

# CHURCH TODAY

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## ON THE INSIDE

### **USCCB president calls Supreme Court decision a 'tragic error'**

The president of the U.S. bishops' conference called the Supreme Court's June 26 marriage ruling "a tragic error" and he urged Catholics to move forward with faith "in the unchanging truth about marriage being between one man and one woman." Read more on page 3.

### **Pope Francis releases encyclical on environment and deep inner conversion**

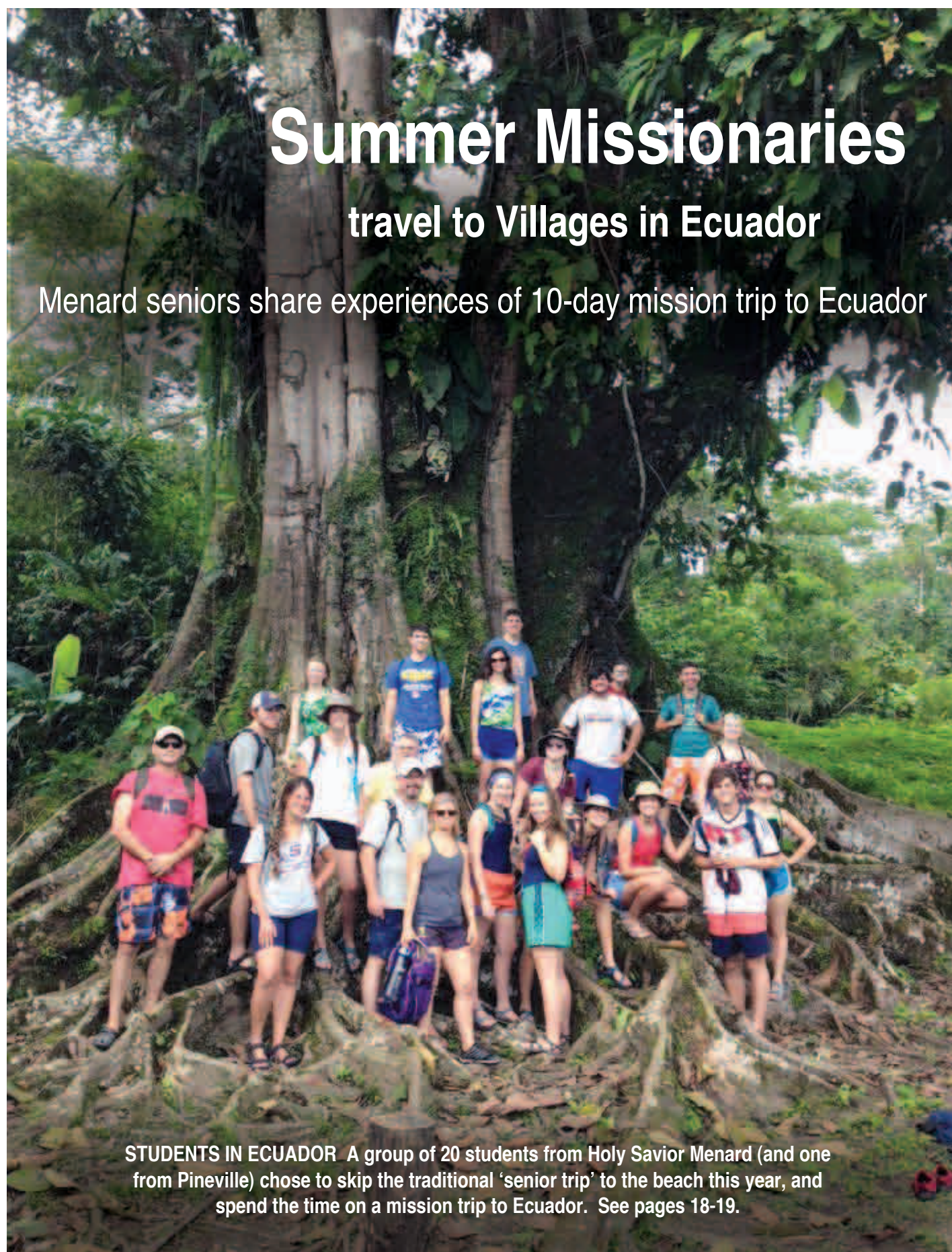
Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home" is a call for global action as well as an appeal for deep inner conversion. Details on page 2.

### **Special section on Confirmation and First Communions**

Many of the 50 church parishes in the diocese celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion this Spring. See pages 10-17 for some of the groups of students who received these sacraments.

