

CHURCH TODAY

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March 13, 2017

ON THE INSIDE

Bishop Talley named chair of USCCB's Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Bishop David P. Talley of Alexandria has been named the new chairman of the Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the domestic anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). See page 3 for details.

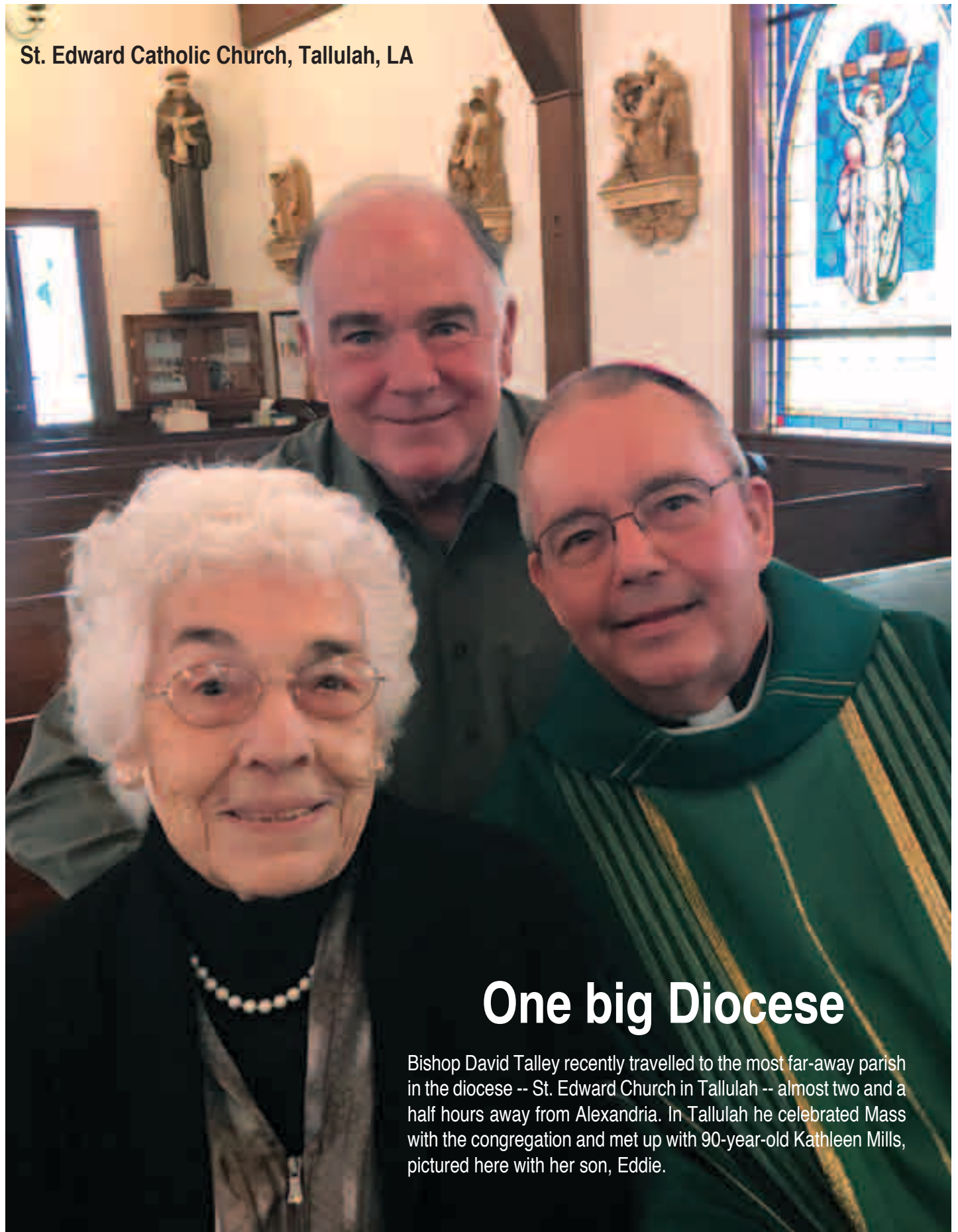
72 participate in Rite of Election

Bishop David Talley celebrated the Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of the Candidates who have been preparing for reception into Full Communion in the Catholic Church. View all of the photos on pages 10-11.

Menard alum performs on the Tonight Show

It started with an agreement made a decade earlier -- between Josh Johnson, a 2008 graduate of Holy Savior Menard Central High School and his history teacher, Mr. Dennis Ward. What happens next is amazing. See page 19.

St. Edward Catholic Church, Tallulah, LA



One big Diocese

Bishop David Talley recently travelled to the most far-away parish in the diocese -- St. Edward Church in Tallulah -- almost two and a half hours away from Alexandria. In Tallulah he celebrated Mass with the congregation and met up with 90-year-old Kathleen Mills, pictured here with her son, Eddie.

Initial reaction to refugee ban ranges from opposition to support

Catholic organizations say ban cuts humanitarian assistance to those fleeing persecution

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Within hours of President Donald Trump's new executive order March 6 banning refugees from six majority-Muslim nations, Catholic and other religious groups joined secular leaders in questioning the wisdom of such a move, with others vowing to oppose it outright.

Bill O'Keefe, vice president for advocacy and government relations at Catholic Relief Services, said in a statement, "As the world's most blessed nation, we should be doing more to provide assistance overseas and resettle the most vulnerable, not less. It is wrong, during this time of great need, to cut humanitarian assistance and reduce resettlement."

O'Keefe added, "Refugees are fleeing the same terrorism that we seek to protect ourselves from. By welcoming them, we show the world that we are an open, tolerant nation which seeks to protect the vulnerable. That has always been America's greatest strength."

"At the heart of the work of Catholic Charities is the Gospel mandate to welcome the stranger and care for the most vulnerable among us," said Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, in a statement.

"Today's executive order not only hinders that work, but also effectively abandons, for four months, the thousands of endangered refugees fleeing violence, starvation and persecution," she added. "It is deeply disturbing to know that the thousands of women, children and other persecuted individuals around the world will

face a closed door rather than a helping hand from the United States."

The revised order replaces Trump's Jan. 27 order, which has been blocked in the courts. The new order imposes a 90-day ban on issuing visas to people from six predominantly Muslim nations; Iraq is no longer on the list. The countries are Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Sudan and Yemen.

It suspends the U.S. refugee program for all countries for 120 days. It also excludes lawful permanent residents -- green card holders -- from any travel ban. The new order will not take effect until March 16.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Tex-

See CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS, pg. 20

Polls show most Americans support temporary ban on refugees from the 6 terrorist countries

WASHINGTON — Where immigrants are concerned, James Wright is OK with people who are here legally, as well as illegally — if they haven't committed crimes. But turn the talk specifically to the risks and benefits of admitting refugees to the U.S., and the New Jersey resident gives a fraught sigh.

"It's hard not to be conflicted," said Wright, 26, an independent who supports President Donald Trump's proposed travel ban on certain foreigners. "By no means do I want to be cruel and keep people out who need a safe place. But we have to have a better system of thoroughly finding out who they are."

Wright is part of a group of Americans a new survey suggests are making

distinctions between legal immigrants who choose to be here and refugees — who are legal immigrants, too — fleeing persecution in their home countries. A new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research reflects that divide, with two-thirds of the respondents saying the benefits of legal immigration generally outweigh the risks. But just over half — 52 percent — say refugees pose a great enough risk to further limit their entry into the United States.

Interviews with some of the poll's participants suggest the distinction may be one of perception in an age of religious and politically inspired violence and 4.8 million refugees fleeing war-scarred Syria.

"Sometimes the vetting might not be quality," said Randall Bagwell, 33, from of San Antonio, Texas, the state second to California in settling refugees between Oct. 1 and Jan. 31, according to the State Department. "Nobody can do quality control when they're just reacting quickly."

President Donald Trump has long linked tougher immigration limits to a safer country, and on Monday signed a new travel ban that, in part, will suspend refugee travel to the U.S. for four months except for those already on their way to the United States. The new order, which takes effect on March 16, will impose a 90-day ban on entry to the United States for people from Sudan, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia and Yemen — all Muslim-majority nations — who are seeking new visas. It was President Trump's second effort at a

See POLLS SHOW, pg. 20



NATIONS IMPACTED BY THE TRAVEL BAN. The dark areas of the map indicate the countries impacted by the refugee ban -- Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Sudan and Yemen. Iraq is no longer on the list.

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Bishop Talley named chair of Catholic Campaign for Human Development

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Bishop David P. Talley of Alexandria has been named the new chairman of the Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the domestic anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The appointment was made at the end of the annual bishops meeting in Baltimore in November, but Bishop David met with the CCHD staff in Modesto California Feb. 16-19 for the first annual U.S. Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements. Bishop Talley succeeds Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, Calif., who has served since 2010.

"I am honored to have the confidence of my brother bishops to chair this subcommittee for the CCHD," Bishop David said.

