

CHURCH TODAY

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ON THE INSIDE

USCCB to conduct 6th annual Fortnight for Freedom June 21- July 4

The 6th annual Fortnight for Freedom will begin June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—and July 4, Independence Day. Let us take a few moments each day from June 21 - July 4 to pray, reflect, and take action on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad. See page 3 for more.

Class of 2017 graduates

Throughout the diocese, hundreds of seniors graduated from high school and college. Many churches held Senior Masses to honor these students. Go to pages 14-15 for a large group of graduating seniors.

St. Augustine Church completes stained glass window project

Twelve new stained glass windows depicting saints and Bible stories have been installed at St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle, completing an 18-month-long project. For more information, go to pages 12-13.



Newly ordained Transitional Deacon Luke LaFleur

Bishop David Talley extends a warm welcome and congratulations to Luke LaFleur during the diaconate ordination Mass May 27 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. For more on the diaconate ordination, go to page 7.

Melania Trump is first Catholic to live in White House since JFK

Compiled from
various news reports

When President Donald Trump and his wife Melania visited Pope Francis May 24 at the Vatican, it was discovered that Melania Trump is Catholic.

The first lady's spokesman confirmed to several news outlets that she is a practicing Catholic, making her the first Catholic to occupy the White House since John F. Kennedy was president.

Melania accompanied her husband Donald Trump on his trip to the Vatican to meet Pope Francis. As the two men exchanged gifts inside of the Apostolic Palace, the pope also gifted Melania with a rosary he had blessed.

She described the visit with the leader of the Catholic Church as "one I'll never forget."

While President Trump referenced his Presbyterian identity during the campaign, her faith did not come up. He and the first lady were married in 2005 in an Episcopal church in Palm Beach, Fla., where their son Barron Trump was later baptized.

The church's rector performed a traditional Episcopal wedding service. The bride walked down the aisle carrying only an ancient rosary, while a vocalist sang Ave Maria in an ex-



POPE FRANCIS places his hand over a rosary that First Lady Melania Trump asked him to bless during a private audience with him May 24. The pope also gave Melania a rosary he had blessed as a gift to her. After the meeting that Melania and President Donald Trump had with Pope Francis, it was discovered for the first time, that she is Catholic. This makes her the first Catholic first lady to occupy the White House since John F. Kennedy was president. During her visit to the Bambino Gesù children's hospital, she spent time in front of a statue of the Madonna and laid flowers at Her feet.

quisite soprano voice.

Her spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, confirmed in an email that Melania Trump identifies as Catholic, but Grisham did not respond to questions about if and when the first lady was baptized, whether she attends Mass regularly at a specific parish and whether the first family are current members of a church.

The first lady, who became a U.S. citizen in 2006, grew up in what is today Slovenia, which has been heavily influenced by Catholicism.

After the visit with the pope, first lady Melania Trump paid a visit to Bambino Gesù children's hospital in Rome.

The hospital, owned by the Catholic Church and founded

in 1869, is the largest pediatric hospital and research center in Europe. The first lady personally wrote a letter to Pope Francis asking to visit the hospital, a spokesperson said.

Once at the hospital she began spending her time coloring with patients, snapping selfies, signing bandages and even speaking to them in Italian.

As she was leaving the hospital, she spent time in front of a statue of the Madonna and laid flowers at Her feet.

"My visit to Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital was very moving," the first lady said in a statement. "To spend time speaking to and coloring with children who have such a positive spirit despite illness was an amazing gift. The time I spent with the little ones in the Intensive Care Unit is something I will never forget, and I will pray for each of them daily. I want to thank the doctors, nurses and staff of the hospital, who all do such beautiful and critical work."

Melania also shared a moving story about a young boy who was just informed he received a heart transplant, adding that she visited with the boy just hours prior.

"Upon landing in Belgium, I learned a young boy and his family who had been waiting for a heart transplant was informed that the hospital has found a donor," she said. "I read a book and held hands with this special little one just a few hours ago, and now my own heart is filled with joy over this news."

Princess Diana and Mother Teresa are among those who have visited Bambino Gesù hospital.

VISIT TO THE VATICAN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BAMBINO GESU. While President Donald Trump was meeting privately with Pope Francis, Melania visited the Bambino Gesù, a children's hospital owned by the Vatican. There she visited with sick children, speaking to them in Italian, coloring with them, and taking selfies. As she left the hospital, she stopped and prayed before a statue of the Blessed Mother located outside the hospital.



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Day
June 18**

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USCCB to conduct 6th annual Fortnight for Freedom June 21-July 4

The USCCB's 6th annual Fortnight for Freedom will consist of national and local efforts to educate Americans on challenges to religious liberty both at home and abroad.

The Fortnight for Freedom will begin June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—and July 4, Independence Day.

"We are called to follow Christ as missionary disciples by seeking the truth, serving others, and living our faith in all that we do," said Bishop David Talley. "Let us take a few moments each day from June 21 - July 4 to pray, reflect, and take action on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad."

The Fortnight for Freedom is a campaign initiated by the Catholic bishops of the U.S. Events over the course of 14 days from June 21 to July 4 each year, call upon Catholics to participate in a pledge to religious liberty and an appeal for the inclusion of a "conscience clause" for religious institutions and religious faithful to practice according to the moral tenets of one's religious faith.

The event has its beginnings in 2010 when Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York wrote a three-page analysis defending the the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

Dolan predicted such ac-



tions on the part of the federal government would "precipitate a national conflict between church and state of enormous proportions and to the detriment of both institutions.

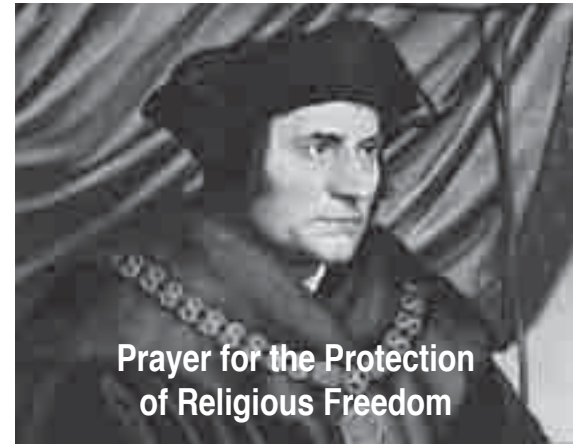
An ad hoc committee was formed and Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Illinois, proposed the name Fortnight for Freedom and the schedule designed to celebrate the feast days of saints who died for their faith, including Thomas More.



For more information, go to www.usccb.org/issues-and-action

The site hosts resources such as one-page fact sheets outlining current threats to religious freedom both in the United States and abroad; frequently asked questions about religious liberty, including quotes from the Founding Fathers, the Second Vatican Council and Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI; and a study guide on Dignitatis Humanae, Vatican II's document on religious liberty.

The website also lists sample activities already planned in several dioceses, an image gallery of photos from previous Fortnight celebrations, as well as resources and recommendations for other local efforts, such as prayers for use in special liturgies.



O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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Three gifts for June: Daniel, Dutch and Derek

Daniel, Dutch and Derek. Has a nice ring to it when you pronounce these three names, doesn't it? Daniel, Dutch and Derek. Three names that bring to mind these seminarians, these sons of central Louisiana, these men who have been given to you...given to us, given to us by the Giver of all that is good...the living God we know as our Father and His Son and the living Spirit of Life...who is Love.

