

CHURCH TODAY

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ON THE INSIDE

Holy Week Services

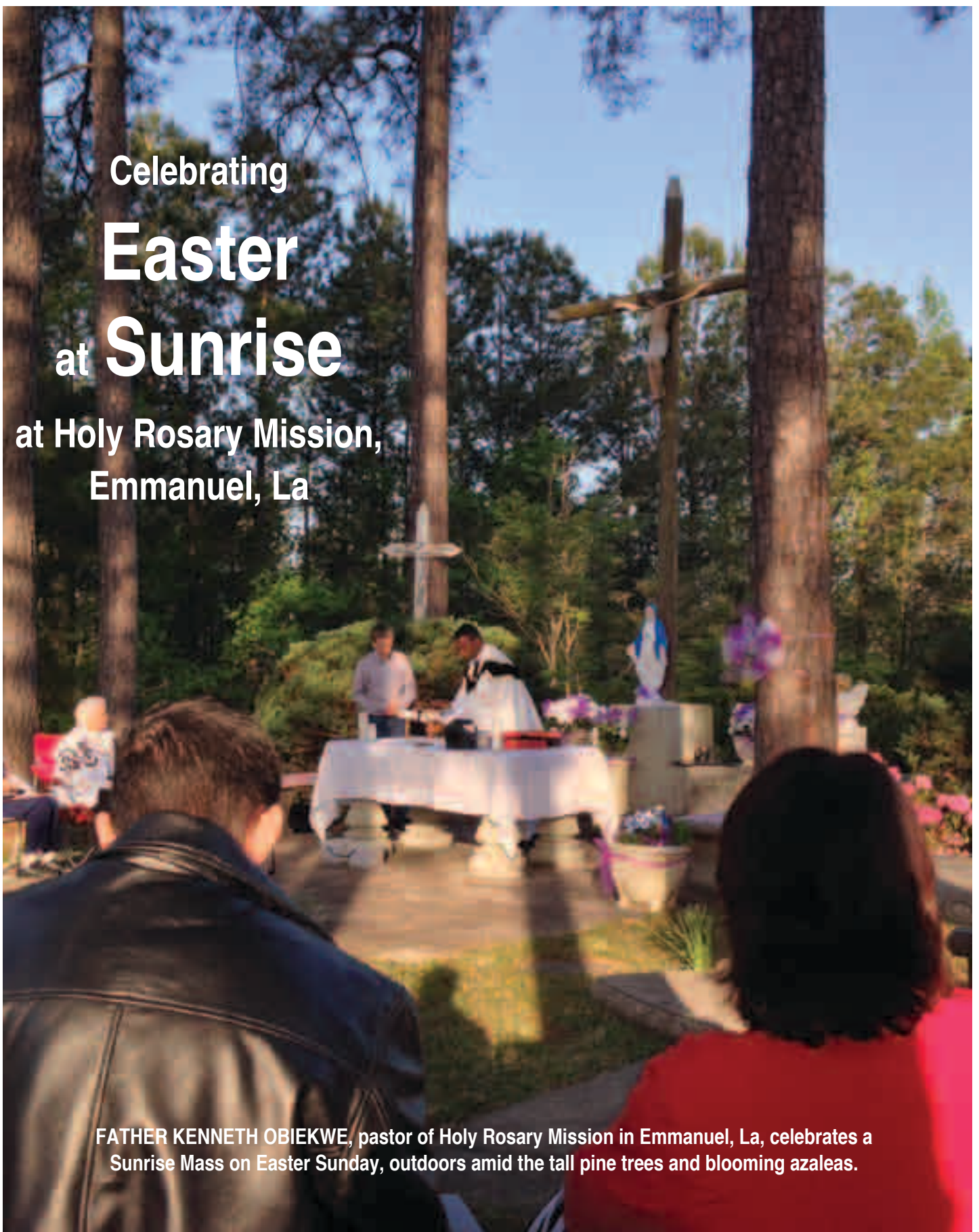
Looking for a Mass to attend this Easter? or maybe you want to participate in an Outdoor Way of the Cross on Good Friday. Check out all of the Holy Week services in the diocese on pages 8-9.

44 candidates to be welcomed into full communion this Easter

Following the Rite of Election on Feb. 22, 44 candidates and catechumens are expected to enter fully into communion with the Church this Easter. See pages 12-13 for Rite of Election pics.

Pope Francis declares an extraordinary jubilee, Holy Year of Mercy

Traditionally, every 25 years the popes proclaim a holy year, which features special celebrations and pilgrimages, among other events. Extraordinary holy years, like the Holy Year of Mercy, are less frequent, but offer the same opportunities for spiritual growth. Find out more on page 2.



Celebrating Easter at Sunrise at Holy Rosary Mission, Emmanuel, La

FATHER KENNETH OBIKWE, pastor of Holy Rosary Mission in Emmanuel, La, celebrates a Sunrise Mass on Easter Sunday, outdoors amid the tall pine trees and blooming azaleas.

Christians are dying at the hands of people who hate Jesus Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Condemning deadly terrorist attacks against a Catholic and an Anglican church in Pakistan, Pope Francis said "the world is trying to hide" a wave of anti-Christian persecution in various parts of the globe.

"With sadness, with much sadness, I learned of the terrorist attacks today against two churches in Lahore ... provoking numerous deaths and injuries," the pope said March 15 after reciting the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Suicide bombers that morning detonated themselves outside the churches, which are both in the same predominantly Christian neighborhood. Officials said 15 people were killed and more than four dozen were injured by



PROTESTING KILLING OF CHRISTIAN COUPLE. Pakistani members of the Christian minority shout slogans during a Nov. 9 protest in Karachi, Pakistan, against the killing of a Christian couple accused of blasphemy. The Catholic Church in Pakistan has presented a series of demands to the government, calling for a fair and thorough investigation into the beatings and burning of the young Christian couple. (CNS photo/Shahzaib Akber, EPA)

the blasts.

Particularly with the persecution of Christians in Syria, Iraq and Nigeria, Pope Francis frequently has denounced the growing wave of anti-Christian violence, a violence that is not simply a matter of restricting religious freedom, but a martyrdom of Christians.

At a Mass in early February, when the Gospel reading recounted the killing of St. John the Baptist, Pope Francis said it made him "think of our martyrs, the martyrs of today, those men, women and children who are persecuted, hated, chased from their homes, tortured and massacred. This is not something from the past; it is happening today. Our martyrs are ending their lives under the corrupt authority of people who hate

Jesus Christ."

In Pakistan, Archbishop Joseph Coutts of Karachi, president of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference, urged the government "to take strong measure for the protection of the churches and religious minorities in Pakistan."

"The government, political parties, religious leaders and every citizen of Pakistan (should) stand against extremist forces and with their Christian brothers and sisters," the archbishop said in a statement, adding that "the whole nation should join hands and stand against terrorism."

He pleaded with federal and provincial governments "to take effective measures in providing security to the churches throughout Pakistan to ensure freedom of religion and belief."

Pope seeks prayers for Egyptians beheaded by Islamic State

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis called for prayers for the Egyptian Christians beheaded by Islamic State militants in Libya and asked that God recognize these men killed for their faith.

He offered morning Mass Feb. 17 in the chapel of his residence for the slain Christians he termed "our 21 brother Copts" whose throats had been slit "for the sole reason of being Christians," and he requested people pray for the victims so "that the Lord welcome them as martyrs."

He called on people to pray as well for the victims' families and for Egypt's Orthodox leader, Pope Tawadros II, "who is suffering so much." Pope Francis called Pope Tawadros Feb. 16 to express his sorrow over the deaths.

Egypt, meanwhile, continued to mourn its 21 nationals, who had been working in Libya when the extremist group kidnapped them. Their beheading was depicted in gruesome detail in a video released Feb. 15 on a pro-Islamic State website.

The same evening in a nationally televised speech, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called on his country's government to provide full support to the families of the victims

and vowed that Egypt maintained the right to retaliate.

Soon afterward, the Egyptian air force began bombing what it said were Islamic State targets in Libya.

In a statement issued Feb. 16 by the Coptic Catholic Church, Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sedrak of Alexandria, Egypt, extended his church's "deepest sympathies" to the families and relatives of the murdered Christians.

In apparent reference to the retaliatory military action his country has since taken, Patriarch Sedrak also extended his church's "deepest gratitude" to al-Sisi and "our country's loyal armed forces, especially the air forces, for the rapid response."

"Egyptian blood is valuable and honorable," he said.

Speaking after the video of the beheadings surfaced -- but before the strikes against Islamic State in Libya were announced



WOMEN PRAY FOR 21 CHRISTIANS KILLED IN EGYPT. Coptic Christian women attend a Feb. 17 service in Cairo for the Egyptians said to have been beheaded in Libya. A video released on social media Feb. 15 is said to show the beheadings. (CNS photo/Mohamed Abd El Ghany, Reuters)

-- Pope Tawadros offered his church's condolences to the relatives of the slain Christian migrant workers, most of whom lo-

cal media reported had been from the same impoverished village in Egypt's South.

Pope Tawadros said he trust-

ed the way predominantly Muslim Egypt's government was handling the situation.

"We trust that the role of all institutions of our state was clear since the beginning of the crisis in Libya, and we believe that they can ensure rights of Egyptian citizens," the Egyptian portal Ahram Online quoted Pope Tawadros as saying.

Condemnation for the beheading of the Egyptian Christians in Libya quickly grew beyond Egypt as regional leaders, Muslim and Christian alike, learned of the massacre.

