

CHURCH TODAY

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ON THE INSIDE

Bishop Friend dies

Bishop William B. Friend, the first bishop of the Diocese of Shreveport and the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria, died April 2 at his retirement home in Coral Springs, Florida. He was 83. Read more on page 5.

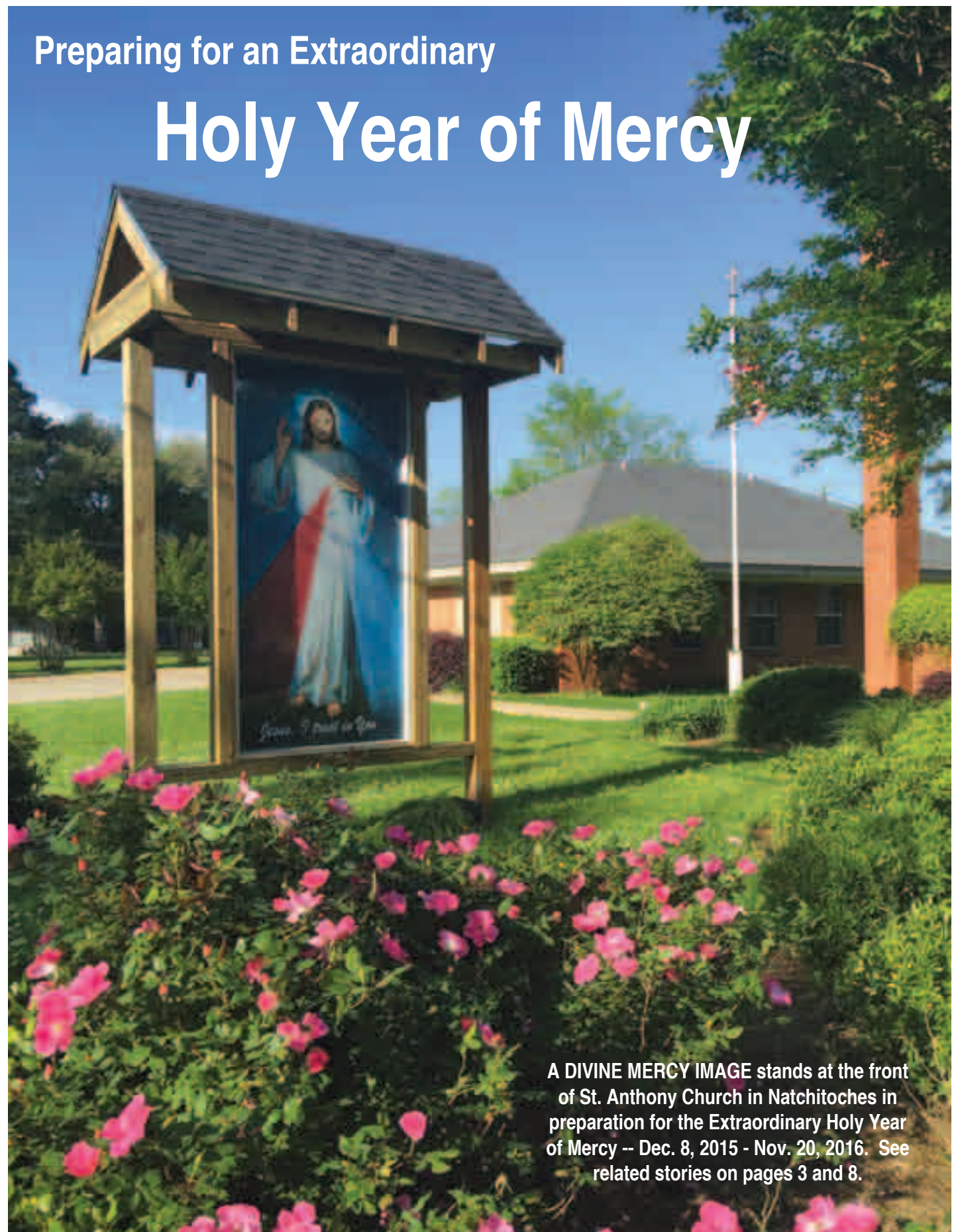
Oklahoma becomes 2nd state to outlaw dismemberment abortion

Oklahoma has become the second state to outlaw an abortion procedure that “dismembers” the fetus in the womb as part of the process. Read more about it on page 2.

Pope Francis says Year of Mercy will be a time to heal, help, and forgive

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 pages 3 and 8.

Preparing for an Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy



A DIVINE MERCY IMAGE stands at the front of St. Anthony Church in Natchitoches in preparation for the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy -- Dec. 8, 2015 - Nov. 20, 2016. See related stories on pages 3 and 8.

Oklahoma is 2nd state to outlaw dismemberment abortion

By Cheryl Wetzstein
The Washington Times

Oklahoma has become the second state to outlaw an abortion procedure that “dismembers” the fetus in the womb as part of the process.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed the Oklahoma Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion law on Monday, April 13.

The law, which goes into effect Nov. 1, generally affects pregnancies older than 12 weeks or in the second trimester.

The law would not apply in cases in which there’s a “serious health risk” to the woman if she doesn’t receive the abortion.

“Kansas welcomes Oklahoma as the second state to protect unborn children from dismemberment procedures,” Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback tweeted the next day.

“This law has the power to change how the public views the gruesome reality of abortion in the United States,” said Carol



OKLAHOMA GOV. MARY FALLIN signed the Oklahoma Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion law on April 13, making Oklahoma the 2nd state (Kansas was first) to outlaw the procedure. (Photo by Sue Ogrocki-Pool/Getty Images)

Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee. The pro-life organization developed model legislation on the issue.

Pro-choice supporters have protested the measure, saying it is a “dangerous restriction.”

In Kansas, 20 doctors signed

a letter protesting that state’s bill, saying it was blocking the “safest and most expeditious” kind of care for women needing

a second-trimester abortion, said the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

“Even if we disagree about abortion, politicians shouldn’t prevent doctors from providing what they think is the best and safest medical care to their patients,” said Jennifer Dalven, director of the ACLU’s Reproductive Freedom Project.

“This is just one more bill that chips away at a woman’s access to safe, legal abortion by substituting a politician’s judgment for a medical professional’s,” Ms. Dalven said.

Oklahoma’s new law is intended to prevent doctors from using forceps, tongs, clamps, scissors and other cutting devices to extract a living unborn child “one piece at a time.”

These “dilation and evacuation” or D&E abortions have long been used for second-trimester abortions.

Doctors who violate the law could be fined \$10,000 and face professional discipline.

One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies to be held May 1-3

The 2015 multinational One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies prayer event will be held May 1 -3. Persons participating in this multinational pro-life prayer event will pray (with a group or individually) at least one Rosary for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons.

“The One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies is an opportunity for members of the Church to unite in praying for an end to the killing of unborn human persons,” said Patrick Benedict, director of the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization (the organization that is coordinating the

prayer event).

This year 31 nations will be participating, including Guatemala, Tanzania, Poland, Denmark, Kenya, Croatia, England, India, Malaysia, India, Germany, Malta, USA, Australia, Italy, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Uganda, Netherlands, Colombia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Pakistan, New Zealand, Scotland, Philippines, Austria, Ireland, and France.

“All things are possible with God and that, of course, includes ending this horror against innocent babies.

Participants are asked to register their intentions to pray the



rosary so that an accurate count can be made toward reaching the 1 million goal. To register, go to www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org.

“I greatly encourage every-

one to register to pray at least one Rosary for unborn human persons. And, I hope those who register will let other people know about this pro-life prayer event.

“The goal of at least one mil-

lion Rosaries being prayed is definitely reachable, but it will take a lot of people getting involved,” concluded Benedict.

Registration for the prayer event is quick, and no personal information is required. In addition to registering, the website has information about promoting the prayer event, a counter that keeps up with the number of Rosaries registered, etc.

More information about the One Million Babies prayer event may also be received by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: S.M.T.A.O., P. O. Box 41257; Memphis, TN 38174.

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Pope says Year of Mercy will be time to heal, to help, to forgive

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Mercy is what makes God perfect and all-powerful, Pope Francis said in his document officially proclaiming the 2015-2016 extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

"If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected," the pope wrote in "Misericordiae Vultus," ("The Face of Mercy"), which is the "bull of indiction" calling a Holy Year to begin Dec. 8.

Standing in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica April 11, Pope Francis handed copies of the document to the archpriests of the major basilicas of Rome and to Vatican officials representing Catholics around the world.

Portions of the 9,300-word proclamation were read aloud before Pope Francis and his aides processed into St. Peter's Basilica to celebrate the first vespers of Divine Mercy Sunday.

In his homily at vespers, the pope said he proclaimed the Year of Mercy because "it is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation."

The boundless nature of God's mercy -- his willingness always to forgive anything -- has been a constant subject of Pope Francis' preaching and is explained in detail in the document, which outlines some of the specific projects the pope has in mind for the year.

The Old Testament stories of how God repeatedly offered mercy to his unfaithful people and the New Testament stories of



POPE FRANCIS PREACHES DURING FIRST VESPERS OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IN ST. PETER'S BASILICA AT VATICAN. Pope Francis preaches during first vespers of Divine Mercy Sunday in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 11. Before celebrating vespers, the pope released a 9,300-word document officially proclaiming the 2015-2016 extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. (CNS photo/Cristian Gennari)

Jesus' compassion, healing and mercy demonstrate, the pope said, that "the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality through which he reveals his love," just like mothers and fathers love their children.

"How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God," he wrote. "May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst."