Daniel, Dutch and Derek. Like each of us...they each have a history, of family, of growing up, of life and love and the struggles all of us share. Human struggles. Life's struggles. But like us, they have been given the great gift of faith, a way of seeing and being that allow them...each of them...

to manifest something of Christ the Lord, as He lives and breathes within each heart. They are disciples of Yeshua...Christ the Lord. And this month, on Saturday the 17th, at our Cathedral, our diocese will receive such blessing...as each one of these men will be ordained for priestly service.

They will offer us the ministry of our High Priest, Christ the King, who is our brother and Lord of all.

Father Daniel Hart, Father Dutch Voltz and Father Derek Ducote. Pronounce these names...who they will be for you and for us: Servant – leaders in

our parishes and missions, caring shepherds for our communities, instruments of the Presence of the Lord...serving in His priesthood. They will be priests for you, serving within the hierarchic leadership of the worldwide Catholic Church. They will be here with us...and they have dedicated their

lives to our good...and to the good of all.

Still, as are all of my brothers who assist me as deacons and priests, these soon-to-be priests...they are men...human beings. Like the clergy of the diocese and the wonderful group of consecrated women and men that also assist in caring for us...these three are just like us all. Human. Needy. Looking to be completed in the Light and Love that is God.

Daniel, Dutch and Derek. We thank God for you. Open wide your hearts to us.

AMDG

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



I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

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

Go home and have dinner together

Guest Editorial

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



In an article for the Washington Post, Harvard Medical School Professor Anne Fishel writes, "As a family therapist, I often have the impulse to tell families to go home and have dinner together rather than spending an hour with me."

Citing research demonstrating the benefits of family dinners, she notes that regular family dinners have been shown to boost academic achievement in children, increase healthy eating, and improve psychological health.

Fishel is the founder of the Family Dinner Project, a Harvard-based organization that promotes the benefits of families gathering for meals together.

Stories are shared on the Family Dinner Project website, like the one about Edward and Valerie, whose young adult children had developed the habit of getting fast food and eating in separate parts of the house.

Edward and Valerie wanted some way to reconnect with their children so they came up with creative ways to get their kids excited about enjoying a meal as a family. They picked topics of conversation that might involve current events or subjects relating to their own lives. They played games at the table and worked on preparing the meal together.

Summarizing the positive impact these gatherings had on them, Edward said, "We got back some of what was lost in the fam-

ily. Sitting down together, talking and laughing helped us get back a sense of closeness and family unity."

Trying as best we can to gather with loved ones for meals is an important first step in building the solidarity God wants us to have with one another, but it shouldn't stop there. We should prioritize family time and make a point of talking regularly, being present for each other, and finding enjoyable activities to do together.

In his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis reflects on the attention family members should give to one another, comparing it to the attention Christ gave people during His earthly lifetime. Francis

writes, "Our loved ones merit our complete attention. Jesus is our model in this, for whenever people approached to speak with him, he would meet their gaze, directly and lovingly (cf. Mk 10:21). No one felt overlooked in his presence, since his words and gestures conveyed the question: 'What do you want me to do for you?' (Mk 10:51)."

This is a beautiful model of love within the family that Pope Francis presents to us, and it is important to cultivate this kind of love because it is within the family that we learn so much about how to treat others. Through daily interactions, family members learn how to be attentive to each other's needs and to respond to those needs in a selfless manner.

It is within the family that we learn how to seek true joy through communion with God and others. Christ taught us about this kind of communion in a very simple but profound way in the breaking of the bread at the last supper. It must have made great sense to the disciples that Christ chose a meal to institute the miracle by which He would remain with us down through the ages. Their memories

of breaking bread with Him on many occasions must have been as joyful as any conceivable human experience. He holds out that joy to each and every one of us in the meal He invites us all to partake in.

We must remember to keep that joy alive when we gather as family so that we can carry it forth into every aspect of our lives.

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

Publisher: Most Rev. David P. Talley, Bishop of Alexandria
Editor: Jeannie Petrus, ext. 255; jpetrus@diocesealex.org
Advertising: Joan Ferguson, ext. 264; joanferguson@diocesealex.org
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jpetrus@diocesealex.org

The spiritual role of godparents doesn't end after Baptism

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

In the United States, Godparents Day is the first Sunday in June -- this year celebrated on Sunday, June 4, 2017. Godparent's Day gives everyone an opportunity to reflect upon and to celebrate the contributions of godparents to children, parents, families and communities.

Now, before you continue reading this article, stop and think for a minute:

Do you know who your godparents are? Can you name at least one?

If you are the godparent to one or more people, can you name who your godchild(ren) are?

Have you been contacted by your godparent in the past two years? Have you been in contact with your godchild(ren) in the past two years?

Do you pray for your godchild(ren)?

If you are like most people, there is a good chance you answered "no" to most of these questions.

So often these days, a couple asks a friend or family member to be the "godparent" for their child with little understanding of what this really means. After the Baptism, the title, the role, and the responsibility of a godparent is often forgotten.

What is a godparent?

In Christianity, a godparent is a person who makes a profession of faith at a baptism for another person, who can be either a child or an adult. Through the rite



BAPTISM AND GODPARENTS. Father Bruce Miller, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville, baptized Grayson Lawrence Stokes and Isabelle Christian Stokes last October with parents Jonathan and Dr. Lauren Drerup Stokes and godparents Alan and Sandra O'Neal Lacombe. Godparents, ideally, play an important role at Baptism, but also throughout the life of the child.

of Baptism, the person becomes a godchild, and godparents have certain responsibilities.

In the Catholic Church, godparents must be at least 18 years old, and **at least one** of the two sponsors **must be** a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church (but it's preferable if both are practicing Catholics). The Catholic Church does not require that a child have two sponsors, but traditionally this is what most people select -- one male and one female.

How do I choose?

Ideally, godparents should be people you spend time with

and trust very deeply; people you know well and recognize as faithful Catholics. Consider someone who would naturally fit into your family as spiritual parents for your children -- not only if something unfortunate or drastic happened to you, but also to mentor and support you when you experience a particular spiritual darkness or aridity.

Pray for discernment. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you who would be solid spiritual role models for your child.

What are the responsibilities of a godparent?

To answer this, let's go back to the beginning of godparents.

In the early centuries after Jesus' death and Resurrection (about 300 A.D.), "the Church was under the persecution of the Roman Empire and had to be cautious in conducting its affairs so as to prevent pagan infiltration and persecution".

In addition, during Medieval times, the Sacraments of Initiation were administered concurrently (e.g., Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), so the role of godparents really was twofold.

First, godparents were essential in attesting to the integrity of the individual who was joining

the Catholic faith, often because s/he was an adult receiving the Sacraments of Initiation (as in RCIA today).

Second, Godparents had to protect the doctrine of the Faith from paganism and persecution in the early days.

Finally, Godparents were critical spiritual guides if parents of a child were martyred and had no direction in the Faith.

Around the year 800 A.D., infant Baptism became commonplace, and it was then that the role of godparent (or more accurately "sponsor") significantly changed to what we understand it to be today.

Sponsors are intended to be adults who committed themselves to assist parents of children to teach them the Catholic faith.

If the godparents you choose are not practicing Catholics or not even Catholic, how then, can they assist in teaching your children the Catholic faith?

Though the Church doesn't specify what godparents must do, it's ideal for them to remain in close contact with the sponsored child and parents throughout the years.