Jordan's King Abdullah II, whose country is also fighting Islamic State militants in neighboring Iraq and Syria, called the beheadings of the Egyptian Christians a "heinous crime" committed "at the hands of the terrorist gang ... hostile to all human values."

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Pope declares an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy

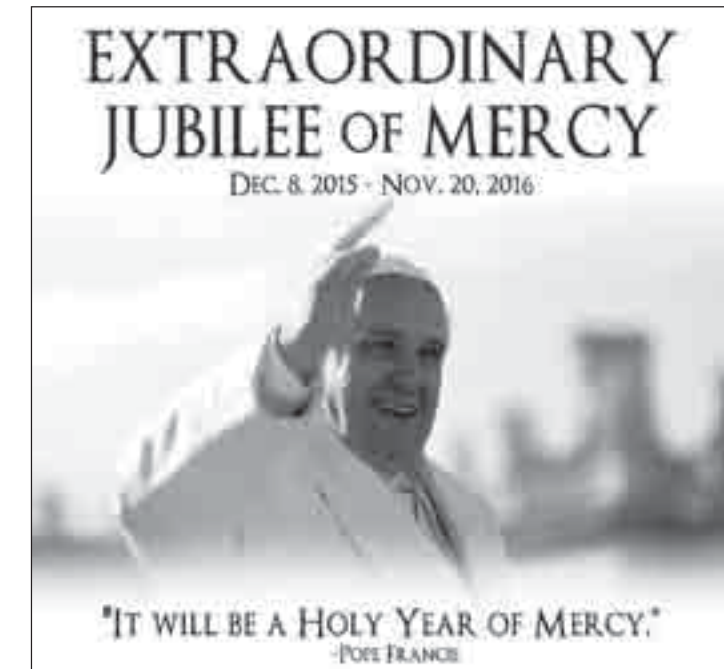
By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's "mission to be a witness of mercy."

"No one can be excluded from God's mercy," the pope said March 13, marking the second anniversary of his pontificate by leading a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica.

"I frequently have thought about how the church can make more evident its mission to be a witness of mercy," he said during his homily; that is why he decided to call a special Holy Year, which will be celebrated from Dec. 8, 2015, until Nov. 20, 2016.

The biblical theme of the year, he said, will be "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," an admonition that applies



"especially to confessors," the pope said with a smile.

Traditionally, every 25 years the popes proclaim a holy year, which features special celebra-

tions and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially confession. Extraordinary holy years, like the Holy Year of Mercy, are less frequent, but offer the same opportunities for spiritual growth.

The doors of the church "are wide open so that all those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness," Pope Francis said at the penance service, which featured individual confessions. It was part of a worldwide celebration of "24 Hours for the Lord," in which Catholic churches were staying open for prayer, eucharistic adoration and confession.

At each of the dozens of confessionals in St. Peter's Basilica, as well as in simple chairs scat-

tered along the walls, priests welcomed people to the sacrament. The pope removed his liturgical vestments and went to confession before putting on a purple stole and hearing the confessions of others.

"God never ceases to demonstrate the richness of his mercy over the course of centuries," the pope said in his homily, which preceded the confessions. God touches people's hearts with his grace, filling them with repentance and a desire to "experience his love."

"Being touched by the tenderness of his hand," people should not be afraid to approach a priest and confess their sins, he said. In the confessional, one has "the certainty of being welcomed in the name of God and understood, despite our misery."

Pope says church 'is the house of Jesus' and must always be open

(CNS) -- The church "is the house of Jesus," and Christians must welcome everyone, even bringing those who are unable to make their way on their own, said Pope Francis at morning Mass March 17.

People who are sad or "sick

in their soul" or who have "made many mistakes in their lives" may, at a certain point, feel the Holy Spirit inspire them to go to church, the pope said. But, after mustering up the courage to go, they will often find unwelcoming and judgmental Christian

communities with their "doors closed" to them.

Mimicking unwelcoming parishioners, Pope Francis said they tell people, "You made a mistake here and you cannot (enter). If you would like to come, come to Sunday Mass, but stay there,

don't do more."

In this way, "that which the Holy Spirit does in people's hearts, Christians -- with a psychology of doctors of the law -- then destroy," the pope said at the Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

"Who are you to close the door of your heart to a man, to a woman who has the will to improve, to re-enter the people of God because the Holy Spirit stirred their heart?" he said.

Pope Francis went on to say that such incidents are disappointing for him and he insisted that the church must have its doors always open.

"It is the house of Jesus and Jesus welcomes. Not only does he welcome, he goes out to find people, just as he went to find (the paralytic)," said the pope, referring to the day's Gospel reading (Jn 5:1-16). "If people are wounded, what does Jesus do? Does he reprimand them because they are wounded? No, he carries them on his shoulder. And this is called mercy."

And when God reproaches his people, calling for mercy and not sacrifice, the pope continued, this is what he means.

The pope added that Lent is the time to avoid making the same mistake as those who bear contempt against Jesus' love for the paralytic because, having healed him on the Sabbath, it may seem contrary to the law.

He concluded with a prayer for the conversion of the whole church to the mercy of Jesus.

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When the 40 days of prayer, penance and works of charity began in mid-February, Easter seemed so far away in the distance. So many days to reform our lives. But with only a few days remaining, our spiritual journey through Lent is about to come to an end.

How did we do this Lent? Did you abstain from meat on Fridays and fast in between meals? Did you stick with your resolution to “give up” something or perhaps stick with a spiritual commitment to improve your prayer life or your relationship with God?

If you did, congratulations!

But if you didn’t -- there’s still time to make the most of Lent. Holy Week is upon us and the spiritually-rich days of this



ONE IN THE LORD

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

time in the Church are powerful.

On Tuesday of Holy Week, the annual Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 11 a.m. This very symbolic Mass is a time for all priests to renew their priestly vows and for the bishop to bless all the holy oils that will be used by priests administering certain sacraments throughout the year. If you’ve never been to a Chrism

Mass, it is definitely worth the time to attend.

Next is the three-day liturgical season, called the Sacred or Easter Triduum, that begins with the Solemn Celebration of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

When celebrated prayerfully and devoutly, these three days are rich beyond words. Make the

extra effort to take part in whatever your home parish offers on these three days -- celebration of the Lord’s Supper, Stations of the Cross, or Good Friday services.

And, by all means, if you haven’t been to Confession yet, the lights are on in the confessionals and there is a priest there waiting for you. Check your home parish bulletin or go to www.diocesealex.org for a listing.

The Solemn Easter Vigil of the Lord’s Resurrection is of special significance, especially for those preparing to come into the full sacramental life of the Church. Congratulations in advance to all who will be received into full communion this Easter. Please make a special effort to welcome them and help them become active members of your

parish communities.

Finally, the entire holy season reaches its climax on Easter Sunday, when the resurrected Son of God returns to his disciples to reveal that He is the Risen Lord. It is indeed, one of the holiest and most glorious days of our faith. Experience it!

Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I continue my recovery and resume my regular ministry. I truly appreciate all the prayers and encouragement.

May the Lord bestow the richest of blessings upon you as we approach Holy Week and the most holy season of Easter.

Whose life is it anyway? Thoughts on physician-assisted suicide

In college I wrote a medical ethics paper on a play titled, *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* That old paper came to mind recently when I learned that the campaign for physician-assisted suicide has been gaining momentum. The renewed push to legalize “aid in dying,” or “death with dignity,” as various groups euphemistically call it, is the result of positive media coverage in the wake of a young terminally ill woman’s decision to end her life on her own terms and at the precise moment of her choosing.

Whose life is it anyway? I can’t get this question out of my mind as I come to grips with the fact that assisted suicide legislation is currently being introduced in a dozen states and the District of Columbia. While some persons faced with serious illness consider taking their lives because they fear they will be a burden to others or have no one to care for them, for others this choice is a declaration of personal autonomy. To the question, *Whose life is it anyway?* they answer, “It is mine to do with what I want.”

The claim that each of us is master of our own life, with the power to do with it whatever we choose, just doesn’t make sense. After all, which of us chose the date, time or conditions of our birth? Who of us ultimately gets to choose the path that will lead to our death — will it be an accident, a random act of violence, a sudden heart attack or a pro-



GUEST EDITORIAL

Sister Constance Veit, LSP
Little Sisters of the Poor

longed illness? Human logic would tell us that we are never completely in control of our lives. God’s word should convince us of this as well.

Sacred Scripture reminds us that we are God’s creatures — made in his image and likeness — and that our lives are in his hands at every moment. From the psalmist’s confession that “every one of my days was decreed before one of them came into being” (Ps 139:16), to Saint Paul’s proclamation that “in him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28), it is clear that God is the author of our existence. Each of us is a steward — not the master — of our own life.

But God is a loving master, and that makes all the difference. In his landmark encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*, Saint John Paul II wrote, “If it is true that human life is in the hands of God, it is no less true that these are loving hands, like those of a mother who accepts, nurtures and takes care of her child.” Pope Francis shared similar sentiments in his 2015 Lenten message: God “is

not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him.”

In our sophisticated, materialistic society we easily turn away from God, denying him and his providence over us. Modern man, Saint John Paul II wrote, has “lost the sense of God,” and with it, the sense of the human person and his dignity as “mysteriously different” from the rest of creation. In this context we can easily succumb to the temptation to manipulate and dominate our lives rather than cherishing them as a gift. Suffering is seen as a useless burden to be eliminated at all cost, even if this means suppressing life itself.