Nothing in the church's preaching or witness, he said, can be lacking in mercy.

Pope Francis asked **that all dioceses around the world designate a "Door of Mercy"** at

their cathedral or another special church or shrine, and **that every diocese implement the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative** on the Friday and Saturday before the fourth week of Lent. In Rome the last two years, the pope has opened the celebration with a penance service in St. Peter's Basilica and churches around the city were open for the next 24 hours for confessions and Eucharistic Adoration.

The pope said he will **designate and send out "Missionaries of Mercy"** to preach about mercy; they will be given special authority, he said, "to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See." Under church law, those sins involve: a man who directly participated in an abortion and later wants to enter the priesthood;

priests who have broken the seal of confession; priests who have offered sacramental absolution to their own sexual partners; desecrating the Eucharist; and making an attempt on the life of the pope. Usually, the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court, handles those cases.

And he **urges all Catholics to spend more time practicing what traditionally have been called the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.** The corporal works are: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, giving drink to the thirsty and burying the dead. The spiritual works are: converting sinners, instructing the ignorant, advising the doubtful, comforting the sorrowful, bear-

ing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries and praying for the living and dead.

The date the pope chose to open the year -- Dec. 8 -- is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Both dates, he wrote, are related to the Year of Mercy.

Mercy, he said, is "the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved forever despite our sins." That bridge was made concrete when God chose Mary to be the mother of his son.

The Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote, is also a way to keep the Second Vatican Council alive. "The walls which too long had made the church a kind of fortress were torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way," he said. The council recognized "a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father's love in the world."

The life and action of the church, he said, "is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of mercy," a mercy that "knows no bounds and extends to everyone without exception."

While some people try to argue that mercy, even God's mercy, is limited by the demands of justice, Pope Francis said mercy and justice are "two dimensions of a single reality that unfolds progressively until it culminates in the fullness of love."

Preaching mercy, he said, is not the same as ignoring sin or withholding correction. Instead, mercy invites repentance and conversion and ensures the sinner that once God forgives a sin, he forgets it.

The pope addressed direct appeals in the document to

See YEAR OF MERCY, pg. 8

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Hearing the Cry of the Poor

Poverty is a complex issue, but it is not one of people simply being lazy, as we may often hear. Wage earners who are “downsized,” seniors who can’t afford critical medicine and families living on minimum wage are among those in poverty. A surprise illness or accident can be financially devastating, even for people used to living above the poverty line.

The U.S. bishops’ Poverty USA initiative explains that living at the poverty line can mean making choices between food and medicine, getting to work or paying a utility bill -- choices no one ever wants to make.

The U.S. Census Bureau’s 2013 American Community Sur-

vey shows that 44 percent of our nation’s children now live in low-income families with income less than 200 percent of the poverty level, and 19.9 percent are at the poverty level.

Overall in 2013, 14.5 percent of the U.S. population had incomes below the poverty level -- 45.3 million people. Though the number and rate for 2013 stayed virtually the same the last two years, the poverty rate increased the previous four years.

At a talk last year, Pope Francis said, “Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.”

We can respond through

charitable works and by confronting the structural dimension of problems and their solutions: Improving the education system, expanding access to affordable housing, participating in a living-wage campaign are examples.

The church teaches that how we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- impacts human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined or abandoned. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being

of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Decisions around the 2016 federal budget resolution should be measured against whether they protect human life and dignity, the poor and vulnerable and the common good, particularly workers and their families, stated two U.S. bishops in a letter earlier this year to every member of Congress.

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami and Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico, wrote that as pastors, “We see every day the human consequences of budget choices. Our Catholic community defends the unborn, feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, educates the young,

and cares for the sick, both at home and abroad. We help poor families rise above crushing poverty, resettle refugees fleeing conflict and persecution and reach out to communities devastated by wars, natural disasters and famines. In much of this work, we are partners with government, and our combined resources allow us to reach further and help more.”

Fighting poverty is something in which we must all engage, in whatever form is appropriate for our skills, our abilities, and our relationship with Jesus. Being fully informed of the complexity of poverty requires us to listen, not make assumptions.

----- *The St. Louis Review*

Synod on the Family could be the Catholic Church’s finest hour

It is the Marriage at Cana all over again. It really is.

Everyone is celebrating. The crowds are excited and hopeful. And behind the scenes, the apostles are dealing with a crisis.

The Blessed Mother sees both: the celebration and the building crisis. And she intervenes.

Right now, we are gearing up for a celebration. In September, the Church will come together to celebrate the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage and the beauty of the domestic church (the family). And it should be a time of celebration. A time of hope. A time of gratitude and praise for the gifts we have in marriage and family.

The event is bookended by the Synods on the Family, where the apostles gather together. A crisis threatens marriage, and the Blessed Mother steps into their midst. “My Son, they have no wine.” She seems to be saying it again.

The fundamental building block of our society is crumbling, and the whole thing is about to collapse. It will all come to a screeching halt—this celebration of marriage and family—if something doesn’t happen.

What does it mean to run out of wine today? We see it in the proliferation of pornography, the commonplace use of artificial contraception, the growing number of babies conceived through in vitro fertilization—a process



CATHOLIC BY GRACE

Denise Bossert
Freelance -- Denisebossert.com

that claims the lives of five-to-ten embryos with every cycle of IVF.

The wine runs out as we see our young people sexualized at earlier and earlier ages, as young women are objectified, as the unborn are sacrificed on the altar of our agendas, our pre-conceived plans, our ideas about the future.

The wine runs out when couples stop working at marriage, stop dating each other, stop putting faith and family at the top of the list.

The wine runs out when men and women stop advocating for marriage and new life, when those advocating for marriage are advocating a completely different reality than the Church has ever held.

The wine runs out when society tells the Church what a Sacrament should be, which lives to protect, when a marriage is over.

My Son, they have no wine.

And yet, the celebration goes on—as it should because marriage and family are worth celebrating. No need to throw our hands into the air and give up. Our Lady has proven that she cares about mar-

riage, and she even cares about the celebrations that surround it.

She intercedes, and her Son acts.

We are living in the moment between celebration and disaster. The bishops see how fragile the family is in modern culture. They have heard Our Lady speak. They have been given the directive to do whatever He says.

It is an odd place to be, standing here, seeing it all. The celebration coming in September, so like the Wedding at Cana.

The Synods on the Family, so like the moment when Our Lady speaks and our Lord acts.

Celebration and crisis.

The water & wine of grace. And the reality of outside forces.

This could be our finest hour. This could be the beginning of a world-wide ministry to the family. It began at the Wedding of Cana. Our Lord’s public ministry. The miraculous intervention. The pairing of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart.

In my darker moments, I see only the approaching crisis. People building hasty marriages.

Efforts to redefine marriage. Decisions to discard marriages like they were last year’s fashion statement.

The domestic church is in trouble and the answers won’t be easy. The answers may even require something miraculous.

But we have been here before.

It’s time to rise up. Some things are worth protecting, de-

fining, defending, and salvaging. And once again, water can turn into wine. The celebration will continue.

And the Church will lead the way because she has received the mandate: do whatever He tells you.

Let the Church be the Church.

Pray for the apostles.

And expect a miracle.

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Bishop William B. Friend, former bishop of Alexandria, dies April 2

Bishop William B. Friend, the first bishop of the Diocese of Shreveport and the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria, died April 2 at his retirement home in Coral Springs, Florida. He was 83.

Bishop Friend, a native of Miami, was ordained May 7, 1959 in Mobile, Alabama.

In his 56 years of service to the Church, he served as a parish priest, a teacher, a school principal, a school counselor and as a superintendent of Catholic schools.

He also served as director of the Office of Educational Research at the University of Notre Dame in Southbend, Ind. and later as Vicar for Education and Chancellor for Administration in the Diocese of Mobile.

He was first appointed auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport on Aug. 31, 1979, by Pope John Paul II. He was elevated to bishop of the joint diocese on Nov. 17, 1982.

As bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport, he named Father Ronald Hoppe moderator of the curia and held town meetings in 1983 to provide a forum for the input of his flock into what would become the vision statement for the diocese.

A restructuring of the diocesan departments and the establishment of vicariates were to allow for more efficient delivery of diocesan services; two new fa-

cilities were purchased to house diocesan office personnel.

Retirement programs for both clergy and lay employees were implemented and the Greco Institute was begun to make adult education courses available to Catholics throughout the diocese.

