

CHURCH TODAY

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ON THE INSIDE

U.S. bishops to meet this week in Baltimore

The U.S. bishops will consider revisions to a brochure on voting Catholic, USCCB priorities, and sainthood causes, among a host of other topics, during their Nov. 16-19 fall general assembly in Baltimore. Read more about what they will be discussing on page 2.

Supreme Court will hear appeals in mandate cases

The U.S. Supreme Court justices said recently they will hear seven pending appeals in lawsuits brought by several Catholic and other faith-based entities against the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate. See details on page 3.

Pope Francis to open Holy Door in Rome Dec. 8; dioceses to open Dec. 13

Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome Dec. 8 to inaugurate the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Bishop Ronald Herzog will open the Holy Door of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria Dec. 13, as all other dioceses will do on that date. Read more on pages 10-11.

Thanksgiving Turkeys



THANKSGIVING TURKEYS. A class of Pre-K'ers from St. Frances Cabrini School practice their Thanksgiving song aboard a replica of the Mayflower in preparation of the school's Pilgrim and Indian celebration to be held Nov. 20. Cabrini parents have been invited to attend Thanksgiving Dinner with the students, followed by class presentations and Thanksgiving centers for the students.

Bishops to meet Nov. 16-19 in Baltimore for their annual meeting

Bishops to consider election document, USCCB priorities, sainthood causes

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- The U.S. bishops will consider whether to approve a new introductory note and a limited revision of their quadrennial statement on political responsibility during their Nov. 16-19 fall general assembly in Baltimore.

The statement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," is reissued every four years and takes into account the latest issues taking center stage in the political arena. The document, which in general calls for Catholic voters to consider the common good when going to the polls, has been released before every presidential election for almost four decades.

What a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops news release described as "a limited revision" and new introductory note for "Faithful Citizenship" were prepared by a working group led by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, vice president of the USCCB.

The bishops also will discuss and vote on a proposed formal statement on pornography, "Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography." The bishops had given their approval a few years ago to craft a statement on the subject.

They are scheduled to discuss and vote on a proposal to take up a one-time national collection to fund the completion of the Trinity Dome in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. No structural work is needed, but shrine officials have been in planning meetings about the ornamentation of the mosaics on the underside of the dome, visible from within the shrine. The big, blue dome has no ornamentation although the shrine's other domes do. No date has been set to begin and no deadline to complete it. As of yet, no cost has been affixed to the project.

The bishops also will hear a report from the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church Latin America on the golden anniversary of the annual national Collection for the Church in Latin America.



ARCHBISHOP GREGORY M. AYMOND of New Orleans, center, and other prelates listens to a speaker during the 2014 annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. At this year's Nov. 16-19 assembly, the bishops, among other things, will address USCCB priorities and a statement on political responsibility. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Three canonization causes also will go before the bishops for the canonical consultation required to advance their causes: Father Aloysius Ellacuria, Sister Ida Peterfy, and Antonio Cuipa.

The bishops will discuss and vote on proposed revisions to strategic priorities for the next USCCB planning cycle, which cover 2017-20, following up on input given a draft version of these priorities during their June meeting in St. Louis.

A vote will be taken on the inclusion of "Excerpts From the

Roman Missal: Book for Use at the Chair" in U.S. dioceses.

Presentations will be made to the bishops by, among others, Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA. The national network launched its "#End45" campaign to cut U.S. poverty just ahead of Pope Francis' visit.

Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, will join with Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, CRS chairman, in a presentation on how CRS programming is re-

sponding to Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, "Laudato Si'."

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, will update his brother bishops on next

year's World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston will give an update on diocesan Project Rachel ministries for post-abortion healing.

Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chair of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, will report on marriage and family life ministry.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chair of the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, will introduce a trailer to a movie on "Dignitatis Humanae," the Second Vatican Council's decree on religious freedom.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services will give a presentation on the need to increase the number of priests for the military chaplaincy.

The USCCB Working Group on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person will report on a communications research project and planning for a convocation. The bishops also will hear recommendations on implementing the Year of Mercy, which starts Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

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Supreme Court will hear appeals in Catholic, other mandate cases

By Catholic News Service

CNS) -- The U.S. Supreme Court justices said Nov. 6 they will hear seven pending appeals in lawsuits brought by several Catholic and other faith-based entities against the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate.

The court will hear appeals from groups in Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and the District of Columbia.

Among the plaintiffs are the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses, Priests for Life, Southern Nazarene University and Texas Baptist University.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, most employers, including religious ones, are required to cover employees' artificial birth control, sterilization and abortifacients, even if employers are morally opposed to such coverage.

In all the cases to be argued before the high court in March, appellate courts in various jurisdictions sided with the Obama administration. The rulings said the religious entities' freedom of religion was not burdened by having to comply with the mandate as they have argued, because the federal government has in place an accommodation for a third party to provide the contested coverage.



SUPREME COURT TO HEAR APPEALS OF LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR AND OTHER GROUPS. Sister Mary Grace, a member of the Little Sisters of the Poor, venerates a relic of her order's foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, at Our Lady of the Island Shrine in Manorville, N.Y., in 2012. The U.S. Supreme Court justices said Nov. 6 they will hear seven pending appeals in lawsuits brought by the women religious and several other Catholic and faith-based entities against the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

But the religious groups object to that notification, saying they still would be complicit in supporting practices they oppose. While their appeals worked their way to the high court, the government has not been able to force the groups to comply with the mandate or face daily fines for noncompliance.

"Charitable ministries across the nation simply want to provide life-affirming health care for their employees, without fear of massive government penalties," said

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty.

In a Nov. 6 statement, he called on Catholics to pray that "this basic freedom" guaranteeing that no one in this country has to violate their religious convictions "will prevail."

"This freedom is not only common sense, it is what the law requires," the archbishop said.

The Archdiocese of Washington said it "is heartened to

"The Obama administration had 'strenuously argued' that the high court not take the Little Sisters of the Poor case. . . . The government will have to explain why they fought hard to make the Little Sisters cover contraceptives."

-- Mark Rienzi, Becket Fund senior counsel

learn that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review the D.C. Circuit's flawed ruling in our challenge to the HHS (Health and Human Services) mandate, together with the other challenges pending before the court."

"A particular concern for the archdiocese is the government's treatment of Catholic educational and charitable ministries as if they are somehow less religious than houses of worship, and therefore less deserving of the right to operate in accord with the church's teachings," it said in a statement. "The archdiocese is hopeful that the court will vindicate our religious freedom, and the freedom of Catholic ministries also seeking to practice their faith freely, as guaranteed under the law."

Only those religious employers that meet narrow criteria set by the Obama administration are exempt from the mandate. Houses of worship are exempt, for example, but most Catholic and other religious employers are not.

Nonexempt religious employers can opt out of providing the coverage using what the ad-

ministration calls an accommodation, or "work around." They must notify Health and Human Services in writing of their religious objections. Then HHS or the Department of Labor government in turn tells insurers and third-party administrators that they must cover the services at no charge to employees.

In an afternoon telephone news conference Nov. 6, a spokesman for the Becket Fund, whose lawyers represent the Little Sisters of the Poor, said the Obama administration had "strenuously argued" that the high court not take the Little Sisters of the Poor case.

The government "argued hard and the court granted it anyway," said Mark Rienzi, Becket's senior counsel. "So the government will have to explain why they fought hard to make the Little Sisters cover contraceptives."

Josh Earnest, White House press secretary, was quoted as saying the Obama administration is certain "the policy that we have in place balances the need for millions of Americans to have access to birth control while also protecting the right of religious freedom that is protected in our Constitution."