At the request of Pope Francis, the RWPM conference was organized for U.S. Catholic leaders to seek out new ways to help the "most weak and vulnerable" of our society.

During Pope Francis' message delivered remotely from the



BISHOP TALLEY AND THE CCHD STAFF. Bishop David Talley meets with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development staff and its director Ralph McCloud (standing directly behind Bishop Talley) during the U.S. Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements Feb. 16-19 in Modesto, Calif. Bishop Talley was named chairman of the subcommittee on the CCHD.

Vatican to those at the conference, he publicly thanked Bishop Talley for his support of the con-

ference.

"I would like to thank the Catholic Campaign for Human

Development, its chairman Bishop David Talley, and the host bishops Stephen Blaire, Armando

Ochoa and Jaime Soto, for the wholehearted support they have offered to this meeting," said Pope Francis.

The convening brought together hundreds of faith and social justice leaders from various cultures and communities from across the U.S., along with grassroots leaders from other countries.

The Modesto meeting was the first U.S. Regional convening being organized in conjunction with three international world meetings that have taken place in Rome (in Oct. 2014 and Nov. 2016) and Bolivia (in Oct. 2015).

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence.

Through generous donations made to the national CCHD collection (usually the weekend before Thanksgiving), the CCHD gives those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes.

In the Diocese of Alexandria, the national collection for the CCHD will be held Nov. 17, 2017.



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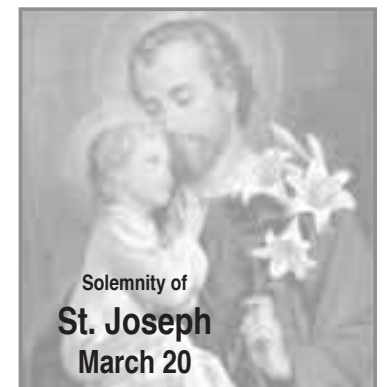
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The bishop's residence and our seminarians

As I am a few weeks into my service to you as the 12th Bishop of Alexandria, I want all to know that I will hope to offer you some thoughts and reflections each month in a column seen in our diocesan paper, *The Church Today*.

I've chosen a favorite passage from the Gospel of John as the title of my column: *I am the Vine, you are the branches* (John 15:5). This phrase used by the Lord Jesus describes perfectly who we are:

We...the people of God...the Church of Christ the Lord...we are connected to Him...He, the living Vine of Life, the gift of the Father...and we, brought into His life through the gift of faith and the doorway of Baptism and the anointing of the Holy Spirit...we are living branches...His body.

Let us remember this connectedness...to one another and to the Lord, the Vine of Life and through Him, to the Vine grower, God the Father. As we remain connected to Him, the Lord



I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

Most Rev. David P. Talley
Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria

promises much fruitfulness. And now, to this month's reflection.

In September of 2016, when I drove to Alexandria for the first time to prepare for the announcement of my appointment as Co-adjutor Bishop, I met with Bishop Herzog at his residence.

During our evening meal and conversation we talked about many things. He mentioned that as the Bishop's residence had been fitted for his health needs (wheel-chair ramps and the like), he hoped to remain at the residence if I agreed. I agreed immediately,

and taking his advice to heart, I contacted Fr. Jim Ferguson at our Cathedral, to ask about taking up residence at the Cathedral rectory.

Fr. Ferguson and the Cathedral staff went out of their way to make the planning of my move to Alexandria stress-free. A suite of three rooms was prepared for me, and in October, I moved in as a resident at the Cathedral. My belongings (mostly books) followed shortly thereafter, and I began to be at home at the rectory.

As most of you may remem-

ber, Bishop Herzog moved from the Bishop's Residence to Regency House, needing more medical attention in his ongoing physical rehabilitation. He is our Bishop Emeritus and enjoys visiting with our clergy and our people. I hope that many of you will take time to visit with him at Regency House.

Many asked me...are you going move into the Bishop's Residence? I've made the decision to remain at our Cathedral, as a resident in the rectory.

But what of the official Bishop's Residence?

Hoping to offer our seminarians a sense of our love for them (mine and yours) and my commitment to their ongoing discernment, I have asked our Director of Vocations, Fr. Louis Sklar, to take up residence at the Bishop's home and to make that home a place for "touching base" as our seminarians visit us during the school year and stay with us during the summer. Fr. Louis will make the Bishop's residence a place for the seminarians to gather together, supporting one another during their years of formation.

This is where things are today. I might choose to change this decision down the road, but for the present...I am happy to live at the Cathedral and Fr. Louis is happy to live at the Bishop's home...and to build a place of welcome and connectedness for our seminarians.

AMDG

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
(For The Greater Glory of God)

In his eyes, I see the Heart of Christ

Guest Editorial

Father Ed Dougherty, M.M.
The Christophers, Board of Directors

tured on a local Pittsburgh television station in a segment called "Proud to be from Pittsburgh."

Bob had been living on the streets of Pittsburgh for two years when he was approached by Catholic Charities volunteer Brian Tarquinio. Brian sat down on a bench beside Bob and asked if he needed help. Bob said, "I need a job." Brian got him some food and helped him get cleaned up. Then he made phone calls to see if any restaurants in the city could use Bob's cooking talents in their kitchen. Within a day Bob had a job, and soon after he had a room of his own.

In a Catholic Charities write-up on their story, Bob says of Brian, "When I look into his face, I see the face of Christ. In his eyes, I see the heart of Christ." They remain friends and Bob now dreams of helping others in the same way that he was helped.

In the Jubilee for Socially

Excluded People held last November at the Vatican's Paul VI Hall, Pope Francis listened to two homeless men speak about their experiences before offering his own off-the-cuff remarks, saying, "We must always look to the one poorer...giving the hand to the one suffering more." Then thanking homeless people for showing the world how to live in solidarity, he said, "The ability to have solidarity is one of the fruits that poverty gives us."

With the poor and homeless seated in VIP seats for Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis said, "We should be worried when our consciences are anesthetized and we no longer see the brother or sister suffering at our side, or notice the grave problems in our world, which become a mere refrain familiar from the headlines on the evening news."

Christ calls us to live by a spirit of poverty so that we might

always enjoy solidarity with our fellow man. In this way, we can share in the only riches that really matter in life. As Pope Francis said in his Jubilee Mass for the

homeless, "Everything else – the heavens, the earth, all that is beautiful, even this basilica – will pass away, but we must never exclude God or others from our lives."

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On December 17, 2016, Pope Francis celebrated his 80th birthday. He began the day by sharing breakfast with eight homeless people at the Vatican hotel where he resides. His guests included four Italians, two Romanians, a Moldovan, and a Peruvian. They were chosen from those staying around Saint Peter's Square and from showers for the homeless established by the Pope's almsgiver. His guests gave him a bouquet of sunflowers, and Francis spoke individually with each one of them as they ate breakfast together.

What a powerful witness Pope Francis gives us in reaching out to those on the margins of society. During his 2015 visit to the United States, he stopped by Catholic Charities in Washington D.C., and there he said, "The Son of God came into this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was to start life without a roof over his head."

Catholic Charities is a leader in offering outreach to our nation's most vulnerable people. Stories abound about lives transformed through the good that is done by those involved in Catholic Charities. For instance, the story of Bob Carter has been fea-



I will give you a New Heart

"... and a new spirit I will place within you." - Ezekiel 36:26

The Diocese of Alexandria has a rich history in our loving service to Christ the Lord and His Church. We are united in faith and in our love for the land and the many cultures of this diverse portion of Christ's Catholic Church. We can recognize this diversity with the four Deaneries or groupings that comprise our seventy-one parishes and missions.

We recognize ourselves in the Catholic parishes and missions of the **Natchitoches Deanery**, where the cultures born around the Cane River and Red River form an extraordinary diversity, a quilt of cultures along with the beauty of the Lord's good earth that stretches toward Shreveport.

Avoyelles to the south. In this heavily Catholic area of our Diocese, we see our history being played out in the diversity of our schools and parishes and missions. The **Avoyelles Deanery** and to an extent, all of our deaneries, share with us a taste of what has gone before in our French, Spanish and Native American heritage.

With all of this diversity, this uniqueness, *how are we one Diocese?* As the shepherd sent to you by Pope Francis, my work... *our work*... is to weave together our beautiful diversity with the thread that unites us, that makes us one people, one Diocese... and this thread... Christ the Lord.

As I begin my service as your Bishop, I ask you to join me in supporting the **2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal**. As you may have heard during the weekend Masses before the beginning of Lent, my hope is to work with you in bringing about a renewal of heart in the seventy-one Catholic communities that make up our Diocese. The dollars from the 2017 Appeal will assist me in what needs to be done, in assisting our schools, our parishes and missions, our seminarians, our families and those that live on the margins of faith and need our words of encouragement.