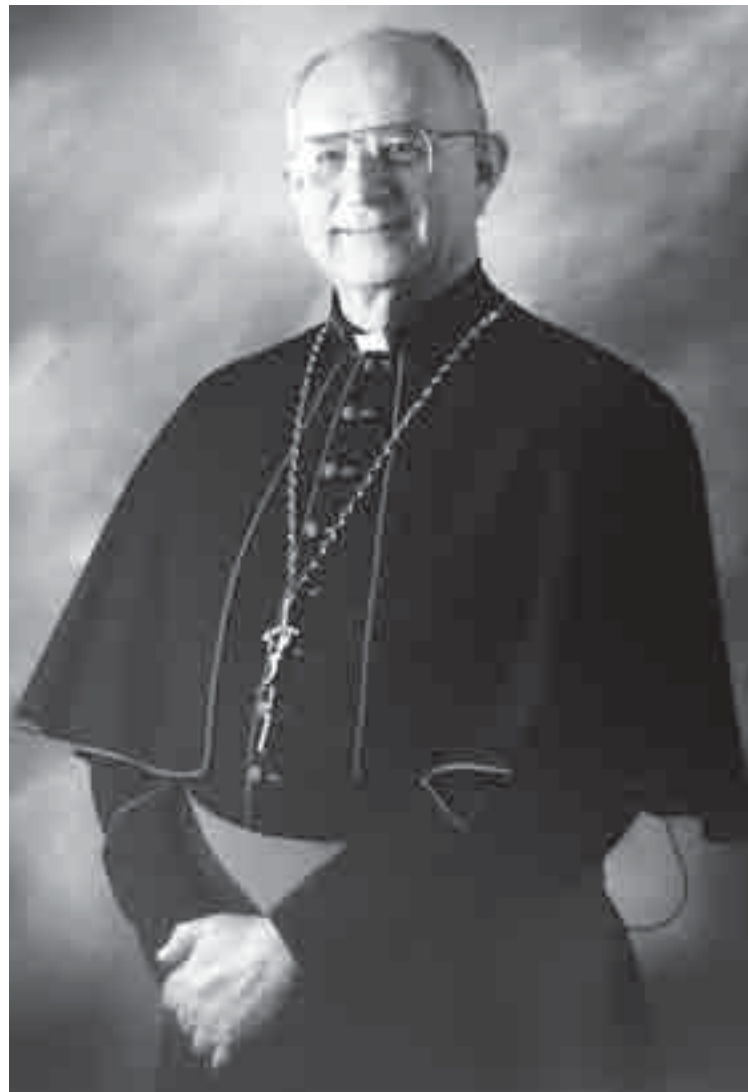
Sabbaticals for priests were initiated; the Loyola University Pastoral Institute Program was introduced into the diocese and a program in Advanced Spiritual Counseling became operational.

Lay involvement in parish life was strengthened by the establishment of parish finance councils, and the Catholic Foundation of North-Central Louisiana, Inc., was set up to receive and administer funds and property for religious, charitable, and educational purposes.

In 1985, a survey of Catholic life in the diocese yielded information and statistics that, along with the earlier town meetings and planning sessions led to the formulation of a mission statement for the diocese.

By the third anniversary of his consecration as Bishop of Alexandria-Shreveport, Bishop Friend was shepherd and leader of more than 90,000 Catholics scattered throughout 83 parishes and 45 missions, and 28 Catholic schools.

At the November 1983 annual meeting of the U.S. Bishops in Washington, D.C., Bishop Friend was named chairman for



Bishop William B. Friend
1931 -2015

the Campaign for Human Development and served until Dec. 31, 1985.

In June 1986, when the Dio-

cese of Shreveport was carved from the joint diocese, Bishop Friend was appointed as its first bishop.

For the next 20 years, Friend served as bishop of the Diocese of Shreveport, implementing some of the same educational and administrative restructuring programs that he started in Alexandria.

Friend resigned and assumed emeritus status in late 2006 after he reached the mandatory retirement age of 75. After his resignation was accepted by Pope Benedict XVI on Dec. 20, 2006, he remained in charge of the diocese as apostolic administrator until April 1, 2008, when Benedict named Michael Duca as the new bishop.

"I first met Bishop Friend when he served apostolic administrator of the diocese," said Bishop Ronald Herzog. "After my appointment to Alexandria, he welcomed me to the residence and provided me with an overview of the diocese and joined me for the official press conference the following day. He remained a close friend and mentor until his retirement. He will be missed by all."

The funeral Mass was held April 14 at the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans in Shreveport.

The diocese suggests memorial donations be made to Catholic Charities, the Diocese of Shreveport Greco Institute, or Community Renewal International. Condolences and memorials can be directed to the Catholic Center, 3500 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport.

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Deacon Brian Seiler



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John Wiltse

Four to be ordained to priesthood; one to be ordained a deacon

The Diocese of Alexandria will ordain four men to the priesthood in May and ordain one as a deacon in June.

Walter Ajaero, Joseph Desmoine, Dale Meade, and Brian Seiler will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

John Wiltse will be ordained a deacon on Saturday, June 6 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

Bishop Ronald Herzog is ex-

pected to preside over both ordinations.

Walter Ajaero is a deacon from Nigeria who came to the United States in 2014. He contacted Bishop Herzog and asked to be ordained as a priest in this diocese. Before coming to the U.S., Walter studied at Seat of Wisdom Seminary in Owerri.

Joseph, Dale and Brian are currently studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

Brian is the son of Drs. Bren-

da and Jeff Seiler of Alexandria, where he is a parishioner at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church.

Dale is the son of Charlene Meade of Pollock, and is a parishioner at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Joseph is the son of Gary and Mary Desmoine of LaPlace. He also attended St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict.

John is currently studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He is the son of Tracy Wiltse of Tioga and the late Larry Wiltse. His home parish is Sacred Heart of Jesus in Pineville.

Walter was born in Nigeria on June 24, 1982, to Evelyn and Walter Ajaero, Sr. they have been married for 39 years. Walter's father retired from teaching several years ago but previously taught at St. Michael's Primary School in Owerri North, Imo in Nigeria. Walter's mother is the retired headmistress of St. Michael's. Walter has a wonderful relationship with his parents and speaks with them often.

Walter is the fourth of five

children. He has two older brothers, one older sister and one younger sister. His oldest brother lives in Germany, but his other siblings live in Nigeria. All of his siblings attended college and are employed. Walter maintains a good relationship with them.

Walter attended K through 3rd grade at Kings College Primary School in Lagos, Nigeria. His family later moved to Imo where Walter attended 4th through 6th grade at St. Michael's Primary School. He was a good student and routinely earned the first or second spots in his class.

When he was 11 years old, Walter was accepted to junior secondary school at Assumpta Minor Seminary in Naze, Imo. He attended Assumpta for 3 years until he was 14 years and "grew in wisdom, age, and grace." The director of the school, Rev. Anthony Njoku, was a strong mentor for Walter.

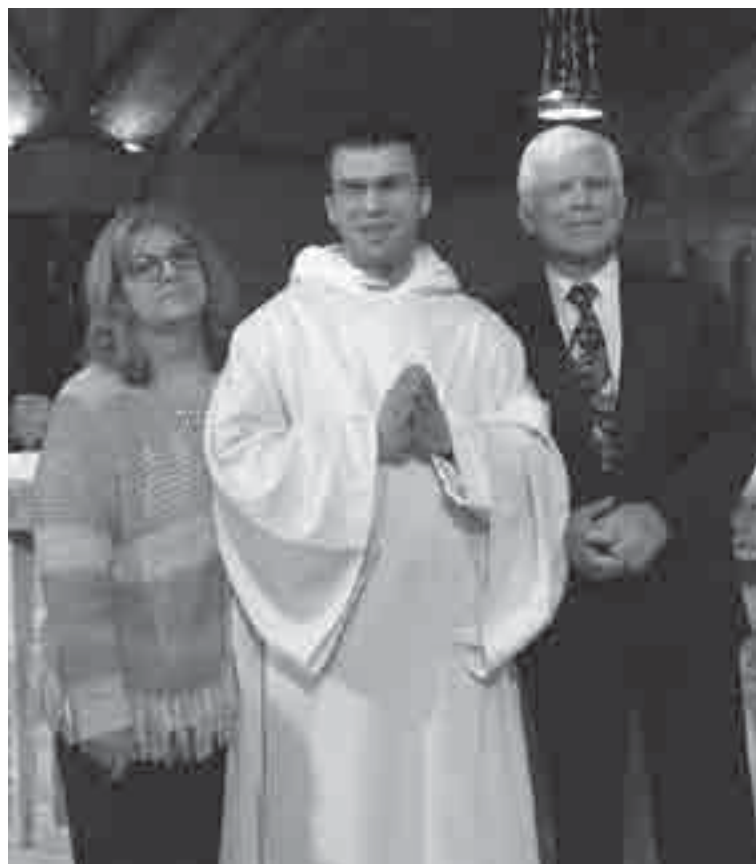
From 14 to 16 years old, Walter attended junior seminary at St. Peter Claver in Okpala, Imo. He earned between first and third positions in school and graduated in

1999.

Following graduation, Walter performed "apostolic work" for a year with Rev. Njoku. In 2000, he took a "spiritual year." Then in 2001, he entered senior seminary at the Seat of Wisdom Seminary in Owerri. He graduated second in his class in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy. In 2006, he performed a year of "apostolic work" with Archbishop Anthony Obinna. In 2007, Walter returned to Seat of Wisdom Seminary for his theological education. In 2010, he graduated second in his class earning a master's degree in Theology.

In 2010, Walter was ordained as deacon by Bishop Gregory Ochiaghe and was assigned for a year to Our Lady of Good Council in the Owerri Archdiocese under the supervision of Rev. Professor Anthony Onyeocha.

Walter came to the U.S. in September of 2013 and lived with family in Baltimore. In July of 2014 he came to the Diocese of Alexandria.



BROTHER LOUIS BERTRAND (formerly Adam Lemoine, and once a seminarian from the Diocese of Alexandria) was ordained a deacon March 24 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The Dominican House of Studies (where Brother Louis is currently studying) serves as a formation community for Dominican candidates for Holy Orders and the Dominican cooperator brotherhood. Brother Louis is the son of Cindy and Ralph Lemoine of St. Anthony Church in Bunkie.



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Two Marianite sisters from diocese celebrate 60 years

Two sisters from the Marianites of the Holy Cross are celebrating jubilees this year.

Sister JoAnn DeLoach and Sister Mary Kay Viellion, both celebrating 60 years, will be honored in Opelousas May 2 in celebration of their life of service.