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November is a month filled with many special days and feast days.

On the feasts of All Saints Day and All Souls Day at the beginning of the month, we are reminded of our call to holiness on Nov. 1 and reminded of our obligation to pray for those who have completed their faith journey on this earth on Nov. 2. It helps us recall that we are all members of the Body of Christ. May we continue to remember all souls in our prayers.

Thanksgiving this year falls on Nov. 26 -- a special day set aside to thank God for our many blessings and opportunities. How-



ONE IN THE LORD

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

ever you celebrate Thanksgiving, take time to sincerely thank the Almighty Father for his many blessings. We are truly blessed in this country.

And one more final date in late November (Nov. 29) marks

the beginning of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year (Cycle C). I encourage you to use the season of Advent to prepare yourself for the coming of the Messiah at Christmas. There are many Advent resources

online. Read about some of these resources on the next page (5).

As you know, we have been exploring the possibility of a major campaign in the diocese. Many of you have provided your ideas and suggestions either during individual interviews, by attending one of the forums of the faithful or by sending in your questionnaires.

Thank you so much for your time and effort.

The overall recommendations of the Steier Group have been studied by many in great detail. At the meeting of the advisory committee, the recommendation made to me is that we

do not proceed with the plan as proposed. The project has many questions.

Therefore I have accepted the recommendations made to me and have decided that we will not be conducting a major capital campaign at this time. We still have many financial challenges, which we will continue exploring in the months ahead.

Again, my sincere thanks for your prayers and participation.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving and a very enriching Advent!

Cheers to Sarah Josepha Hale, the mother of Thanksgiving

By Jerry Costello
The Christophers

Ever hear of the mother of Thanksgiving? Someone known by that title actually existed, and what's more—as a noted editor and regular correspondent of U.S. presidents—she was quite well known.

In real life, the woman recognized as the mother of Thanksgiving was Sarah Josepha Hale (1788-1879), editor of Godey's Lady's Book and tireless campaigner for designation of the fourth Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

In that capacity she wrote to a string of American presidents—Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan and Lincoln—strongly suggesting an official proclamation declaring that holiday as devoted to God. It wasn't until Lincoln that her patience paid off. In October of 1863, the 16th President

urged all Americans to observe the fourth Thursday of November as “a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.”

Rich Lowry tells the story of Sarah Hale in his column in the New York Post. He noted that Thanksgiving had existed in this country long before Lincoln, but the president's action made it official, and gave it a uniform quality. That latter point proved to be especially important, since many states held their version of the holiday on different days.

Lowry says that Hale “wanted to guarantee Thanksgiving's place in America's firmament by making it a national day,” and so, more or less, has it been. “Less” because in recent years Thanksgiving has lost most of the religious fervor in which it was first cast. Lincoln's original proclamation, with its words praising “our beneficent Father who dwelleth

in the Heavens,” for example, reflected Hale's own sentiments.

In fact, she envisioned the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving as the “twin festivals” of the American people—“each connected with their history,” she wrote, “and therefore of great importance in giving power and distinctness to their nationality.” She saw the Fourth as a day to honor patriotism, and Thanksgiving as an acknowledgment of God's favor.

“These two festivals,” she argued, “should be joyfully and universally observed throughout our whole country, and thus incorporated in our habits of thought as inseparable from American life.”

Hale had a vision, no question about it. She was a formidable woman, author of regular editorials and several novels about American life. She even wrote nursery rhymes (“Mary Had a Little Lamb” was one of

them). She campaigned not only for Thanksgiving but for a variety of projects, completion of the Bunker Hill Monument among them. The magazine she edited, Godey's Lady's Book, was a leading publication of its day, and her contributors numbered such heavyweights as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Washington Irving.

And with all the forces at her command, she is remembered most of all today as the guiding spirit—the persistent, almost shrill guiding spirit—behind the creation of a national day of

Thanksgiving.

As far back as 1852, she was predicting in one of her editorials: “Wherever an American is found, the last Thursday [of November] would be the Thanksgiving Day. Families may be separated so widely that personal reunion would be impossible; still this festival, like the Fourth of July, will bring every American heart into harmony with his home and his country.”

Sound familiar? Of course it does. Here's a toast then, to Sarah Josepha Hale—who started it all.

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Advent resources are plentiful online; check them out!

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.

The final days of Advent, from Dec. 17 to Dec. 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

The USCCB website offers a wide range of resources including daily reflections and liturgical notes. The Advent calendar (available on the USCCB website) can help you fully enter in to the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. More Advent resources are listed below.

Advent Resources on the USCCB website:

- About Advent Wreaths
- Blessing of an Advent Wreath
- Blessing of a Christmas Tree
- Commentary on the Proper
- Prayers of Advent from the Roman Missal
- Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene
- Liturgical Notes for Advent
- The "O Antiphons" of Advent
- Family Calendar



AN INTERACTIVE ONLINE CALENDAR is available at www.usccb.org. Click on the day of the month for the Advent reading of the day.

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Diocese of Alexandria to offer Married Couples Retreat Jan. 22-23

The Diocese of Alexandria will offer a Married Couples Retreat Jan. 23-24, 2016 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville. The retreat begins Saturday at 9 a.m. and ends Sunday at noon.

Mario Sacasa, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and the director of Counseling Services at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, will present Living the Gift of Marriage:

"The retreat is designed to help couples see and apply the beauty of God's vision for marriage into the experience of their day-to-day lives. It is an integration of the Theology of the Body with marriage counseling skills. My hope is that couples can reconnect with themselves and with God as part of their marriage," said Sacasa.

The cost is \$120 per couple and includes all meals and one night in a private suite (bedroom and bath) in one of the newly constructed housing units at Maryhill. Space is limited; register early.

"Whether you've been married one year or 49 years, maybe the time has come for you to



get away from the kids, the job, the financial worries, or just the busy-ness of life," said Sacasa. "Participants will have ample time to enjoy the quiet, prayerful landscape of Maryhill Renewal Center, where you can walk to the Rosary Garden or outdoor Stations of the Cross, visit the chapel, or sit by the lake watching the sun set. The retreat is a perfect opportunity for couples to think, pray, be alone together, and have time to regroup and re-adjust their priorities."

To register or for more information, go to www.diocesealex.org/marriedcouplesretreat or call 318-445-6424, ext 221.

Conditions for a Jubilee Indulgence

An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. -- *Code of Canon Law* (can. 992) and *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (n. 1471)

A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

- have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
- have sacramentally confessed their sins;
- receive the Holy Eucharist
- pray for the intentions of the Pope.

In addition to those conditions, Pope Francis has also made the following provisions for the Year of Mercy:

• **Make pilgrimage** to a shrine in which the Door of Mercy is open, and walk through the Open Door, as a sign of true conversion.

-- A pilgrimage can include visiting any of the four Papal Basilicas in Rome or any Cathedral or church designated by the diocesan bishop. In Alexandria, this would be St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. In Natchitoches, the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception will also have the Open Door.

• **For the sick and elderly**, who are often confined to the home -- An indulgence may be granted

by receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer (through any form of communication -- TV, radio, internet, etc) and by living their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord.

• **For those in prison** -- In indulgence may be granted by making a worthy confession and receiving communion in the chapels of the prisons. The gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell will signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

• **For the deceased** -- When we remember the deceased in the Eucharistic celebration, we can pray that the merciful Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace in the unending beatitude.

• **For anyone who has had an abortion** -- Any person who has had an abortion and approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere and contrite heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father, the Pope has conceded to all priests for the Jubilee Year, the discretion to absolve the sin of abortion.