- Pray for your godchild. Offer a holy hour, pray a rosary, or a simple prayer intention at Mass each week.
- Attend as many family functions and sacramental rites (First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, etc) as you can. If possible, give a spiritual gift (rosary, crucifix, blessed medals, books, etc) on these occasions.
- Send occasional notes/cards or prayer cards for special occasions.

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BREAD OR STONES. Bishop David Talley announced his endorsement of the Bread or Stones Campaign June 1 during a press conference at the St. Joseph Catholic Center. The Bread or Stones Campaign is a project of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference designed to improve the lives of children throughout Louisiana. The campaign focuses primarily on improving services in four areas that most impact child well-being: maternal and child health, school readiness and school dropout prevention, marriage and family supports, and child poverty reduction. Churches in 16 Catholic and Protestant denominations have committed to the LIC Bread or Stones Campaign, inspired by the passage in the Gospel of Matthew (7:9) where Jesus asks: "Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?"

Bishop David Talley to ordain three new priests for diocese

Deacons Derek Ducote, Daniel Hart, and Gus "Dutch" Voltz will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, June 17 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral by Bishop David Talley.

Following the ordination Mass, a reception will be held at the Holiday Inn Express Ballroom across the street from the Cathedral.

Each new priest will return to his home parish and celebrate his First Mass that same weekend.

Deacon Ducote will celebrate his First Mass on June 17 at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Marksville and on June 18 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier

Cathedral. He will serve as parochial vicar of St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport.

Deacon Hart will celebrate his First Mass on Sunday, June 18 at 10 a.m. at St. Martin Church in Lecompte. His first assignment will be as parochial vicar of St. Rita Church in Alexandria.

Deacon Voltz will celebrate his First Mass on Sunday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. He will serve as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Church in Marksville.

Please keep these men in your prayers as they begin their ministry of the priesthood.

Fr. John Brocato returns home from military duty

Bishop David Talley has announced that Father John Brocato, ordained for the Diocese of Alexandria in 2003, will be returning soon to the diocese.

Fr. John was granted permission by Bishop Ronald Herzog to serve as an active duty Army Chaplain in 2007. In this capacity, Captain Brocato served in a wide variety of military assignments. He left active duty last year, and since that time he has been ministering in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee and has been active in the Army Reserves.

Bishop Talley has granted

permission for Fr. John to pursue an advanced degree. He has applied to the Graduate School of Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, to pursue a Master of Arts in Counseling.

He served as parochial vicar to St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria, parochial vicar to St. Rita Church, Alexandria, and served as chaplain to Holy Savior Menard Central High School.

He will be in residence at St. Anthony Church, Natchitoches, and for canonical purposes will be assigned as parochial vicar to St. Anthony Church.



Father John Brocato

Fr. Charlie Ray named president of Menard

Father Charles "Charlie" Ray, pastor of St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle, has been named president of Holy Savior Menard Central High School, effective May 24.

Bishop David Talley made the announcement May 24 that Fr. Chad Partain had resigned as president of Menard and that Fr. Charlie had been assigned to fill the position.

Fr. Charlie will remain pastor of St. Augustine Church and chairman of the Committee on Ongoing Formation of Clergy and Fr. Chad

will remain pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church and School, and as chancellor of the diocese.

As president of Holy Savior Menard, Father Charlie will serve in a non-administrative role of ensuring that the "Catholic identity" of the school is upheld. He will work closely with Thomas Roque, superintendent of Catholic Schools, to carry out its Catholic school mission of helping others to grow in faith and love.

Father John Wiltse will remain as chaplain of the school, and Joel Desselle as the principal.



Father Charlie Ray

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| Mr. Dwight E. Beridon | \$250.00 |
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| Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau | \$600.00 |
| Monsignor Henry Beckers Burse | |
| Total | \$1,675.00 |

Luke LaFleur ordained to diaconate by Bishop David Talley



BISHOP DAVID TALLEY presents a lectionary to Luke LaFleur.

DEACON LUKE LAFLEUR stands with his parents Randy and Theresa LaFleur after the ordination Mass. Deacon LaFleur was ordained at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, where he attended school. Being ordained to the diaconate is one of the final steps in the priesthood formation. If all goes as expected, Deacon LaFleur will be ordained to the priesthood next summer.

(All photos by Elizabeth Shaw)



(Left) Deacon LaFleur gives the Holy Eucharist to his mother Theresa.

Bishop Talley ends the Mass of Diaconate Ordination with newly ordained Deacon Luke LaFleur at his side.

(All photos by Elizabeth Shaw)

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Sister Mary Romaine Bell, CDP dies at the age of 99

Sister Mary Romaine Bell, age 99, entered eternal life on May 27, 2017 at McCullough Hall Nursing Center in San Antonio, Texas. Sisters Ramona Bezner and Anna Marie Kaeberle were at her side. Sister Romaine Bell joined her siblings Sisters Ann Linda and Mary Jane who passed February 22 and May 6 of this year.

Sister Romaine was born on April 17, 1918 and was given the baptismal name Viola Marie. She was the third of seven children of Paul and Carmelite Richard Bell.

Sister Romaine earned a BA

in French from Our Lady of the Lake College (University). Missioned in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma, she spent 67 years serving as an elementary school teacher, including 11 years at Our Lady of Victory School in Mansura, three years at St. Joseph School in Plaquemine, and 31 years at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria.

Sister Romaine's love for children was evident through her philosophy of teaching. She treated "each child as an individual, unique gift from God." This may very well be the formula to the

success of her first mission at St. Michael School in San Antonio, Texas. She taught 72 3-6 year-olds the first year, then 81 the following year.

After retirement she was known for her annual October arts and crafts preview sale at St. Louis School in Castroville, Texas. If anything was not sold then, she would sell them at the Moyer Retreat Center Heritage Day held across the street from the school. Last year she decided it would be her last. And so it was.

She is survived by all of her Sisters of Divine Providence, and

by numerous nieces, nephews, and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents Paul and Carmelite and siblings: Sister Ann Linda Bell, Sister Mary Jane Bell, Cecile Florence Bell, Louis Leopold Bell, Noelle Bell-Boudreaux, and Lily Mae Granger.

Services were held at Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent on May 31 and a Memorial Mass on June 1.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a memorial contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.



Sister Mary Romaine Bell, CDP
1918 - 2017



ST. ANTHONY (Bunkie) CONDUCTS MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER SERVICE.

St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie conducted Memorial Day prayers at Pythian Cemetery on May 29 (Memorial Day). Father Ryan Assembly Knights of Columbus formed the Honor Guard. Crucifer was Charles Middlebrooks; flag bearers were Austin Middlebrooks and Tristan Sonnier. Father Scott Chemino, V.G. led the prayers and blessing.

The service was conducted at the grave of First Lieutenant James G. Murchison, Jr. who was killed in active duty in World War II. He was a graduate of Bunkie High School and Louisiana State University. Murchison piloted many missions over the Atlantic, Europe, and Africa. He was killed over Catania, Sicily in July 1943 and was awarded the Purple Heart and Presidential Citation.



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He willingly forgave, giving us a new start.
The Thorns in His Heart hurt Him so much,
All He wants from us is to keep in touch.
The rays from His Heart spread far and wide,
He loves us so much, He's bursting inside.
The wound in His side was really sore;
The Blood and Water opened the door.
The Cross above is a sign of our fate;
Without the Cross it would have been too late.
If we heed these signs and symbols of love,
One day we will be with Him
in heaven above.
Amen.