Sister JoAnn DeLoach, MSC, was born in Beaumont, TX. She moved when she was in 5th grade to Lake Charles, where she met the Marianites while attending St. Charles Academy.

After graduating from the Academy in 1955, JoAnn entered the Marianite novitiate. The following year she received the Marianite habit and the name Sister Mary Paula. After Vatican II she chose to return to her baptismal name.

Sister JoAnn made perpetual profession in 1960, and was assigned to teach in elementary schools in Algiers, Ocean Springs, MS, and Plaquemine.

Having received a masters degree in Mathematics Education from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in 1974, she taught math in high schools in Morgan City, Opelousas, Gretna, and at the Academy of Holy Angels in New Orleans.

Eight years of parish ministry in Franklin and at St. Mary of the Angels in New Orleans fol-

lowed her teaching career.

Coordinator of assisted living for our elderly sisters in residence at St. Joseph's convent and Our Lady of Holy Cross engaged Sister JoAnn for several years.

Since 2003 she has been pastoral associate at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish in Alexandria, LA, where she ministers primarily with the elders of the parish.

Sr. Mary Kay Viellion, MSC (a.k.a. Sr. Dominic Savio) was born in New Orleans' French Quarter and entered the Marianites of Holy Cross after graduating from Holy Angels Academy.

She taught elementary, high school, and college classes in Opelousas, New Orleans, Houma, Morgan City, Lake Charles, and Plaquemine.

In 1973 she earned her doctorate at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and joined the faculty of Our Lady of Holy Cross College.

Sister has also served in the Diocese of Alexandria as Archivist and on the Marianite Provincial Administrations in both North America and France.

For the past several years she has been a resident of Prompt Succor Nursing Home in Opelousas and serves as author of our Marianite memoriams.



Sister JoAnn DeLoach, MSC



Sister Mary Kay Viellion, MSC



Sisters of the Holy Family to host 'Come and See' event April 25

The Sisters of the Holy Family cordially invite all young women who may be thinking about the consecrated life to join them for a *Come and See* event on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Mere Henriette Delille Convent located at 3000 Elliott Street, in Alexandria.

Join Sisters Gloria Lewis, Elizabeth Ann Holmes, Hilary Daigle, and Rosalind Barbeneaux, (all Sisters of the Holy Family) in their mid-morning prayer followed by fellowship with the sisters and meeting three young novices currently in formation.

The Sisters of the Holy Family was founded in 1842 by the Venerable Henriette Delille of New Orleans. They are committed to a life of bringing healing and comfort to children, the elderly, the poor, and the powerless, especially those of African descent.

For more information, call 318-483-9480.

The story of Henriette Delille

Venerable Henriette Delille is the first U.S. native born African American whose cause for canonization has been officially opened by the Catholic Church.

She was born in New Orleans in 1812, a free woman of color.

By 1836, she had inspired a small band of women to assist the sick and dying and to catchize the uninstructed among her people.

By 1841, this group of pious women was both encouraged and recognized by the Church. The Sisters of the Holy Family trace their official origin to 1842.

In 1851, Henriette had personally purchased a home where these women could live in community and further their ministry.

At her death in 1862, Henriette Delille was known as one "who for the love of Jesus Christ had made herself the humble servant of slaves." This simple prayer guided her life: "I believe in God, I hope in God. I love. I



want to live and die for God.

Henriette Delille's canonization process was initiated by Archbishop Philip M. Hannan in April, 1988, requested by Mother Rose de Lima Hazeur, Superior General of the Sisters of the Holy Family. It was reviewed by a special commission in Rome who gave permission in June, 1988 to officially open the process.

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ST. ANTHONY (Natchitoches) BLESSES IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY. Students in the CCD classes, as well as parishioners at St. Anthony Church in Natchitoches participated in the blessing of the Divine Mercy image by Father John O'Brien, pastor. The 6 ft. X 12 ft. image will be permanently displayed outside the front of the church, under a covered structure to protect it. Pope Francis has declared December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016 as a Jubilarian Year of Mercy.



Year of Mercy

Continued from page 2

members of the mafia and other criminal organizations as well as to officials and others involved in corruption. "For their own good, I beg them to change their lives," he wrote. "I ask them this in the name of the Son of God who, though rejecting sin, never rejected the sinner."

"Violence inflicted for the sake of amassing riches soaked in blood makes one neither powerful nor immortal," he continued. "Everyone, sooner or later, will be subject to God's judgment, from which no one can escape."

At the same time, Pope Fran-

cis wrote, many of those who insist first on God's justice are like the Pharisees who thought they could save themselves by following the letter of the law, but ended up simply placing "burdens on the shoulders of others and undermined the Father's mercy."

"God's justice is his mercy," the pope said. "Mercy is not opposed to justice, but rather expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert and believe."

Recognizing that they have been treated with mercy by God, he said, Christians are obliged to treat others with mercy. In fact,

the Gospel says that Christians will be judged by the mercy they show others.

"At times how hard it seems to forgive," he said. "And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully."

Pope Francis also noted that God's mercy is an important theme in Judaism and Islam, and he urged efforts during the Year of Mercy to increase interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding with followers of both faiths.

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (Powhatan) ST. JOSEPH ALTAR CELEBRATION. Close to 300 people attended the St. Joseph Altar celebration March 22 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Powhatan. It was the first St. Joseph Altar celebration in more than 10 years. (at right) Father John Pardue blesses the new St. Joseph Altar recently constructed by several members of the parish.



St. Joseph Altar returns to St. Francis of Assisi parish

Success story draws 300 people to attend first St. Joseph Altar in more than 10 years

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

A Pastor's Recipe for Success

Start with a tiny church in rural northern Natchitoches parish. Throw in a little conflict over the celebration of the St. Joseph Altar. Close the doors to the parish hall and let everything simmer for 10 years.

After 10 years, breathe new life into the parish and start healing process. Visit with parishioners. Renovate the deteriorating parish hall with the help of parish volunteers. Rebuild the St. Joseph Altar. Clean the kitchen well and start cooking the best traditional Italian food this side of the Mississippi. Invite friends, family, and neighbors. Mix well.

Makes close to 300 people attend the first St. Joseph Altar celebration at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Powhatan in more than 10 years.

It's a recipe for success that Father John Pardue, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Powhatan hopes not many parishes will need, but one that worked for him.

"To have a St. Joseph Altar celebration like we had March 22, is amazing for the size of this small town," said Fr. John. "Families, friends, and neighbors (Catholic and non-Catholic) were here, as well as friends and family

members from Shreveport, Baton Rouge, Covington, and Lake Charles. This is how important the St. Joseph Altar celebration is to these people."

Ten years ago, a group of traditional Italian Catholics at St. Francis put a lot of heart and hard work into preparing a large St. Joseph Altar every year. People came from miles around to cel-

ebate.

But something happened in the parish one year that caused some hurt feelings and the annual celebration ceased to exist. Church attendance fell. The doors to the parish hall were closed and left for the rats to take over as their new home.

When Father John came to the parish in June 2014, he saw



RAT-INFESTED CHURCH HALL. This was the church hall at St. Francis of Assisi in Powhatan before it was renovated by the parishioners.



Reader Feedback

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the deteriorating parish hall, and thought there was no choice but to tear it down.

He also noticed the small number of people who attended Mass each week. He decided to get out into the community and visit with the people. During each visit, he began hearing the same story -- the St. Joseph Altar.

Then he received a phone call from Father Ryan Humphries pastor of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.

The Knights of Columbus at the Basilica (some were former members of St. Francis) wanted to bring the St. Joseph Altar back to Powhatan.

"That would be great, but we don't have a place to have it," answered Father John.

A few weeks later, when Tommy Robichaux, head of the diocesan Building Review Committee, made an inspection of the parish, the two discussed what to do with the parish hall.

"I thought it would cost too much to repair, but Robichaux suggested we try to save it," said Father John. "When word got out that we were going to fix the hall, volunteers started coming from everywhere."

"All I did was say 'yes' to all the offers to do volunteer labor, clean, fix, repair, and replace," he said. "It was amazing how everyone worked together."

Even the women and young people of the parish scrubbed the kitchen appliances, lined the cabinets with fresh new plastic lining, and stacked clean dishes in the cabinets.

In the center of the main wall, the parishioners built a new permanent St. Joseph Altar.

Several members of the Leone family, as well as other parishioners, started planning the menu for the March 22 celebration -- Italian spaghetti with all the fixings. The women dusted off their recipes for special breads and started baking.

On the day of the celebration, close to 300 people gathered in the new hall. The St. Joseph Altar was beautifully decorated and filled with fresh baked goods.

"I am so proud of the people of St. Francis of Assisi Church for the work that they did and for the love in their heart," said Father John. "This is truly an amazing little parish. It just shows you what can be accomplished when everyone works together."

Ann Masden retires after 23 years of service to the diocese

On May 1, Ann Masden may finally get her lifelong dream of having just a 'normal, routine day.'

Because on May 1, Ann, who has served as the diocesan director of Development and Public Affairs for the past 23 years, will begin the first day of her retirement.

"Every day is different working at the diocese, but I wouldn't trade those 23 years for anything," she said. "I'll miss it."

It was Bishop Sam Jacobs who asked Ann to leave her job as executive director of the YMCA in 1992 and to come to work at the diocese as director of Development.

"Bishop Jacobs was a very outgoing, spiritual man," she said. "He knew how to talk to people and get to know them on a personal basis. I learned a lot about working with people from him."

At the time, the Annual Diocese Appeal was reaching less than \$400,000, but today, the annual appeal has doubled, taking in close to \$800,000 to support the diocesan services like seminary education and numerous ministries.