• **Additional ways to gain a Jubilee Indulgence:**

Each time you perform one of more of the spiritual or corporal works of mercy, a Jubilee Indulgence is gained.

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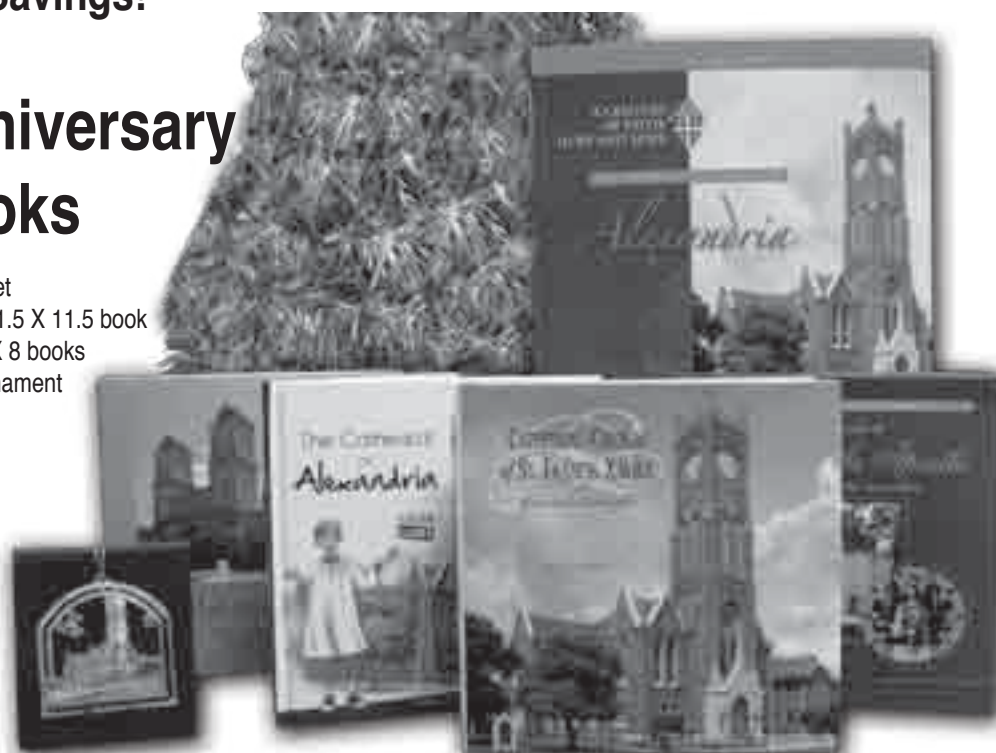
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Pope Francis to open Holy Door in Rome Dec. 8 to begin Year of Mercy

Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome Dec. 8 to inaugurate the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The holy year dedicated to the theme of mercy will begin on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which is Dec. 8, and conclude Nov. 20, 2016, which is the feast of Christ the King.

The jubilee year will provide the local and universal church with an opportunity to cultivate a renewed emphasis on bringing Christ's mercy to a world that longs for it.

Opening the Holy Door will serve as an invitation to all who visit a designated shrine, to open their lives to Divine Mercy, which Jesus bestows upon those who place their trust in him.

Each of the four major basilicas in Rome -- St. Peter, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major -- has a holy door, which are normally sealed shut from the inside so that they cannot be opened. The doors are only opened during jubilee years so that pilgrims can enter through them in order to gain the plenary indulgence that is connected with the jubilee.

The rite of the opening of the Holy Door is intended to symbolically illustrate the idea that the Church's faithful are offered an "extraordinary path" toward salvation during the time of jubilee.

Pope Francis has given an



opportunity for individual dioceses to open a Holy Door -- the Door of Mercy.

According to Archbishop Salvatore "Rino" Fisichella, head of the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, which is in charge of organizing the Jubilee for Mercy, the location of local shrines, will be "either in the cathedral or in a church of special significance or a shrine of particular importance for pilgrimages."

In the Diocese of Alexandria, there are two pilgrim sites where a Holy Door has been sealed and will be opened as part of the Year of Mercy -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria and the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.

Archbishop Fisichella said that the idea of the doors on a local level is intended to be "a sign

of the pilgrimage that is done, and the sign of receiving the indulgence."

"The indulgence is the characteristic of the jubilee," he said, so the doors will allow "all those who cannot come to Rome and who are living the jubilee in their dioceses to be able to have, also on the level of the expressive sign in their pilgrimage, the receiving of the indulgence ... in passing through the Holy Door."

(See Indulgence, page 6.)

The jubilee was announced by Pope Francis during a March 13 penitential service, the second anniversary of his papal election. At the official proclamation of the jubilee during Vespers on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, the papal bull of indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus*, or The Face of Mercy, was presented.

The term "papal bull" refers to an official papal document of special importance. The papal bull of indiction refers to a document presented when something major is announced, such as a jubilee, and is a fundamental document detailing the intentions and outcomes hoped for by the Pope.

In the papal bull for the Jubilee on Mercy, it was noted that the diocesan opening of the Door for Mercy is a sign that the jubilee is not limited to Rome, but extends to local Churches around the world "as a visible sign of the Church's universal communion."



Holy Door at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral to open Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. Mass

Bishop Ronald Herzog will officially open the sealed Holy Door at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Dec. 13 during the 11 a.m. Mass. The east interior door (chosen because it's closest to the confessional) was "sealed" Sept. 14 in anticipation of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy that starts Dec. 8, 2015. When the door to the Cathedral is officially opened, pilgrims who walk through the doors, will receive indulgences characteristic of the jubilee year. (See Indulgences, page 6.) The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches will also open its sealed door Dec. 13, and is thus, a designated shrine where indulgences can be gained.



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Roses fill the St. Therese Fete altar at St. Anthony in Bunkie



(above) **THE ST. ANTHONY CHILDREN'S CHOIR** sang for the Fete de Famille 8 a.m. Mass on Oct. 25.

(below) **FATHER SCOTT CHEMINO, V.G.** and pastor of St. Anthony Church, carries the reliquy that holds the relics of Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin.



FETE DE FAMILIE. October 24-27, marked a very special moment of grace in the life at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie. With Catholics throughout the world, St. Anthony parish celebrated family life with a Fete de Famille and the canonization of the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, Louis and Zelig Martin. The Fete weekend began with the recitation of the Holy Rosary for families followed with confessions, a procession of roses by representative families of St. Anthony Church, the solemn procession and reception of first class relics of Saint Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Louis and Zelig Martin with veneration and blessing of the shrine. A covered-dish family dinner followed at the Knights of Columbus Hall. A parish mission on Monday and Tuesday nights concluded the event.

Students at St. Anthony of Padua School also celebrated Fete de Famille. They were shown a special, Power Point presentation on the childhood, family, home life and death of Saint Therese. The younger students completed coloring assignments while the older students concentrated on essays that developed the theme: "How My Family Strives to be a Holy Family".



ALEXANDRIA SEMINARIANS INSTALLED AS ACOLYTES. Austin Burns (far left) and Luke LaFleur, (far right) were installed as acolytes Nov. 1 at the Pontifical College Josephinum, by The Most Reverend Daniel Thomas, Bishop of Toledo, Ohio. Acolytes, traditionally second-year theologians, are entrusted with the duties of attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing Holy Communion as an extraordinary minister. Pictured are (from left) Austin Burns, Msgr. Christopher J. Schreck, rector/president of the Josephinum; Bishop Thomas and Luke LaFleur. (Photos by Josh Altonji)

Seminarian Burses

October Donations

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Bayou Chateau Nursing Center.....	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour Burse	
Tri-Community Nursing Center.....	\$100.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller.....	\$200.00
Fr. Daniel Corkery Burse	
Total.....	\$525.00

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

St. James youth celebrate World Youth Sunday



ST. JAMES MEMORIAL YOUTH MINISTRY. Some of the students in the St. James Youth Ministry lead the congregation in praying the Rosary Oct. 25 as part of their celebration of World Youth Sunday. The youth joined Fr. Gabriel Uzundu, S.O.L.T., in celebration of the Mass, where they served as lectors, ushers, altar servers and gift bearers.