There is another path, however. Even as the media focused their attention on a dying woman from California late last year, a similarly ill college freshman in Ohio vowed never to give up. Despite the seeming hopelessness of her situation, she professed her belief that God has the last say. This young woman has found a

purpose in her suffering and insists that she still loves life. She keeps on giving of herself and is an inspiration to many.

I pray for this young woman and for all the elderly, disabled and those with terminal illnesses, that they may find peace and courage in the conviction that God knows them by name and holds them close to his heart. Strengthened by the sacraments

and assisted by Our Lady and all the angels and saints, may they serenely abandon their lives into his hands.

Whose life is it anyway? God has given us this life as a gift and he expects us to cherish it as his good stewards.

Sister Constance Veit is director of vocations for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

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Pope Francis offers tips on preparing for confession

28-page booklet gives instructions for 'safeguarding the heart'

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As Catholics are encouraged to make going to confession a significant part of their lives during Lent, Pope Francis offered some quick tips to help people prepare for the sacrament of penance.

After a brief explanation of why people should go to confession -- "because we are all sinners" -- the pope listed 30 key questions to reflect on as part of making an examination of conscience and being able to "confess well."

The guide is part of a 28-page booklet in Italian released by the Vatican publishing house. Pope Francis had 50,000 free copies distributed to people attending his Angelus address Feb. 22, the first Sunday of Lent.

Titled "Safeguard your heart," the booklet is meant to help the faithful become "courageous" and prepared to battle against evil and choose the good.

The booklet contains quick introductions to Catholic basics: it has the text of the Creed, a list of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. It explains the seven sacraments and includes Pope Francis' explanation of "lectio divina," a prayerful way of reading Scripture in order to better hear "what the Lord wants to tell us in his word and to let us be transformed by his Spirit."

The booklet's title is based on a line from one of the pope's

morning Mass homilies in which he said Christians need to guard and protect their hearts, "just as you protect your home -- with a lock."

"How often do bad thoughts, bad intentions, jealousy, envy enter?" he asked. "Who opened the door? How did those things get in?"

The Oct. 10, 2014, homily, which is excerpted in the booklet, said the best way to guard one's heart is with the daily practice of an "examination of conscience," in which one quietly reviews what bad things one has done and what good things one has failed to do for God, one's neighbor and oneself.

Catholics should go to confession, the pope said, because everyone needs forgiveness for their sins, for the ways "we think and act contrary to the Gospel."

"Whoever says he is without sin is a liar or is blind," he wrote.

Confession is meant to be a sincere moment of conversion, an occasion to demonstrate trust in God's willingness to forgive his children and to help them back on the path of following Jesus, Pope Francis wrote.

Pope Francis said a group of volunteers, including many homeless people, distributed the booklet to the pilgrims present in St. Peter's Square. He urged everyone to take a copy of the booklet and carry it around with them to help in their conversion and spiritual growth which always comes from the heart.

Safeguarding the Heart through daily practice of an

Examination of Conscience

Some of the questions include:

- Do I only turn to God when I'm in need?
- Do I attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation?
- Do I begin and end the day with prayer?
- Am I embarrassed to show that I am a Christian?
- Do I rebel against God's plan?
- Am I envious, hot-tempered, biased?
- Am I honest and fair with everyone or do I fuel the "throwaway culture?"
- In my marital and family relations, do I uphold morality as taught in the Gospels?
- Do I honor and respect my parents?
- Have I refused newly conceived life? Have I snuffed out the gift of life? Have I helped others to do so?
- Do I respect the environment?
- Am I part worldly and part believer?
- Do I overdo it with eating, drinking, smoking and amusements?
- Am I overly concerned about my physical well-being, my possessions?
- How do I use my time? Am I lazy?
- Do I want to be served?
- Do I dream of revenge, hold grudges?
- Am I meek, humble and a builder of peace?



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What makes the Chrism Mass held during Holy Week so special?

The annual Chrism Mass will be held March 31 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

Priests from around the diocese will concelebrate the Mass with the bishop, and they will renew their vows to the priesthood.

Students from each of the Catholic schools have been invited to attend.

What is the Chrism Mass?

The Chrism Mass is a special Mass celebrated during Holy Week by the bishop at the Cathedral of the diocese, and joined by all of the priests of the diocese.

What is the purpose of the Mass?

Two things take place at the Chrism Mass:

- The bishop blesses three oils — the oil of catechumens (oleum catechumenorum or oleum sanctorum), the oil of the infirm (oleum infirmorum) and holy chrism (sacrum chrism) — which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year.

- The bishop reunites with his priests where they renew their vows to the priesthood. This Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop.

What is the oil of catechumens?

The Oil of Catechumens is used in connection with the sacrament of baptism. St. Hippolytus, in his Apostolic Tradition (A.D. 215), wrote of an “oil of exorcism” used to anoint the candidates immediately before baptism. This practice continues today.



RETIRED ARCHBISHOP JOHN FAVALORA celebrated the Chrism Mass last year at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Anointing with the oil of catechumens following a prayer of exorcism may also take place during the period of the catechumenate on one or several occasions. In both cases this anointing symbolizes the person's need for the help and strength of God to sever the bondage of the past and to overcome the opposition of the devil so that he may profess his faith, come to baptism and live as a child of God.

What is the oil of the infirm?

The oil of the infirm is used in the sacrament of the anointing of the sick (formerly known as extreme unction). St. James wrote, “Is there anyone sick among you? He should ask for the priests of the Church. They in turn are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. This prayer uttered in

faith will reclaim the one who is ill, and the Lord will restore him to health. If he has committed any sins, forgiveness will be his” (Jas 5:14-15).

What is holy chrism?

This oil is used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and holy orders, since they impart an indelible sacramental character. This oil is linked with the sanctification of individuals.

How is holy chrism used?

In baptism, the priest anoints the person on the crown of the head with chrism, right after the actual baptism. This practice comes from St. Hippolytus in the Apostolic Tradition when he spoke of an anointing after the actual baptism with the “oil of thanksgiving.”

In the sacrament of confirma-

tion, the bishop anoints the forehead of the candidate with chrism saying, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Sacred chrism is also used in the sacrament of holy orders. In the ordination rite of a priest, the bishop anoints with chrism the palms of each new priest. In the ordination rite of a bishop, the consecrating bishop anoints the head of the new bishop.

Finally, holy chrism is used in the dedication ceremony of a church. Here the bishop anoints the altar, pouring holy chrism on the middle of the altar and on each of its four corners.

Why does the bishop “breathe” into the holy chrism vessel?

The blessing of the holy chrism is different from that of the other oils: Here the bishop breathes over the vessel of chrism, a gesture which symbolizes both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate this oil, and the life-giving, sanctifying nature of the sacraments for which it is used. (Recall how our Lord “breathed” on the Apostles on the night of Easter, saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (Jn 20:22).)

The concelebrants at the Chrism Mass also extend their right hands toward the chrism as the bishop says the consecratory prayer, signifying that in union with their bishop they share “in the authority by which Christ Himself builds up and sanctifies and rules His Body,” the Church (Vatican II, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, No. 2).

When was the Chrism Mass started?

This tradition is rooted in the early Church as noted in the Gelasian Sacramentary (named after Pope Gelasius I, d. 496) but was later absorbed into the Holy Thursday evening Mass; Pope Pius XII issued a new Ordinal for Holy Week, which reinstituted a special Mass of the chrism distinct from the evening Mass.

Continued on page 10



BLESSING THE HOLY OILS. Retired Archbishop John Favalora blesses the sacramental oils with the assistance of Rev. Chad Partain and Deacon Richard Mitchell, during the annual Chrism Mass held last year at the Cathedral.



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Pilgrims who walk Via Dolorosa don't mind if it isn't Jesus' exact route

By Judith Sudilovsky
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) -- Several pilgrim groups gathered in a sunny courtyard in Jerusalem's Old City. They were preparing to follow a tradition reaching back at least to the fifth century: walking along the Via Dolorosa, through the cobbled streets of Jerusalem's Old City.

The Via Dolorosa represents the route taken by Jesus on the way to his crucifixion, until he was laid in the tomb. Although the route followed for this devotion has changed over the centuries, the need and desire of the Christian faithful to walk in Jesus' footsteps has not. The current route was probably formalized in the 18th century.

"To follow the actual footsteps of Jesus is pretty amazing. It brings his message even more into our hearts," said Marilyn McDonough, 64, a Catholic from Santa Clara, Calif. "I keep thinking about all the suffering he did for us and what he went through mentally and physically. It is overwhelming for me to be here."

At the same time, she said, she is aware that no one knows for certain the exact places where Jesus walked. The restored 12th-century Chapel of the Flagellation that stands in the courtyard today was built on the location of a fifth-century church.



ST. PATRICK CHURCH (Montgomery) STATIONS OF THE CROSS. After Mass and Adoration of the Holy Cross, members of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Montgomery remembered the Passion of Christ last year on Good Friday by walking the Stations of the Cross all around town. Many church parishes throughout the diocese have organized outdoor Stations of the Cross in their towns. (See pages 8 -9.)

"If you take the whole area of Jerusalem, I know Jesus walked in this area. Did he step in this very spot? Maybe not, but I know he walked in other spots, and if I walk around here I can feel it in my heart," she said.

Nigerian pilgrims sang a traditional hymn; an Asian group stood in orderly rows, chanting a prayer and led by a pilgrim carrying a large cross. Groups from Eastern Europe and the United States stood in different corners of the courtyard, some listening as a

guide presented religious and historical explanations of the place, while others bent their heads in silent or communal prayer.