## Summer Missionaries travel to Villages in Ecuador

Menard seniors share experiences of 10-day mission trip to Ecuador



**STUDENTS IN ECUADOR** A group of 20 students from Holy Savior Menard (and one from Pineville) chose to skip the traditional 'senior trip' to the beach this year, and spend the time on a mission trip to Ecuador. See pages 18-19.



# Pope releases '*Laudato Si'* -- On Care for Our Common Home

## 2nd encyclical calls for care of the environment and a deep inner conversion

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Pope Francis' encyclical "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home" is a call for global action as well as an appeal for deep inner conversion.

He points to numerous ways world organizations, nations and communities must move forward and the way individuals -- believers and people of good will -- should see, think, feel and act.

Here are some of the pope's suggestions, with references in parentheses to their paragraphs in the encyclical:

- Do not give in to denial, indifference, resignation, blind confidence in technical solutions. (14, 59)
- Have forthright and honest debates and policies; issues cannot be dealt with once and for all, but will need to be "reframed and enriched again and again" by everyone with plenty of different proposals because there is no one way to solve problems. (16, 60, 185)
- Reduce, reuse, recycle. Preserve resources, use them more efficiently, moderate consumption and limit use of non-renewable resources. (22, 192)
- Slash pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Transition to cleaner and renewable energies and replace fossil fuels "without delay." (26, 165)
- Promote green construction with energy efficient homes and buildings. (26, 180)
- Protect clean, safe drinking water and don't privatize it with market-based fees for the poor. (27-29, 164)
- Keep oceans and waterways clean and safe from pollutants; use biodegradable detergents at home and business. (30, 174)
- Be aware that synthetic pesticides and herbicides will hurt birds and insects that are helpful for agriculture. (34)
- Leave room for wandering and migrating species by creating "biological corridors;" don't let dams, highways and construction lead to their extinction. (35)



**CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.** A volunteer picks up trash at Freedom Island, a marshland considered to be a sanctuary for birds, fish and mangroves in a coastal area of Las Pinas City, near Manila, Philippines. Few papal encyclicals were as eagerly awaited as Pope Francis' statement on the environment which was released June 18. (CNS photo/Romeo Ranoco, Reuters)

- Protect biodiversity, especially wild forests, wetlands, coastal areas, mangrove swamps. (39)
- Promote smart growth. Create livable communities with beautiful design and plentiful green spaces for everyone, especially the poor. Tackle noise and "visual pollution," and save cities' cultural treasures. Design spaces that help people connect and trust each other. (44-45, 113, 143, 147)
- Put an end to "mental pollution." Think deeply, live wisely, love generously. (47)
- End the tyranny of the screen, information overload and distractions. Watch out for media-induced melancholy and isolation. Cultivate real relationships with others. (47)
- Get down from the ivory tower and stop the rhetoric. Get to know the poor and suffering; it will wake up a numbed conscience and inspire real action. (49)
- Stop blaming problems on population growth. The real threat is excessive consumerism and waste. (50)
- For genuine change, put the common good first. Special interests manipulate information, offer "superficial rhetoric, sporadic

acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern." (54)

• Sweat it out. Increasing use and power of air-conditioning seems "self-destructive." (55)

• Even if it doesn't fix the world, beautification and goodwill gestures inspire and remind people that "we were made for love." (58, 113, 212)

• Get back to nature -- "the caress of God" -- to recharge. Be more attentive to its beauty and wonder and revisit places that left you with happy memories. (84, 97, 215, 233)

• Be consistent. Pro-life, environmental and social justice movements are all connected. Protecting vulnerable species must include the unborn, endangered animals and the exploited. (91, 120)

• Use technology to solve real problems and serve people, helping them have more dignity, less

suffering and healthier lives. (112)

• Believe in a happy future, a better tomorrow. Slow down, recover values and the meaning of life. Putting the brakes on "unrestrained delusions of grandeur" is not a call to go back to the Stone Age. (113-114, 225)

• "Business is a noble vocation." Create jobs that allow for personal growth, stability, living out one's values. (124-128)

• Listen to, protect lands of and involve indigenous peoples. The disappearance of cultures is even more serious than losing a species. (145)

• Create neighborhood networks and improvement programs. Create welcoming spaces that help people connect and trust each other. Do something nice for your community. (148-150, 152, 219, 232)

• Make public transportation a priority and a more pleasant experience. (153)

• Provide essential services to rural areas. (154)

• Accept and care for the body God gave you. Value sexual differences and your own gender. (155)

• Join, implement and police global agreements on sustainable development, caring for the ecosystem, limiting greenhouse gases, handling hazardous wastes, ozone protection. Nix the "ploy" of trading carbon credits. (164, 167-171)

• Politicians: don't be afraid of long-term goals and upsetting people with measures that affect levels of consumption, financial risks. Citizens: put pressure on your representatives. (177-180)



The 184-page booklet is available from the USCCB website for \$13.95. To order, go to [store.usccb.org](http://store.usccb.org) or read it online at [w2.vatican.va](http://w2.vatican.va)

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# USCCB president calls Supreme Court decision 'tragic error'

By Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- The president of the U.S. bishops' conference called the Supreme Court's June 26 marriage ruling "a tragic error" and he urged Catholics to move forward with faith "in the unchanging truth about marriage being between one man and one woman."