SACRED HEART (Pineville) MISS HEART OF THE USA WINNERS.

The winners of the Miss Heart of the USA Pageant held Sept. 26 at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville were not only beautiful on the outside, but filled with beauty in their hearts for collecting 1,073 food items for the Sacred Heart Food Pantry.

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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

Sacred Heart announces Heart of USA pageant winners

The winners of the Miss Heart of the USA Pageant held Sept. 26 at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville are not only beautiful on the outside, but filled with beauty in their hearts for collecting 1,073 food items for the Sacred Heart Food Pantry.

All of the winners have the chance to compete at the state level next summer and possibly the national level next fall.

Two contestants in the pageant currently hold 2015 state titles and will be competing in the national competition in Orlando next month.

The winners are Baby Miss Emma Ducote; 1st runner up, LeeLee Miles.

Tiny Miss Paislee Perkins;



1st runner up, Aubree Whitten; 2nd runner up, Karis Nugent.

Future Little Miss Isabella Martinez; 1st runner up, Tamberlynn Powell; 2nd runner up, Mathilda MacInnis.

Little Miss Gracie Mae Peppers; 1st runner up, Layla McCall; 2nd runner up, Emily Mallett.

Petite Miss J'anna Perkins; 1st runner up, Ruth Getz; 2nd runner, Rebekah Gilmore.

Junior Miss Kana Knight; 1st runner up, Cyslen Foster; 2nd

runner up, Lizzie Thompson.

Teen Miss Bailey Warren; 1st runner up, Kayvion Lewis.

Ms. Jodi Clements; 1st runner up, Christi Cole. Miss Photogenic, Gracie Mae Peppers; Queen of Hearts, Ava Jowers;

Royal Miss, Ava Shipp; Spokesmodel, Christi Cole; and Cover Miss, Emily Mallett.

Pageant director Caitlin Wolff said the pageant is more about stocking the food pantry than anything else.

Donations can still be made to the food pantry by dropping food items off at Sacred Heart Church during business hours.

Another Heart of the USA pageant is planned for the Spring/Summer of next year.



UDB FINANCIAL TEAM -- FIRST PLACE GROSS. Members of the team are Stan Bollinger, Jimmy Savoy, Jason Lewis, and H.L. Huffman.



CHRISTUS HEALTH #2 TEAM -- FIRST PLACE PEORIA. Members of the team are Pete Mahfouz, Robert Boatner, Vic Mahfouz, and Greg Baker.



TARVER INVESTMENTS TEAM -- 2ND PLACE GROSS. Members of the team are Jarred Tarver, Andrew Cox, Justin Hathorn, and Cole Bryant.



BRIAN CAUBARREUX & ASSOCIATES TEAM -- 2ND PLACE PEORIA. Members of the team are Brian Caubarreux, Rob Marionneaux, Gene Ledet, and Tyler Ledet.



SABINE STATE BANK TEAM -- 3RD PLACE GROSS. Members of the team are Jim Cole, Jamey Johnson, Bruce Gandy, and John Migliore.



NORTHWESTERN HILLS GOLF CENTER TEAM-- 3RD PLACE PEORIA. Members of the team are William Ackel, Hall Adams, Jarrod Cox, and Tommy Vercher.

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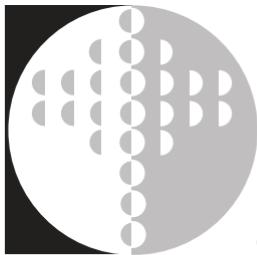


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20 YEAR SPONSOR. Al Velotta, CHRISTUS regional vice president of Clinical Operations and Theresa Slayter, director of development for Cabrini, accepts a plaque of appreciation from Bishop Ronald Herzog for being the top sponsor of the Bishop's Golf Tournament for the past 20 years. (Photo: Liz Shaw)

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OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR PUMPKIN CONTEST. The annual 3rd grade Pumpkin Decorating contest was held Oct. 28.



SACRED HEART (Pineville) TRUNK OR TREAT was held Oct. 28 in the parking lot of the Church.



OLPS FACULTY. Even the teachers at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School got into the Halloween spirit Oct. 30 when they came to class dressed as superheroes, minions, cats, cowboys, candy, and other scary things.

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Ms. Tatum's 4C Class of OLPS Saints



Mrs. Nassif's 4B Class of OLPS Saints



Mrs. Broussard's 4A Class of OLPS Saints



SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville) SAINTS. Sacred Heart School 8th graders celebrated the lives of the saints Oct. 30 after the school Mass.

THE ANNUAL OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL (OLPS) 4TH GRADE PARADE OF SAINTS processed into church on the morning of Friday, Oct. 30. Each 4th grade student picked a Saint to dress as, research and report about. Throughout the month of October, students read short biographies about their Saints over the school's intercom system during morning announcements. After Mass, the Saints paraded down the OLPS Pre-K/ Kindergarten hall for all "little eyes" to enjoy.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) PARADE OF SAINTS. St. Joseph School celebrated All Saints Day Oct. 30 with a Mass and dressing up as their favorite saint.

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ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL WRITES TO NEW ORLEANS SAINTS. When second grade teacher Susan Pickett heard some of her students discussing the score of the latest Saints football game, she wasn't happy to hear them so displeased with her beloved football team. So instead of writing their spelling words five times in a notebook, she instructed them to write the words five times inside the shape of a fleur de lis. Soon the whole class was excited about the assignment. They asked if they could use black ink to write the words, color the background yellow, and then glue the shape to a black page. They were so excited about their creations. Then someone suggested that they mail the creations to the Saints! After writing a personal message to the team and signing their name to their own creation, the sheets were all collected and mailed to the Saints team with a letter from Mrs. Pickett, explaining the contents of the package. The students took pride in writing their spelling words perfectly, but more importantly, the whole class now BELIEVES in the Saints -- and that makes Mrs. Pickett very happy.



THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS, COURT PADRE PIO #2141, (Cottonport) sponsored a coloring contest for the students at St. Mary's Assumption in grades K-4 in conjunction with the WRAP campaign (White Ribbon Against Pornography) in October. The students who placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th were given ribbons and certificates at the school Mass on Oct. 21 are pictured with Father Walter Ajero and some of the members of Catholic Daughters court.



ST. ANTHONY PRESCHOOL CLASS recently had a fun Show & Tell Day to celebrate the letter "F." Bunkie Fire Chief Joey Frank visited the class and brought along one of the firetrucks. The kids learned about fire safety and toured the firetruck.



THE ST. JULIANA CATHOLIC CHURCH CHILDREN'S CHOIR celebrated its eighth anniversary Oct. 18. The children sang beautifully at the morning Mass.

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MENARD PRO-LIFE STUDENTS. 40 students who will be attending the National Pro-Life March in January, went to Baton Rouge Nov. 5 to present a check to the Women's New Life Center in Baton Rouge. The students collected \$12,000 for the Baby Bottle Boomerang Project, which half

went to the Women's Center and the other half is to help off-set costs for the students portion of the Pro-Life trip. This center is right next door to an abortion clinic. The students prayed and said a Rosary outside of the clinic.