Starting with the first station, in the courtyard of the nearby el-'Omariyya Muslim school, they would all walk the same path, stopping to pray and reflect at the traditional 14 stations, with the final five located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Some of the pilgrim groups walked the path carrying a cross as Jesus did. On Fridays the Franciscans lead an official procession

along the Via Dolorosa.

"Sometimes you will see pilgrims here from 4 a.m. and until late at night," said Franciscan Father Eugenio Alliata, professor of Christian archaeology at the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum. "Everyone sings and prays according to their tradition, in their own language. Jesus walked with a real cross, the pilgrims walk with a symbolic cross. Each one has his own cross to bear, and Jesus helps them to do that."

There is no clear consensus among biblical scholars that this

current Via Dolorosa tradition is the actual route taken by Jesus. It is based on the assumption that the Pretorium, where Pontius Pilate judged Jesus, would have been at that time the Antonia Fortress, built by King Herod.

With no hard archaeological evidence of where the Pretorium was, where Jesus' trial took place and which path he took to his own crucifixion, scholars of biblical history base their assumptions upon what they know of the layout and social mores of the Roman-occupied city of Jerusalem of that time.

Some, like archaeologist Amit Reem, believe that one probability is that the Roman governor would have stayed in the palace of the Judean king during his stays in Jerusalem, and he would have judged Jesus from there. The palace is thought to have been in what is today's Tower of David Museum just inside Jaffa Gate.

Reem, who works for the Israel Antiquities Authority, recently finished 10 years of excavation work revealing the foundations and a drainage system of King Herod's palace in one of the museum buildings.

"It can be fair to think that Pontius Pilate, the Roman representative of Caesar, stayed in Herod's Palace while in Jerusalem," said Reem, standing outside the ruins of the monumental steps leading to what is believed to have been Herod's famous pools. The area was excavated in the 1980s by archaeologist Rene Sivan.



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Holy Week Services

Saturday, March 28
Vigil for Palm Sunday

St. Juliana Church, Alexandria

- Live presentation of the Passion Play by a local men's prayer group, 6 p.m., in the church hall

Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine

- Blessing of palms and procession at all Masses
- 5:30 p.m. showing of *The Passion of Christ* with discussion to follow

St. Anthony, Bunkie

- Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 a.m. Mass



LIVE PASSION PLAY will be performed Saturday, March 28 at 6 p.m. at St. Juliana Church by a local men's prayer group. Don't miss this popular live re-enactment of the Passion of Christ. Free and open to the public.



St. Anthony, Bunkie

- 6:30 p.m. Mass, followed by Adoration until 10 p.m.

Friday, April 3
Good Friday

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

- 1 p.m. Passion Walk (walk from Cathedral to OLPS in Alexandria)
- A bus will return people to Cathedral after the walk, if anyone wants to attend 3 p.m. service at Cathedral
- 3 p.m. Passion of the Lord

OLPS, Alexandria

- 1 p.m. Passion Walk (walk from Cathedral to OLPS in Alexandria)
- 12:40 bus leaves OLPS to take people to Cathedral to start Passion Walk that will start at 1 p.m.
- 3 p.m. Good Friday service at OLPS
- 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine

- 9 a.m. Living Stations Walk
- 2:45 p.m. Veneration of the Cross

Immaculate Conception Natchitoches

- 10 a.m. Outdoor Way of the Cross
- 3 p.m. Good Friday service

St. Rita Church, Alexandria

- 12:05 pm Way of the Cross
- 5:30 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion with veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion

Sunday, March 29
Palm Sunday

Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine

- Blessing of palms and procession at all Masses
- 5:30 p.m. showing of *The Passion of Christ* with discussion to follow

Tuesday, March 31

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria

- Chrism Mass at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral in Alexandria. Renewal of priestly vows and consecration of sacred oils used in the Sacraments for the coming year.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth

- Penance Service, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1
Spy Wednesday

St. Rita Church, Alexandria

- TENEBRAE (evening prayer) 7:30 p.m.

Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine

- Seder Supper beginning with Mass at 6:30PM; Seder begins at 7PM.

Sacred Heart, Pineville

- Living Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 2
Holy Thursday

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

- 5:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

OLPS, Alexandria

- 7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
- 8 p.m. - midnight Adoration

St. Rita Church, Alexandria

- 5:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm - 12 midnight Solemn Adoration

Sacred Heart, Pineville

- 6 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by parish meal and Adoration

Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine

- Mass of the Last Supper beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the presentation of the oils from the Chrism Mass. Adoration until 9 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel.

St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria

- 6 p.m. Mass, followed by Adoration until midnight

MB of the Immaculate Conception Natchitoches

- 7 p.m. Mass

St. Genevieve, Brouillette

- 6 p.m. Mass

St. Alphonsus, Hessmer

- 7 p.m. Mass followed by Adoration in the chapel until midnight

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Holy Week Services

Sacred Heart, Moreauville

- 1 p.m. Rosary in the church, followed by Walking Way of the Cross
- 3 p.m. Good Friday service

Sacred Heart, Pineville

- 6 p.m. Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion

St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria

- 12-3 p.m. Confession
- 3 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- 6 p.m. Good Friday service

St. Genevieve, Brouillette

- 3 p.m. Veneration, Stations of the Cross

St. Alphonsus, Hessmer

- 3 p.m. Good Friday service

St. Anthony, Bunkie

- 3 p.m. Good Friday service, followed by Confession until 5 p.m. Church open until 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 4
Holy Saturday

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

- 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

OLPS, Alexandria

- 3-4 p.m. Confessions
- 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine

- 3:45 - 4:15 p.m. Confessions
- 8:15 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

St. Rita Church, Alexandria

- 3 - 4 p.m. Confessions
- 8 p.m. Vigil Mass with Light Service and Rites of Christian Initiation

Sacred Heart, Pineville

- 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

MB of the Immaculate Conception Natchitoches

- 8 p.m. Vigil Mass

St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria

- 7 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

St. Genevieve, Brouillette

- 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

St. Alphonsus, Hessmer

- 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

St. Anthony, Bunkie

- 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 5
Easter Sunday

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

- 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

OLPS, Alexandria

- 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses

St. Genevieve, Brouillette

- 8 a.m. Easter Mass

St. Rita Church, Alexandria

- 8 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Mass
- 11 a.m. Mass and 6 p.m. Mass
- Easter Egg Hunt after 9:30 a.m. Mass (Children 7 years & under)
- Confessions before ALL Masses

Sacred Heart, Pineville

- 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Masses. Confession --15 minutes before every Mass.

Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine

- 7 a.m., 9:30 a.m. Masses
- Easter Egg Hunt/Coffee & Donuts after 9:30 a.m. Mass

MB of the Immaculate Conception Natchitoches

- 9 a.m., 11 a.m. 5 p.m. Easter Sunday Masses

Holy Rosary, Emmanuel

- 7 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Easter Mass (weather permitting). Please go to www.diocesealex.org to confirm outdoor Mass if weather is threatening

St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria

- 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 6:15 p.m. Easter Sunday Masses

St. Alphonsus, Hessmer

- 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Masses

St. Anthony, Bunkie

- 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses

Divine Mercy Sunday April 12

Sunday, April 12

• Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

- 2 p.m. Confessions
- 3 p.m. Divine Mercy Holy Hour (includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, short Way of the Cross, Divine Mercy Prayers and Benediction).

• MB of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches

- 3:45 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Holy Hour, followed by Holy Vespers
- 5 p.m. -- Traditional Latin Mass

• St. Louis Church, Glenmora

- 3 p.m. Divine Mercy service

• St. Alphonsus, Hessmer

- 2-2:40 p.m. Confessions
- 3 p.m. Exposition, Chaplet of Mercy, Rosary, Divine Mercy Prayers & Benediction

• St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches

- 3 p.m. Sing Chaplet of Divine Mercy outside in front of newly erected Divine Mercy display located in front of the church

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Chrism Mass

Continued from pg. 6

Why do we use oils to anoint in our sacraments?

Throughout the Bible, various references indicate the importance of olive oil in daily life. Oil was used in cooking, particularly in the making of bread, that basic food substance for nourishment (e.g. Nm 11:7-9); as a fuel for lamps (e.g. Mt 25:1-9); and as a healing agent in medicine (e.g. Is 1:6 and Lk 10:34).

Moreover, with oil the Jews anointed the head of a guest as a sign of welcome (e.g. Lk 7:46), beautified one's appearance (e.g. Ru 3:3) and prepared a body for burial (e.g. Mk 16:1).

In religious practices, the Jews also used oil to offer sacrifices (e.g. Ex 29:40); to dedicate a memorial stone in honor of God (e.g. Gn 28:18); and to consecrate the meeting tent, the ark of the covenant, the table, the lampstand, the laver, the altar of incense, and the altar of holocausts (e.g. Ex 31:26-29). The use of oil was clearly a part of the daily life of the people.

Sacred Scripture also attests to the spiritual symbolism of oil. For instance, Psalm 23:5 reads, "You anoint my head with oil," signifying favor and strength from the Lord; and Psalm 45:8 reads, "You love justice and hate wickedness; therefore, God your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellow kings."