I will pledge a portion of my "treasure" to our **2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal**. I ask each of you to assist me by offering your pledge... a *sacrificial* pledge... to the work of weaving Christ's community together, in faith and in hope and in love. To seek the new heart and the new spirit promised by the Lord, what better time to begin than in holy Lent.

*Let us begin again...in generosity
...in faithfulness.*



We recognize ourselves in the Catholic parishes and missions within the **Eastern Deanery**. Though they are fewer in number, they are like the river cities formed alongside the mighty Mississippi, amidst the wealth and the poverty of the Delta.

We recognize ourselves in the cities and small towns of the **Central Deanery**. In the See city of Alexandria and in the many communities of central and western Louisiana, we live our Catholic faith within a varied mixture of religious cultures that make up this portion of our Diocese.

We recognize ourselves in the many Catholic parishes and missions of The



2017 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

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Mass of Thanksgiving

BISHOP RONALD HERZOG celebrates the Mass of Thanksgiving Feb. 27 with his fellow brother priests at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. After the Mass, a reception was held in his honor in Xavier Hall.

SID McDANIEL, from Our Lady of Prompt Succor parish, extends a warm greeting to Bishop Herzog at the reception. Priests, deacons, religious, and friends attended the reception and greeted him with best wishes.



ALEXANDRIA SEMINARIAN LUKE LAFLEUR, signs the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity Feb. 9 in the presence of Msgr. Christopher Schreck, rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Seminarians in their third year of theological study make the Profession of Faith and take the Oath of Fidelity in preparation for ordination to the diaconate. Candidates for ordination pledge to remain faithful to the teachings of the Church and swear to be faithful teachers of the Gospel. (Photo by Deacon Joshua Altonji.)

Clergy Assignments

- Rev. Martin Laird** – Appointed Vicar for Religious in addition to his assignment as pastor of Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine, effective February 27, 2017.
- Rev. Paul Kunnumpuram, MSFS** – Resumes his assignment as pastor of St. Patrick Church in Ferriday with its mission of St. Gerard in Jonesville, effective March 4, 2017.
- Rev. Ryan Humphries** – Relieved of assignment as pastoral administrator pro tem of St. Patrick Church in Ferriday with its mission of St. Gerard in Jonesville, effective at the end of March 3, 2017. He remains as pastor of St. Edward Church in Tallulah.
- Rev. Stephen Scott Chemino, J.C.L.** – Reappointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Alexandria, effective February 9, 2017. He remains as pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie.
- Rev. Chad Partain** – Reappointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Alexandria, effective February 9, 2017. He remains as pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria and president of Holy Savior Menard Central High School in Alexandria.
- Rev. Louis Sklar** – Reappointed as Director of Vocations and Seminarians, effective February 9, 2017.
- Rev. Michael Craig Scott** – Reappointed as Vicar for Clergy, effective February 9, 2017. He remains as pastor of St. Rita Church in Alexandria.
- Rev. Adam Travis** – Appointed as Vicar for Clergy, effective February 9, 2017. He remains as pastor of St. Martin Church in Lecompte and the mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Forest Hill.
- Rev. Bruce Miller, J.C.L.** – Reappointed as Judicial Vicar of the Diocesan Tribunal. He remains as pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville.

Seminarian Burses

February Donations

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Ms. Melissa Laborde	\$125.00
Father Dan O'Connor Burse	
St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph	\$158.00
Father Peter Kuligowski Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$200.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Total	\$1,183.00

How are your Lenten practices going so far?

Two seasons of Lent: Praying about areas to change; responding to example of Jesus

By Carol Zimmerman
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Prayer, one of the three pillars of Lenten discipline, along with fasting and almsgiving, seems to get the biggest boost during Lent.

Spiritual leaders note that Catholics are most likely praying already and that Lent is a time to make this act even more intentional -- to pray more or in a more focused way.

No matter how Catholics choose to up their prayer during Lent's 40 days, they have opportunities to do so at their own parishes since many of them are offering Stations of the Cross, eucharistic adoration, added times for confession and maybe even retreats.

Those who can't make it to anything extra at church can tap into tools for prayer right on their computers or smartphones with everything from virtual Stations of the Cross to apps that track spiritual activities or offer help on preparing for confession, praying the rosary or reading the Bible.

Plenty of online retreats also are available including ones spe-



cifically geared for Lent.

Father John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth, Michigan, said Lenten prayers can be divided into two different areas of focus.

The first few weeks, he advises people to pray about areas

that need to change, but during the second half of Lent, he said, prayers should focus more on trying to understand Jesus' actions and how Christians are called to respond to them.

If the promptings for more prayer and the abundance of tools or events to guide people in

prayer are overwhelming, Catholics also can turn to an approach advised by some spiritual leaders: finding quiet time.

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, said that in today's busy and often noisy world it's hard to find quiet, but he urged Catholics in his archdiocese to try it.

"Lent is the season of silence. It is a time to enter into the desert, as Jesus did for 40 days," he said in his Lenten message posted Feb. 26 on the website of the Chicago Catholic, the archdiocesan newspaper.

"Admittedly, silence can make us feel uneasy," he wrote. "Perhaps it is because silence forces us to think, to feel, to be in touch with those deep areas of our lives where a sense of emptiness or meaninglessness may be lurking in our hearts."

The cardinal said the Gospels often portray Jesus going off alone in silence to pray, which not only says something about him but indicates something his followers should consider.

Along this line, Cardinal Cupich said he has asked pastors in the Chicago Archdiocese during Lent to allow for extra time for silence during Mass, especially after Communion.

"We need this silent time to allow God to speak to us. That means quieting ourselves even from saying prayers and just being aware of what Jesus tells us: we abide in God and God in us."



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Lenten Church Pilgrimage

Servant House, a Catholic ministry in Marksville, will host a Lenten Church Pilgrimage on Thursday, April 6.

The pilgrimage starts at 8 a.m. in the Servant House parking lot. Participants are asked to carpool or to drive their own car.

The pilgrimage will include stops at Rosedale, where you will visit the last surviving slave chapel in Louisiana and the Iberville Parish tourist center and Swamp Shop; Brusley, where you will visit St. John the Baptist Church; Plaquemine, where you will visit St. John the Evangelist Church; and Bayou Goula, where you will have visit the Chapel of the Madonna, the smallest church in the world.

The last stop will be at



CHAPEL OF THE MADONNA, Bayou Goula. Visit the smallest chapel in the world -- the Chapel of the Madonna in Bayou Goula.

Nottoway Plantation, in White Castle, La., where you will enjoy lunch.

There is no cost for the pil-

grimage, but you must call 318-253-7810 to make a reservation. Reservations are required for the lunch at Nottoway.

Diocese of Alexandria 2017 Lenten Schedule

LENT SCHEDULES

For an updated list of all Lenten activities being offered in churches throughout the diocese, please visit the diocesan website at www.dioce-sealex.org.

PENANCE SERVICES

- Wednesday, March 22 -- 6 p.m., St. Peter Church, Bordelonville
- Tuesday, March 28 -- 5:30 p.m., St. Patrick Mission Church, Montgomery
- Wednesday, March 29 -- 5:30 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Colfax
- Thursday, March 30 -- 6 p.m., St. Mary Church, Winnsboro (with Bishop Talley)
- Wednesday, April 12 -- 6 p.m., Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth

LENTEN MISSIONS

March 18

- St. Rita Church in Alexandria will have a guided meditation of the movie "The Passion of the Christ" on Saturday, March 18 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We will watch the movie, have time for discussion,

prayer, meditation, Q&A as well as lunch served at the end. It will be in the Holy Family Center at St. Rita. Please call and RSVP 318-445-7120 ex 412.

March 21-23

- The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches will have a Lenten Mission at 6 p.m.

March 27-31

- Sts. Francis and Anne Church in Kolin will have it's Lenten Mission on Monday through Friday nights, March 27-31 from 6 p.m. -8 p.m. Confessions will be heard on Wednesday night. The theme is "The Acceptable Time". The mission will be given by Rev. Remigius Owuamamam S.M.M.M.

April 3-5

- St. Joseph Church in Colfax will host a Lenten Parish Mission on Saturday, April 1 through Wednesday, April 5. The Mission will start at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Deacon

Cody Miller from the Diocese of Lafayette will be the guest speaker. All are welcome.