SISTER C.C. VANDERLICK SCIENCE LAB OPENS. Holy Savior Menard students

in the Chemistry I honors class, was the first to utilize the new Sister C.C. Vanderlick Science Lab, after a \$100,000 renovation. The lab, which was largely untouched since the building's original construction in 1967, now boasts all new lab stations, a vent-less chemical hood and a 3-D printer. The lab also received new flooring, lighting, and additional storage space.

MENARD GOLDEN EAGLETES to perform at halftime at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans on New Year's Day.



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Light Refreshments



MENARD FOOTBALL TEAM ENTERS PLAYOFFS. The football team and spirit groups of Holy Savior Menard gather around school president, Father Chad Partain, in prayer after a recent football game. This year's Eagle Football Team finished the regular season with a 7 – 3 record under Coach Joel Desselle. They entered the playoffs on Nov. 13 ranked number 15 in the LHSAA Division III.

Osa Green feels blessed to share her miraculous story of healing

By Bob Thomkins
The Town Talk
Reprinted with permission

Osa Raphael Green made three visits to the doctor in the span of a few days because of a rapid heart rate. She needed to undergo a stress test by injection in which medicine, rather than exercise, stresses the heart.

That was in the summer of 2013, and she recalled the words of her family physician, Dr. Robert Moore, after the test: "We need you to see a heart specialist immediately. Your heart is plugged."

"Over the weekend I was a nervous wreck," said Osa, a 1971 graduate of Holy Savior Menard whose husband is Jules Green, an Alexandria city councilman.

"I went outside on my porch and talked to Jesus (like I always do). It's my time with Him. I said, 'Jesus, your Will be done.'

"Lord, I said, 'I want to ask you a question: Who's going to take care of my two brothers (who live across the street)? Who's going to love my daughter (who lives next door)? Please calm me down a little.'"

When the day of surgery rolled around and she and her husband and daughter Alexis were getting ready to go to the hospital, Osa told them she'd be back the same day. She said a sense of "serenity" came over her.

Closing her eyes as she sat on a couch at her home on Marye Street, she revisited the scene as she was being prepped and putting on her hospital gown.

According to the doctor's report, the condition of her heart told of "dense coronary calcifications" in all her coronary arteries with a total Agatston score of 1145.

For perspective, an Agatston score of 0 is normal. The higher the score, the greater the risks are



OSA GREEN sits at her home on Marye Street in Alexandria with her husband, Jules. Osa believes that she was healed of heart problems recently and now feels compelled to tell her story to others. (Photo: Bob Tompkins/The Town Talk)

to the heart.

"The score of 1145," said the report, "is between 90th and 100th percentile for females between the ages of 60 and 64."

The cardiologist, Dr. Craig Pearce, used the wrist-access method for the catheterization procedure, inserting a thin plastic catheter through a hole in the wrist, and pushing it through a network of arteries in the arm and into the chest until it eventually reached the heart. Using X-rays to follow the progression of the catheter, doctors can see any abnormalities or problems along the way as the catheter journeys forward.

Three times during the procedure, each time after getting a different X-ray angle of the heart, Dr. Pearce said, "Oh my God!" the last time with slow emphasis on each word, Osa recalled.

"That was said in a good way, it was not a bad thing," said Pearce. "We were really surprised. We had every indication to suggest one or more arteries would be severely blocked with multiple blockage in multiple arteries" that would require either bypass surgery or multiple stints."

The preliminary indication also showed she had some fluid around her heart, he said. But no fluid was evident.

When Pearce closed the procedure, which was scheduled to take at least two hours but lasted no more than 30 minutes, he told her she did not need to go to recovery but could return home and "live her life."

Her husband and daughter had just finished having some breakfast on the first floor of the hospital when a smiling Dr. Pearce greeted them with the

good news.

When they saw Osa, she smiled and told them, "I told you I was going to go home today. There's nothing wrong with me."

When Osa returned home, she said she wanted to "jump up and shout" since she experienced unprecedented joy.

"I said, 'Thank you, Jesus. Now, what is it you want me to do?'"

His answer, she said, was, "I want you to tell the story. Tell the story: I stand at the doors and knock and no one lets me in. I want you to stand in your church and tell the story."

Her seemingly miraculous healing is like a jewel among thorns. Her health is not perfect. She said she has fibromyalgia and hypertension and two kinds of arthritis, and she had her left hip replaced in March and walks with

a cane. She said she also has been told there's a chance she "might have lymphoma" even though several tests for that disease have been negative.

Faced with the understanding she was charged to tell her story, she worried about speaking in public.

Yet, she drew some strength and inspiration from Jeremiah 23:28: "The prophet that has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that has my word, let him speak my word faithfully."

Osa managed to build up enough courage, as well as drawing some support from her daughter and a nurse friend, to speak after Masses one weekend — albeit with sweaty hands — at St. James Memorial Catholic Church. She spoke about her apparent miracle and all God had done for her.

"Everybody was crying and clapping," said Osa. "But it's not about me, it's about all of us," she told them. "Jesus wants to be in all of our lives. He's not dead, He lives!"

Father Stephen Soares, who was pastoral administrator at St. James at the time, said he encouraged Osa to speak after the Masses "for faith to increase."

"God works in miraculous ways," he said. "Some are healed miraculously; some need to suffer and offer their suffering for the sins and salvation of the world."

He said by her testimony, others could hear "that Jesus is alive and active and able to perform healings even today, not just in Jesus' time."

"Jesus is not happy with us," she said, expounding on the message she feels compelled to give. "We've been shutting him out."

"You have not," she continued, "because you ask not. When you ask and you believe, you will receive. Because of what He did for me, I know what He can do."

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Manna House celebrates 25 years of feeding the hungry in Central Louisiana

Manna House recently celebrated its 25th anniversary in a big way.

Nearly 200 Manna House volunteers, donors, employees, friends, and local officials gathered at the Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center on Oct. 8 to celebrate the 25 years that Manna House has been feeding the less fortunate in our community. The evening started with a reception where friends gathered to tell stories of past experiences at Manna House. It also featured the presentation of an abstract sculpture created by Carl and Janet Ahrens. The sculpture was donated to Manna House for display in the dining room.

The highlight of the evening was the viewing of "Olla Rae," a documentary about Manna House volunteer Olla Rae Chicola and her contributions to Manna House. The short film, produced and directed by Suzanne Hargrove, featured various guests and Manna House volunteers, but it highlighted Chicola and her many contributions to and heartfelt stories about Manna House over these last 25 years.

The event concluded with Chicola sharing those moments



of grace at Manna House where God's hand was obviously guiding this ministry.

Today Manna House is thriving. Volunteers and employees have embraced Fr. Gerald Foley's vision of taking assertive action to help those in need. Thanks to these volunteers, donors and friends, Manna House feeds 200-300 people a hot meal each day, 365 days a year. No forms are necessary, no identification is required, and no questions are asked. Show up at Manna House on Lee Street, and you will be fed, spiritually and physically.

To become part of the daily ministry of Manna House and help feed the hungry, go to www.givetomannahouse.com and donate online. The documentary, "Olla Rae" is also available for viewing on the website and is definitely worth watching.

Open Hands, a new group in Avoyelles, shares love of God with others in need

Almost everyone, at some point in their life, needs a helping hand. Whether it be unexpected medical bills, damage to your home through a fire or flood, or any number of challenges that some of us face in our lives.

Open Hands: Sharing God's Love is a new Christian non-profit organization in Avoyelles Parish, that was organized six months ago for the specific mission of sharing the love of God with others, by assisting those in need.