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AMERICAN CITIZEN. Father John O'Brien, dean of the Natchitoches Deanery and pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Natchitoches, became an American citizen on Friday, May 19. Born in Newfoundland, Canada as an Irish Catholic, Father John has been working as a parish priest in the Diocese of Alexandria since 2003. Welcome Father John as our newest American citizen!

2017 Priest Anniversaries

Anniversary Mass celebrated May 26, 2017 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Rev. John Timmermans | December 20, 1952 | 65 years |
| Rev. August Thompson | June 8, 1957 | 60 years |
| Rev. Clemente Mauricio | July 28, 1962 | 55 years |
| Rev. George Pookkattu | April 23, 1972 | 45 years |
| Rev. Bruce Miller | May 6, 1977 | 40 years |
| Rev. Vic Vead | May 30, 1992 | 25 years |
| Rev. Joseph Xavier | May 14, 1992 | 25 years |
| Rev. Peter Kuligowski | May 24, 1997 | 20 years |
| Rev. Paul LaPalme | May 31, 1997 | 20 years |
| Rev. Rusty Rabalais | May 31, 1997 | 20 years |
| Rev. Stephen Soares, MSFS | April 1, 1997 | 20 years |
| Rev. Blake Deshautelle | May 26, 2007 | 10 years |
| Rev. Thomas Paul | May 26, 2007 | 10 years |
| Rev. Adam Travis | May 26, 2007 | 10 years |
| Rev. Charles Ray | May 26, 2012 | 5 years |

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July 1: Feast of St. Junipero Serra

Patron Saint of Religious Vocations

Many saints are recognized for their patronage of particular areas of life. One recently canonized saint is of particular importance to those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. This Spanish-born saint was Miguel Jose Serra, and later adopted the name "Junipero" when he became a Franciscan in 1730. He himself was ordained a priest in 1737.

His ministry was spent in service to the church in various ways. He was a teacher of philosophy and theology, and became a missionary in the America's, first arriving in Mexico City in 1750, and later working amongst the Native Americans in what we now know as California, of which he is considered the founding father.

Saint Junipero Serra's ministry was characterized by many successes through establishing twenty-one missions and converting thousands of natives to the Catholic faith. He also continued his ministry of teaching, but this time he also taught methods of agriculture, raising cattle, and arts and crafts. In his private life, Saint Serra practiced many penances and lived an austere life, becoming of the spirit of life modeled by Saint Francis of Assisi.

Saint Junipero Serra died after many fruitful years of labor in 1784. He was canonized a saint on September 23, 2015, by Pope Francis, in Washington D.C. This was the first canonization to take place on North American soil. His feast day is celebrated on July 1 and he is considered to be the patron saint of California, Hispanic Americans, and religious vocations.

It is important for us to seek his intercession as our country and diocese seeks to have continual growth in priestly and religious vo-



St. Junipero Serra

cations, spread the Catholic faith amongst un-catechized people, and minister to the growing number of Hispanic Americans who live amongst us.

If you are interested in learning more about the Serra Club, please join the Alexandria Serrans for Vespers and Cocktails on June 30 (with Vespers prayed at 6:00 p.m.) for the vigil of St. Junipero Serra. Also those inquiring about the local Serra Club are invited to the feast day Mass of St. Junipero Serra at the St. Joseph Catholic Center on Saturday, July 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Join the Alexandria Serrans



Find out more at these 2 events!

• Vespers and Cocktails

(for anyone interested in joining the Alexandria Serra Club)

Friday, June 30 -- Vespers at 6:00 p.m.

2038 Albert Street, Alexandria

• Serra Club

Mass of St. Junipero Serra

Saturday, July 1 -- Mass at 10:00 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria

For over four decades our local chapter of the Serra Club has assisted our Bishops and vocations directors in many ways. Serra Clubs became popular over 50 years ago as a devotion of prayer for the increase of vocations to priesthood and religious life.

The Serra Club of Alexandria is also encouraging those who are looking for a spiritual work of mercy to live out in their lives. Meetings are held

monthly during lunch (12:00-1:00 p.m.) at various local restaurants or meeting places. While it is true we remain busy in our lives, many are looking for a devotion they may join others in which accompanies their lives and their spirituality. If you are... the Alexandria Serra Club is for you! For more information about joining the Serra Club, call Fr. Louis Sklar at 445-6424, ext. 260.

Pray for our Seminarians Diocese of Alexandria

Matthew Bonner
Jacob Cass
David Keran
Thomas Kennedy
Luke LaFleur
Chase Masters
Grant Rabalais
Derrick Rials

For more information
about vocations
contact Fr. Louis Sklar
Director of Vocations
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"Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of
Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at
Social Security Disability Hearings."

318-876-3174

What do Serra Club members do?

They don't stand out in regard to who they are, but what they do plays an important role in the mission of the church. Their role is so important that they even have a special relationship with the Vatican.

They are Serrans, members of Serra International.

The Serra Club of Alexandria is the only one of its kind in the diocese. This group consists of men and women who coordinate programs and pray specifically for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Why the name Serra?

The name comes from Father Junipero Serra, a Franciscan missionary who worked from 1768-1784 in the area of present-day California. He spent much of his time building churches and schools for the poor and the na-

tive people. But he also worked hard as a priest to catechize those in his care and to build a dedicated priesthood.

So, in 1934, when the first Serra Club was established in Seattle, Washington, the first members chose the name to honor Blessed Junipero Serra.

"A lot of people often get us confused with the "Sierra" Club, which is an environmental club," said Fr. Louis Sklar, director of vocations and a member of the Serra Club of Alexandria. "We want people to remember that we're the Serra Club without an "i" because "we" support vocations."

The Serra Club of Alexandria is one of the 1,100 Serra Clubs organized in more than 46 countries, and is a member of the larger Serra International. Organized in 1951 as part of the Sacred Council for Catholic Education and the Pon-



tifical Work for Priestly Vocation, Serra International today has more than 20,000 Catholic members world-wide.

What does the Serra Club do?

The local Serra Club prays for vocations by means of Masses, rosaries, intercessory prayer, and the Serra Prayer for Vocations.

Club members help raise money for vocations by assisting with the diocese's sponsorship of

the Annual Bishop's Golf Tournaments and supporting other the fundraisers for seminarians held throughout the year.

Two more programs that are especially unique to the Serra Club of Alexandria is its Adopt-a-Seminararian program and the 31 Club. The Adopt-a-Seminararian program allows members from the club to personally care for a specific seminararian by means of prayers, Christmas gifts, and assistance with other necessities. The 31 Club assigns each member a day to pray for vocations.

In addition, the Serra Club of Alexandria also differs from other Serra Clubs because it has a broader focus which includes religious vocations rather than just seminararians.

The Serra Club also encourages its members to live out their own vocation to service.

Pope John Paul II in his address to Serra International in December of 2000 said:

"The whole Church must become completely ministerial, a community of heralds and witnesses, rich in laborers for the harvest," he said. "Prayer moves the heart of God."

"The role of Serrans fits very well into the mission of the Church because they encourage pastors and laity alike to promote vocations," the Holy Father concluded.

"Besides supporting vocations, the best thing about being a Serra Club member is meeting new people and developing new friendships," said Fr. Sklar. "Sharing this common bond has given

Prayer for Vocations

O God,
who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live,
grant we beseech You,
through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever virgin,
Saint Joseph, her spouse,
Blessed Junipero Serra,
and all the saints, increase of laborers for Your Church, fellow laborers with Christ, Your son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
Amen.