April 6

- St. Rita Church in Alexandria will offer a Lenten Reflection, 6:30 p.m., "The Three Days" concludes our celebration of Tenebrae.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mondays

- 6:30 p.m. -- St. Margaret, Boyce (after 6:00 p.m. Mass)

Tuesdays

- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Patrick, Montgomery (after 6:00 p.m. Mass)

Wednesdays

- 11:30 a.m. -- Cabrini, Alexandria
- 5:15 p.m. -- St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport (followed by Mass)
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Peter, Bordelonville
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Mary, Winnsboro (followed by Mass)

Thursdays

- 5:00 p.m. -- St. John, Columbia

Fridays

- 2:00 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria
- 5:15 p.m. -- MB of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- 5:15 p.m. -- St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport (followed by Mass)
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria
- 5:30 p.m. -- Sacred Heart, Pineville
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Martin, Belledeau
- 5:30 p.m. -- OL-Lourdes, Fifth Ward
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Peter, Bordelonville
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Martin, Lecompte
- 6:00 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Joseph, Colfax (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)
- 6:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis & Anne, Kolin

FISH FRYS

Fridays during Lent

- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral -- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. March 3 - April 7. Cost is \$6 a plate and includes fried fish, french fries, hush puppies, and coleslaw. Dine-in or take-out.
- St. Rita Church, Alexandria -- 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., March 3 - April 7 in the

Holy Family Center. Sponsored by the KC Council #1134.

- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin -- 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville -- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., March 3 - April 7 at Mac's Fresh Market, 3005 Hwy 28 East, Pineville. Knights of Columbus Council 14657 will serve fried fish, fries, hush puppies, and coleslaw for \$7 a plate.

Friday, April 7

- KC Council #13103 will serve fish dinners at St. Martin Church, Lecompte, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Dine in or take out.

Good Friday, April 14

- Holy Savior Menard High School will serve fish dinners from 4:30-6:30 p.m., \$7 a plate includes fried fish, french fries, hush puppies and coleslaw.
- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin, will have a fish fry from 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. \$7 per plate.

St. Anthony in Bunkie organizes 40 Cans for 40 Days for food pantry donations

Friday mornings in Bunkie have become a blessing for those who visit St. Anthony Helping Hands Food Pantry.

Each week, recipients wait for the doors to open to hear kind greetings from volunteers as food packages are distributed to those in need.

This Lent, St. Anthony Parish is sponsoring **Forty Cans for Forty Days** to help stock the pantry for its continued mission. Families, individuals, or organizations are asked to donate 40 cans this Lent -- one can or food item for each day of Lent -- to the Food Pantry.

In some cases, the giving provides for those who have no other means of assistance. Some recipients have exhausted public food stamps for the month. There are also working parents who depend on this aid to stretch food budgets which feed hungry children at home.

"We know that some of our clients have come from jail, some are out of work, and many are elderly and on limited budgets," said Tommy Thayer, who, with his wife, Debbie, volunteers to lead this ministry.

Other volunteers include Maurice Carr, Morris Griffin, and Fr. Joseph Desimone. Fr. Scott Chemino, pastor of the parish, has worked to expand the vision of the pantry since he arrived in 2012.

"The entire effort is made possible by many wonderful people," said Father Chemino. "There are those who continuously donate the food supplies including the St. Anthony students, the local Boy Scouts, other Bunkie churches, and so many of



our generous benefactors."

Benefactors from the community also offer to help secure food when supplies are low or when special items are needed for the holiday seasons.

"There are many who make this ministry a blessing to our community," said Fr. Chemino.

To donate, contact St. Anthony Helping Hands Food Pantry, 409 St. John Street, Bunkie, La 71322 or call 318-346-7274.

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COOPERTIRES

Answers

1. A. Ash Wednesday

2. B. False

11. D. A and B. The Alleluia is never sung and the Gloria is never prayed.

12. C. The consecration does not take place on Good Friday. In the Latin Rite there is no celebration of Mass between the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening and the Easter Vigil unless a special exemption is granted for rare solemn or grave occasions by the Vatican or the local bishop. Good Friday services include the Liturgy of the Word (with veneration of the cross) and a communion service. You receive the Eucharist which has been consecrated the day before. It is not consecrated on Good Friday.

7. A & C. The Annunciation (March 25) and The Feast of St. Joseph (March 19) This year, however, Jesus to turn stones into bread, bowed down and worshipped him (Satan), and also tempted him to throw himself off a mountain and that the angels would save him.

14. C. Both are good options.

15. C. The "Easter Duty" requires Catholics to receive Communion at least once a year, at Easter. Of course, to worthily receive the Eucharist, it is recommended that you go to confession as well.

16. B. The Triduum -- which includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

17. D. Good Friday is a day when Mass is not celebrated. There are Good Friday services, but no Masses.

18. B. Palm Sunday is the last Sunday in Lent.

19. B. Holy Thursday

during lent is the stations of the cross, where you meditate on the final hours (or Passion) of Jesus.

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A Lenten Quiz

How much do you know about Lent?



1. What is the first day of Lent?

- A. Ash Wednesday
- C. Shrove Tuesday
- C. Mardi Gras

2. Ash Wednesday is a holy Day of Obligation

- A. True
- B. False

3. How are ashes made for Ash Wednesday?

- A. By burning the palms from the previous Sunday
- B. B burning acacia wood
- C. By burning parchment paper

4. What is the original meaning of Lent?

- A. Spring
- B. Fast
- C. Penance

5. What biblical event does the time of Lent represent?

- A. The 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God
- B. Jesus retreated into the wilderness, where he fasted for 40 days, and was tempted by the devil.
- C. The 40 days and nights Elijah spent walking to Mount Horeb

6. What forms does penance take in Christian life?

- A. Penance can be expressed in many various ways
- B. Penance can be expressed in many various ways but above all in fasting, prayer and almsgiving.
- C. Abstaining from meat on Fridays

7. Which feast day always comes during Lent?

- A. Annunciation
- B. Assumption
- C. The Feast of St. Joseph
- D. A and C

8. Lent is known to be 40 days long even though from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday is 44 days. Why?

- A. Sundays are not included
- B. It was an error from the start
- C. It starts the 1st Sunday of Lent
- D. Lent is really 44 days.

9. On which day is the Chrism Mass in our diocese?

- A. Tuesday of Holy Week
- B. Holy Thursday
- C. Palm Sunday
- D. Good Friday

10. Which devotion has special place during Lent?

- A. Novena
- B. Triduum
- C. Stations of the Cross
- D. Retreat

11. What is different about the Mass during Lent

- A. The Alleluia is never sung
- B. The Gloria is never prayed
- C. The Apostle's Creed replaces the Nicene Creed
- D. A & B

12. Which of the following does not take place on Good Friday?

- A. Intercessory prayers
- B. Reading from the Scriptures
- C. Consecration
- D. Veneration of the cross

13. What temptations did the devil use on Jesus in the desert?

- A. Turn water into wine
- B. Turn stones into bread
- C. Promise of owning all kingdoms
- D. B and C

14. Which is better to do during Lent - give up something, or do something?

- A. Give up something
- B. Do something
- C. Both are good options

15. What is the 'Easter Duty' of every Catholic?

- A. To go to Mass on Easter
- B. To go to Confession
- C. To receive Communion
- D. B and C

16. What liturgical season follows Lent?

- A. Easter
- B. The Triduum
- C. Easter Monday
- D. Ordinary Time

17. When thinking about the liturgy what is different about Good Friday?

- A. Day of fast
- B. Day of penance
- C. Day of abstinence
- D. Day when Mass is not celebrated

18. What is the last Sunday of Lent?

- A. Easter Sunday
- B. Palm Sunday
- C. Pentecost Sunday

19. When is the last day of Lent?

- A. Good Friday
- B. Holy Thursday
- C. Holy Saturday
- D. Easter Sunday

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Chrism Mass

Tuesday, April 11

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

11:00 a.m.

2017 Rite of Election



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL, Black Lake. Pictured is Bishop Talley with Randell Slaughter.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, Alexandria. Pictured are (front row) John [redacted], Amy [redacted], Katie [redacted], and Ami [redacted]. Back row: Megan Becker, Emily Morgan, Gerald Hollifield, and Rhonda Hollifield. Not pictured is Laci Coco, Jamie Sue Maddox, Jarred Hollifield, and Bo Branch.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, Alexandria. Pictured are (front row) Max Leslie, Carol Rousseau, and Cyndie Cooper. Back row: Michael Brodnax, Bishop Talley, and Mary Devenport.



MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Natchitoches. Pictured is Marvin Richey with Bishop Talley.



HOLY CROSS CHURCH, Natchitoches. Pictured are (front row) Laura-May [redacted], Canaan [redacted], and Lizhang [redacted]. Back row: Bridget Vascocu, Joseph Longlois, Bishop Talley, and Kathryn Adkins.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH, Tioga. Pictured are (from left) Chris Goudeau, Brianna Baker, [redacted], and Katrina Dominguez.



STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, Kolin. Pictured is Valerie Bolton with Bishop Talley.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, Fifth Ward. Pictured are (from left) Amy Bonnette, Jodie Smith, Bishop Talley, Caitlin Pitre, and Thomas Sellers.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, Winnfield. Pictured are (from left) Lakreshia Parker, Caiden [redacted], Lauren Procell, and Bishop Talley in the back. Not pictured is Kimberly Prestridge.