In 1994, Ann remembers writing a grant to Catholic Extension asking for \$15,000 to purchase a small, Protestant church that was now empty. Father Pedro Sierra had big dreams of turning that building into a Catholic

Church for the growing number of Hispanics in the Forest Hill area.

Twenty years later, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a thriving mission for the largest Hispanic community in the diocese. The mission church also includes a church hall with classrooms for CCD and space for a free medical clinic.

When Bishop Herzog came to the diocese in 2005, his enthusiasm and desires to generate more funding for seminarian education and the diaconate program, involved the talents of Ann, her staff, and volunteers.

Programs like Brunch with the Bishop, Taste of Faith, and the Bishop's Golf Tournament (initially started by Bishop Jacobs), required a lot of coordinating, planning, and publicity in order to achieve success.

These programs generated funds for seminarian education, which Ann believes is one of the best investments we can make in our diocese.

"I remember when Father Craig Scott, Rickey Gremillion, Chad Partain, Marc Noel, (to name a few), were all in seminary," she said. "I see the priests that they have become today. It validates all the effort that goes



TOP DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT. Ann Masden received the Bishop William G. Connare Award in 2012. It is the highest award given by the International Catholic Stewardship Council, a national organization made up of diocesan stewardship and philanthropy directors.

into raising money for seminarian education."

But for Ann, probably the most rewarding part of the past 23 years, has been having the opportunity to learn more about her faith and to grow her in spiritual life, through her job.

"I learned so much from priests like Msgr. Joseph Susi -- who was a true example of what he preached and always evangelizing; Father Gerard Foley, who was so kind and compassionate; and Father Ken Roy, who could never say no to a person in need."

"I feel a deep sense of gratitude to all three bishops I've worked with, and to all the priests, diocesan staff -- especially Sandi Tarver, Jeannie Petrus, and Joan Ferguson, -- and the countless volunteers. Thank you for your support and friendship."

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Meet Tim Cahill: new development director

Ann Masden retires after 23 years of service to diocese

Bishop Ronald Herzog recently announced the appointment of Tim Cahill as director of Development and Public Affairs for the Diocese of Alexandria.

Tim will take over the responsibilities of Ann Masden, who is retiring after serving as the director of Development and Public Affairs for the past 23 years.

"We are very proud and grateful for the outstanding work that Ann Masden has done for the diocese these past 23 years. We wish her well in her retirement," said Bishop Herzog. "And to Tim, we welcome him to the Diocese of Alexandria."

Tim was born and raised in Fairview Park, Ohio, attended Catholic grade school and high school, and graduated from Forham University in New York with a degree in Philosophy.

For the past 15 years, he has lived in Chicago and worked in the insurance industry as a commercial property underwriter.

He is married to Jen Flynn, a native of Alexandria, and they have two children -- one 4-years



Ann Masden

old and one 20 months. The 4-year old is in Pre-K at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, where Tim and his family are now enrolled as parishioners.

Ann Masden came to the diocese in 1992 at the encouragement of Bishop Sam Jacobs. While at the diocese, Ann has raised an estimated \$17 million through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, grants, and special events.

In 2012, she received the Bishop William G. Conare Award from the Internal Catholic Stew-



Tim Cahill

ardship Council. The Connare Award is the organization's highest honor for diocesan stewardship and philanthropy directors.

Ann served on the ICSC's board of directors for seven years and on the board's executive and nominating committees. She was the chair of the bylaws and diocesan stewardship and development education committees; chaired the 2006 ICSC international conference in Boston, Mass; and played an integral role on the 2007 executive director search committee.



DR. JOSE GARCIA and VIVIAN GARCIA have been nominated for the prestigious Lumen Christi Award, sponsored by Catholic Extension. For the past 19 years, the Garcias have volunteered medical services to local immigrants.

Dr. and Mrs. Garcia nominated for Lumen Christi Award

Dr. Jose Garcia and his wife Vivian have been nominated by the Diocese of Alexandria for the 38th annual Lumen Christi Award, sponsored by Catholic Extension.

For the past 19 years, the Garcias have volunteered medical services to local immigrants in the Forest Hill Hispanic community.

Dr. Garcia, an internist in Alexandria, offers free medical services to the Hispanic community one Saturday a month at a small one-room clinic at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Forest Hill. Vivian assists her husband by checking in the patients and

keeping track of their medical history. Both speak fluent Spanish, so they are able to communicate with the patients.

The Lumen Christi award is presented to a woman religious, priest, lay person or group whose service spreads the light of Christ and transforms lives in their community and beyond.

Both the nominating diocese AND recipient of the Lumen Christi Award will receive a \$25,000 grant, for a total of \$50,000 to fund their ministries.

You can help support the Garcias by voting for them on the Catholic Extension Facebook page or website.

How to support the Garcias:
1. "Like" the Catholic Extension Facebook page to view all nominees.

Click on the Garcia's name. You'll be taken to their page where you can cast your vote by clicking on the blue "Vote" button.

2. Share your vote on your own Facebook wall and ask those in your network to vote, too!

3. Go to www.catholicextension.org and click on the Lumen Christi Award section. Find the listing for the Garcias and press the blue "vote" button.

School Job Fair to be held April 30

The Diocese of Alexandria will host a Catholic Schools Job Fair on Thursday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Center located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd. in Alexandria.

Catholic schools from Avoyelles, Natchitoches and Rapides Parishes will be present to interview for jobs in the field of edu-

cation including elementary and high school teachers, paraprofessionals, and support staff such as secretaries, custodians, and cafeteria technicians.

"We are looking for the best of the best to teach in our Catholic schools," said Tommy Roque, superintendent of Catholic schools. "Applicants for teaching posi-

tions must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and certification (or at least working toward it). We prefer that applicants be Catholic, but it is not necessary.

"We encourage anyone interested in becoming part of our Catholic school system to come to the job fair. For more info, call Vanessa Pichon at 318-445-6424, ext 227.

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THE JUNIOR CHAPTER OF THE MENARD CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS held an Easter Egg Hunt for the residents at St. Mary's Training School.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Fifth Ward) EASTER EGG HUNT. The children at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Fifth Ward participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt with their pastor, Father Silverino Kwebuza.



ST. JOSEPH (Plaucheville) KINDERGARTEN EASTER EGG HUNT. The Kindergarten class from St. Joseph School in Plaucheville enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt recently.

HOLY GHOST/ST. RICHARD (Marksville) EASTER EGG HUNT. Fr. Abraham Varghese, pastor of Holy Ghost Church and St. Richard Chapel, hangs out with the kids who participated in the Easter Egg Hunt held March 28 at Holy Ghost Church. The event was sponsored by the Youth Group.



SACRED HEART (Pineville) LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS. The Youth Group at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville presented a Living Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL LENTEN TREE OF LIFE. Children at St. Anthony School in Bunkie began Lent by writing one thing they would do for Jesus over the 40 days. They rolled up their intention and fastened it to the tree. In mid Lent they reviewed their promise and renewed their intention and a leaf appeared. A few weeks later their promise bloomed on the tree of New Life. (This

is what the tree looked like at the end). Pictured are Kellon Bryant, Tara Laborde, and Macy Flook. The Pre-Schoolers also enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR PASSION PLAY. The Kindergarteners at Our Lady of Prompt Succor presented a superior Living Passion Play. The children performed the passion with Father Dan O'Connor, pastor, portraying Jesus, with the entire cast having speaking parts.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (Forest Hill) LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS. Father Adam Travis leads the Stations of the Cross while parishioners present a Living Stations of the Cross outdoors.



ST. JOSEPH (Plaucheville) SQUIRE'S PRO-LIFE ROSARY. The St. Joseph School's Columbian Squires Circle held a Pro-Life Rosary March 25 at Mater Dolora Church in Plaucheville. In attendance were St. Joseph School's Squires and 7th and 8th grade students, as well as students from Sacred Heart School in Moreauville.

Patroness of local secular Carmelite community to be canonized May 17

Blessed Mariam Baouardy, a Melkite Catholic member of the Discalced Carmelites, will be canonized May 17 in Rome.

Blessed Mariam is the patroness of the local Carmelite Community of Elijah the Prophet, here in Alexandria.

“We share our joy with the whole Carmelite family friends of Carmel, the churches of the Middle East and all those who feel touched by the witness and message of Mariam,” said Deacon Will Travis, a member of the local Carmelite Community.

Born in Galilee, Mariam lived in Egypt, Lebanon, France, India and completed her short life in Bethlehem. She is a bridge between the Christians of the East and West, and she invites us to live more intensely the Communion of Saints in the breath of the Holy Spirit.

The canonization will take place in the this year of the Consecrated Life and the 5th centenary of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila, the Carmelite reformer. Mariam, worthy daughter of the Madre Teresa, became the first Carmelite saint of the Middle East.

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE. Several parishioners from the Diocese of Alexandria attended the Southern Regional Catholic Charismatic Conference in Metairie March 13-15. Archbishop Gregory Aymond opened the conference followed by a keynote talk by Deacon Oney on “Set Free.” This year’s conference theme was “Set Free”. A special feature of this year’s conference was the combination of youth and adults into a single conference track. Next year’s conference will be held April 1-3, 2016.



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ST. RITA CHURCH AND KC COUNCIL #1134 DONATE TO HOMELESS COALITION. Throughout Lent, St. Rita parish hosted a special collection during the daily 8 a.m. Mass to support the Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition. The Bishop Greco KC Council #1134 from St. Rita parish added another \$400, making the total donation \$6,542.50. Pictured are Victor Tolito, KC member; Father Taylor Reynolds, parochial vicar at St. Rita; Sister Nell Murray, DRE; and Larry Robin, KC member.