"Regardless of what a narrow majority of the Supreme Court may declare at this moment in history, the nature of the human person and marriage remains unchanged and unchangeable," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky.

"It is profoundly immoral and unjust for the government to declare that two people of the same sex can constitute a marriage," he said.

In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court said same-sex marriage is constitutional nationwide.

"Just as *Roe v. Wade* did not settle the question of abortion over 40 years ago," when it legalized abortion in the U.S. virtually on demand, *Obergefell v. Hodges* "does not settle the question of marriage today," Archbishop Kurtz said.

"Neither decision is rooted in the truth, and as a result, both will eventually fail," he added.

The court had several marriage cases to consider and bundled them under the title of the Ohio case, *Obergefell v. Hodges*.



**TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE SUPPORTERS GATHER IN WASHINGTON.** Supporters of traditional marriage gather near Capitol Hill in Washington during the third annual March for Marriage April 25. The Supreme Court will hear cases April 28 for states to honor the constitutionality of same-sex marriage. (CNS photo/Tyler Ors burn)

That case arose after the October 2013 death of John Arthur of Cincinnati. He and his longtime partner, Obergefell, had married earlier that year in Maryland. When the local Ohio registrar agreed to list Obergefell as the surviving spouse on Arthur's death certificate -- which is key to a range of survivor's benefits -- the state at-

torney general challenged the status because Ohio law bars same-sex marriages.

The other cases included: *Tanco v. Haslam*, the Tennessee case, and *Bourke v. Beshear*, the Kentucky case, which similarly challenge those states' refusal to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions,

and *DeBoer v. Snyder*, the Michigan adoption case.

"The unique meaning of marriage as the union of one man and one woman is inscribed in our bodies as male and female," Archbishop Kurtz said in his statement. "The protection of this meaning is a critical dimension of the 'integral ecology' that Pope

Francis has called us to promote.

"Mandating marriage redefinition across the country is a tragic error that harms the common good and most vulnerable among us, especially children. The law has a duty to support every child's basic right to be raised, where possible, by his or her married mother and father in a stable home."

The archbishop said the U.S. bishops will continue to teach as Jesus did. Christ taught "with great love" and "unambiguously that from the beginning marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman," he added.

Archbishop Kurtz encouraged Catholics "to move forward with faith, hope, and love: faith in the unchanging truth about marriage, rooted in the immutable nature of the human person and confirmed by divine revelation; hope that these truths will once again prevail in our society, not only by their logic, but by their great beauty and manifest service to the common good; and love for all our neighbors, even those who hate us or would punish us for our faith and moral convictions."

He urged all people of goodwill to join the Catholic Church "in proclaiming the goodness, truth, and beauty of marriage as rightly understood for millennia, and I ask all in positions of power and authority to respect the God-given freedom to seek, live by, and bear witness to the truth."

## Philippines not likely to recognize same-sex marriage

By Catholic News Service

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) -- The predominantly Catholic Philippines, a U.S. colony for 50 years, is not likely to recognize same-sex marriage despite its legalization in the United States.

"Our laws are clear. The Family Code only recognizes the marriage between a man and a woman," presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma Jr. said June 26, two days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage is legal throughout the United States.

In a radio interview, reported on by the Asian church news portal ucanews.com, Coloma said

same-sex marriage by Filipinos in a foreign country will not be recognized in the Philippines.

He said the Civil Code of the Philippines states that "laws relating to family rights and duties or to the status, condition, and legal capacity of persons are binding upon citizens of the Philippines even though living abroad."

The country's Catholic bishops also said "the church continues to maintain what it has always taught."

"Marriage is a permanent union of man and woman, in the complementarity of the sexes," read the bishops' statement, signed by Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the bishops' conference.

The archbishop said the Catholic Church would not discriminate against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

"All will continue to find welcome in the church," Archbishop Villegas said.