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, Alexandria. Pictured are (front row) Cameron Madeline, and Lisa Hirschak. Back row: Jason Duck Joel Perrotti, Bishop Talley, Judy Cangelosi, and Peggy St. John. Not pictured is Savannah Sues, Jackson Sues, Henry Sues, and Kelsey Herrington.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, Pineville. Pictured are (front row) Susan Wyatt, Brayden, and Jeremy Dupuy. Row 2: Jonathan and Monica Moreau. Back row: Justin Netherlin, Bishop Talley, and Robert Tillie. Not pictured is Clint Constance.

BISHOP DAVID TALLEY celebrated the Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of the Candidates who have been preparing for reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

Representing 16 churches from around the diocese, 19 catechumens (people who have not been baptized) and 53 candidates (people who have been baptized already in another faith) participated in the rite.

This Easter, each of the 72 catechumens and candidates will be received into Full Communion of the Catholic Church in their individual parishes. Welcome!



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, Deville. Pictured are Virginia Ebey, Robin Garnett, Bishop Talley, and Elton Ebey.



ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH, Alexandria. Pictured are (front row) Ryon Woodington and Lorraine Bryant. Back row is Marcia Mitchell, LeTangia Rolle, Bishop Talley, Kathleen Azar, and Jeffry Azar.



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHURCH, Belledeau. Pictured are (from left) James Joubert, Bishop Talley, and Brandi Ducote.



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH, Campiti. Pictured are (from left) Wanda LeBrun, Bishop Talley, and Debbie James.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, Moreauville. Pictured are Sandra Lemoine, Bishop Talley, and Jade Lambert. Not pictured is Alisha Coco.



THE ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL MARDI GRAS PARADE was held Friday, March 24. Kaeden and Miguel drive their decorated power wheel car in the Pre-K and K parade. Father Chad Partian, pastor, leads the students to the parade route.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL in Moreauville celebrated Mardi Gras with a Pre-K and Kindergarten parade. Lots of beads were thrown!



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR PRE-K MARDI GRAS parade was led by Father Dan O'Connor, pastor and Father John Wiltse, parochial vicar. The Pre-K classes decorated wagons and filled them with beads to throw to the rest of the student body who lined the street outside the school.

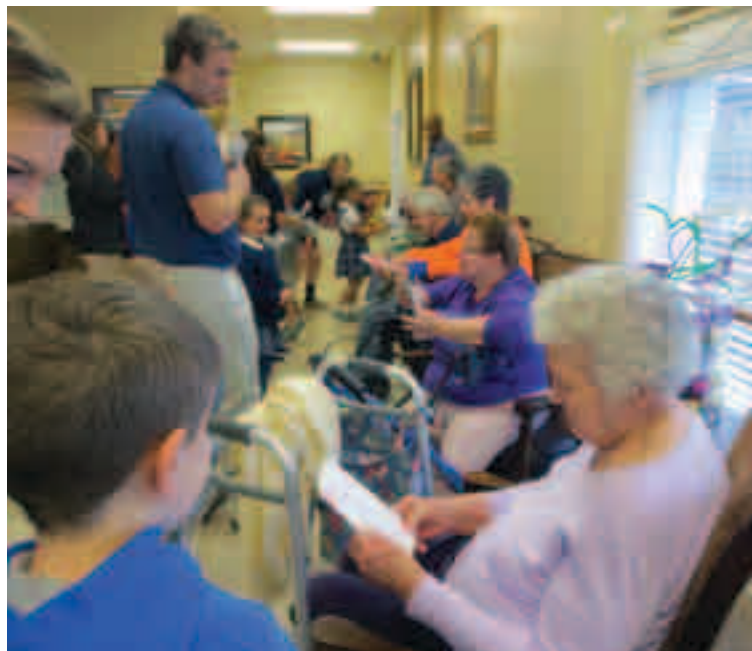




SACRED HEART SCHOOL'S JR.BETA CLUB hosted "Spirit Week" February 20-23. Each day was designated to a special "dress out" day. Twin Day,



Pajama Day, Decades Day and then closed with a Mardi Gras Parade. Special treats were given each day to the students along with prizes for the best costumes.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL students in Plaquemine took a trip to Avoyelles Manor Nursing Home Feb. 14 to deliver Valentine's Cards. The residents were filled with joy to have the little visitors. Pictured at left is Allison and Jaylen



ST PETER CLAVER COUNCIL AND COURT 268 OF ST. JULIANA in Alexandria hosted the 25th annual Mardi Gras Ball Feb. 4. Knight Nicholas and Lady Carol Stull served as king and queen.

St. Rita Church recognizes significant Wedding Anniversaries



Bishop David Talley presented 18 couples from St. Rita Church with a Papal Blessing from Pope Francis Feb. 11 after celebrating the 4 p.m. Mass.

60 years: Joseph & Marjorie Branco



50 years: Frank & Helen Candiloro, Arthur & Joanne Fogleman; Ronnie & Rae Hair; James & Louise Shahan; Carl & Cheryl Verzwylt; Jim & Gloria Verzwylt.



40 years: James & Evelyn Brown, Jr.; Ricky & Lynn Sooter.



30 years: Davie & Bettina McCoy; Robert & Julie Rini, Sr.; Jerry & Diane Robichaux, Jr.



25 years: Dale & Donna Andries; Robert & Lori Andries; Stacy & Monique Auzenne, Irvin & Dolly Douzart; Oday & Jule Lavergne; Gary & Leslie Michiels;

In Honor of Black History Month



ST. JAMES CHURCH (Alexandria). In honor of Black History Month, Fr. Gabriel Uzundu recognized 91-year old Spellman Francois as "Ikedi" of St. James Memorial Catholic Church. Ikedi, in the African Ibo language, means "there is power (in God)." Francois was given the honor for his 50 years of dedicated service to St. James Church. Fr. Gabriel presented to Francois a garment, necklace, kingly hat and walking stick. The Bishop Desmond Council # 91 Junior Knights and Junior Daughters presented Francois with a plaque of appreciation for his service. Pictured are (front row) Quentin , R2: Spellman Francois, Joshua and Jalen .

Back row: Quentin Price, Sr., Junior Knight Commander; John Aaron, and Antoine



MASS OF INSTALLATION. Bishop David Talley installed Father Martin Laird as pastor of Mater Dolorosa on Sunday, Feb. 12. Pictured are (from left) seminarian Grant Rabalais, Father Rusty Rabalais, Father Martin Laird, Bishop David Talley, Father Walter Ajaero, and Father George Krosfield.



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MAGNIFICAT CENTRAL SERVICE TEAM members are Mary Wilson, Donna Ross, Kathy MacInnis, Diane Bates, and Lim Rodriguez-Torres. Mary is a member of St. Gerard's Church in Jonesville, and has served as secretary for the past year. The Central Service Team is the governing body for Magnificat, a ministry for Catholic women established in New Orleans in the 1980s.



THE DIOCESAN SERVICE COMMITTEE AND CENLA MAGNIFICAT hosted "Open the Floodgates," a Day of Renewal, on Saturday, Feb. 18, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Natchitoches. Dr. Deregall Burbank was the speaker and almost 50 people attended. We also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Duquesne Weekend, which is recognized as the start of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. There was a time for teaching, worship, individual prayer and a shared meal.



ST. EDWARD CHURCH in Tallulah welcomed Bishop David Talley to their parish Feb. 26. For more photos of the Bishop's visits to local churches, go to www.diocesealex.org.



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Abbey Youth Fest returns after weather-related cancellation last year

Following last year's severe weather-related cancellation, Abbey Youth Fest, the largest youth event within the Archdiocese of New Orleans, returns to Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College on Saturday, March 25.

With the theme "Be It Done Unto Me" in honor of the Feast of the Annunciation celebrated that day, AYF is open to teens and young adults ages 13 or older.

AYF provides young people with an opportunity to experience a day of prayer and faith formation with an exposure to the Benedictine tradition. Its focus is evangelization and vocational discernment by means of liturgy, prayer, worship, music and education.

New this year at the 2017 festival will be a special pro-life component, as AYF welcomes Catholic, pro-life advocate and speaker, Stephanie Grey, who will address issues concerned with the sanctity of life. Louisiana Right to Life's PULSE youth leaders will play a special part in the day alongside Teen C.R.O.S.S. leaders from across the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Additional 2017 presenters and musicians include: national Life Teen speaker David Calavitta; award-winning Christian rock group the Josh Blakesley Band; Louisiana Catholic speaker Katie Prejean McGrady; Christian singer-songwriter Dave Moore; homilist and pastor from Baton Rouge, Fr. Joshua Johnson; and emcee and "media nun" Sr. Tracey Matthia Dugas of the Daughters of St. Paul who preach the Gospel through all forms of media, especially social media.

For the first time in its 16-year history, last spring's AYF, scheduled a day after the March 11th flood, was cancelled. Even as crews were still assessing the damage, many of the 5,000-plus registered attendees asked how they could lend a hand.