CHRISTUS ST. FRANCES CABRINI HOSPITAL SUPPORTS THE HOMELESS COALITION. CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini Hospital donated \$10,000 to support the efforts of the Central Louisiana Coalition to Prevent Homelessness. Pictured are John R. Amos, member of the Board of the Coalition, Nancy Hellyer, administrator of Christus Cabrini and COO of Christus Health of Central Louisiana, Kendra Gauthier, executive director of the Coalition, and Shane Williams, president of the board of the Coalition and assistant attorney general for the State of Louisiana.

Community backs Coalition to buy a homeless resource building

By Jeannie Petrus
CT Editor

If everything goes as planned, Alexandria could receive a green light soon for starting the first Resource Center for the homeless in this area.

A Housing Resource Center for this area would mean a place for the homeless to receive social services, take showers, wash clothes, receive mail, make phone calls, get on the Internet, and a host of many other services. It's been referred to as a 'one stop referral and service center' for the homeless in Rapides Parish.

According to Kendra Gauthier, executive director of the Central Louisiana Coalition to Prevent Homelessness, ownership of

half of a building (located at 1515 Jackson Street) has been donated by Cenla Broadcasting and the Virginia Soprano family for the purpose of a Housing Resource Center. The other half ownership of the building is being pursued for purchase.

"We'll know in the next 30-60 days, if the sale goes through," said Gauthier.

The purchase of the building is being supported by several local corporations including Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital (\$10,000) and the Coughlin Saunders Foundation (\$100,000).

St. Rita Church and its Knights of Columbus Council #1134 recently donated a total of \$6,542.50 to the Homeless Coalition. The money was collected at

all the daily Masses during Lent.

"We're very excited about the real possibility of Alexandria having such a needed facility in our area," said Gauthier. "We are so thankful to the Soprano family, the Coughline Saunders Foundation, Cabrini Hospital, and all the generous donors in the area who are being so supportive of this project."

The Central Louisiana Coalition to Prevent Homeless was started in 1993 as an initiative of HUDD (U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department) to house every homeless veteran.

"This was an easy task to accomplish," said Gauthier. "Because we have the VA Hospital, it was easy to send our homeless veterans there, where they could

be provided with many services."

But the second initiative of the Coalition was to house the permanent homeless -- not such an easy task.

"Twenty percent of our homeless population takes up 80 percent of our resources," said Gauthier. "We had to find a way to consolidate our efforts into one place -- like a resource center."

"Cenla Broadcasting (owned by the Virginia Soprano family) has always been one of our biggest supporters," she said. "So when the family approached us about donating their half of a building, we knew this was our opportunity."

Gauthier said that right now, the main concern is purchasing the building, but after the house is

theirs, the real work begins.

"We'll need to do renovations to fit our specific needs. At a later date, we plan to have a drive to collect new towels, personal care items etc, but right now we just need funds for the initial start-up costs," she said.

Fundraiser April 24

The Coalition will be selling plate lunches on the site of the future facility at 1515 Jackson Street on Friday, April 24, to help raise additional funds needed for the purchase and renovation of the building.

For more information about the Coalition or to donate, go to their website at www.cenla-homess.org

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MENARD GIRLS POWERLIFTING TEAM. Five of the six girls who competed in the APF National Powerlifting meet April 11 won first place in their weight class and age division.

Menard Girls Powerlifting Team gaining strength

The Holy Savior Girls Powerlifting Team are making a name for themselves around the state.

At the APF National Powerlifting meet in Walker, LA April 11, five of the six girls that competed won first place in their weight class and age division. The team also won First Place JV Team.

The girls also competed March 20 in a Slidell meet. The team won third place overall.

Sarah Branton and Sawyer Ryder set a state record in the dead lift. Caroline Upton and Madison Feazell placed third.



FOURTH DEGREE KNIGHTS RECOGNIZE ALTAR SERVERS. The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Knights joined Father Silverino Kwebuza March 22 for a special Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Fifth Ward to honor the Altar Servers. The dozen or more Altar servers were recognized and awarded with certificates of appreciation for their dedication and commitment in serving the Church.



ST. MARY'S STUDENTS PLACE IN SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS COMPETITION. Four St. Mary's Catholic High School students earned Silver Key awards and 38 earned Honorable Mention recognition at the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition, hosted locally by NSU Writing Project.

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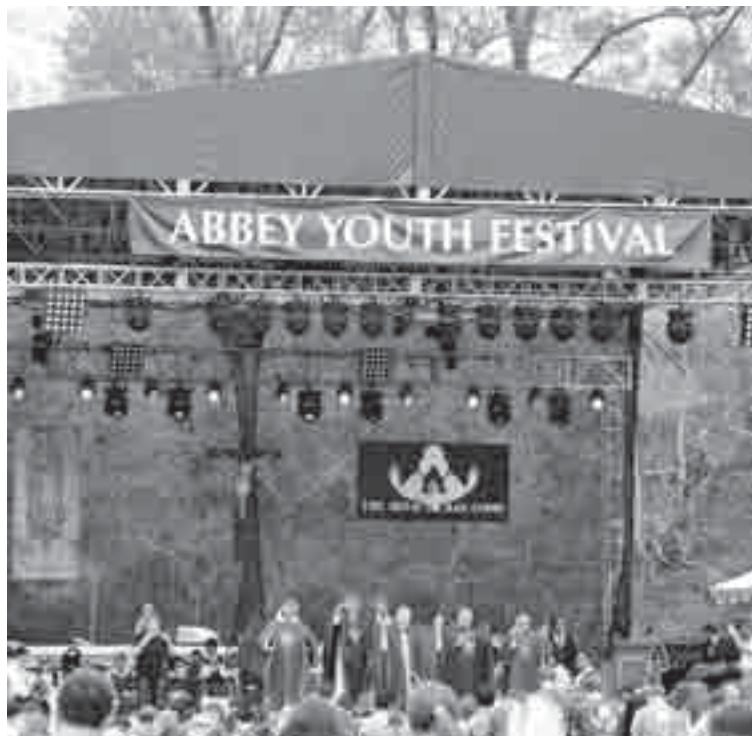
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ABBEY YOUTH FESTIVAL. The Youth Group from Mater Dolorosa attended the Abbey Youth Festival, held March 21 on the campus of Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College.

Abbey Youth Festival attracts Christian youth from Gulf South

Thousands of young people from Louisiana and the Gulf South attended the Abbey Youth Festival held March 21 on the campus of Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College in Covington, Louisiana.

Among the crowd that attended was a large group from Mater Dolorosa Youth Group in Plaquemine.

This year's theme was "The Hour Has Come," based on John 12:20-33.

"The Hour Has Come" offers a message of hope and a challenge for our young people," said Andrew Gutierrez, a senior at St. Ben's from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, who is the AYF

2015 team leader. "In the midst of life's countless struggles and heartaches, we find hope in the love God gives us as He suffers with us. It is a challenge to give and surrender our entire lives to God so that we may fully experience this love God is desperately desiring us to embrace."

"As a team, we have strongly felt the Lord call us to set a challenge before the youth who attend the event," Gutierrez said. "The Hour Has Come for young men and women to embrace their faith unreservedly."

Speakers included:

Paul J. Kim, a musician and beat boxer, is an international motivational youth speaker who also

performs original music.

Fr. Mike Schmitz, is director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth, as well as the chaplain for the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Jackie Francois Angel is a full-time traveling speaker, singer/songwriter and worship leader from Orange County, CA. She has released two albums, "Your Kingdom is Glorious" and "Divine Comedy."

Musical groups included:

Mike Mangione and the Union, an orchestral folk band led by songwriter Mike Mangione and his brother and lead guitarist, Thomas. Their fourth album,

"Red-Winged Blackbird Man," received a 4 out of 5 rating from American Songwriter Magazine.

Greg&Lizzy, a musical duo who share the story of love through their music.

Covenant 7, the St. Joseph College seminarian band.

The Abbey Youth Festival is an apostolic service of Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College. It is designed to provide 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 appropriate for

Catholic young people.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans celebrated Mass at 3:45 p.m.

Abbey Youth Fest began in 2001 under the leadership of Dr. Chris Baglow and a dedicated seminarian task force. The seminarians of Saint Joseph Seminary College continue to play a vital part in the production of AYF in conjunction with the seminary staff and Dumb Ox Productions. It has, in 12 short years, turned into the largest event in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, drawing 529 different groups from all across the south and averaging around 3,000 participants per year.



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April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

4 ways to teach kids how to combat bullying with kindness

By Caitlin Bootsma
Consultant to the VIRTUS®
Programs

We tell children it is important to be kind to others. “Play nicely”; “share”; and “Treat others the way you want to be treated” are all ways that I have personally told kids to express kindness. Of course, I’ve always known that being kind is important, but I’ve recently learned that kindness is not just the nice thing to do, it actually reduces bullying in schools and has a number of other tangibly positive results.

Did you know that practicing acts of kindness actually changes the brain? Dr. O’Grady shares in Psychology Today:

The neuroscience and social science research is clear: kindness changes the brain by the experience of kindness. Children and adolescents do not learn kindness by only thinking about it and talking about it. Kindness best learned by feeling it so that they can reproduce it. Kindness is an emotion that students feel and empathy is a strength that they share.