"No bishop, priest, deacon, religious or lay leader actively serving the church will ever demand to know of a person his or her orientation before serving the person," the archbishop said.

He added that the bishops "shall study (the U.S. decision) with assiduousness and revisit our concepts and presuppositions, always with an eye to being faithful to the Gospel and to the mission of the church."



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The past few weeks have been both exciting and tragic. The encyclical by Pope Francis will be a challenge to all because he urges us to become more involved in our role as stewards of creation.

The 21st Steubenville South again brought many young people to Alexandria for a weekend of spiritual growth. It is always moving and enriching to experience their energy and enthusiasm especially during the closing Mass. Thanks to all who helped make it a success.

The ordination of four new priests and one deacon is a great



## ONE IN THE LORD

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

joy. This is the first time since 1985 that four priests were ordained at the same time. The Lord continues to richly bless us. Let us give thanks.

Our 2015 Annual Diocesan

Appeal has been the most successful ever with total pledges crossing the \$800,000 mark. Your generosity enables many ministries to flourish. Thanks so much for your participation.

On the tragic side we learned of the killing of nine people during their bible study. Our prayers go out to the families and the entire community. Martyrs continue to shed blood while practicing their faith.

The recent Supreme Court decision which redefined marriage was not unexpected but very disappointing. It continues the decades old pattern of systematically undermining anything that expresses faith or morals. Not a good day for us as American Catholics. At this point we can only guess at the future ramifications. We must be faithful to

the Gospel as our Holy Father continues to remind us. Prayer becomes even more critical as we move forward. I doubt that the framers of the Constitution could have ever envisioned what is happening in our nation. We need more than ever to celebrate the 'year of mercy' called for by Pope Francis. Please pray for him as he makes his historic visit to our country in September.

As we approach the midpoint of summer, may the Lord bless you and keep you safe.

# Stay calm: Victory of marriage comes through its crucifixion

By Christopher West  
Catholic Theologian

Notice whom Christ is raising from the dead here in this classic icon of Easter Sunday: it's the first married couple. Marriage has been under attack since the beginning. It's nothing new. And Christ always raises it up.

In light of the recent Supreme Court decision, which effectively legalized same-sex "marriage" nationwide, it may seem like marriage is facing unweatherable storms, and that Christ is asleep on the boat. The temptation to despair or "freak out" like the disciples on the stormy sea is understandable, but let us never forget: God is in control and, in the end, the truth is always victorious. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (Jn 14:1). Remain calm. Nothing should shake our peace.

How can we remain calm when all seems so dark? By remembering and trusting with total confidence in God's method

of victory: victory comes through death and resurrection. In fact, God reveals the full truth about marriage precisely in and through the Cross.

As so many saints have attested throughout history, the Cross is where Christ the Bridegroom consummates his marriage with the Church, his Bride. We must ponder this, we must let this sink in if we are to understand properly what is happening in our world today: marriage, it would seem, is going the way of its crucified exemplar. It's being mocked, rejected, spat upon, scourged, and nailed to a tree. But give it "three days" and watch what happens.

"On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana" (Jn 2:1). Jesus and Mary are always about the business of restoring God's wine to man and woman's relationship, but it comes through the pierced side of the Bridegroom and the "yes" of the Bride, the "woman" at the foot of the Cross. Setting

our gaze here, remaining here at the "marriage bed of the Cross" is what will properly orient us amidst all the craziness now unfolding.

Our world today talks a big line about sexual orientation, but the most fundamental orientation of sexuality is to point us to the death and resurrection of Christ. Recall the eclipse of the sun that took place on Good Friday (see Lk 23:45). Is the truth of marriage not experiencing a similar eclipse? But here's our sure hope: Sun-day is not far off. When "the third day" dawns, marriage will be resurrected and the truth of our sexuality will shine like the sun! The world will see the light and be re-orient-ed.

That's what the sun does: it orients us. That's why the Bride (the Church) traditionally prays her liturgy towards the East (the Orient), because the rising of the sun, as the psalmist says, is the symbol of the coming of the Bridegroom (see Ps 19:5). And

when the Bridegroom comes, "nothing will be concealed from its burning heat" (Ps 19:6). The world will see the glory of God revealed through the theology of the human body.

This is God's promise. We can count on it. It's literally written in the stars. And this is what gives us hope in the midst of this present darkness. As surely as night turns to day, the truth about marriage will appear on the horizon and light up the earth.

Now, it is true, we must suffer the eclipse. And I'm guessing things will get darker before they get brighter. Yet, as St. Paul re-

minds us, we should consider the sufferings we must now endure as nothing compared to the glory to be revealed (see Rom 8:18). Be not afraid! "Weeping comes in the night; but at dawn there is rejoicing" (Ps 30:6)!