"Amidst the flood that wreaked so much havoc across the state, I can't help but smile when I think about how everyone stepped up and made a commitment to ensuring AYF returned this year. It's a testament to how important it is for Catholic youths to have the opportunity to strengthen their faith and be surrounded by others who share their passion for the Gospel," said Fr.



Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., president-rector of the college.

The day before AYF was scheduled to have taken place, floodwaters filled the campus. Thirty-one buildings were damaged, including the Abbey Church

and the monastery. Total losses will exceed \$35 million.

Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College has been hosting AYF each spring since 2001. Nearly 5,000 young men and women from seven states and at

least sixteen dioceses have come to the beautiful grounds of the Abbey year after year for a day of prayer, talks, music, fellowship, and exposure to vocational

Abbey Youth Fest

March 25, 2017
Covington, LA

discernment.

In addition to teens and young adults, priests, deacons and seminarians are invited to AYF free of charge.

Registration for youth and adult laity is \$40 per person. Online, pre-event registration closed March 10.

On-site check-in and registration begins at 8 a.m. on March 25. The AYF field will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Information and online registration can be found at www.abbeyyouthfest.com.


Saint Joseph Abbey is located at 75376 River Road in Covington, LA 70457.



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The Little One
 by Marcus Descant



I hear a voice, a voice from above. I wonder who, and if there will be love.
 As I sleep here in my mother's womb, I wonder if it will be my tomb.

My heart aches, and sometimes I cry; just from not knowing if I live or die!
 I plead with my mom to have mercy on me, and I pray to God that she may see.

For I have a soul - I am full of life, and I don't wish to die via a blade of a knife.

I wish to be born and give glory to God. And woe the man struck by the rod.
 For when all is said and all is done, he must pay - pay for the death of the little one!

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FOCUS missionaries bring new approach to campus ministry

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Some people will do anything for attention.

Like bringing the pope along with your evangelization team to attract students to your table.

I mean, come on!

OK, -- so maybe it wasn't the REAL Pope Francis -- just a cardboard replica.

But it worked for the students at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches who were attending Demon Days (aka Welcome Week) this past Fall and stopped by the FOCUS table to have a picture taken of themselves with the pope.

"Everyone loves the Pope," said Monica Schulz, team leader of the FOCUS ministry team. "It was a fun way to attract students to our table. Their next question was 'What is Focus?' which opened the door for a conversation."

FOCUS -- Fellowship of Catholic University Students -- is a new campus ministry program, made available through Holy Cross Catholic Church in Natchitoches, that utilizes a different approach to campus ministry.

"Instead of us sitting here waiting for students to come to us, we go to them," said Father Marc Noel, pastor of Holy Cross



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY GROUP. Small groups of 10-12 students, like this Wednesday night group, meet with one of the FOCUS missionaries for Bible study.

Church who initiated bringing the first FOCUS teams to NSU this past Fall.

Donnie Kuzma, also a former FOCUS missionary and now the resident campus minister, assists Father Marc and the FOCUS teams.

Missionaries Abby Haarmann, from York, Neb.; Monica Schulz, from College Station, Texas; Sergio Espinoza, from

Kilgore, Texas; and Colin Sullivan, from Tulsa, Okla., arrived in Natchitoches in August 2016 as the first FOCUS teams in the Diocese of Alexandria to create a new approach to campus ministry.

And so far, it seems to be working quite well.

After their first week on campus, (making themselves known at the "pope table" during Demon Days), the missionaries established contact with 60 college students interested in what the Catholic Student Center had to offer.

From there the teams hosted a "Tikki and Taco" party at the student center where 40 students attended and enjoyed a Mexican food-themed meal.

"Our first goal is simply to get to know them as students," said Monica. "Where they come from, their families, their major, etc. After all, we want to establish a friendship first."

If and when the opportunity presents itself, the missionary may invite the student to a Bible Study or other function at the center.

That too, seems to be working well.

Each of the four missionaries lead several small groups of Bible studies, offered at different times throughout the week to accommodate the busy schedules of college students.

"I love my Bible study groups," said missionary Abby, (who, by the way, is adjusting well to the warmer climate here). "We have fun and enjoy each others friendship when we meet, and we also enjoy learning more about Scripture."

Katie Mitchell, a senior from Alexandria who has been a part of the CSO since her freshman year, says she looks forward to the Bible study group each week.

"I like the approach of the Focus teams so much better because everything is so 'Christ-centered,'" she said. "I'm learning so much in Bible study."

As the friendships with students and relationships with Christ grow, commitment deep-

ens.

When the SEEK2017 conference in San Antonio was offered in January, 28 students from the NSU Catholic center signed up. They were joined with 21 FOCUS students from the ULM Catholic student center in Monroe.

This week (March 17-19) the FOCUS missionaries will host a Father's House Retreat at Tall Timbers in Forest Hill for all college-age students.

The Father's House retreat (part of the FOCUS ministry) helps retreatants to reflect on the truth of God's fatherhood and to come face to face with the human weakness that prevents us from accepting that truth.

This retreat consists of several talks, personal prayer with a series of meditations, significant time in small groups to discuss the themes and prayer times during the retreat, adoration, prayer for healing, a special blessing ceremony and the sacraments of Mass and confession.

And that's not all.

In a couple of weeks, Abby will be leading a group of 12 students on a pilgrimage to Rome.

This summer, missionaries Sergio, Monica, Colin and Donnie will be leading mission trips to Central Mexico, Brazil, and France. (For more information about these missions go to www.focusoncampus.org/mission/trips.)

"It's good to see things really springing to life around here," said Father Marc. "We hope this new approach to campus ministry will ultimately lead all of our students to a true authentic relationship with Christ."



POPE FRANCIS AND ME. FOCUS team leader Monica Schulz and missionary team member Sergio Espinoza, take their picture with Pope Francis (a cardboard prop) during NSU's Demon Days this past Fall.



LET THE LIGHT IN. NSU students Katie Mitchell and Hailey McLure sit in the Coffee Shop of the newly renovated Catholic Student Center across the street from Holy Cross Catholic Church in Natchitoches. The renovations transformed the dark game-room atmosphere to a bright, welcoming environment.



The Keys of St. Peter

St. Peter Church
in Bordelonville
updates exterior

The parishioners at St. Peter Catholic Church in Bordelonville have been busy making upgrades to the church exterior.

In late summer, the bricks of the church were cleaned and the wood trim was painted. These improvements were made possible from a family donation in memory of a longtime parishioner and church supporter, Mr. James J. Bordelon.

The St. Peter Beautification Team also recently completed a new project. The front flower beds have been “remodeled” and large flagstones were added to the beds. Additionally, two large concrete tiles were installed on the Church’s center entry sidewalk. The tiles’ Mosaic designs depict an anchor and crossed keys – two symbols of St. Peter.

The Beautification Team is grateful for the monetary and physical help that enabled this project to be completed.



The Anchor of St. Peter



OL of Lourdes, Winnfield attend
Life March in Washington

OL OF LOURDES (Winnfield) PARTICIPATE IN LIFE MARCH. A group of teens from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield and a group from the Archdiocese of New Orleans were among the estimated 700,000 people who marched in the 44th annual Life March in Washington D.C. in January. Pictured on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception are (front row) Gilliana [redacted], Jennifer [redacted], Jyssie [redacted], Magdalena [redacted] and Fatima [redacted]. Back row is Manny [redacted] and Jonathan [redacted]. Chaperones included, (but not pictured) are Tracy Kelley and Dee Caskey. In addition to participation in the Life March, the group also visited the Lincoln Memorial, the WWII Memorial, Smithsonian Museums, the Holocaust Museum, St. John Paul II National Shrine and the American History Museum. They ended the trip by celebrating Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which is the largest Catholic Church in North America and the 8th largest in the world.

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Good St. Joseph, guardian of the Most High,
A soul who wandered, but never asked why.
An Angel came down from heaven one night,
And told him he would aid him on his flight.

The night was cold with no place to stay,
The only bed was one of hay.
To the glorious Mother, a Child was born.
Into the world He came, and would
receive much scorn.

His name was Jesus, a Savior for all,
He was protected by Joseph, a mighty wall.
An Angel led them to safety one night,
With Joseph always there during the flight.

Thanks to St. Joseph, who was led by the dove.
He protected the Savior, the God of Love.
So I praise You, O Lord, from Your birth,
You, the King of Heaven and Earth.

You came down from heaven to help us all,
We who have sinned, because of the fall.
Through Your goodness, You gave us new life,
To handle problems, grief and strife.

Because of Your mercy and love for the lost,
Another chance was given to all who were lost.
We all confess and say from the heart.
Forgive us Lord, and thanks for a new start.

If you would like to order copies of this poem as a prayer card,
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FORMER MENARD HISTORY TEACHER DENNIS WARD waves to Jimmy Fallon and his former Menard student Josh Johnson, after Josh made his stand-up comedy debut on the Tonight Show Feb. 22. Mr. Ward made a promise to Josh in high school that WHEN he made it to the Tonight Show, he wanted to be in the audience.