What results can we expect from teaching kindness in schools



and other settings with children? Studies show that when people give freely to others, there is

A stronger sense of community: Children who practice kindness feel empowered and a greater sense of belonging.

Increased happiness: giving to others through acts of kindness activates parts of the brain that evokes feelings of joy.

The Domino Effect: When one person is kind, chances are high that the person receiving an

act of kindness will be kind to others.

A spirit of gratitude: Both the giver and the receiver of kindness are more likely to be grateful for the blessings in their life.

There are many ways to cul-



tivate kindness. Dr. O’Grady suggests a few including:

Noticing kindness: When you see a child doing something kind, tell them you noticed, affirming their behavior.

Publicly recognize kindness: In some settings, it may be appropriate to recognize acts of kindness by sharing with the class or giving some other token of recognition.

Practice kindness: As a class, you might even explore ways to spread kindness by tracking it through projects such as “Paying it Forward” and having students observe the results of being kind to others.

Teach empathy: Help children to relate to others. The fruit of this increased understanding is often kindness.

As parents, teachers and volunteers, one essential way to combat bullying is to plant the seeds of kindness among children, helping them grow in virtue.

Pope, cardinal advisers discuss bishop’s accountability in abuse cases

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- The question of accountability for bishops and religious superiors who fail to follow through on protecting minors from abuse was “put on the table” during the latest meeting between Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals, said the Vatican spokesman.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said the need for clear and appropriate procedures for cases of “abuse of office” or a failure to act was presented to the group by U.S. Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston -- one of the pope’s top cardinal advisers and president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The Council of Cardinals, often referred to as the C9, held

the second of five meetings scheduled this year April 13-15 with Pope Francis at the Vatican to help advise him on the reform of the Vatican’s organization and church governance.

Father Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters April 15 that Cardinal O’Malley asked the pope and the council to “take on the subject of accountability and responsibility” when it comes to bishops and others in leadership who fail to comply with child protection norms.

It would be a question of coming up with clear and “appropriate procedures and ways to evaluate and judge cases of ‘abuse of office’” or a failure to fulfill one’s responsibilities when it comes to reporting and handling suspected and known cases of abuse, the spokesman said.

The three days of talks, however, concentrated on the group’s main task of devising the best ways to reform the Vatican bureaucracy, Father Lombardi said.

Specifically, he said, the group looked at the best “methodology to follow” for the work that needs to be done before the end of 2016 so they can carry out “effectively the task of preparing the new constitution” for the Roman Curia.

The idea of merging several existing pontifical councils into two large congregations was “pretty much reinforced” during the meetings, he said, referring to the establishment of a new Congregation for Charity, Justice and Peace and a new Congregation for Laity, Family and Life.

It could be expected, he said, that the reform process would be

progressively implemented and would not necessarily be something that would occur “all at once at the end.”

Concerning the revamping of the Vatican’s many commu-

nications structures, the cardinal advisers suggested the pope name a new commission or group that would hammer out how to enact a previous commission’s recommendations.

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Catholic University honors Archbishop Fulton Sheen with Mass, events

75th Anniversary of first radio broadcast of Sheen's program

By Nate Madden
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- On a Tuesday night in 1953, roughly 25 million people in the United States gathered around their television to watch a program featuring that year's Emmy winner for "Most Outstanding Television Personality."

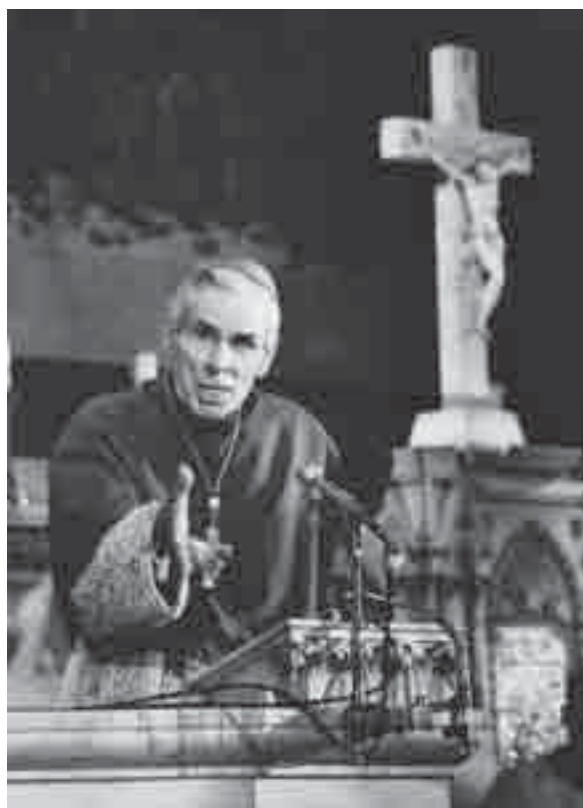
However, instead of tuning in to a slickly produced program made in Hollywood, these people turned on their sets to see a priest in full cassock, standing in front of a chalkboard.

Few members of the American Catholic Church, especially in the 20th century, are as quickly recognized as Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. In honor of the 75th anniversary of the first radio broadcast of his NBC program, "The Catholic Hour," and to draw attention to his sainthood cause, The Catholic University of America sponsored a number of events April 13-17.

The events included an April 13 panel discussion on "Media and the New Evangelization," of which Archbishop Sheen has been called a pioneer; as well as memorial Mass and holy hour and the dedication of a memorial classroom in his honor.

In a video produced by the university highlighting Archbishop Sheen's time spent studying and lecturing there, university president John Garvey said that his life and example are "a reminder to all of us that we're all called to be saints."

According to the university website <http://fulton-sheen.cua.edu>, the archbishop's "whole-hearted embrace of modern



means of communication gave him access to millions of American homes, and made him arguable the most influential American Catholic of the 20th century and a pioneer of the new evangelization."

Last September, his sainthood was suspended indefinitely, when the Archdiocese of New York denied a request from Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Illinois, president of the Archbishop Sheen Foundation, to move the archbishop's body to Peoria. The archbishop was born in the Peoria Diocese in 1895; he died in New York in 1979.

Dominican Sister Maria Frassati Jakupcak, co-chair of the university's Fulton Sheen Legacy Committee, told Catholic News

Service the situation is really nothing new.

Dispute over body

"There's a dispute over who gets Sheen's body," explained Sister Maria. "It's very medieval. This is something that happened quite often in the medieval church: disputes over saints' relics."

Despite the current stay on the beatification process, however, the first approved miracle necessary for his beatification has been already cleared two of the three stages necessary for Archbishop Sheen to be declared "blessed."

"The miracle has to be approved three times, first by a se-



BISHOP JENKY OF PEORIA, ILL., PRAYS OVER GIFTS AT MEMORIAL MASS FOR ARCH-BISHOP SHEEN. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., prays over the gifts as then-Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, right, of New York, who is now a cardinal, joins him during a memorial Mass for Archbishop Fulton Sheen at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York Dec. 9, 2009. In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the first radio broadcast of Bishop Sheen's NBC program, Catholic University sponsored a number of events April 13-17. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

ries of medical experts, then by a panel of theologians and then by the Holy Father," said Sister Maria. "Last summer, Sheen's miracle was approved by the medical experts and team of theologians."

She described the miracle pending approval: It involved a baby, a boy, who was delivered still born but who survived after prayers for the intercession of Archbishop Sheen. The child, James Fulton Engstrom, is now 3 years old and developing normally.

"He was examined three different times by different medical experts and showed no signs of life for 61 minutes," Sister Maria said. "The mother ... was praying to (Sheen) the whole time. As the doctors were writing the death

certificate, he started breathing."

Andrea Ambrosi of Rome, postulator of the Sheen cause, has said the suspension is temporary.

Archbishop Sheen was declared "venerable" by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, meaning he lived a life of heroic virtues. In general two miracles are needed for sainthood -- one for beatification and the second for canonization.

In addition to various events honoring the archbishop's memory, Catholic University -- where he arrived as a student in 1920 and where he taught from 1926 to 1950 -- also organized exhibits on his life, legacy and books in its student center and library to be on display until April 17.

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Diocese of Alexandria

Acts of Apostles tells events, people of early Christianity history

By David Gibson
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Jews from many nations, speaking a wide array of languages, were staying in Jerusalem at the time after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension when a powerful wind swept in upon a house where his apostles and some others, including his mother, were meeting.

Hearing the wind and curious to know what was happening, these people soon came upon a bewildering scene. They found Jesus' closest followers speaking about God in languages that all in their diverse crowd could understand. How could this be?

Some laughed, assuming the apostles were intoxicated.

These details of the first Christian Pentecost are found in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, the biblical book located immediately after St. John's Gospel. Acts introduces readers to people and events in Christianity's earliest history.

In Acts we witness the stoning of St. Stephen, remembered as Christianity's first martyr (7:54-60). We learn the early Christians shared everything they had; none were needy (4:32-35). And Acts memorably leads us into the Athens Areopagus where St. Paul boldly informs citizens that, without their knowing it, their "unknown God" is the God he proclaims, who "gives to everyone life and breath" (17:23-25).

A 12-part NBC-TV series titled "A.D. The Bible Continues," currently airing Sunday evenings, draws upon Acts' fascinating chapters. The Bible indeed continues after Christ's ascension. The Gospel spreads. The Christian community grows amazingly.

Compelling as events in Acts are, however, the book represents



'A.D.: THE BIBLE CONTINUES'. Standing in a crowd just behind a child with a raised fist are John (Babou Ceesay), Mary the mother of God (Greta Scacchi) and Mary Magdalene (Chipo Chung) in a scene from "A.D.: The Bible Continues." The 12-week miniseries covers the Acts of the Apostles, where the stories of how early Christianity developed and are told in the New Testament of the Bible. (CNS photo/courtesy Arenas Group)

more than a collection of historical stories. An underlying purpose binds its many parts together.