"Every day in our community we hear about someone who was just diagnosed with cancer, or someone who lost their job, or a home that was damaged by a fire," said James Guillot, president of Open Hands. "As a community, we want to help, but most of the time, we don't know how. That's why we started Open Hands."

James Guillot, along with other friends Scott Lemoine, Jenny Donaghey Beckham,



and Melissa Bordelon, formed the organization and registered it with the Louisiana Secretary of State. It is funded by local businesses, private donors, and fundraisers.

In June 2015, the group held its first fundraiser (cake sale, raffle, and a dinner) and raised more than \$16,000. Another fundraiser was held this past weekend (Nov. 14) and other is planned for April 30, 2016.

According to Guillot, the immediate goals are to (1) let people know who were are and that we exist; (2) encourage people to donate either through a private donation or through our fundraisers;

and (3) let people who need assistance know that we are here and how to apply for assistance.

Anyone who would like to donate to the organization, should drop off a check to any Union Bank in Avoyelles Parish and designate it to the Open Hands account.

Anyone who needs assistance can find applications at any Catholic Church in Avoyelles. Applications are also available online at www.openhandsla.org.

Applications are viewed by an advisory committee, composed of three anonymous volunteers, who determine the eligibility and assistance level. In order to qualify for assistance, you must be a resident of Avoyelles Parish. (Plans are to move into Rapides Parish soon.)

For more information about Open Hands, visit the website: www.openhandsla.org or call Guillot at 318-729-3951.

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The St. Martin Church Choir in Lecompte will perform in concert Dec. 22.

Christmas Concerts

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

• **Dec. 6:** The Rapides Symphony Orchestra will perform *Home for the Holidays* at the Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center in Alexandria at 2:30 p.m. Admission: \$25 for adults; \$15 for seniors; and \$10 for students.

• **Dec. 6:** First United Methodist Church of Natchitoches, NSU Creative and Performing Arts, and other area churches in Natchitoches will present *Community Carols & Chorus* at 7 p.m. at Magale Recital Hall, NSU Campus. Admission: Free

• **Dec. 8:** The NSU Chamber Choir will perform *Lessons and Carols* at Immaculate Conception Church (613 Second St.) in Natchitoches at 7:30 p.m. Admission: Free

• **Dec. 15:** Red River Chorale will present its annual Christmas Concert, *A Time of Hope and a Time of Joy* on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. If not a season ticket holder, admission is \$15 for adults; \$5 for students. Call 318-484-4463 to purchase tickets.

• **Dec. 17:** NSU Choirs will present *Lessons and Carols* at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church (533 2nd St.) in Natchitoches. Admission: Free

• **Dec. 22:** The St. Martin Catholic Church Choir in Lecompte will present *A Festival of Carols* at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. The concert will feature traditional sacred music of the Advent and Christmas seasons. The choir, under the direction of John de Chiaro, will be accompanied by the Alexandria String Chamber Orchestra. The concert is free and open to the public.



Parades

- Dec. 5: Natchitoches, 1 p.m.
- Dec. 11: Pineville, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 12: Bunkie, 4 p.m., Fireworks, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 12: Leesville, 5:50 p.m.
- Dec. 13: Alexandria, 2 p.m.

12 Nights of Christmas Alexandria

Dec. 3: Holiday Magic

5 p.m., Alexander Fulton Mini Park, Downtown Alexandria. Lights are turned on for the Christmas season. Admission: Free

Dec. 4: Peppermint Forest

6-8 p.m., T.R.E.E. House Children's Museum (1403 Third St.), Alexandria. Kids make candy sculptures, decorate cookies, make ornaments and talk to Santa on HAM radio. Admission: \$4 per person, under 2 are free.

Dec. 5: An Old-Fashioned Christmas

4-6 p.m., Kent House Plantation. Make arts and crafts, story-telling, vintage music and dance, visit with Papa Noel, hot chocolate and cookies. Admission: Free

Dec. 6: The Live Nativity

6 - 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Alexandria. Drive through the live nativity to experience a re-enactment of the Christmas story, complete with live animals, carols and candlelight. Admission: Free

Dec. 10: Steven Curtis Chapman Christmas

7 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church, (5011 Jackson St.) Alexandria. Christmas production presented by Calvary's Music Ministry. Admission: varies

Dec. 11: Pineville Christmas Parade

7 p.m., Main Street, Pineville. Admission: Free

Dec. 12: Pilgrimage to Bethlehem

3 p.m. - 9 p.m., Emmanuel Baptist Church. Experience the journey to Bethlehem just as the Holy Family did on that night long ago. Admission: Free

Dec. 13: Promises, A Holiday Worship Experience

6 p.m., The Pentecostals of Alexandria (2817 Rapides Ave.). Admission: Free



Dec. 15: A Time for Hope & Joy

7:30 p.m., Red River Chorale will present a Christmas concert at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral (626 4th St.) Admission: if not a season ticket holder, cost is \$15 for adults; \$5 students

Dec. 17: Third Thursdays on 3rd

6-9 p.m., Third Street, Downtown Alexandria. Admission: varies

Dec. 18: Charles Dicken's Ghost of Christmas Past

6-8 p.m., Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Park (135 Riverfront St.) Pineville. Live carolers, candlelight tours of the fort and more. Admission: Free

Dec. 19: Holiday Light Safari

5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., Alexandria Zoo. Dazzling light displays, visits with Santa, train rides. Admission: \$7 per person for children ages 4 and older. Additional dates: Dec. 18-23, 5:30 p.m.

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Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights

Ranked 3rd Best Holiday Light Show in the U.S; behind Rockefeller Center and Disney World

Dec. 1 – 19: Christmas in the Park

Rebel State Historic Park – Marthaville, La. Visitors are invited to drive or walk through the park. Photos with Santa every Saturday in December. Admission: Free For information (318) 472-6255

Dec. 6 – 22: Photos with Santa

6-8 p.m. nightly
South end downtown riverbank, Natchitoches
Visit with Santa & Photos with Santa on the south end downtown riverbank. Free

89th Annual Festival Of Lights Natchitoches Christmas Schedule Nov. 21, 2015 – Jan. 6, 2016

More than 300,000 Christmas lights and 100 plus riverbank set pieces are on every night at dusk through January 6, 2016. Downtown attractions include carriage tours through the historic district. Shops and restaurants open late. All events take place in the Landmark Historic District along the Cane River Lake and along the Cane River Lake south of Natchitoches.

• Nov. 21: Turn on the Holidays

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Front Street and Downtown Riverbank
Admission: Free

A Louisiana Main to Main & Natchitoches Tri-Centennial Event! Join us for the official start to the Natchitoches Christmas season as we turn on the Christmas lights for the first time. This all day event features live musical entertainment, children's activities, and fireworks!

-- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Le Amies Christmas Treasures Arts & Craft Show at Natchitoches Event Center, 750 Second St. -- Free!
-- 7 p.m. Fireworks over Cane River

• Nov. 27-28: Holiday Kids Fest

3 p.m. - 9 p.m. (Friday, Nov. 27)
10 a.m. - 9 p.m. (Saturday, Nov. 28)

Front Street and Downtown Riverbank

Admission: Free admission to Riverbank, but rides for kids require tickets

-- 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fleur de Lis Arts & Crafts Show at Natchitoches Events Center, (750 Second Street) Free

-- 3:30-8:30 p.m. -- Entertainment on the Downtown Riverbank Stage Free

-- 7 p.m. Fireworks, Free

• Dec. 5: Christmas Festival

7:45 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Front Street and Downtown Riverbank

Admission: Armbands are required for entry to Front Street & Downtown Riverbank.