*(Christopher West is a renowned educator, best-selling author, cultural commentator and popular theologian who specializes in making John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" accessible to a wide audience. As founder of The Cor Project, he leads a global outreach devoted to cultural renewal through a dynamic and fresh proclamation of the Gospel.)*

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# Charleston Tragedy: It could happen anywhere, in any church

## Adopting guidelines for keeping your church safe should be considered

(CNS) -- The tragic taking of nine lives at a historically black church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina, brought an outpouring of solidarity, compassion and sorrow from around the country.

After an all-night search, police June 18 found the white man suspected of fatally shooting nine people, including the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a senior pastor. They arrested 21-year-old Dylann Storm Roof in neighboring North Carolina and charged him with the murders. He did not fight extradition so he was returned to South Carolina.

Witnesses said Roof had joined a prayer meeting the evening of June 17 at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. They said he sat with church members for about an hour then stood up, yelling racist remarks, and opened fire.

Religious leaders as well as government leaders issued their condolences and condemned the shooting, which is being investigated as a hate crime.

Catholic Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo of Charleston expressed a deep sadness over the tragedy.

"The inside of any church is a sanctuary," he said in a statement. "When a person enters, he or she has the right to worship, pray and



**PRAYING FOR VICTIMS OF SHOOTINGS AT EMANUEL AME CHURCH.** Members of the Manna Life Center lead an ecumenical prayer service June 19 at the Neighborhood House in Charleston, S.C., which is part of Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Center. They prayed for the victims of the shootings at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the children who lost their parents. (CNS photo/Victoria Wain, The Catholic Miscellany)

learn in a safe and secure environment. For anyone to murder nine individuals is upsetting, but to kill them inside of a church during a Bible study class is devastating to any faith community."

Bishop Guglielmo also shared his sympathies with those who lost loved ones in the shooting and prayed they will "feel the comforting presence of our Lord surrounding them during this difficult time."

### Guidelines for Keeping Your Church Safe

Jesus made no pretense that His followers would be sheltered from harm. Before sending his disciples forth to spread the Gospel, He delivered this directive:

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." *Matthew 10:16*

This would indicate that Christians should be caring and kind—as were the members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church towards Dylann Roof—while also being alert, vigilant and discerning of strangers.

According to Carl Chinn, who researches and compiles church violence statistics, in the past 16 years there have been 971 deadly force incidents (DFIs) in churches (homicides, abductions,

domestic violence, etc), with a resultant 335 deaths since 1999. Church violence, however, has been on the increase every year.

What can be done to minimize the chances of your place of worship falling victim to a DFI? The following is a list of actions a congregation can take in order to prevent violent incidents:

#### • Form a Security Ministry Team

Make the formation of a security ministry team a priority.

Team should consist of active and retired law enforcement personnel along with carefully selected and trained laypeople."

Engage in reality-based training drills involving up to 20 members of the congregation. This assists in demonstrating how to make quick decisions, followed by swift action while in the midst of a perpetually changing, hostile environment. Additionally, it will help get the participants accustomed to performing under pressure.

#### • Develop a Plan

The more planning and organization that can be undertaken, the better the likelihood of preventing or controlling an active shooter event.

A FEMA publication titled, *Guide to Developing High-Qual-*

See SAFETY GUIDELINES, pg. 6

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**NATCHITOCHES DEANERY CONFIRMATION PRIESTS.** Eight priests and two deacons participated in the Natchitoches Deanery Consolidated Confirmation. Pictured are (front row) Father Kenneth Obiekwe, Father Thomas Paul, and Father Jason Gootee. Back row: Father Ryan Humphries, Father John Pardue, Deacon Ted Moulard, Father Scott Chemino, Father John Cunningham, Father John O'Brien, and Deacon John Whitehead.

## Pope's encyclical

- Less is more. Stop needless consumption. (193, 203, 222, 211)
- Harness purchasing power. Examine what you buy and know that boycotts make a difference. (206)
- Plant a tree. Take mass transit. Car pool. Turn off the lights when you leave the room. Chilly? Wear a sweater. Little things add up.
- Moms and dads: teach kids to use things properly; to respect, take care of others; to ask permission politely; to say, "Thank you;" to control temper; to ask forgiveness; share. (213)
- Find happiness in simple things: get-togethers, helping others, honing a talent, enjoying art and music, praying. (223-224, 226)
- Say grace before meals. (227)
- Love your enemies. (228)
- Practice "the little way" of St. Therese. (230)
- Go to Sunday Mass; receive the sacraments; encounter God in everything; rest on Sundays. (233-237)
- Sing as you go. (244)
- Pray. (246)

## Safety guidelines

Continued from pg. 5

*Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship* is a great source for guidelines on dealing with various emergency situations that may occur in a place of worship.