VOCATIONS CLUB MB IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NATCHITOCHES. Members of the Vocations Club at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception met with Bishop David Talley recently. Although not called a Serra Club, the Vocations Club is an organization devoted to the prayer and support of vocations. For more information about the Vocations Club in Natchitoches, call 318-352-3422.



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Full-Time Executive Director Central Louisiana Pregnancy Center

The Central Louisiana Pregnancy Center, a new pro-life ministry in Alexandria, Louisiana, is now accepting applications for an Executive Director. Qualifications include: 1) A passionate pro-life man or woman who is skilled in ministering to women who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy. 2) A highly-motivated, organized leader who is capable of managing a staff of full-time and part-time employees as well as volunteers. 3) A gifted and confident public speaker who is willing to travel across Central Louisiana to promote the CENLA Pregnancy Center and represent the Central Louisiana pro-life movement at various events. 4) The qualified applicant must also be able to work with churches and volunteers from various religious denominations.

Interested, qualified applicants should submit resumes via email to info@cenlapc.com or by mail at 2201 Melrose St., Pineville, LA 71360, Attn: Brian Gunter.

Every picture tells a story

St. Augustine Church completes interior renovation with 12 new stained-glass windows

Trinity Rose

Donated by: The Children-- Martin, James, John, Effie Jean, Fances, Pamela and Mollie
In Memory of: Martin and Mary Rachal



By Jeannie Petrus CT editor

Now, when the 5 o'clock sun enters St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle during evening Mass, the rays are a bit more colorful these days.

The installation of twelve new stained glass windows completed in April now give the church a new, colorful, and more complete interior.

Bishop David Talley is scheduled to visit the parish Oct. 1 to bless the windows.

According to Father Charlie Ray, pastor of St. Augustine Church, the 160-year-old historic parish began the stained-glass transformation in 2000 when Father Marc Noel was pastor.

At that time, four stained glass windows were installed -- two in the sanctuary (altar area) and on the sides of the church.

In 2014, under the direction of Father Tommy Paul, pastor, two more donations on each side were added.

When Father Charlie Ray

was named pastor in 2015, he noticed the few glass windows that were already in place. He asked if anyone would be interested in investing in the purchase of the remaining windows to complete the project.

"Within one week, I had 12 people from the parish step up to say they would purchase a window," said Father Charlie.

Laws Stained Glass Studios, from Statesville, NC, did the

work on all 12 windows during the span of about 18 months at a total cost of \$63,000.

"It was a great deal, considering the comparative prices of other stained-glass companies," said Father Charlie. "We are very pleased with the end result."

The 12 new windows include eight new side windows, each depicting Biblical stories and one representing the founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family; two

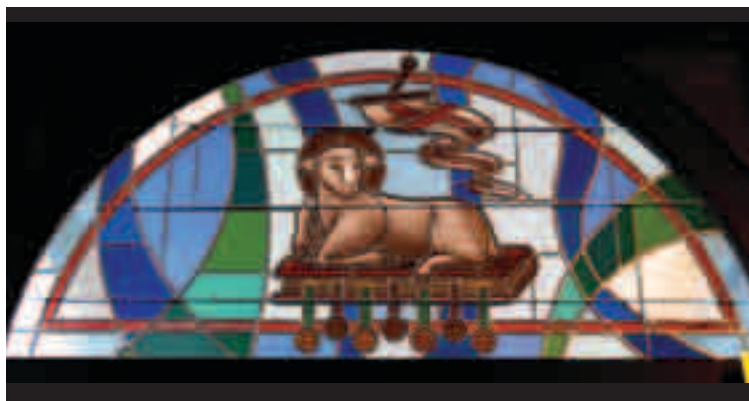
smaller windows in the stairwell, an Agnus Dei design above the side door entrance, and a beautiful Trinity Rose circular window in the choir loft that can be seen easily from the outside above the front entrance door.

"The design of each window seems to match the old historical design of the building, but with a contemporary feel," said Father Charlie.

Each window includes a

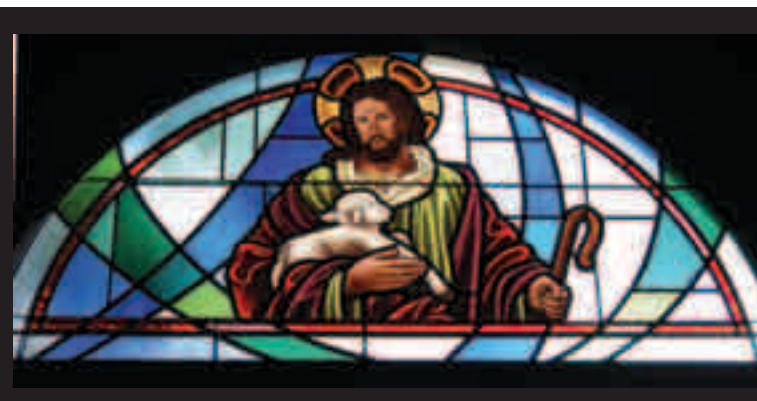
plaque that lists the donor's name, and the person(s) name whose memory is cherished by the donating family.

So now, when tourists come to visit the church, they are not just taking pictures of the 100-year-old church structure, built in 1917, -- they are taking pictures of the new, beautiful, stained-glass windows that appear to look as though they have always been there.



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In Memory of: Michael Gerald "Mickey" Moran



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and Benedict Jr. & Jannie LaCour
In Memory of: Lawrence Sr. &
Frances Meziere; and Benedict Sr. &
Stella LaCour

ST. RITA CHURCH (Alexandria) CELEBRATES SENIOR MASS. St. Rita Church held a special Senior Mass May 21 to honor the graduating seniors in its Youth Group.



SACRED HEART (Moreauville) and OUR LADY OF SORROWS BACCALAUREATE MASS.

ST. MARY'S SENIOR MASS (Winnsboro). Graduating senior _____ from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Winnsboro was honored at Mass with Father James Nellikunnel, pastor.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Pineville) GRADUATION MASS. Two seniors were honored May 14 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL (Natchitoches) CLASS OF 2017. Twenty-two seniors graduated May 15 from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches.



ST JULIANA GRADUATION MASS was held May 14.



ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL (Plaucheville) CLASS OF 2017. Seventeen students from St. Joseph High School in Plaucheville graduated May 17.



ST. EDWARD (Tallulah) SENIOR MASS. Father Ryan Humphries, pastor of St. Edward Church in Tallulah, celebrated a Senior Mass recently to recognize the 2017 graduates from the parish.

ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION SCHOOL (Cottonport) 8TH GRADE GRADUATES. Pictured are (front row) Father Walter Ajaero, Nathan Laborde, principal; Betsy Jeansonne, 8th grade teacher and Father Jose Robles-Sanchez, pastor.



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2017. One hundred and six students from Holy Savior Menard Central High School graduated May 16.

St. Mary's Assumption Choir wins first State Sweepstakes trophy

ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION SCHOOL 4TH AND 5TH GRADE CHOIR received Superior in Concert and in Sight Reading to win the school's first State Sweepstakes trophy. The award-winning choir is under the direction of Brother Anthony Dugas. Congratulations to the Choir and to Brother Anthony!