Thus, no detail of the first Pentecost is unimportant. Particularly noteworthy is that when the wind swept in, "tongues as of fire" appeared and rested on the apostles and those with them; they began speaking "different tongues."

St. Peter set the record straight. "These people are not drunk," he told the crowd. Rather, exalted at God's right hand, Jesus "received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth." The crowd was witnessing this outpouring.

The gift of speech that enabled people speaking many languages to understand these followers of Jesus foreshadowed a major development in the early Christian community's mission. Jesus' followers will be called to make Christ known in many nations and cultures.

But agreeing to all that this involved was no small accomplishment for early Christian leaders. After all, proclaiming Christ far and wide meant proclaiming him to gentiles, who were not Jewish.

The ancient Christians' questions about this sound odd today. So it is essential to remember they

were Jewish Christians and followed the law of Moses. Would gentile Christians, too, need to follow this law fully?

The process of clarifying that issue underlies the remarkable telling by Acts of the baptism of the Roman centurion Cornelius (10:1-49).

Cornelius was sympathetic toward the Jewish faith but was an uncircumcised gentile. In a vision, however, an angel instructed Cornelius to invite Peter to his home.

Peter made a startling announcement in Cornelius' home. He now realized, he said, "that God shows no partiality. Rather,

TV

REVIEW

in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

Acts notes that "the circumcised believers" accompanying Peter were astounded to see that day that God's Spirit "poured out on the gentiles also."

The author of Acts makes his underlying purpose clear from the start by recalling Jesus saying to the apostles at his ascension, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ... and to the ends of the earth" (1:8).

Introducing himself, our author reveals that Acts is not his first writing. Earlier he "dealt with all that Jesus did and taught" (1:1). Who is he?

"It is well accepted that St. Luke authored the two-volume work of the Gospel of Luke and Acts," according to Benedictine Father Dale Launderville, a Scripture professor at Benedictine-run St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Hellen Mardaga, who teaches Scripture at The Catholic University of America in Washington, agrees. "What Luke has in mind in his double work is to write a salvation history," she said in an interview with Catholic News Service. Acts treats salvation history "after Jesus' return to the Father." It treats "the founding of the early churches."

Father Launderville commented that "in some ways the narrative line" running through Acts is about how "the church spread from Jerusalem to Rome," from one end of the earth to another in the thinking of the times.

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Insurgent: Part II of Divergent Series measures up to hype

Futuristic plot divides society into factions each representing different virtues

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Teenagers are still on the run -- when they're not too busy killing one other -- in "The Divergent Series: Insurgent" (Summit), the follow-up to last year's kick-off of the futuristic franchise.

Based on the second book of the trilogy by Veronica Roth and directed by Robert Schwentke ("The Time Traveler's Wife"), "Insurgent" is faster-paced and sleeker-looking than its predecessor, with echoes of "The Matrix" in its stylish 3-D slow-motion action sequences. But it also ramps up the violence and moral ambiguity, placing this film squarely outside the proper reach of younger adolescents.

For the uninitiated, the setting is post-apocalyptic Chicago, a walled city run with an iron glove by Jeanine Matthews (Kate Winslet). She oversees a regimented system whereby people are divided into factions, each representing a different virtue: Candor (honesty), Amity (peace), Erudite (knowledge), Dauntless (bravery), and Abnegation (selfless).

Those who are not easily classified are called Divergents. Their independent nature is a threat to the status quo, and



'THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT'. Kate Winslet and Shailene Woodley star in a scene from the movie "The Divergent Series: Insurgent." 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. (CNS photo/Lionsgate)

Jeanine commands that they be hunted down and killed.

Enter our heroes, Tris (Shailene Woodley) and her mentor-lover Four (Theo James). When we last saw this duo, they had recruited an army from members of their Dauntless faction

and foiled Jeanine's dastardly plan -- though at the cost of Tris' parents' lives.

Now they're renegades on the run. An elaborate cat-and-mouse game ensues, as both sides try to gain the upper hand.

"Dark times call for extreme

measures," Jeanine proclaims. "I am seeking the greater good."

Tris would make the same claim. Circumstances have transformed our initially meek teen into a battle-hardened Joan of Arc. Internally, though, she's conflicted, torn by a desire for

MOVIE REVIEW

revenge yet wracked by guilt, blaming herself for the deaths of so many, and unable to seek forgiveness for her sins.

To Tris' credit, she stakes out the moral high ground when possible. She's also concerned about others, including her brother, Caleb (Ansel Elgort), and fellow Dauntless member Peter (Miles Teller). Their allegiance to the cause is questionable, and neither is to be trusted.

Amid the mayhem, new characters are introduced. Johanna (Octavia Spencer), saintly head of the Amity faction, offers sanctuary to the rebels on her farm outside the city.

Though presumed dead for years, Four's mother, Evelyn (Naomi Watts), turns up as the creepy leader of an underground army. She has a score to settle with her old friend Jeanine, and seeks sonny boy's help.

As "Insurgent" lumbers toward its explosive climax, the death count rises. And chivalry clearly has no place in this version of the future, where men hesitate neither to beat women to a pulp nor, when the occasion seems to demand it, to slaughter them.

The film contains intense violence, including scenes of torture, nongraphic nonmarital sexual activity and some crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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May 17: 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.

May 31: 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.

April 25: 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.

April 25: 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.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS



ST. ANTHONY 3RD GRADE VISITS FOREST MUSEUM. Mrs. Dorothy Juneau's 3rd grade class & Mrs. Donna Mixon's 4th grade class at St. Anthony School recently visited the Southern Forest Heritage Museum in Long Leaf, Louisiana. They enjoyed touring the sawmill that dates from the early 20th century and the collection of steam powered logging and milling equipment known to exist.

April 25: 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.

April 28: Parenting Seminar

A parenting seminar titled *Train Up A Child: The Challenge of Christian Parenting* will be held Tuesday, April 28, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Lafayette. Cost is \$25, or \$30 at the door. The presenter will be Dan Jurek, a certified spiritual director and director of the PAX Renewal Center in Lafayette.

May 8: Radio Maria Fish Fry

Radio Maria will host a Fish Fry on Friday, May 8 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$7 a plate. Call ahead for quick pick-up, curb-side service. Call 561-6145.

June 5-7: Fishing with a Mission

St. Martin Catholic Church in Lecompte presents Event 2015, "Fishing with a Mission." The event will begin Friday, June 5 in the Church Hall with a dance featuring "Ronnie Bryant and Friends" from 8 - 11 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available and free hors d'oeuvres. Admission is \$15/person or \$25/couple and may be purchased at the door.

Saturday, June 6 - Family night with bingo beginning at 6 p.m. with concessions available.

Sunday, June 7 there will be a Barbecue Chicken Dinner (\$8 per plate) from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. with a Live Auction beginning at approximately 12:30 p.m. Sweet Shop also available. For more information, please contact the Church Office at 776.9480. Please come join us for a weekend of food, fun, and fellowship.

May 11-15: Radio Maria Mariathon

Radio Maria will host its Spring Mariathon May 11 -15. During the 5-day Mariathon, listeners are asked to call in pledges or one-time donation to help support Radio Maria, which is 100 percent listener supported. Money raised during the first two days of the Mariathon go to World Family of Radio Maria; money raised during the last three days will go to Radio Maria US. Please listen online at radiomaria.us and call 561-6145 (local) or 1-888-408-0201 (toll-free) to make your pledge during the Mariathon.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL HELD ITS "JUMP ROPE FOR HEART CAMPAIGN" FUNDRAISER on March 10. Organizer and P.E. teacher, Mrs. Angela Schlumbrecht, commented, "The students enjoyed the Dress Out In Red Day, and the jump rope activities very much while raising public awareness concerning Heart Disease." The school looks forward to participating again next year.

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Petrus
FEED & SEED

2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA

442-2325

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches	VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria		5K Spring Fling Color Run & BBQ Cookoff 9:00 a.m. St. Joseph School, Plaquemine Extreme Obstacles 9:00 a.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria	
PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY	PRAY FOR FR. A. FIGREDO	PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE	PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD
27	28	29	30	MAY 1	2	3
	Parenting Seminar “Train Up A Child: The Challenge of Christian Parenting” 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Church, Lafayette.		Catholic Schools Job Fair 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria.			
PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Radio Maria Fish Fry 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.		
PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE	PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL	PRAY FOR FR. J. KAYALAPARAMBIL	PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD	PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI	PRAY FOR FR. F. KUMAI	MOTHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. J. KUMBLUMKAL
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Graduation St. Mary’s School, Natchitoches	Graduation Holy Savior Menard at Guinn Auditorium, Louisiana College, Pineville		Graduation St. Joseph School, Plaquemine			Marriage Prep Workshop, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Family Center at Sacred Heart Church, Pineville.
Radio Maria Mariathon						
PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM	PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA	PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD	PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME	PRAY FOR FR. R. LEMOINE	PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Louisiana Clergy Open Golf Tournament Squirrel Run Golf Course, New Iberia				Adult Confirmation 2:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA	PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK	PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS	PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER	PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN	PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK	PRAY FOR FR. J. NELLIKUNNEL



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BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

Sunday, May 31

Cabrini Outpatient Center (Corner of Texas & Prescott)
From 10:00am 'til the last tasty bite is sold

\$5 each