Moreover, to be "the anointed" of the Lord indicated receiving a special vocation from the Lord and the empowerment with the Holy Spirit to fulfill that vocation: Jesus, echoing the words of Isaiah, spoke, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore, He has anointed me" (Lk 4:18). St. Paul emphasized this point, "God is the one Who firmly establishes us along with you in Christ; it is He Who anointed us and has sealed us, thereby depositing the first payment, the Spirit in our hearts" (2 Cor 1:21).

Therefore, the symbolism of oil is rich sanctification, healing, strengthening, beautification, dedication, consecration and sacrifice.

Given this heritage, the early Church adopted the use of olive oil for its sacramental rituals.



SEMINARIAN DANIEL HART RECEIVES MINISTRY OF ACOLYTE. His Excellency Bishop Paul Loverde of the Diocese of Arlington confers the Ministry of Acolyte on Alexandria seminarian Daniel Hart during Mass in Rome. Hart was one of 54 seminarians to receive the Ministry of Acolyte during a Mass March 1 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. As part of the rite, the Bishop places the paten, which contains the hosts for the celebration of Mass, in the hands of each candidate and says, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church." Daniel, currently in his second year of formation for the priesthood, has two more years of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Alexandria.



PAINTING OF DIVINE MERCY COMMISSIONED FOR ST. RITA CHURCH. A canvas oil painting of the Divine Mercy image was commissioned by Roger and Lynn Black of St. Rita parish in Alexandria. Father Craig Scott, pastor, blessed the painting on Sunday, March 1 after Mass at St. Rita Church, where it will hang in the foyer. At the same time, Father Scott blessed the new "St. Joseph the Worker Maintenance Shop and KC Council meeting room. The building was built with funds provided by the KCs and a private donor.

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St. Francis Xavier Church threatened by Union soldiers

Father Bellier defends his church while rest of Alexandria burns to the ground

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

Father Jean Pierre Bellier could hear them coming in the distance -- the Union soldiers running wildly through the muddy streets of Alexandria with burning torches setting fire to every home and business that stood on the banks of the Red River on May 13, 1864.

The town of Alexandria was burning all around him and the

soldiers were headed for one of the only two buildings left standing -- St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and the brick city hall.

Father Bellier grabbed his gun and raced to the steps of his beloved church, a small white wood-frame church on Front Street, built in 1834.

"Stop where you are!" Father Bellier must have shouted as he pointed his pistol at the soldiers. "This is a Catholic Church and I WILL NOT let you set fire to it!"

You see, Father Bellier was a learned French priest, who had previously served in the French army, and was the pastor of St. Francis Xavier at the time. He was not afraid of the Union soldiers. The soldiers respected his courage and after a brief altercation, they left the church alone.

After the fire, Father Bellier shared everything he had with the people of the town who had lost everything. When he died, he was buried under the church, along with five other priests.

It's a true story in the history of the Diocese of Alexandria and one that parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral are proud to share with others.

This year, Father Jim Ferguson, pastor along with a Civil War re-enactment group from the Forts Randolph and Buhlow State Historic Site in Pineville, put on a 15-minute re-enactment March 7 on the steps of the Cathedral after the 4 p.m. Mass.

"It's very real," said Father Ferguson, who is gradually learning to "get into" the dramatic interpretation of the scene.

He said when they first started doing this in 2012, the re-enactment was not as realistic as it is now.

"The first time the Union soldiers came walking down the streets of downtown Alexandria with real fire torches and shouting loudly, it sounded so real," he said. "Some people around town may have thought something awful was really happening."

The re-enactment group

started on the Jackson Street bridge, led by General Bank on horseback and more than 50 Union soldiers on foot. The group even supplied townspeople

dressed in clothing of that time.

Ironically, the small wooden church accidentally burned to the ground 30 years later and was replaced with the current Cathedral.



UNION SOLDIERS THREATEN CHURCH. Father Jim Ferguson, rector of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria yields a pistol and reacts to the threats of the Union soldiers to burn down the church, in a re-enactment of a day in history in 1864. The pastor back then, Father Jean Pierre Bellier, defended the small wood-framed church, (St. Francis Xavier), which was one of only two buildings in the town of Alexandria that was not burned by the soldiers that day. (Photo by Deacon Richard Mitchell)



An illustration by Dominique Bach shows Father Bellier defending St. Francis Xavier Church in 1864. The illustration is part of the Children's Book of the History of the Cathedral of Alexandria, published by the Diocese of Alexandria and Editions de Signe.

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IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (Tioga). The catechumen from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church is Eric Gordon. Candidates are Michael Lutrick and Cathryn Grant.



ST. RITA CHURCH (Alexandria). Candidates from St. Rita Church are Jeremy Duncan, Veronica Duncan, Lauren Duncan, Ashlyn Duncan, Grant Duncan, Madelyn Duncan, and Ashlee Paulk.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Moreauville). Catechumen is Dana Leigh Ducote.



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH (Leesville). Catechumens from St. Michael Church are Lara Owens, James Shaffer, and Cody Wilkins. Candidates are Rebecca Simpson, Sylvia Meyer, Andre Hamm, and Michaela Hennessee.



ST. EDWARD MISSION (Fishville). The candidate from St. Edward Mission is Stephanie McCartney.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH (Alexandria). Catechumens from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church are Erica Kuba, Paige McNaughton, Emily Reed, Kirsten Mudd, and Samantha Carter. Candidates are Kathy Englesman, Heather Allemond, Maurice Hebert, Betty Hebert, and Joan Cheek.



MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH (Plaucheville). Candidates from Mater Dolorosa Church are Charles Knight, Sandra Barker, and Kristen Ezel.



ST. LOUIS CHURCH (Glenmora). The catechumen from St. Louis Church is Richard Fish.



ST. JULIANA CHURCH (Alexandria). The candidate from St. Juliana Church is Patricia Wells.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL (Alexandria). The catechumen from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral is Krista Padie. Candidates are Carl Dunn, Kristy Kelley, Elizabeth McSween, and Charlene Meade.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Pineville). Catechumens from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church are Catherine Landry, Gabby Thompson, and Sejin Ahn. Candidates are Brandi Moreau and Courtney Wolf.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH (Alexandria). Catechumens from St. Frances Cabrini Church are Conner Olver. Candidates are Gardner Deane, Carol Alexander, and Devin Duong.

Rite of Election

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

Father James Ferguson, JCL, Rector and Celebrant

Catechumen: An unbaptized person being formed in the Catholic faith in preparation for entry into the Church.

Candidate: Already baptized Christian who are preparing for entry into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Not pictured: **ST. MARY'S CHURCH (Winnsboro).** The candidate from St. Mary's Church is Jeffrey Easterling.



SCOUT SUNDAY. Cub Scouts from Pack 9 from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, three Girl Scouts from a Methodist Church troop and three Boy Scouts from Kingsville Baptist Church received awards from Bishop Ronald Herzog March 1 after the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Francis

Xavier Cathedral. Members of the Pack 9 Cub Scouts who received the Light of Christ award are

. Olivia DeRosa is the Pack Leader.



Shauntelle Greco named Secretary of the Year

Father Edwin Rodriguez, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer, presents the Secretary of the Year Award to Shauntelle Greco, secretary at St. Joseph Church in Marksville.

The award was presented Feb. 9 during the 10th annual Avoyelles Secretary Appreciation Supper, hoster by Father Edwin and St. Alphonsus Church. Shauntelle received a nice gift and her name was added, along with past winners, to a plaque that will be displayed in her church office until the 2016 supper, when it will be passed on to the next winner.

After a social gathering, a delicious catered meal was served. Those attending the supper included Shauntelle Greco, Rosie Fanara, Julia Voinche, Janeita Townsend, Shirley Mayeux, Danity Coco, Bertha Lavalais, Fr. Edwin Rodriguez, Gilda Augustine, Juliette Linzay, and Delilah Aymond.



SAS takes home 1st and 2nd place in the Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl

Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese competed in the Catechetical Quiz Bowl on March 14, 2015 in Alexandria, LA. Three teams represented St. Anthony School.

Pictured are Team 2 members (sitting at table on left)

are Team 1 members

Team 1 placed first and Team 2 placed second.

. Standing are Ms. Melissa West, coach;

Mrs. Martha Coulon, principal; and Mr. Allen Wanersdorfer, team 3 coach. Sitting at the right table



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ST. RITA CHURCH WOMEN OF GRACE. A 12-week spiritual formation program, *Women of Grace*, attracted 110 participants with many others put on a waiting list at St. Rita Church. The program was put together by EWTN personality Johnnette Benkovic. For information on how to bring Women of Grace to your area in English or Spanish, call 1-800-558-5452 or visit www.womenofgrace.com

Women of Grace spiritual formation program comes to St. Rita parish

A new program offered during Lent at St. Rita Church in Alexandria attracted more than 110 women to sign up immediately, with more placed on a waiting list.

Women of Grace®, a 12-week spiritual formation program put together by EWTN personality Johnnette Benkovic, began Feb. 9 in the parish, and will meet weekly until May 4.

According to Christine Gormsen, one of the program coordinators along with Desi Martin, the program is video-based,

which means the group watches a video on some aspect of the faith. Then the group is divided into groups of 12, who then discuss the video under the director or a facilitator.

"We've had an awesome response," said Gormsen. "This just shows how hungry we all are for a deeper understanding of our faith and a deep desire to grow in our faith. We are so thankful to our pastor, Father Craig Scott, for bringing it to our parish."

Regional coordinators Brenda Dooley and Stephanie Supple,

from Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Lafayette, were instrumental in bringing the program to Father Scott and his parish.

