delicious jambalaya cooked by Chase Communications, LLC.

Mary’s Assumption Catholic Church in Cottonport. Please register at www.comprehensivetherapygroup.com. For more information, call 318-792-9940.

Nov. 15-21: National Bible Week

From Nov. 15-21, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invites families, parishes, schools, and other Catholic groups to participate in National bible Week in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Dei Verbum. This year’s theme, building on the World Meeting of Families and the Synod of Bishops, is The Bible: A Book for the Family.

Nov. 20-22: Awakening Retreat

Campus Ministry will host an Awakening Retreat for college students Nov. 20-22 at Maryhill Renewal Center. The retreat is for college-aged men and women and for Catholics, but all faiths are welcome. The cost is \$30 per person, which includes 2 nights in your own room, food and t-shirt. To register, call Lynn Ray at 613-0634.

Nov. 21-22: Cabrini Christmas Shoppe

The St. Frances Cabrini Sanctuary Society will host its annual Christmas Shoppe Saturday, Nov. 21 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 22 from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the parish Activities Bldg. Complete your Thanksgiving menu from a great selection of homemade frozen casseroles and desserts, or choose some of your Christmas gifts from the large selection of arts and crafts.
Sunday lunch is served from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Nov. 22: St. Cecilia Chorale Concert

The St. Cecilia Chorale will present a Giving from the Heart concert on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marksville. The concert is free and open to the public; donations are accepted.

Fall Fairs and Festivals

- **Oct. 24: St. Rita Mini Fall Festival, Alex.**

This mini festival will be held from 4 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 24. Chicken and sausage gumbo beginning at 4 p.m. (\$6 a bowl); costume contest for children at 5 p.m.; carnival from 5:30 -7:30 p.m.; and bingo from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Good food, games, and fun for the whole family!
- **Oct. 24: St. James Fall Festival.**

Join St. James Church on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. in celebration of their Fall Festival. Bring the whole family to enjoy carnival booths, face painting, sweet shop, various food choices for lunch, and music by DJ Donald Collins from noon to 6 p.m.

- **Nov. 14-15: Sts. Francis and Anne Fall Fair.**

The fun starts Saturday, Nov. 14 with a 5K Run/Walk at 8 a.m. The fair starts at 9 a.m. and will feature game booths, food, cake walk, etc. On Sunday, a pork dinner will be served after the 10:30 a.m. Mass (11 a.m. -1 p.m.).

Statement of Ownership,
Management and Circulation

The Church Today • 393-240 • Sept. 30, 2015
Monthly, Free of Charge
4400 Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria, LA 71303 • (318) 445-2401

Publisher:
Most Reverend Ronald P. Herzog
4400 Coliseum Blvd. • Alexandria, LA 71303

Editor: Jeannie Petrus
4400 Coliseum Blvd
Alexandria, LA 71303

Advertising: Joan Ferguson
4400 Coliseum Blvd
Alexandria, LA 71303

	Average no. of copies each issue during preceeding 12 months:	No. of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date:
Total copies	12,988	12,780
Outside county	7,211	7,066
In-county	5,686	5,614
Other distribution	100	100
Total Distribution	12,988	12,780
Percent Requested	100%	100%

Jeannie Petrus, Editor Filing Date: Sept. 30, 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
19	20	21	22 Adult Faith Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	23	24 High School Rally 9:00 am-5:30 pm St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria St. James Fall Festival 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. St. Rita Mini Fall Festival 4:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	25
PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON	PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY	PRAY FOR FR. A. FIGREDO	PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE	PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD
26	27	28	29 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches Adult Faith Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	30	31	1 NOVEMBER Marriage Prep Workshop 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. St. Mary’s Assumption Church, Cottonport
Theresian Family Fete -- St. Anthony Church, Bunkie				Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend -- Baton Rouge		
PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	ALL SAINTS DAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG
2	3 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	4 Open House Kramer Funeral Home 7:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Alexandria	5 Adult Faith Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	6	7	8
ALL SOULS DAY PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE	PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL	PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD	PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. MUNOZ	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM	PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD	PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME	PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE	PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER	Sts. Francis & Anne Fall Fair -- Kolin	
					PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA	PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 St. Cecilia Chorale Concert 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville
					St. Frances Cabrini Sanctuary Society Christmas Shoppe	
				Awakening Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center		
USCCB’s National Bible Week						FEAST of OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS	PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER	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

35TH
ANNIVERSARY

Winter Ball

CHRISTUS CABRINI FOUNDATION

MARK YOUR 2016 CALENDAR NOW FOR 2016



SAVE



DATE

Alexandria Riverfront Center

For more information call 318-448-6580.

DON'T MISS THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT OF THE YEAR