Josh Johnson (Menard 08') debuts on the Tonight Show

Menard teacher Dennis Ward promised to be there 'when' Johnson made it on the show

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

It started with an agreement made a decade earlier -- between Josh Johnson, a 2008 graduate of Holy Savior Menard Central High School and his history teacher, Mr. Dennis Ward.

"Josh, one day. . . when you hit it big on the Tonight Show, I want to be there," said Ward.

"I'll make sure of that, Mr. Ward," said Josh.

On Feb. 22, 2017, Josh Johnson made good on his promise.

After receiving news that he would be performing on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, he called his friend and former teacher and invited him to be his special guest in the audience for his Tonight Show debut.

According to Josh, the long road to the Tonight Show started when he competed in the annual talent show at Menard. He didn't place with his stand-up comedy act, but he realized then that's what he wanted to do with his life.

After graduation from Centenary College in 2012, he moved to Chicago, where he performed stand-up comedy at festivals and entered contests. After three years, he moved to New York City, where he continued his

stand-up comedy. He was chosen as one of Comedy Central's "New Faces" to watch for as a stand-up comedian.

He also sent an audition tape to the Tonight Show in hopes of getting a spot for his act. While negotiations were in the works, NBC hired him as a comedy writer for the Tonight Show.

"Working on the Tonight

Show was a great experience," he said during a telephone interview with the Church Today. "I learned to write better comedy and how to manage my time."

Josh said he saw Jimmy Fallon every day, when he stopped by to visit with the writers. "He's a very kind person," he said.

Once his assignment was the "Man on the Street" gig. He had

to go around the streets of New York and ask typical dads about "dad fashion."

This past Christmas, Josh left the Tonight Show, moved to Los Angeles, and started working again as a stand-up comedian. Now with an agent, Josh has a full schedule of tours that keep him busy. Last week he had a week-long gig at the Rumors Comedy Club in Winnipeg, Canada.

Finally, in early February he received a call from NBC confirming a spot for him on the Tonight Show.

"I couldn't believe it," said Josh. "I was so excited. I immediately thought about my promise to Mr. Ward."

"I received the call on a Sunday and was told to be there no later than Tuesday," said Ward. "I was on a plane the next day."

From the moment Ward entered the NBC studio through the "special guest" entry, he was given the VIP treatment.

An NBC-issued photo ID of himself gave him backstage access where he was able to visit with Josh a few minutes before the show. He was quickly escorted to two empty aisle seats with tape across them on Row 5. The tape was removed and he and Josh's girlfriend sat side-by-side in the "best seats in the house."

View the entire clip on
YouTube
Type in Josh Johnson

After Josh's 5-minute monologue, Jimmy Fallon jumped to the stage to shake his hand. On the guest couch, Johnson was asked how he got started in the comedy business.

"At my high school, we had a talent show and I performed a comedy act," he said. "I knew then I wanted to be a stand-up comedian."

"And I understand you have a special guest with you in the audience tonight," said Fallon.

"Yes, my history teacher Mr. Ward told me in high school that when I made it big on the Tonight Show, he wanted to be there," said Johnson.

The cameras quickly zoomed in on Mr. Ward on Row 5, who was a little overcome with emotion when he heard the audience respond with a sentimental "aw-wwwww!" But he waved to the camera as the audience clapped and cheered for Mr. Ward and the bond between he and his former student Josh Johnson.

"He made it Mr. Ward! said Fallon from the stage. "He made it!"



TONIGHT SHOW CUE CARDS. Dennis Ward and Josh Johnson hold up the cue cards that introduced Josh as his stand-up comedy debut on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. Josh is a 2008 graduate of Holy Savior Menard Central High School and Ward was his former history teacher. The two have remained friends since graduation.

Catholic organizations

Continued from page 2

as, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, said Trump's new order still puts vulnerable populations at risk.

"We remain deeply troubled by the human consequences" of the order, he said in a statement. "While we note the administration's efforts to modify the executive order in light of various legal concerns, the revised order still leaves many innocent lives at risk."

He said the Catholic bishops welcomed Iraq being removed from the list of countries, but remain disappointed the order still temporarily shuts down the refu-

gee admissions program, reduces by more than 60 percent the number of refugees who can enter the country and still bars nationals from six countries.

The bishops "have long recognized the importance of ensuring public safety and would welcome reasonable and necessary steps to accomplish that goal," Bishop Vasquez said. "However, based on the knowledge that refugees are already subjected to the most vigorous vetting process of anyone who enters the United States, there is no merit to pausing the refugee resettlement program while considering further improvement to that vetting process."

"A ban regarding human beings, because they are from a certain country or practice a particular religion is clearly xenophobic, nationalistic and racist," said a statement by Sister Patricia Chappell, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, who is executive director of Pax Christi USA.

"Now is the time to honor the commitment for justice expressed in all faith communities and to proclaim this commitment with actions that uphold the rights of all people," she added.

Eli McCarthy, director of justice and peace for the Congregation of Major Superiors of Men, called it "completely unjust to punish an entire country due to

the suspicion of a potential crime by an individual."

"We should be asking about the root causes of violent acts, such as U.S. militarization of conflicts, and giving our attention to addressing those concrete situations," he said in a statement.

"Women religious have been blessed to be able to accompany and serve immigrant and refugee communities across this country for a very long time," said a statement by Holy Cross Sister Joan Marie Steadman, executive director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. "Catholic sisters remain committed to welcoming those who come to this country after passing through the

U.S. government's already rigorous screening processes."

Larry Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, aimed his statement directly at Trump.

"Mr. President, why close our borders to those fleeing real atrocities, fleeing the ravages of war and the search for food, clean water and safety?" Couch asked. "This is not what America stands for and not who we are called to be. America is not a country that retreats and Americans choose to not live in fear of the 'what if.' Mr. President, welcome the refugee and welcome the face of God."

Polls show

Continued from page 2

travel ban. The first was blocked by the courts.

Also reflecting his hard line, President Trump last week announced to Congress a new office to aid Americans and their families who are victims of immigrant violence. That's despite years of studies that have shown that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than U.S.-born people.

Much of President Trump's candidacy and young presidency has been powered by the idea that he will protect Americans from "bad dudes" who want to come here, issuing a mix of tough, if vague, policy — from "extreme vetting" to the travel ban, a bor-

der wall with Mexico and more.

Americans report conflicting feelings about immigrants just over six weeks into his presidency, the poll suggests. On the one hand, Americans see refugees as a risk apart from other legal immigrants, with a third of Democrats, and 8 in 10 Republicans, say the risks are great enough to place more limits on refugees admitted to the U.S. Despite those fears, Americans still see legal immigration generally as a boon, the poll shows. More than 6 in 10 say a major benefit of legal immigration is that it enhances the reputation of the United States as a land of opportunity.

The good and bad of immi-

gration has long been a painful and intensifying national debate. President Trump has shown some flexibility — or inconsistency, depending on one's viewpoint — on his approach. For example, Iraq is no longer on the list of countries whose people are banned. Officials from the Pentagon and State Department had urged the White House to reconsider given Iraq's key role in fighting the Islamic State group. Also, the new order does not subject Syrians to an indefinite travel ban, as did the original.

President Trump also has minimized talk of deporting all of the estimated 11 million people in the U.S. illegally and suggested

that he could be open to comprehensive immigration reform. That sparked both interest and skepticism on Capitol Hill, where a solution has stymied Congress for years.

But President Trump's warnings about refugees in particular apparently have stuck in the American consciousness, according to the poll.

Refugees entering the U.S. undergo rigorous background checks, including a search of government databases that list people suspected of having ties to terrorist groups. Processing of refugees can take up to two years — and usually longer for those coming from Syria. After a year in the

U.S., refugees are required to check in and obtain green cards. But U.S. officials have acknowledged that information on people coming from Syria, in particular, may be limited.

Mandy Gibson, 37, sees the benefits of admitting legal immigrants — but isn't so sure about refugees.

"Maybe it's the media. They are making refugees sound like they aren't legal immigrants and I don't necessarily understand, but they are different to me," said Gibson. Either way, she said, "anybody who is coming from countries that have ISIS really should have a very thorough background check."

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The Shack: a dialogue between a man in faith crisis and the Trinity

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- "The Shack" (Summit), director Stuart Hazeldine's screen version of William Paul Young's best-selling novel, represents a serious effort to tackle the problem of evil from a Christian perspective. As such, it will be welcomed by believers.

While specific objectionable elements are absent from the film, however, patches of dialogue discounting the value of religion -- here implicitly set in opposition to faith broadly speaking -- and hinting that God is indifferent to how we worship him mean that impressionable viewers should keep their distance. So, too, does the morally problematic treatment of a dark and long-kept secret.