"Parishes helping parishes, spiritual sister helping spiritual sister, is the key to unlocking new doors where Women of Grace studies can bear fruit. It was a blessing for me to work with Father Scott and the women of St. Rita parish and to see the Holy Spirit at work last evening as they launched their Lenten study," said Supple.

Facilitators of the St. Rita

group are Diana Basco, Carmen Williamson, Christine Gormsen, Desi Martin, Kimberly Harper, Margaret Borrel, Cindy Campbell, Florence Sanders, Sharon White, Ona Wilson, Patti Williams, Ellen Dunn, and Janet Cargle.

"As pastor of St. Rita Church, I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be offering this program," said Father Scott. "I had been searching for a program of spiritual enrichment for women for some time. Women of Grace is an answer to my prayers!"

"I believe the excitement and enthusiasm of the coordinators, facilitators and participants is a true sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit," Scott continued. "I know that Women of Grace will produce fruit in our parish community for years to come."

For more information on how you can bring *Women of Grace* to your area in English or Spanish, please email us at info@womenofgrace.com or call 1-800-558-5452, or visit www.womenofgrace.com

Family of Fr. John Cunningham hosts 50th anniversary celebration

By Natalie Covher
Natchitoches Times

Family members, friends, church members and neighbors attended Father John Cunningham's Anniversary Mass Feb. 20 at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception honoring his ordination 50 years ago as a Catholic priest.

Cunningham recalls growing up in Natchitoches with his older sister Lallah Hill Cunningham Methvin and two brothers, William Peyton Cunningham, Jr. and Joseph Payne Cunningham Sr. He lived a block away from St. Mary's across from the courthouse. His family would go to church every Sunday where he and his brothers served as altar boys. He remembers his mother and father always being kind and gentle with their teachings and growing up around friends, relatives and neighbors.

Cunningham and his twin brother William Peyton were both



CUNNINGHAM FAMILY CELEBRATION. Father John Cunningham celebrated Mass Feb. 20 at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in honor of his 50th anniversary as a priest. The family hosted a reception in his honor after Mass. Pictured are (front row) Will Cunningham, Camille Cunningham, Peyton Cunningham II, Markay Cunningham, Catherine Fauchaux, Alicia Rainwater, Terri Cunningham and Tracy Cunningham. Back row: Peyton Cunningham III, Joe Jr. Cunningham, Katlyn Cunningham, Joe Sciba, L'Anne Sciba, Lisa Merrull, Father John Cunningham, Mimi Methvin, Dewit Methvin, Drew Cunningham and Doug Rainwater. (Photo by Adrian Dempsey)

drafted into the U.S. Army and were both sent to South Korea. When he returned to the states at

the age of 25, he decided he wanted to become a priest. In 1959, he traveled to Boston where he

attended St. Joseph Seminary for the next six years. In Feb. of 1965, he was ordained at Im-

maculate Conception Church in Natchitoches by Bishop Charles P. Greco. His first assignment was at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura. During the next 50 years he served at parishes throughout the Alexandria-Shreveport diocese including Our Lady of Fatima in Monroe, Christ the King in Bossier City, Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches, St. Jude in Bossier City, St. Anthony of Padua in Bunkie, St. Joseph in St. Joseph, and St. John the Baptist in Cloutierville.

While he was pastor at St. Anthony in Bunkie, Scott Chemino, now the Vicar General for the diocese, served for him at Mass as an altar boy. Therefore, it was only fitting that Father Chemino was asked by Father Cunningham to deliver the homily at the Anniversary Mass.

After 45 years as a priest, Father Cunningham has retired and has currently settled in his hometown of Natchitoches.



is presented with a check for \$1,000 for her school, Holy Savior Menard Central High School, after being named only one of two Heisman Award winners in the state. She is the daughter of Kevin and Stephanie Robichaux of Woodworth.

wins Wendy's Heisman Award for Louisiana

, a senior at Holy Savior Menard Central High School, was chosen as one of two recipients from Louisiana to win the 2014 Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

The award is given to one girl and one boy in each state in recognition of the achievements of exceptionally well-rounded students. The program looks for all-star performances of high school seniors in the classroom, in sports, and in the community.

Through the years, there have been several Menard students to be named semi-finalist in the competition, but is one of only a select few from Menard in the 20-year history of the program to actually be named the state

winner. is an honor roll student at Menard, a member of the National Honor Society, and Beta Club. She has also

won numerous academic awards, scholarships, and placed at Literary Rally.

Active in her faith, is a member of the Menard Apostles for Christ, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Junior Catholic Daughters. In her home parish of Prompt Succor, she is a member of the Youth Group, the Parish Youth Council, a lector, and Eucharistic minister.

Outside the classroom, she is a member of the Golden Eaglettes danceline, the varsity Cross Country team, and the varsity Track and Field team.

In 2014, she was the State Champion in the LHSAA Division II, 1600 meter; a member of the All-State Cross Country team all four years of high school, a member of the Menard Girls Cross Country team that were State Champions in 2011, 2013 and 2014.



STUDENTS OF THE YEAR. Winners of the Regional Student of the Year competition are (from left) with his parents Monroe and Melinda Milton; , with her parents Brooke and Patrick Deshotels; and , with his father Dr. Joseph Badeaux.

3 Catholic students win Students of the Year

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Thomas Roque hosted a reception March 5 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center for the winners of the Regional Students of the Year competition.

"These students are not only talented students in the classroom and in leadership roles, but are also a fine example of students who are very active in their faith," said Roque. "I join the parents and family members here today, to express how proud I am of these students."

5th grade winner. is an honor student at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville. She is active in many clubs and is very active in her faith. She is the daughter of Patri Deshotels.

8th grade winner. is an officer in several organizations at Holy Sav-

ior Menard Junior High School. He especially enjoys helping his mother care for his y sister, he calls "Princess." is the son of M roe Milton.

12th grade winner. Whether it's playing football or excelling in the class-

room, goes that extra mile to give it his best at Holy Savior Menard Central High School. He is the son of J fer and Dr. Joseph Badeaux. also competed in the state competition in Baton Rouge. State winners have not been announced.



OLPS 4H CLUB SENDS VALENTINES TO VETERANS. For Valentine's Day, the 4H Club from Our Lady of Prompt Succor School designed and decorated care packages/boxes for the veterans at the Alexandria VA Hospital. Designed with a Valentine theme, each care package was filled with needed toiletry items, prayers and treats for the veterans at the VA Hospital. Megan Thiels, OLPS 4H sponsor, delivered the heart-felt treats to the VA Hospital on Feb. 13.



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ST. MARY'S (Natchitoches) FBLA DISTRICT WINNERS. High school students from St. Mary's FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) recently competed in the state district conference held at NSU. Students who placed 1st in their category, (qualifying them for the state competition to be held next month in Lafayette) are (front row)



ST. MARY'S (Natchitoches) REGIONAL QUIZ BOWL WINNERS. St. Mary's students participated in the Regional Quiz Bowl Feb. 28 held at St. Mary's. Those students who placed 1st out of 6 teams in their division are (front row)

and sponsor Michael Landry.



ST. MARY'S (Natchitoches) NHS. St. Mary's National Honor Society members collected ramen noodles for troops as part of their January-February community service project. Students delivered the ramen noodles to Bank of Montgomery with the help of their sponsor Leeanne Bordelon. Pictured are NHS Historian: , NHS President.



NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY football players visited PE classes at St. Mary's School in Natchitoches honoring the memory of a former Demon by performing community service on the 10th annual "Chris Waddell Day". Not sure who had more fun the St. Mary's students or the NSU football players!



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL (Bunkie) RECOGNIZED AS A 'WELLSPOT.' The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals presented St. Anthony School in Bunkie with a medal recently for being the only school in the state to be designated as a 'WellSpot.' Pictured at the news conference held at LSUA are Tommy Roque, superintendent of Catholic Schools; Robin Rhodes, from the WellAhead Program; and Wellness committee members , 8th grade representative; ; Martha Coulon, principal; and



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL POSTER WINNER. 4th grade student at St. Anthony School, won first place at the school level and first place in the parish for his poster design in the 4H Good Values Poster Contest.



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL (Bunkie) SCIENCE PROJECT. Mrs. Marlene Hernandez's fifth grade class have been studying the Earth's land biomes and water ecosystems. Each student created a Shoebox Biome and shared interesting facts about their biome. They had fun working on the projects and learned a lot while doing the research. Front row, left to right :



SACRED HEART SCHOOL (Moreauville) REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS. Sacred Heart students who placed in the Regional Science Fair at LSUA on March 7 are honorable mention, Behavioral & Social Science and American Psychology Award; , honorable mention, Environmental Science; , 3rd place, Behavioral & Social Science; , 1st place, Environmental Science; , 2nd place, Mechanical Engineering; , honorable mention, Plant Science; and , 2nd place, Plant Science.



SACRED HEART 1ST PLACE WINNER. won 1st place in the Speech competition at the Junior Betta Club district competition. She is the daughter of Mrs. & Mrs. Derek Scroggs of Marksville.



SACRED HEART BETA CLUB WINS AT DISTRICT. The Junior Beta Club at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville also won 1st place at district in the "Living Literature" competition. They portrayed the *Sorting the Hat* scene found in the Harry Potter series *The Sorcerer's Stone*. Members of Harry Potter group are

CDA Court Notre Dame establishes junior Court at Menard

Court Notre Dame 1452 of the Catholic Daughters of America from Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria recently established a junior court at Holy Savior Menard High School.