Advance armband is \$6 for ages 12 & over;

\$4 for children 6-11; Free for children under 5.

Festival Day: \$8 for ages 12 & over;

\$5 for children 6-11; Free for children under 5.

The Natchitoches Christmas Festival is ranked 3rd "Best Holiday Light Show" in the nation, behind the Rockefeller Center and Disney World, by Yahoo.com. Celebrate the Christmas Season in Louisiana's oldest city! Enjoy a day filled with live musical entertainment, arts, crafts and food vendors, a parade and a magnificent fireworks show choreographed to holiday music over the Cane River Lake.

-- 7:45 a.m. -Natchitoches "City of Lights" 5K - NSU Campus

-- 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. -Fe'te de Hiver at Fort St. Jean Baptiste with historians, re-enactors and period merchants, \$4 for ages 12 - 62.

-- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. - LA Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest La History Museum open with FREE admission

-- 1:00 p.m. -Festival of Lights Parade

-- 3:30 p.m. -Music Entertainment

-- 6 p.m. -Fireworks over Cane River Lake

• Dec. 6: Fe'te de Hiver

-- 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. -Fe'te de Hiver at Fort St. Jean Baptiste with historians, re-enactors and period merchants, \$4 for ages 12 - 62.



• Dec. 9: Holiday Tour of Homes

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Hosted by Natchitoches Historic Foundation

Visit Steamboat House, Green Gables, and the Samuel Guy House

For Tickets Call: 800-259-1714

Dec. 11: Free admission to Front St

-- 3-9 p.m.: Holiday Kids Fest

-- 1-4 p.m. Holiday Tour of Homes. Visit Metoyer Brown House, Chamard-Dunahoe House, and Prudhomme-Roquier House. For tickets call 800-259-1714.

• Dec. 12: Christmas Festival (Week 2)

10 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Front Street and Downtown Riverbank

Admission: Beginning at 2 p.m. armbands are required. \$5 for ages 12 and over.

-- 10 a.m. -9 p.m.: Holiday Kids Fest

-- 5-8 p.m. Holiday Tour of Homes. Visit Chaplin House, Steel Magnolias, and Maison Louisiane. For tickets call 800-259-1714.

-- 3:30 - 8:30 p.m. -Entertainment on River Bank

-- 7 p.m. Fireworks over Cane River

• Dec. 16: Holiday Tour of Homes

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Hosted by Natchitoches Historic Foundation.

Visit Steamboat House, Green Gables, and Samuel Guy House

For Tickets Call: 800-259-1714

• Dec. 17: Lessons and Carols

-- 6:30 p.m. "Lessons & Carols" Featuring NSU Choirs, Trinity Episcopal Church, 533 Second Street. FREE

• Dec. 18: Free admission to Front St

-- 3-9 p.m.: Holiday Kids Fest

-- 5-8 p.m. Holiday Tour of Homes. Visit Metoyer Brown House, Chamard-Dunahoe House, and Prudhomme-Roquier House. For tickets call 800-259-1714.

• Dec. 19: Christmas Festival (Week 3)

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Front Street and Downtown Riverbank

Admission: Beginning at 2 p.m. armbands are required. \$5 for ages 12 and over.

--10 a.m. -- 9 p.m. Holiday Kids Fest. Rides require tickets.

--12 noon-4 p.m. Cane River Creole Christmas at Badin-Roque House. The St. Augustine Historical Society hosts special tours and Creole holiday stories. Free.

--1-2:30 p.m. Christmas Downriver. Cane River Creole National Historic Park presents Creole Christmas with special tours, educational programs and musical events FREE

--1-4 p.m. Holiday Tour of Homes. Visit Chaplin House, Steel Magnolias, and Maison Louisiane. For tickets call 800-259-1714

-- 3:30 -8:30 p.m. Entertainment on Riverbank

-- 7 p.m. Fireworks over Cane River

• Dec. 26: Free Admission to Front St.

-- 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. - Holiday Kids Fest

-- 3:30 -8:30 p.m. -Entertainment on Riverbank

-- 7 p.m. - Fireworks over Cane River

• Dec. 31: Free Admission to Front St.

7 p.m. - Fireworks over Cane River

All events are subject to change.
For a more up-to-date schedule, go to
www.natchitocheschristmas.com

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Knights' film *Guadalupe: The Miracle & Message* to air on KLAX

A new documentary film narrated by the actor who played Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ" will explore the mysterious image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and air on ABC on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. Plan to watch it then or program your TV now to record it.

Jim Caviezel, also star of "Person of Interest" on CBS and a Catholic, narrates the Knights of Columbus-produced film "*Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message*," which looks into the details, story and impact of the 16th-century image that appeared on the tilma (cloak) of an indigenous convert named Juan Diego, who received a series of visions of the Virgin Mary.

Over the course of four days in 1531, the Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, appeared to Juan Diego. As a result of this encounter, an image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak).

The indigenous people, as the tradition goes, were amazed how the image spoke to them about the Christian faith through native symbols — a codex — that they could understand. Symbolic elements of the image communicated to the locals that the woman was pregnant and was a virgin.



Over the next seven years, nine million Native Americans converted to the Catholic faith, and the Americas began its transformation into the Catholic hemisphere. Our Lady of Guadalupe's message of love had replaced the institutionalized violence of the Aztec culture and built a bridge between two worlds.

"The message of Our Lady

of Guadalupe helped to build bridges between cultures and worlds and began the transformation of our continent into a Christian continent of hope," said Carl Anderson, CEO of the New Haven-based Knights and executive producer of the film. "The apparition helped to unite the entire continent in a way that didn't exist before. Through her

intercession, then and now, those throughout this hemisphere have found a deep and shared sense of faith, hope and identity."

ABC will show the documentary as part of its Visions and Values Series sometime between October and Dec. 10.

For more information about the movie and to view a trailer, go to www.guadalupefilm.com.

Sunday, Dec. 6
4 p.m.
KLAX-TV



Guadalupe: the Miracle and the Message DVD was released in October 2015

Available at:
Ignatius Press
guadalupefilm.com
Amazon.com
Knights of Columbus
(knightsgear.com)
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Dec. 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

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Spotlight: a film about clergy abuse, decently tells an awful story

USCCB says movie is an opportunity to share Church's commitment to protecting children

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The clergy abuse-themed drama "Spotlight" (Open Road) is a movie no Catholic will want to see. Whether it's a film many mature Catholics ought to see is a different question entirely.

This hard-hitting journalism procedural -- which inescapably invites comparison with 1976's "All the President's Men" -- recounts the real-life events that led up to the public disclosure, in early 2002, of a shocking pattern of priestly misconduct within the Archdiocese of Boston. In the process, the equally disturbing concealment of such wrongdoing on the part of high ranking church officials also was laid bare.

One of the picture's themes is the way in which Beantown's inward-looking, small-town mentality contributed to the long-standing cover-up. For the supposed good of the community, locals suppressed the knowledge of what was happening, subconsciously choosing not to see what was transpiring just behind the scenes.

So it's appropriate that the whitewash begins to peel away with the arrival of a stranger to the Hub, the newly imported editor of the Boston Globe, Marty Baron (Liev Schreiber). Marty's outsider status isn't just based on his geographical origins; he's also Jewish.

Perplexed that his paper has devoted so little attention to the



SPOTLIGHT. Rachel McAdams, Michael Keaton, and Mark Ruffalo star in Spotlight, a true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that uncovered the clergy abuse scandal that rocked the city of Boston and the entire Catholic Church. Rated R.

earliest cases in what would become, over time, an avalanche of legal actions against clerics, Marty commissions the investigative unit of the title, which specializes in in-depth investigations of local stories, to dig deeper.