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA COURT NOTRE DAME #1452, OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, LA., Crowning of the Virgin Mary for May Crowning on May 8, 2017. The ladies laid a beautiful crown of pink roses and a bouquet of yellow daisies for the crowning. Members Rita Carbo and Judy Madeo crowned the Virgin Mary while the membership recited prayers for the May Crowning. The members participating in the procession along with Fr. Dan O'Connor, CDA Chaplain were (standing left to right): Helen Vanderlick, Donna Young, Helen Feduccia, Mary McMinn, Elouise Andries, Suzanne Evans, Betsy Lanclos, Norene Diegelmann, Elizabeth Ferguson, Evelyn Mayeux, Rita Carbo, Janet Tompkins, Marie Weeks, Shelley Michiels, Susan Singleton, Rose Walker, Cheryle Verzwylvelt, (seated LtoR), Tina Hebert, Regent Elsie Campbell, Judy Madeo, Linda Gauthier, and Cathy Lacour. (not shown) Fr. Dan O'Connor and Marlene Sawrie.



GOLDEN APPLE AWARD. Mrs. Donna Mixon, a 4th grade teacher at St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie was recently awarded the KALB-TV and Hixon Autoplex Golden Apple Award presented by Mark Klein, a reporter from KALB-TV. She was nominated by one of her students, Mrs. Mixon has been a teacher at SAS for 33 years.

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OLPS students honor families by raising \$2,100 for American Cancer Society



IN MEMORY OF ERIC WATKINS. Eric Watkins died of cancer recently. His wife Stefanie teaches kindergarten and his two children are students at OLPS. More than \$2,100 was raised by OLPS students during a recent "Purple Out Day," (organized by Jennifer Nichols) and donated to the American Cancer Society in memory of Eric.



IN MEMORY OF LINDA TURNAGE. Linda Turnage had been an aide at OLPS for almost 20 years when she died of cancer. Two of her grandchildren are currently students at OLPS. All proceeds from the "Purple Out Day" were donated to the American Cancer Society in memory of Eric Watkins and Linda Turnage.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CCD AWARDS. All 22 students enrolled in the CCD K-11 program at St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo, received certificates of completion and individual gift of religious bracelets. Like many similar programs throughout the diocese, most CCD classes will stop for the summer and resume again in the Fall.



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL (Bunkie) KINDERGARTEN ADVANCEMENT.



MAY CROWNING AT NATIVITY BMV CHURCH (Campti) MAY 14.

Summer is calling -- How will you answer?

Not making any big plans for the summer because you are too busy or too broke? Sure you dream of a long relaxing vacation sitting on the beach in the Caribbean or staring at the majestic mountains in the West.

But the fact is, you'll spend the summer, probably at home, complaining about the hot weather and how there's too much work to be done.

Relax. It's summer.

Along with the dog days of summer come a "must do" list of ways to take it easy -- rest the body and rejuvenate the soul.

1. Take a break

That's a MUST. If you have a little time and money, invest in a short get-away from home and the everyday routine. If you don't have the time or money, choose a weekend (or two) and promise yourself to let the chores go. Take a nap, go for a leisurely walk, read a book. Take another nap. Just relax.

2. Start a devotional

Spend some time with the Lord this summer. Head out to the bookstore and see if there is a new devotional that interests you. There are plenty of devotionals geared toward all age groups, and this is a great time to get started on a new one.

3. Movie marathon

Got a list of movies that you are just dying to see? Have some friends over and watch them one after another. Whether you want



to watch the Lord of the Rings movies back to back or all the chick-flicks that make you cry, a movie marathon can be a fun time to spend with your family or friends.

4. Volunteer

Giving back to others can be the biggest reward, and the summer is a wonderful time to do that. Maybe you are a school teacher or a college student off for the summer. Volunteer to help out with Vacation Bible School.

Maybe you have one day of one weekend to help out in your parish or school making repairs, painting, doing yardwork, or just sprucing up. Call your parish or school for any volunteer possi-

bilities.

5. Attend Mass

Attending Mass each Sunday is important, even if you are on vacation. Find a schedule of Sunday Mass times, anytime, anywhere, by going to www.mass-times.org. It can be enlightening to attend Mass at other Catholic Churches around the country.

6. Try something new

Got something that you wish you had time to try? For some people the "something new" can be an adventure like rock climbing or skiing. For others it could involve learning to sew or cook. Take the time this summer to learn a new skill or try a new activity.

7. Family time

Spend some quality time with your family during the summer. Call a brother or sister you haven't talked to in a while or

visit a family member who might be a shut-in at home or in a nursing home.

8. Get organized

When our lives get really busy, things tend to get a little disorganized. Spend some time this summer cleaning up and putting things in order. Take those files on your computer and put them into easy-to-find folders. Hang up your clothes and put things away. It may not sound like the most exciting activity, but you will be pretty proud of your organization when you are done.

9. Pray

Hopefully, your summer means that you have more down time, meaning you have more time to devote to prayer. Are there some burning items you wish you could focus on more in your prayer times? Make a list of the things you wish you could spend more time praying about and devote some significant break time in prayer about those things.

"Come Holy Spirit"

O Holy Spirit, come down from above,
Give us gifts and gentle love.
Come to our aid with a helping hand,
To pray and praise the best we can.

Help us to fight the enemy here,
And let us know that you are near.

Our flesh is weak,
Our hearts seek to be strong,
Please keep us from sinning
And doing what's wrong.

Show us the way to the Father and Son,
That we may worship God,
Three in One.

Blessed Trinity, the Name we call,
A mystery from Heaven,
For one and all.



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that you will lead me to the
arms of your Beloved Son,
Jesus Christ.

Please pray for me and
protect me from evil.
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pray for me.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
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OUR LADY OF FATIMA PILGRIM STATUE (Cathedral). The International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima toured three churches in the diocese last month--St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, St. Anthony of Padua in Bunkie, and the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. Pictured are (top): the Knights of Peter Claver and the Knights of Columbus welcomed the Our Lady of Fatima Statue into the Cathedral.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PILGRIM STATUE (St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie). Hundreds of roses were placed before Our Lady of Fatima after a school-wide procession into the church. Fr. Scott Chemino led the procession and spoke about Our Lady of Fatima. Judith Studer, official keeper of the statue, also spoke about the statue's world-wide travels.



June 12-16: Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

8 a.m. - 12 noon. Registration is \$10 per child and open to grades K-5. Registration forms are available in the church or at the church office. Must register by May 31. For more information, contact Michelle Lemoine at mblemoine1@gmail.com

June 12-16: St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches

8 a.m. - 12:00 noon. for students in grades Pre - K through 6 (2017-18). This year's theme is "Tracking Our Lady Mother Mary." The cost is FREE.

June 13-17: St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. for kids entering PreK - 4th grade. The cost is FREE. To register call Karson Coulon at 318-305-0667 or Claire Kojis at 318-359-1022..

June 19-23: St. Joseph Church, Marksville

9 a.m. - noon, for ages 5-12 years old, held at St. Joseph Church Hall. Cost is FREE.

June 19-23: Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth

8 a.m. - 12 noon, for Pre-K through 6th grade. Upper classes can attend as assistants to instructors. Cost is \$20 for 1 child and \$35 total for more than 1. For more info call: 318-487-9894.

June 26-30: Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville

8 a.m. - 12 noon in the Activities Building for ages K-6. The theme this year is "Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose". The VBS is free and open to the public, but there is a charge for the t-shirt. For more information please contact Cheryl Paul at 318-308-5026.