Get to know the layout of the church. Also, find out what layers of security exist.

Consider seating arrangements in the sanctuary and in any other meeting areas.

Be aware of where the most direct escape routes are.

What are your observation capabilities when the congregation is seated and standing? An attack may play out very differently if the congregation is focused in prayer or in the midst of a song.

Be sure to secure children's areas.

During church activities, security ministry members should watch for suspicious behavior like people leaving at unexpected times, especially if they leave something behind they entered with, people wearing trench coats in hot weather, and people wandering in the parking lot.

### • Follow Protocol

Security experts suggest setting up and following protocols instead of improvising in response to violence. Sticking to set protocols is recommended in order to prevent deaths and injuries.

The following steps are recommended should a violent intruder enter a church:

Alert the entire security ministry team and the police.

Evacuate worshipers when possible and lock doors in areas

that can be secured.

Have trained security personnel approach and incapacitate the intruder.

It is imperative that the congregation be aware that a plan is in place to address violent intruders. The congregation also needs to know what is expected of them during a violent confrontation. Security should not be the primary focus of any house of worship, but it is a critical element of tending a flock.



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## Steier Group to begin planning study for diocesan capital campaign

Bishop Ronald Herzog has authorized the Steier Group, a Catholic development and fundraising firm, to begin a seven-week planning study for a diocesan-wide capital campaign.

During the seven-week period, a two-member team from the Steier Group (Brandon Sak and Phil Belt) will be in the diocese conducting interviews with priests, diocesan officials and parishioners.

They will be seeking feedback on several proposed needs of the diocese which include continuing the upgrades and maintenance to Maryhill Renewal Center, strengthening priest retirement and seminarian education reserves, renovating and improving

Holy Savior Menard, and supporting parish-specific projects.

In addition to personal interviews, the team will also use focus groups and surveys (on-line and mail-in) to gather feedback. The Steier Group will use the results of the study to recommend how the diocese should proceed with a major fundraising effort and what the diocese can expect to accomplish when it does move forward.

"We are on the threshold of a great opportunity that can have a lasting impact on our diocese," said Bishop Herzog. "Now is the right time to invest in our diocese and individual parishes and to provide for the future."

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## Gov. Jindal halts construction of Planned Parenthood over organ harvesting allegations

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal has halted the construction of a massive Planned Parenthood abortion facility over allegations that its parent organization illegally harvests and sells babies' organs.

His announcement followed the release of an undercover video showing Dr. Deborah Nucatola, who oversees medical practices at all Planned Parenthood facilities nationwide, casually discussing the sale of organs and tissue taken from babies after partial birth abortions.

"Today's video of a Planned Parenthood official discussing the systematic harvesting and trafficking of human body parts is shocking and gruesome," Gov. Jindal said. "This same organization is seeking to open an abortion clinic in New Orleans. I have instructed Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals to conduct an immediate investigation into this alleged evil and illegal activity and to not issue any licenses until this investigation is



Watch the video at  
[www.lifenews.com](http://www.lifenews.com)

complete."

"I am also asking the FBI to assist DHH in investigating this alleged criminal activity by this organization," he added.

Planned Parenthood broke ground on an 8,000-square-foot megacenter in May 2013, but construction halted due to action from the state government. The construction resumed in March.

Jindal, an outspoken pro-life governor, is currently seeking the Republican Party's presidential nomination.

As of this writing, three of his opponents have also weighed in on the controversial video.

## First National Right to Life Convention in New Orleans deemed 'a success'

More than 1,000 people attended the first annual National Right to Life Convention held July 9-11 in New Orleans.

Among those attending were actor Kelsey Grammer and his wife, cast members of Duck Dynasty, Governor Bobby Jindal, Governor Rick Perry of Texas, and several politicians including Senators David Vitter, Jonathan Perry, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, and Dr. Ben Carson.

"Thank you to all attendees, volunteers, and staff who worked tirelessly to make the event possible," said Ben Clapper, executive director of the Louisiana Right to Life. "We also appreciate the hard work of National Right to Life in putting on a powerful convention. Many people have shared with me how the convention positively impacted them. They told me they are more motivated than ever to be a voice for the voiceless!"



ROY AND GAIL DAIGLE sit with their grandson, David Scotton, and Michael Ciccocioppo, executive director of Pennsylvania Right to Life at the NRTL convention. David Scotton was almost aborted and was saved because of a sidewalk counselor. A documentary is coming out soon called "I Lived on Parker Avenue" about David's story.