According to club sponsor Jessica Sanders, a religion teacher at Menard, one of the members of the Notre Dame Court (Joan Lanius) approached her about establishing the junior court at Menard.

young girls from OLPS were already affiliated with the CDA at OLPS, but thought it might grow more under a high school setting,” said Sanders. “We brought the organization to Menard in October of 2014 and more than 40 high school girls signed up.”

Officers elected for the new junior court are Maddie Mitchell, president; Cameron Erickson, vice president; Abby Urbina, treasurer; and Alison Roy, secretary.

Under the leadership of the officers, the group has visited nursing homes, served at Manna House, collected more than \$600 in their "Pennies for Seminar-ians" campaign, and made more than 500 Rosary bracelets for each of the Menard students during their recent Rosary Walk during Catholic Schools Week. The members were recognized and officers installed during a weekly school Mass held in February.



CDA JUNIOR COURT OFFICERS. Officers elected to head the new junior court are _____, president; _____, vice president; _____, treasurer; and _____, secretary.

Catholic Daughters of America Courts announce winners of education competition



CDA Court 968 in Bunkie announce winners of education contest

Christine Rabalais, chairman of the Education Committee for the Catholic Daughters Court #968 of Bunkie, has announced the winners of the annual Catholic Daughters education contest.

The categories are art and essay stressing the theme “Love Your Neighbor As Yourself”.

Winners
(front row)
place art;
place essay; and
place art.

Row 2 d
place art; ,
3 y; and 3rd row:
, 1st place essay.

Winners were awarded with cash prizes and first place winners entries will be entered in the state competition.



CDA Court 1452 at OLPS announce contest winners

Winners of the CDA Court
1452 Education contest are (front
row) _____, Div. I Po-
etry, 1 _____,
Div. I Essay, 3r _____,
_____, Div. I Essay, 2n _____ e.
_____, Div. II
row _____, Div. II
Essay, 1st _____ &
_____, D _____ tied

Catholic schools celebrate Mardi Gras with parades and courts



OLPS MARDI GRAS. Fr. Dan O'Connor, Fr. Bill Gearheard, and Jackie Deworth, assistant principal at Our Lady of Prompt Succor get in the spirit of the OLPS Mardi Gras parade.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI MARDI GRAS. Representing the Penny King and Queen of Mardi Gras are _____ and _____ with Father Chad Partain, pastor. Also participating in the St. Frances Cabrini School Mardi Gras parade is the Krewe of Love Bugs.



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Fr. Partain blesses new Menard baseball fieldhouse

Honored guests are members of the Menard 1959 & 1960 Class AA state champions

Menard president Father Chad Partain blessed and dedicated the new Menard Eagle Baseball Fieldhouse March 9, before a crowd of players, parents, alumni and supporters.

Honored guests of the dedication ceremony were members of the 1959 and 1960 baseball teams, who both won back-to-back Class AA state championships.

“Lord, bless this new facility at Holy Savior Menard High School, and all of its players, coaches, alumni, friends and supporters who will use it today and in the years to come,” prayed Father Partain.

According to Principal Joe Desselle, the new facility includes a locker and dressing room, showers, an entertainment area, office space for coaches, and a new home dugout located outside the building. The construction of the fieldhouse was the project of a group of anonymous donors at Menard.

“We are very grateful to the generous donors who made this all possible,” said Desselle. “There is no better high school baseball facility comparable anywhere in Central Louisiana.”



Top left: The new Eagle Fieldhouse.
Top right: The entertainment room.
Middle left: Father Chad Partain blesses the facility.

Middle right: Inside the player locker room.

Bottom: Ken Ardoin, (far right) president of the Menard Alumni Association, welcomes six men who were once part of the state championship teams in 1959 and 1960 -- Philip Flynn, Don Boniol, John Lauve, Barry Ackel, Bob Boisvert, and Ernie Knobloch.



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Diocese of Alexandria

Disney puts new life into popular fairy tale, *Cinderella*

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- "Cinderella" (Disney) injects vibrant new life into a venerable fairy tale. The result is an exuberant live-action retelling of the oft-filmed fable, the most famous screen version of which is Disney's classic 1950 animated feature.

Opting for fidelity and sincerity rather than a revisionist approach, director Kenneth Branagh sticks to the basic story, displaying genuine affection for its iconic characters. Familiar yet fresh, his delightful take, suitable for the entire family, nicely brings to the forefront dual lessons about compassion and forgiveness.

There's a lot of death in the Cinderella story, but here that aspect of the tale is treated gently. Ella (Lily James) tends to her dying mother (Hayley Atwell), whose final request to her is, "Always have courage and be kind." This becomes Ella's life motto -- and not a bad one at that. Her sunny nature and good will inspire all creatures, great (fellow humans) and small (white mice).

When her beloved father (Ben Chaplin) remarries, Ella's patience is put to the test, but she never gives in to the dark side. The same, alas, cannot be said for Ella's new stepmother, Lady Tremaine (Cate Blanchett), or her shrieking stepsisters, Drizella (Sophie McShera) and Anastasia



CINDERELLA. Lily James and Richard Madden star in a scene from the movie "Cinderella." The movie holds strong values of compassion, kindness and forgiveness. Kids will love the short animated film Frozen Forever that is featured before the movie. (CNS photo/Disney Enterprises)

(Holliday Grainger).

The ladies are ghastly in every respect, from their poor manners to their garish outfits. And anyone who calls her cat Lucifer, as Lady Tremaine does, is just about bound to be wicked.

The standard narrative unfolds: Father dies, and Ella is reduced to waiting on her obnoxious relations in the manner of a

servant. Covered in ashes from cleaning the fireplace, she's derisively dubbed "Cinderella."

Riding her horse through the forest one day, Cinderella encounters Kit (Richard Madden), aka Prince Charming. They meet cute but confused, she unaware of his royal status, he not catching her name. Cinderella retreats, and the prince, his heart aflame, vows

to find the enchanting maiden.

A royal ball is arranged, with an invitation to all eligible ladies in the kingdom, titled or not. Lady Tremaine forbids Cinderella to attend, tearing her dress to pieces.

Cinderella's Fairy Godmother (Helena Bonham Carter), naturally, has other ideas. The transformation of pumpkin, mice, lizards and a goose into a golden

coach, white horses, footmen and driver, respectively, is one of the highlights of the film.

The other standout is Cinderella's shimmering blue dress. Not since Scarlett O'Hara made an outfit from old curtains in "Gone with the Wind" has a skirt stolen the show to such an extent, swishing and swirling across the dance floor as though possessing a mind of its own.

While there are a few twists in store, a happy ending is assured, and the final message won't leave a dry eye in the house.

Preceding "Cinderella" is a short animated film, "Frozen Fever," featuring characters from the blockbuster 2013 movie "Frozen." It's Princess Anna's (voice of Kristen Bell) birthday, and her sister, Queen Elsa (voice of Idina Menzel), is planning a party -- despite feeling unwell. Given Elsa's frost-producing proclivities, as highlighted in the original, however, her sneezes bring predictably chilly consequences.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-I. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested.

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***A.D. The Bible Continues* to begin airing Easter Sunday**

NBC's first digital talk show *Beyond A.D.* to follow the Bible mini-series

By Justin Craig
foxnews.com

From executive producers Roma Downey ("The Bible") and Mark Burnett ("The Bible," "The Voice") comes *A.D. The Bible Continues*, a new 10-part television series premiering on NBC on Easter Sunday, April 5.

Just one week later, NBC will also launch *Beyond A.D.*, a 30-minute talk show series designed to create a discussion platform for fans.

A.D. The Bible Continues, picks up where the smash hit miniseries *The Bible* left off, continuing the greatest story ever told and exploring the exciting and inspiring events that followed the Crucifixion of Christ.

The immediate aftermath of Christ's death had a massive impact on his disciples, his mother, Mary, and key political and religious leaders of the era, completely altering the entire world in an instant.

Beginning at that fateful moment of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, *A.D. The Bible Continues* will focus on the disciples who had to go forward and spread the teachings of Christ to a world dominated by political unrest, and the start of a whole new religion that would dramatically reshape the history of the world.



A.D. THE BIBLE CONTINUES TO AIR EASTER SUNDAY. Jesus (Juan Pablo Di Pace) returns to his disciples after his death and Resurrection, while his followers struggle with their mission to spread the word to the world.

Jesus (Juan Pablo Di Pace) dies on the cross at the hands of the Romans, deserted by even his most loyal followers. Peter (Adam Levy) and the disciples are hunted by Temple authorities led by High Priest Caiaphas (Richard Coyle) and Roman soldiers under orders from Governor Pontius Pilate (Vincent Regan). For the tiny band of followers, every day is a fight for survival, and their mission to spread the word

to the world seems impossible.

Yet, they have hope and soon they have power: the amazing miracle of the Resurrection and the shocking arrival of the Holy Spirit upon them all at Pentecost enables them to inspire more and more people to join.

The growing church brings challenges for Peter, John (Babou Alieu Ceesay) and Mary Magdalene (Chipo Chung), who are pushed to the limit; they face

trials and imprisonments, persecutions and punishments while trying to understand the God-given power granted to them as they transition from the sorrow of Christ's ultimate sacrifice to the awe-inspiring wonder of the Resurrection and beyond.

Beyond A.D.

A week later, NBC will air the first-ever digital talk show "Beyond A.D." to follow *A.D. The Bible Continues*.

Hosted by E! News' Jason Kennedy, the talk show will be taped before a live audience at the Real Life Church in Southern California. The 30-minute series will feature special celebrity and musical guests and can be

TV REVIEW

streamed online.