July 9-13: Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. for students in Pre-K3 through 5th grade. Kids 6th grade through high school are needed as helpers. Theme: "Maker Fun Factory."

July 17-21: St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for students in Pre-K through 6th grade. \$100 per child. 7th-12th grade, ask us about counselor applications. Register in the school office or at www.cabrinischool.com. The theme this year is "The Miracle of the Dancing Sun." For more information, call Liz Hines at 318-448-3333.

July 17-21: St. Rita Church, Alexandria

8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. for students in grades Pre - K through 6 (2017-18) at the Holy Family Center. There will be no charge for registered parishioners; cost for all others is \$25 per family. Registration will be held after all Masses, June 10 - 11.



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The Keepers, 7-part documentary series now on Netflix

Documentary series investigates unsolved 1969 murder of Baltimore nun

By Chris Byrd
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Director Ryan White's visually striking, atmospheric documentary series "The Keepers" examines the unsolved murder in 1969 Baltimore of popular 26-year-old Sister Cathy Cesnik. Presented in seven one-hour installments, "The Keepers" began streaming on Netflix May 19.

A former English teacher at Archbishop Keough High School, an archdiocesan academy for girls, Sister Cesnik was on a year's leave of absence from her order, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and working in the city's public education system at the time of her death. She was likely killed -- so the filmmakers hypothesize -- because she knew too much about her former colleague, Father A. Joseph Maskell.

Long after it came to light through the accounts of his victims, that Father Maskell, a chaplain and counselor at Keough, sexually abused multiple students during his time there.

The extensive descriptions of the priest's vicious crimes -- in egregious violation of his sacred trust -- will sicken, trouble and outrage viewers, faithful Catholics above all. With one notable



THE KEEPERS. A portrait of Sister Catherine Cesnik is seen in a still from the Netflix documentary series "The Keepers." As Netflix prepared to release the seven-part documentary about the unsolved 1969 murder of a Baltimore nun, officials of the Archdiocese of Baltimore reaffirmed that the church did not attempt to interfere in the investigation of the death of Sister Catherine. (CNS photo/courtesy Netflix)

exception, however, the presentation of these unsettling details isn't lurid.

During an interview with former Jesuit priest Gerry Koob, who was close to Sister Cesnik and a suspect in her murder, Koob bizarrely accuses a Baltimore detective of intimidating him during the initial investigation by showing him the dead woman's private parts, severed from her body by the killer.

Sensational or not, the pro-

gram's horrific subject matter, ranging from the life-crippling theft of innocence to gruesome murder, strictly limits the appropriate audience for "The Keepers" to discerning adults. Some regrettably commonplace profanities reinforce that restrictive recommendation.

When Sister Cesnik didn't return home after running some errands on the evening of her disappearance, her roommate, Sister Russell Phillips, called Koob.

Early the next morning, Sister Cesnik's car was found parked in the street not far from her apartment. Sister Cesnik's body, with her skull cratered, was discovered Jan. 3, 1970, behind a garbage dump in Landsdowne, Maryland, just south of Baltimore.

An initially anonymous witness who insists Father Maskell took her to the crime scene to view Sister Cesnik's body may hold the key to solving the mystery. Viewers learn she's Jean

Hargadon Wehner, a former Keough student and one of numerous survivors of Father Maskell's abuse.

Repressed memories prevented Wehner from confronting what Father Maskell did to her and his possible connection to Sister Cesnik's murder until 1992 when she first reported the abuse to the archdiocese. Church officials believed Wehner's story, but said they needed corroboration to remove Father Maskell.

Unwilling to cooperate with the archdiocese, Wehner and fellow Father Maskell survivor Teresa Lancaster filed a 1994 suit against both it and Sister Cesnik's order. But the court ruled the survivors' repressed memories didn't meet the criteria for waiving the three-year statute of limitations in abuse cases.

Wehner still struggles to recall the appearance of an associate of Father Maskell's who also abused her -- and who, she believes, confessed to Sister Cesnik's murder: the mysterious Brother Bob.

Mystifyingly, the series fails to explore who this person could be. Some viewers, moreover, will greet Wehner's sketchy memories with skepticism. Her experiences are consistent with those of other abuse victims, however.

VIRTUS

• **Tuesday, June 20** -- 6 p.m.,
Sacred Heart Church, Pineville
(Community Center)

• **Tuesday, Aug. 1** -- 6 p.m.
St. Anthony School, Bunkie (library)

• **Wednesday, Aug. 2** -- 1 p.m.,
St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

To register,
go to www.virtus.org

Every adult who works/volunteers with children/youth in the Diocese of Alexandria's churches/schools is required to attend a VIRTUS™ *Protecting God's Children for Adults* sexual abuse awareness training.



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Summer movie flicks now showing

Pirates of the Caribbean

"Dead Men Tell No Tales" (Disney)

Flashy but unsatisfying fifth installment in the theme park ride-based franchise that first set sail in 2003.

This time out, series stalwart Johnny Depp, once again playing eccentric buccaneer Capt. Jack Sparrow, joins forces with a young science scholar (Kaya Scodelario) whose learning has led her to be charged with witchcraft and an equally youthful sailor (Brenton Thwaites).

All three are seeking the same magical artifact, each for a different reason. They're pursued by the British navy, by the ghost of one of Sparrow's old adversaries (Javier Bardem) and by a living but one-legged freebooter (Geoffrey Rush).

Directors Joachim Ronning and Espen Sandberg's special effects-driven adventure is long on spectacle but short on human interest. Parents willing to overlook some adult punning may give mature teens the go-ahead to board, however. Much action violence with little blood, brief implications of adultery, a single gruesome image, occasional mature wordplay, at least one crass term. Rated PG-13.

"Diary of a Wimpy Kid:

The Long Haul" (Fox)

An excess of scatological



PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES. Infamous pirate Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp), joins forces with a young science scholar (Kaya Scodelario) whose learning has led her to be charged with witchcraft and an equally youthful sailor (Brenton Thwaites). While most young teens will love the action-packed adventures of Capt. Jack Sparrow, adults may not relate quite as easily. Rated PG-13.

humor as well as a lack of creative drive blight this family road comedy, adapted by writer-director David Bowers from the novel by Jeff Kinney.

As his family sets off on a cross-country journey to attend his great-grandmother's 90th birthday celebration, a mild-mannered middle schooler (Jason Drucker) rails against his mom's (Alicia Silverstone) ban on the use of electronics during the trip

-- a prohibition his overworked father (Tom Everett Scott) likewise finds it difficult to obey.

Recently shamed by an embarrassing video that went viral, the lad also plots with his older brother (Charlie Wright) to make a detour to a gaming convention where he hopes a taped encounter with an online celebrity (Joshua Hoover) will retrieve his reputation.

A series of misadventures

and indignities await the youthful protagonist as the film ambles along to little purpose. Too many of these involve excretion to allow endorsement for all. Much distasteful potty humor, brief adult wordplay. Rated PG.

Baywatch

(Paramount)

When a disgraced Olympic swimmer (Zac Efron) joins the lifeguarding, and amateur sleuth-

MOVIE REVIEW

ing, team of the title, his selfish ways bring him into conflict with its longtime leader (Dwayne Johnson).