After his young daughter, Missy (Amelie Eve), is abducted and murdered, previously devout churchgoer Mackenzie "Mack" Phillips (Sam Worthington) has a crisis of faith. But a note from "Papa," his wife, Nan's (Radha Mitchell), nickname for God, leads to an encounter with the Trinity near the titular hideout where evidence of Missy's death was uncovered that alters his perspective.

Octavia Spencer plays an unflappable, warmhearted God



THE SHACK. After his young daughter (Amelie Eve) is abducted and murdered, a previously devout man (Sam Worthington) has a crisis of faith until a supernatural encounter with the Trinity (Octavia Spencer, Avraham Aviv Alush and Sumire) alters his perspective. Patches of dialogue discounting the value of religion, however -- here implicitly set in opposition to faith broadly speaking -- and hinting that God is indifferent to how we worship him mean that impressionable viewers should keep their distance. Rated PG-13.

the Father, Avraham Aviv Alush a fun-loving Jesus and Sumire a serene Holy Spirit. As Spencer bakes, Sumire gardens and Alush tinkers in his carpentry shed, Worthington learns to see his own tragedy as a spiritual death that offers the prospect of resurrection.

While some may be uncomfortable with the fact that both the Father and the Holy Spirit manifest themselves to the protagonist as women, given that they would be free to do so in whatever guise they chose, this is no real objection -- all the more so since Spencer eventually morphs, when it

seems advisable, into a paternal Graham Greene.

The narrative's brief descent from nondenominationalism into outright indifferentism and its suggestion that religion is "too much work" are more substantial defects. While Mack has much to forgive, moreover, he has a

MOVIE REVIEW

shocking crime in his own background that the movie seems to excuse too easily.

Beautiful settings and a sense of humor help to keep the somewhat overlong proceedings from bogging down in sentimentality. But the script, penned by John Fusco, Andrew Lanham and Destin Cretton, takes on too many weighty subjects -- from the suffering of innocents to the need for forgiveness -- to treat any one of them in a fully satisfying way.

Still, on the whole, this is an intriguing endeavor to accomplish the same goal British poet John Milton set himself in writing his masterpiece, "Paradise Lost," namely, "to justify the ways of God to men."

The film contains scenes of domestic violence and mature themes requiring careful discernment. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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Menard to present Bye Bye Birdie

The Holy Savior Menard Theatre Arts department, under the director of Cherise Rino, will present the Tony Award winning musical Bye Bye Birdie April 5-8 at 7 p.m. and April 9 at 2 p.m. at the Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center in Alexandria. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online at www.ticketscentral.org, at the door, or at the Menard front office.

Avoyelles Magnificat Breakfast

Jennifer Stevens is the speaker for the March 18 Magnificat breakfast to be held from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Hall in Cottonport. Advance registration of \$18 is required. To register or for more information, contact Mary Wilson at cenlamagnificat@gmail.com.

Family Day at St. Margaret Mary

Join St. Margaret Mary Church in Gorum on Sunday, March 19 after the 11 a.m. Mass for Family Day. Fish plates are \$7; hamburgers \$3.50 and meat pies are \$2. Enjoy bingo, cake walks, and fun times with family, friends.

Family Dinner at St. Anthony

Plan on not cooking on Sunday, March 19 and come pick up a chicken dinner plate at St. Anthony Church in Natchitoches from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Church Hall. Each plate is \$8 and includes grilled chicken, dirty rice, green beans, a roll and cake. Dine in or take out. All proceeds will go to the St. Anthony Community Outreach Ministry, which serves the needy in our own community.

Discernment Retreat

"Listening with Our Lady" - For single women 17-35. Led by Fr. Pat Arensberg and the Little Sisters of the Poor. March 24 (6 p.m.) to 26 (1 p.m.) at Sacred Heart Residence in Mobile, AL. No charge. Guest accommodations are provided, as well as transportation between Mobile Regional Airport and the retreat location. For more info or to register: vocmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org or (251) 591-3700. Registration deadline March 21.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

The next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held March 24-26 at the Bishop Tracy Retreat Center in Baton Rouge. This program is designed to make a good marriage better -- a weekend, overnight experience with reflection and sharing with your partner. Registration fee is \$75. For more information, contact Roger and Annie Borrello at 678-439-9633 or email at rogerandann@mydoll.org. Additional dates for 2017 are July 14-16 and Oct. 20-22.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Diocesan Catechetical Quiz

The annual Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl will be held on Saturday, March 25, at 10 a.m. at Maryhill Renewal Center. \$10 per team and pizza will be provided for lunch. For more information, call Emily Ann McCullough at 448-3333.

Charismatic Renewal Conference

The annual Southern Regional Conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal will be held March 31-April 2 at the Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel in Metairie. This year marks the Golden Jubilee of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. Speakers include Sister Brieghe McKenna, OSC and Father Kevin Scallon, CM, who have exercised a ministry of evangelization and healing for almost 50 years. For more information, or to register, email info@ccrno.org; website: www.ccrno.org; or call 504-828-1368.

Culinary Classic

Join us for a fun-filled night of tasting delicious dishes created by the talented chefs of St. Joseph School and Mater Dolorosa community on Saturday, April 1 from 5 p.m.

- 10 p.m. on the school campus. Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. \$20 ice chest charge at event entrance.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

The Rachel's Vineyard ministry, for healing after abortion, is having a retreat April 7 - 9, at Rosaryville Retreat Center, 39003 Rosaryville Road, Pontchatoula, LA 70454. Cost: \$170; financial assistance available, if necessary. This Catholic healing retreat is open to anyone whose life has been touched by abortion. All faiths are welcome. For more information and to register, contact: Pam Richard, (504) 460-9360 or (985) 809-0773; email address: richj504@bellsouth.net or Melanie Baglow, (504) 889-2431 or (504) 710-6458; email address: mkbaglow@cox.net. This retreat is strictly confidential.

125th Anniversary of Menard

The planning committee for the 125th anniversary of Holy Savior Menard is looking for help in pulling together memorabilia of any kind -- photos, uniforms, awards, stories -- for the 125th celebration. Anyone interested or having anything to contribute, please call Kathleen Adamson at 318-445-8233.

Chrism Mass

Bishop David Talley will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 11 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. All are welcome.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL ALTAR SOCIETY, in one week, hosted the reception for the Mass of Thanksgiving, the reception for the Rite of Election and assisted with the Friday Fish Fry. Thank you! Pictured are (front row) Beverly O'Quin, Cissy Galloway, Mary Lou Maples, and Genny Kelley. Back row: Charlotte White, Corrine Jenkins, president; Donna Gentry, and Charlene Elliott.



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March - April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>13</div> <div>Men's Catholic Scripture Study Series 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Bible Study 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>FEAST of ST. PATRICK</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Meditation on The Passion Movie 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. St. Rita, Alexandria Avoyelles Magnificat Breakfast 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Family Day 11:00 a.m. St. Margaret Mary Mission, Gorum Family Dinner 11:00 a.m. St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches</div>
Hixson Ford Pro Am/Coca Cola/Dr. Pepper/WalMart Golf Tournament benefiting Manna House -- Oakwing Golf Course						
PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	PRAY FOR FR. T. ALLEN	PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET
<div>20</div> <div>Women of Grace 10-week Series 6:00-8:00 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria SOLEMNITY of ST. JOSEPH PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</div>	<div>21</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Bible Study 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Diocesan Quiz Bowl 10:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center</div>	<div>26</div>
Lenten Mission -- Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches			Discernment Retreat -- Mobile, AL			
PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK	PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY	PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	
<div>27</div> <div>Men's Catholic Scripture Study Series 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Bible Study 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</div>	<div>30</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>APRIL 1</div> <div>Culinary Classic 5:00-10:00 p.m. St. Joseph School, Plaquemine</div>	<div>2</div>
Lenten Mission -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin						
PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON	PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE
<div>3</div> <div>Women of Grace 10-week Series 6:00-8:00 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Bible Study 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</div>	<div>6</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches The Three Days 6:30 p.m. St. Rita, Alexandria</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>
Lenten Mission -- St. Joseph Church, Colfax			Rachel's Vineyard Retreat -- Pontchatoula			
PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP EMERITUS R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES
<div>10</div> <div>Men's Catholic Scripture Study Series 6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Chrism Mass 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Bible Study 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL</div>	<div>13</div> <div>HOLY THURSDAY PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</div>	<div>14</div> <div>GOOD FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</div>	<div>15</div> <div>HOLY SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</div>	<div>16</div> <div>EASTER SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</div>

Passion for Pink

Please join us for the
36th Annual CHRISTUS Cabrini Foundation Ball
in memory of Joseph C. Delaney and benefiting CHRISTUS Cabrini Cancer Center.

April | 29 | 2017

Seven o'clock in the evening

Alexandria Riverfront Center

707 Second Street • Alexandria, Louisiana

Cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, dress and theme

Sponsorships are welcome and Gold, Silver and Platinum Tables are available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call

(504) 448-6580.

 CommCare Corporation