"We are very excited to venture into the digital talk show arena and feel *Beyond A.D.* is the ideal digital companion to *A.D. The Bible Continues*, said NBC Entertainment executive vice president Rob Hayes. "The series lends itself to in-depth discussions between fans, cast, producers and special guests."

A.D. The Bible Continues producers, Downey and Burnett, are also thrilled over the talk show.

"'Beyond A.D.' is a wonderful way to continue the conversation that A.D. has started," the husband-and-wife team said in a statement. "We are excited that Jason [Kennedy] is on board and we have many incredible guests lined up as well as cast members who all will lend their voices to what will be a lively show."

The new talk show will allow "A.D." fans to learn more about the historical and spiritual topics that the broadcast will offer, in addition to insight from the cast and producers as well as other special guests. Already scheduled to appear is series star Juan di Pablo who portrays Jesus as well as Downey, Burnett, Rick Warren, Christine Caine, and many more. Musical guests will include All Sons & Daughters and Desperation Band, among others.

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St. Martin ABLAZE

Join us Saturday, March 28 from 5 - 9 p.m. for St. Martin Church's (Lecompte) ABLAZE, an evening of food, friends, prayer, praise and worship for students in grades 7-12. Vigil Mass starts 5 p.m., followed by ABLAZE in the Church Hall. Admission is free -- Bring a friend!

Junior High Rally

A Junior High Rally will be held March 28 at Our Lady of Prompt - Divine Providence Center, Alexandria for 6, 7, and 8th grades. PJ Anderson, a musician and songwriter, will be the guest speaker with music by the Josh Blakesley Band. Cost is \$20 per person up to March 20; \$25 after March 20. The day is from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. including Vigil Mass. For more information, go to www.diocesealex.org/youthministry, or email inoel@diocesealex.org, or call 318-445-6424, ext 221.

Louisiana Camp Joshua

Louisiana Camp Joshua (LCJ), a weekend pro-life camp to train high school students to be pro-life leaders,

Dates for Camp Joshua 2015

- Baton Rouge: April 10-12
- Covington: May 1-3
- Shreveport: May 15-17

At Camp Joshua, you will experience top-notch workshops, classes, and activities, and you'll learn from the nation's leading pro-life experts. Contact Kandace Landreneau of LA Right to Life, at kandace@prolifelouisiana.org or 1.866.463.5433.

Magnificat Brunch

Cenla Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, will host their next brunch April 18 from 10 a.m. - noon at St. Mary Assumption's Church Hall in Cottonport. The guest speaker will be Father Taylor Reynolds, a recently ordained priest who had the opportunity to study in Rome. Tickets are \$15 in advance and must be purchased by April 15. No tickets sold at the door. For tickets call Mary Wilson @ 318-359-7735; Joan Gahagan @ 318-352-8701; or Diane Ardoin @ 318-419-1547.

Marriage Prep Workshop

The next one-day marriage prep workshop, *Strong Foundations Marriage Preparation*, will be held Sunday, May 17 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Family Center at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville. Couples may register at www.comprehensivetherapygroup.com. For more information, call 318-792-9940.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS



FOUR GENERATIONS OF ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION SCHOOL. Pictured are (front row) Sharon Lemoine Juneau, Sarah Lacombe Riche', and Roxane Juneau Riche'. Back row: Mark Lacombe and Grant Riche'.

Menard's Production of 'Guys and Dolls'

Holy Savior Menard's Theatre Arts, under the direction of Cherise Rino, will perform *Guys and Dolls*, April 15-16, and 18-19 at the Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center. Performances on April 15, 16, and 18, start at 7 p.m. The performance on April 19 starts at 2 p.m. No tickets are available for Friday, April 17. Tickets can be purchased online at ticketcentral.org or at the Menard front office. Pre-sale ticket prices are \$12 and \$15 at the door. For more information, call 445-8233.

St. Mary's Greco Bowl

Make plans now to attend the annual St. Mary Residential Training School's Greco Bowl featuring Chef John Folse on Sunday, May 31, from noon -2:30 p.m. at the Gem of Alexandria (1014 A Third Street, Alexandria). The event will include a cooking demonstration by Chef Folse, giveaways, a cash bar, and silent auction. Each person will also receive a special hand-crafted bowl made by one of the residents. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased in groups of 8 per table. For tickets or sponsorship, call Megan Vets at 318-445-6443, ext 2313.

St. Mary's Assumption Spring Fair

St. Mary's Assumption School (Cottonport) will host its annual Spring Fair on Saturday, March 21 beginning at 7:30 a.m. with a 5K run/walk. Booths open at 10 a.m. Lots of food booths; things for the kids to enjoy including Jupiter Jumps, rock wall, a train, paintball, and games; a silent and a live auction, and bingo. Listen to 80s rock music from D.O.D. (Days of Decadence) at 7 p.m.

Mater Dolorosa Murder Mystery Dinner

Cross your heart and hope to die . . . murder at the prom in 1959! Join the Mater Dolorosa (Plaucheville) Youth Ministry on Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m. for a Murder Mystery Dinner in the school gym. 50s style attire is optional. \$30 per person; \$50 per couple. Call Allison @ 359-0492; Grant @ 613-7248; or Amy @ 240-4626.

St. Mary's Trail Ride

St. Mary's Residential Training School invites you to the 5th annual Trail Ride Fundraiser on Saturday, April 11. The ride starts at 9 a.m. at 135 Turnage Road. Event includes a horse auction, hayrides for the kids, barrels, poles, and games, and much more. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for kids 14 and under. Lunch is included. For more information, call Russell at 318-793-4718

St. Joseph School BBQ Cookoff

St. Joseph School in Plaquemine invites all interested cooks to enter the Spring Fling BBQ Cook Off on Saturday, April 25 at the school. Registration is \$30 and grilling begins at 10 a.m. To register, call 318-922-3401 ext 3.

St. Joseph School Spring Fling

St. Joseph School in Plaquemine will host a Spring Fling Color Run on Saturday, April 25 at 9 a.m. Choose the 5K Run or the 1 mile Walk/Fun Run. Registration is \$20 per person; which includes a t-shirt. Registration forms available at school; must be returned no later than Friday, April 10.

Cabrini School Extreme Obstacles

St. Frances Cabrini School is offering Extreme Obstacles on Saturday, April 25. The 3-mile military style obstacle course starts at 9 a.m. and includes water pits, zip lines, wall climbing, tire obstacles, and much more. Registration is \$25 per person, as a 4-person team; or \$30 for individuals. To register, go to www.active.com.

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March - April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>Ordination of Fr. Fernand Cheri Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, 2:00 p.m. St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans</div> <div>23</div>	<div>Lenten Reflection for Seniors 9:00 a.m. OLPS, Alexandria</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. SJCC, Alexandria</div> <div>24</div>	<div>PENANCE SERVICES 5:30 p.m. SFXC Alexandria 6:00 p.m. St. Anthony, Bunkie 6:30 p.m. Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine</div> <div>25</div>	<div>Lenten Reflection Series 6:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</div> <div>PENANCE SERVICE 6:30 p.m. OLPS Alexandria</div> <div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div></div> <div>NO MEAT on FRIDAY PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMAN</div>	<div>ABLAZE for Youth 5:00-9:00 p.m. St. Martin Church, Lecompte</div> <div>Jr. High Rally 9 a.m.-5 p.m. OLPS, Alex.</div> <div>Passion Play 6:00 p.m. St. Juliana, Alexandria</div> <div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>PALM SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</div>
Lenten Mission -- St. Mary's Church, Winnsboro -- 6:00 p.m.		Lenten Mission -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria -- 6:30 p.m.				
PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	PRAY FOR FR. K. TEXADA	PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON		PRAY FOR FR. E. TIRKEY	
<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Chrism Mass 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PENANCE SERVICE 6:00 p.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</div>	<div>APRIL 1</div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>	<div>2</div> <div>HOLY THURSDAY PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Outdoor Way of the Cross 10:00 a.m., Minor Basilica, Natchitoches</div> <div>Walking Way of the Cross 1:00 p.m. Sacred Heart, Moreauville</div> <div></div> <div>GOOD FRIDAY FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. VELEZ</div>	<div>4</div> <div>HOLY SATURDAY FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO</div>	<div>5</div> <div>EASTER SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</div>
<div>6</div> <div>EASTER MONDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. YOUNG</div>	<div>7</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</div>	<div>8</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</div>	<div>9</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. T. ALLEN</div>	<div>10</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Murder Mystery Dinner 7:00 p.m. Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine</div> <div>St. Mary's Trail Ride 9:00 a.m. 135 Turnage Road</div> <div>Camp Joshua -- Baton Rouge</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</div>	<div>12</div> <div>DIVINE MERCY PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</div>
<div>13</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO</div>	<div>14</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Menard Production of Guys & Dolls</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY</div>	<div>16</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</div>	<div>17</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Magnificat Brunch 10:00 a.m - 12 noon St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport</div> <div>Menard Production of Guys & Dolls</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</div>	<div>19</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</div>
<div>20</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</div>	<div>21</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</div>	<div>22</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY</div>	<div>23</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. FIGREDO</div>	<div>24</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE</div>	<div>25</div> <div>5K Spring Fling Color Run & BBQ Cookoff 9:00 a.m. St. Joseph School, Plaquemine</div> <div>Extreme Obstacles 9:00 a.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</div>	<div>26</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</div>

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