Highlights of the convention included:

- "A Taste of Louisiana" Reception that included a brass band, Mardi Gras Indians, comedy from Senator Jonathan Perry, and a keynote address from Gov-

ernor Jindal.

- A Presidential Forum featuring Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Santorum, Dr. Ben Carson, and Governor Rick Perry. (Videos available on YouTube and FoxNews.com)

- An inspirational Prayer Breakfast featuring cast members of Duck Dynasty and Senator David Vitter. Attendees were surprised to see actor Kelsey Grammer in attendance.

In addition, there were many other workshops and speakers, covering all sorts of issues from conception to natural death.

"On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, we were honored to host the first National Right to Life Convention here in Louisiana," said Clapper. "We look forward to the fruits of the convention leading to more lives saved here in Louisiana and across our nation!"



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**NEW MEMBERS OF CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS** at St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle are Cheryl LaCoure Reine, Coralie C. Brewer, Mary Wilmore, and Laurie Metoyer. Father Tommy Paul celebrated Mass and recognized the new members.



**ST. AUGUSTINE (Isle Brevelle) CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS.** Members of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers gathered May 10 for their annual meeting to elect officers and to receive new members. The ladies enjoyed a breakfast, hosted by members of the Holy Name Society, and then attended Mass, celebrated by Fr. Thomas Paul. The organization is canonically affiliated with the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers.



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Pineville) SELF DEFENSE MINISTRY.** Sacred Heart Church in Pineville held Self Defense classes June 24, July 1, and July 8 to reach out to people to help them with better self awareness and to be more mindful of their surroundings. Instructors Donald Buckley, (pictured at right), and Joe Thompson and Sydney McGlottan (not pictured) gave instructions and then demonstrations on basic self defense techniques to a group of 15-25 people at each session. The classes were held in the Activities Building at Sacred Heart Church.



**OL LOURDES (Fifth Ward) ALTAR SOCIETY TEA.** Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society of Fifth Ward hosted a tea for all local Altar Societies on May 23. Pictured are (on floor) Charlene Gunnels, Mitzi Smith, Sondra Garvin, and Krystle Reyanud. (Seated) Bobbie Bordelon, Lilly Dubea, Pat Guillot, Susie Dautat, Shirley Guillot, and Joyce Guillot. (Standing) Marjorie Guillot, Alice Bordelon, DD Lamartiniere, Janis Lamartiniere, Elaine Bordelon, Sharon Flash, Gail Moulard, Lurline Neck, and Kathy Negrotto.



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# Local CDAs Prayer Blanket Ministry growing fast in popularity

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

When you or someone you know is sick with a physical or emotional illness; or when you or someone in you love is experiencing a crisis in life; it's always comforting to know that friends and family are lifting the lowly up in prayer.

Add to that, the comfort of a small blanket to feel and touch and you have -- the Blessed Prayer Blanket Ministry.

The Blessed Prayer Blanket Ministry is a new project of the Catholic Daughters Court Desmond of St. Rita Church in Alexandria. Members of the Catholic Daughters sew lap-size blankets and offer them free to anyone needing the gift of love and prayer -- for example, anyone with a physical or emotional illness or acute illness; individuals living with chronic conditions or in treatment for a life threatening illness; anyone experiencing a crisis such as the loss of a loved one, loss of job or relationship crisis, etc; high risk pregnancy, miscarriage or neonatal crisis.

Each blanket is hand-made by a CDA member and then blessed by Father Craig Scott, pastor of St. Rita Church, and



**BLESSING PRAYER BLANKETS.** Father Craig Scott, pastor of St. Rita Church in Alexandria, blesses a recent batch of Prayer Blankets made by the Catholic Daughters Court Desmond of St. Rita Church. Also pictured is Ona Wilson, regent, and Sherry Herbert, Prayer Blanket coordinator.

other priests of the parish.

"On the first weekend of the month in May, 2015, we completed 330 blankets," said Mrs. Ona Wilson, regent for the CDA court. "At that time, we placed the blankets on a Friday on the side of the altar, where they were all blessed by a priest at every Mass celebrated at St. Rita that weekend."

At the end of the last Mass, anyone was allowed take a blanket home for themselves or to give to a loved one in need of prayers. Others were distributed

to the shut-ins, nursing home residents, and hospitals. You do not have to be Catholic to receive or use the blanket.

When a person receives a blanket, that person's name is written in a memory prayer book, and is prayed for weekly by the CDA members. The blanket also comes with a prayer that should be prayed when the person in need is covered with the blanket.