Director Seth Gordon's action comedy, adapted from the television series that began on NBC but had a longer life in syndication, succeeds neither as a pop-culture spoof nor as a crime-solving adventure. Though the film's self-conscious flesh peddling is mostly just tiresome, its surfeit of low-minded humor eventually registers as degrading.

Some gunplay and physical violence with momentary but extreme gore, strong sexual content, including full nudity and off-screen nonmarital activity, several profanities and a few milder oaths, pervasive rough and crude language. Rated R.

Everything, Everything

(Warner Bros.)

Director Stella Meghie's adaptation of Nicola Yoon's young adult novel bears more than a little resemblance to one of those fairy tales involving a princess locked up in a castle who needs a handsome prince to rescue her.

In this case, a bright and literate teen (Amandla Stenberg) has long been confined by a rare illness to the hermetically sealed house specially designed for her by her protective mother (Anika Noni Rose). Then a sensitive lad (Nick Robinson) moves in next door and becomes her instant soul mate (via texting and handwritten placards held up to windows).

Aware of the target audience, screenwriter J. Mills Goodloe sustains the romantic fantasy without letting any harsh real-life consequences intrude. The result is a gentle, tasteful film.

A bedroom scene shared by its barely-of-age main couple, however, makes it doubtful fare even for mature adolescents. Brief sensuality as part of a mostly off-screen nonmarital encounter, a single instance of rough language. Rated PG-13.

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LENDER

Outdoor illuminated rosary

Join St. Joseph Church in Marksville every Thursday, through Oct. 26, at 8 p.m. to pray the Rosary before an illuminated Rosary located outside on the grounds of the parish hall. (Time changes to 7 p.m. in September). In case of inclement weather, the Rosary is prayed in the church.

Masses Celebrating Our Lady of Fatima

A Mass will be celebrated at Mary Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth the 13th of each month for the next five months, in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Times are: June 13, 6:00 p.m.; July 13, 6:00 p.m.; Aug. 13, 5:30 p.m.; Sept. 13, 6:00 p.m.; Oct. 13, 6:00 p.m.

Self Defense/ Self Awareness Class

Sacred Heart Church in Pineville will offer its 3rd annual Self Defense/Self Awareness Clinic at the Church Activities Bldg. Classes will be held on June 7, June 14, and June 21 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free and open to the public. For more info, call Joseph Thompson (after 4 p.m.) at 318-451-3548.

St. Mary's Greco Bowl

Support the children of St. Mary's Residential Facility and enjoy an evening of great food by Louisiana Chef John Folse. Wednesday, June 21 at the historic Hotel Bentley. Come and enjoy one of Chef Folse's unique, Cajun dishes followed by a live cooking demonstration to teach guests how to recreate his magic in their home kitchen. This year's Greco Bowl will also feature a Silent Auction. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased online at www.stmarysalexandria.org or at St. Mary's campus located at 6715 Highway 1 South, Boyce, LA. For more information, contact Tamara McNulty at 318-445-6443 ext. 2144.

Refreshed in the Spirit Day

CENLA Magnificat and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Louisiana will sponsor a "Refreshed in the Spirit" day on Saturday, July 8 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Center at 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria. There is no registration fee for this event but you must pre-register by June 30, 2017 - by email at cenlamagnificat@gmail.com or dianeardoin@yahoo.com or 318-419-1547.

Bring a brown bag lunch. Drinks (water and tea) and desserts will be provided.

Echo Retreat for Young Adults

Registration is open now for an Echo Cenla Retreat for Young Adults to be held July 21-25 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville. ECHO is a Theology of the Body Camp put on by DumbOx Ministries. The camp includes

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

listening to spiritual talks, hiking and swimming, jamming to live music, attending Mass and receiving Jesus daily, ...and experiencing the love of God and community. Open to young adults who have been out of high school for at least one full year.

For more information, go to www.dumbboxministries.com/echo.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

On a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend you will have the time you need to focus on your relationship and learn a unique communication technique which will help you to bridge any gaps you may have and bring back that spark that made your marriage so special. The next weekends are July 14-16 and Oct. 20-22 at the Bishop Robert Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. To register, go to LAMS-wwwme.org or call Jack & Angel LaBate at 470-297-8560 or jackandangel@bellsouth.net.

Dr. Brant Pitre to speak

Mark your calendars now for a one-day conference on July 22 featuring the popular speaker Dr. Brant Pitre, who is a professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. The one-day conference titled "The Jewish Roots of the Holy Eucharist," will be held Saturday, July 22, at the Divine Providence Center at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. More information will be provided later.



CDA COURT PADRE PIO ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION (Cottonport) sponsored a scholarship program for eligible 12th grade students at the local high schools. Madison Fruge' was the recipient of this award. Pictured: her mother, Melenea Fruge', CDA educational chairman, Irma Andress and Regent, Sue White.



CDA EDUCATIONAL CONTEST ESSAY WINNER.

was recognized at the State Catholic Daughter conference for placing 3rd for her Essay in Division I in the Educational Contest. She is pictured accepting her award at the school mass with Father Walter Ajaero and Regent Sue White.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT 1452 OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, Elsie Campbell, Regent and Marlene Sawrie, Vice Regent present a check to Bishop David Talley on May 18 for the seminarian education fund.



KC COUNCIL 2972 SACRED HEART (Moreauville) AWARD presented its annual scholarships to

Presenting the scholarships was Reginald Ducote, 4th degree Knight of Council 2972 along with Father Jose Pallipurath, Pastor at Sacred Heart.

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June - July

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| 12 | 13 Mass Celebrating Our Lady of Fatima 6:00 p.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth | 14 Self Defense Class 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville | 15 Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville | 16 | 17 Priest Ordinations 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria | 18 Corpus Christi Procession after 9:00 Mass St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria |
| Vacation Bible School, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria -- 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon | | | | | | THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST |
| Vacation Bible School, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches -- 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon | | | | | | |
| Vacation Bible School, St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie -- 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | | | | | | |
| PRAY FOR FR. T. ALLEN | PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY | PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW | PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET | PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO | PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO | FATHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK |
| 19 | 20 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville | 21 Fortnight for Freedom begins St. Mary's Greco Bowl 6:00 p.m. Hotel Bentley, Alexandria | 22 Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Vacation Bible School, Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth -- 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon | | | | | STEUBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE, Alexandria | |
| Vacation Bible School, St. Joseph Church, Marksville -- 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon | | | | | | |
| PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY | PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM | PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE | PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS | PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE | PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE | PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville | 30 Serra Club's Vespers and Cocktails Meet & Greet 6:00 pm 2038 Albert St. Alexandria | JULY 1 Serra Club Mass for St. Junipero Serra 10:00 a.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria | 2 |
| Vacation Bible School, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville -- 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon | | | | | FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY | PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION |
| PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK | PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON | PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY | PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD | PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE | | |
| 3 | 4 Diocesan Offices Closed | 5 | 6 Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville | 7 | 8 Refreshed in the Spirit Day 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria | 9 |
| PRAY FOR FR. D. HART | INDEPENDENCE DAY PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER | PRAY FOR BISHOP EMERITUS R. HERZOG | PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE | FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES | PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE | VBS, Sacred Heart, Moreauville PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Mass Celebrating Our Lady of Fatima 6:00 p.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth Outdoor Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Vacation Bible School, Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville -- 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m | | | | Marriage Encounter Weekend, Baton Rouge | | |
| PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL | PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD | PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI | PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM | PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA | PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD | PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME |

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