Led by even-keeled Walter "Robby" Robinson (Michael Keaton), the Spotlight team -- which also includes tightly wound Mike Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo), intrepid Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams) and relentless research whiz Matt Carroll (Brian d'Arcy James) -- uncovers a widespread and sickening scandal involving scores of clergymen and hundreds of young victims.

Director and co-writer Tom McCarthy maintains a taut

rhythm as he focuses primarily on the dogged professionalism required to breach the walls of secrecy surrounding a respected, and therefore protected, institution. And his script, penned with Josh Singer, apportions blame across a broad spectrum that includes the Globe itself -- John Slattery plays veteran editor Ben Bradlee Jr., whose semi-willful blindness to the problem typifies the attitude discussed above.

Like most of his colleagues, Slattery is a former Catholic, distanced from, but not -- initially at least -- embittered toward, the faith in which he were raised. Witnessing the further fraying of the reporters' already fragile ties to the church adds to the over-

whelming sense of grief Catholic viewers will feel throughout "Spotlight." Yet this generally accurate chronicle can provide them with a valuable insight into one of the darkest chapters in ecclesiastical history.

The movie is open to a few criticisms, large and small, however. The portrayal of Boston's then-archbishop, Cardinal Bernard Law (Len Cariou), is predictably negative. But it also includes details that are subject to interpretation.

Thus Cardinal Law's gift to Marty of a copy of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" is treated as a both a religious and social snub. Yet Cardinal Law played an important role in translating that

MOVIE REVIEW

landmark text into English, so his gift may have been motivated more by a sense of pride in one of the most significant accomplishments of his career than by a desire to cut the newcomer down to size.

Much more significantly, the screenplay's uncritical adoption of the results of research conducted by ex-priest A.W. Richard Sipe (a figure heard but not seen) opens its analysis to legitimate questioning.

The thesis that the scandal was the inevitable outcome of the Latin church's tradition of priestly celibacy -- a discipline Sipe maintains is routinely violated by fully half the clergy, thus creating a culture of secrecy among them -- is ill-founded, to say the least. To dispute that theory, however, is not at all to downplay the horrifying nature of what unfolds under this otherwise painfully illuminating "Spotlight."

The film contains mature themes, multiple, sometimes coarse, references to perverse sexual acts, several uses of profanity as well as a few rough and numerous crude terms. The CNS rating is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

VIRTUS

• Dec. 3 (Thursday) -- 6 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, 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



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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. 18: Mother Cabrini celebration

St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria will host a Mother Cabrini Celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. in the Church. Following the Mass in the Church will be an Italian feast in the Activities Building, where the 2015 Dedicated Parishioners will be honored. All are invited.

Nov. 18: For the Love of God speaker

Carol Rivera, director of Evangelization for the worldwide ministry, Mission: For the Love of God, will speak Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. More than 3.8 million people in 450 countries have united in saying the daily prayers of The Mission for all of the different levels of society that most affect our daily lives and our families. The four cornerstones of The Mission are consecration, conversion, prayer from the heart, and good works. For more information, go to: www.fortheloveof-godworldwide.org.

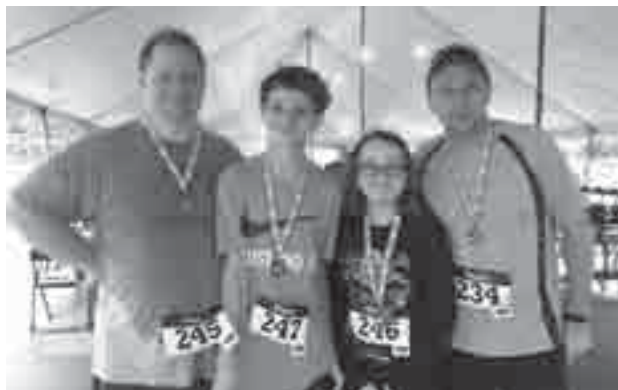
Nov. 20-22: Awakening Retreat

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.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

JOHN PAUL II COUNCIL (Sacred Heart, Pineville) #14657. Two of the Knights of Columbus John Paul II Council 14657 (Sacred Heart Pineville) and family members participated in the Holy Ghost Catholic Church (Opelousas) Creole Festival 5K & 1 Mile.

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.

Jan. 8-10: Marriage Help

Retrovaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 8-10, 2016, at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Jan. 10, 2016: Search for the Longest Married Couple

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is searching for the Longest Married Couple in America and the Longest Married Couple in each state. To nominate someone who has

been married a long time, send the name of the couple, their wedding date, and where they currently reside -- plus a contact phone or email address of the person nominating the couple to: Dick & Diane Baumbach, 8924 Puerto Del Rio Drive, Suite 402, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920 or email wwmelmc2015@gmail.com, or call 321-613-5180. Nominations must be received by Jan. 10, 2016.

Apply now for Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum

GIVEN, is a first-of-its-kind event that will help unleash the gifts of young women within the Catholic Church and the world!

Sponsored by the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) in collaboration with the Hilton Foundation, GIVEN will bring 300 rising leaders, ages 20-30, selected by application, together with Religious and lay leaders from various disciplines for a full scholarship, week-long immersion in faith formation, leadership skills training and networking next June 7-12, 2016 at Catholic University of America.

Each attendee will be encouraged, invested in and inspired to bring the gifts only they can give back to their home communities. For more information, to apply, or to discover sponsorship opportunities, check out givenforum.org.

Spring 2016 SALT Retreat dates

Dates for the Spring Salt Retreats in 2016 are: Jan 9-10, Feb 6-7, and March 5-6. For more information, call Sacred Heart Church in Pineville at 318-445-2496.



ST. JULIANA'S PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY. St. Juliana's Presidium of the Legion of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, held its 1st annual Rosary Rally at noon Oct. 10 in downtown Alexandria. Pictured are (front row) Lynn Lemott, Doris Prevot, Rita Hurts, Linda Monette, Herbert Rachal, Jeffrey Hicks and Patricia Hicks. R2: Irma Bayone, Janice Reed, Gwen Milo, Kim Boswell and Valerie Bandy.

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November - December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
16	17	18 Love of God Speaker: Carol Rivera 10:30 a.m. Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches Mother Cabrini Celebration 6:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria	19	20	21 St. Frances Cabrini Sanctuary Society Christmas Shoppe	22 St. Cecilia Chorale Concert 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville
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
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN	PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR	PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA	THANKSGIVING DAY PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM	PRAY FOR FR. A. PALLAKATTUCHIRA	PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL	FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH
30	1 DECEMBER Christmas at the Nest 5:30-7:00 p.m. Holy Savior Menard High School	2	3 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	4	5 Christmas Festival of Lights 7:45 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Natchitoches	6 Guadalupe movie on KLAX 4:00 p.m. Live Nativity 6:00-8:00 p.m. First United Methodist, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN	PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS	SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY
7	8 Lesson's & Carols 7:30 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Holy Day of Obligation)	9	10	11 Christmas Parade 7:00 p.m. Pineville, LA	12 Christmas Parade 4:00 p.m. Bunkie, LA Christmas Parade 5:50 p.m. Leesville FEAST of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE	13 Christmas Parade 2:00 p.m. Alexandria Year of Mercy Mass to Open the Door 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS	PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ	PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ	PRAY FOR FR. J. ROY	PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN	PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT	THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER
14	15 Red River Chorale Concert 7:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria	16	17 Lessons & Carols 6:30 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchitoches	18	19	20 FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA
PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY	PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA	PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	PRAY FOR FR. S. SOARES	PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	

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