"Because the blanket is blessed by a priest, it offers healing," said Mrs. Wilson, "which

can come in the form of physical healing, spiritual healing, or emotional healing."

The Prayer Blankets have been so popular and well-received that the Catholic Daughters have been working on another batch. In August, 2015, the ladies plan to have another 300 or more blankets completed and ready for a blessing at all the weekend Masses. The Catholic Daughters at Our Lady of Prompt Succor, also heard about the ministry and have begun making the Prayer Blankets as well.

"We are currently making more blankets at this time, with the help of the Wise Crackers (a group of women quilters) at St. Rita parish," said Mrs. Wilson. "We are in need of any scraps of material (fabric), thread, or cash donations, to complete our next batch of blankets."

Anyone who would like to donate fabric or thread or make a donation, should contact Mrs. Sherry Herbert, Prayer Blanket coordinator at 484-4797; or Mrs. Ona Wilson at 640-2159; or the church office at 445-7120.

The blessed blankets are available at the church office during normal business hours: Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. 12 noon.



PRAYER BLANKET PRAYER

## Covered in Prayer (A petition for healing)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Redeemer,  
We thank you for the life of (name)  
who we lift up to You at this time.

We also thank You  
for the gift of this blanket,  
blessed by our people and by You.  
May it bring Your warmth  
of physical, mental, emotional  
and spiritual healing to (name).

Oh merciful God,  
as Your children,  
we call upon You,  
who are all good and all knowing.  
We trust in You.  
We praise You.  
We worship You.  
We glorify Your Holy Name.  
We call upon Your Power.

Oh Lord, our God,  
our Heavenly King,  
God the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
We ask for a miracle  
in Your Holy Name.  
We ask for healing for  
our brother/sister, (name).

In addition to healing,  
we ask that (name)  
may bear his/her cross  
gracefully, with the full knowledge  
of the presence of  
Your Holy Comforter,  
the Holy Spirit,  
represented by  
the warmth of this blanket.

And, now we ask for the intercession  
of Our Blessed Mother and pray:  
"Hail Mary . . ."

Amen.



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**ST. GENEVIEVE (Brouillette) CONFIRMATION.** Eight students from St. Genevieve Church in Brouillette, received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 22 at St. Joseph Church in Marksville.



**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (Tioga) CONFIRMATION.** Eight students from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Tioga were confirmed April 19 at St. Rita Church.

Rusty Rabalais and Father Scott Chemino, V.G.

Top row: Father



**MB OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Natchitoches) CONFIRMATION.** Thirty-two students from St. Mary's School and Immaculate Conception CCD were confirmed recently by Father Scott Chemino, V.G.

Pictured with the students are Father Scott Chemino, V.G., Father Ryan Humphries, pastor; and Deacon John Whitehead.



**ST. MARY'S (Winnsboro) CONFIRMATION.** Seven students from St. Mary's Church in Winnsboro were confirmed May 6 by Father Scott Chemino, V.G.

. Back row: Father James Nellikunnel, Father Ron Matthews, Father Scott Chemino, and Father Taylor Reynolds.

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**AVOYELLES DEANERY CONSOLIDATED CONFIRMATION.** Eighty students from nine churches in the Avoyelles Deanery were confirmed April 22 by Father Scott Chemino, V.G. in a consolidated Confirmation held at St. Joseph Church in Marksville. Students confirmed were from St. Joseph and Holy Ghost/St. Richard in Marksville, OLL/St. Martin in Fifth Ward/Belledeau, St.

Francis de Sales in Echo, St. Paul the Apostle in Mansura, St. Alphonsus in Hessmer and St. Genevieve in Brouillette. Participating in the Mass were Fathers Rusty Rabalais, Abraham Varghese, Abraham Palakkattuchira, Silverino Kwebuza, Jose Kumbumkal, Irion St. Romain, and Deacons Gary Schupbach and Ted Moulard.



**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION (Cottonport) CONFIRMATION.** Nine students from St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport were confirmed recently by Father Scott Chemino, V.G.

Back row: Father Jose Robles-Sanchez, pastor and Father Scott Chemino, V.G.

## CONFIRMATION



**SACRED HEART (Pineville) CONFIRMATION.** Twelve students were confirmed at Sacred Heart Church.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Fifth Ward) CONFIRMATION.** Four students from Our Lady of Lourdes parish were confirmed April 22 by Father Scott Chemino V.G. at St. Joseph Church in Marksville.

Back row: Father Rusty Rabalais, pastor of St. Joseph; Father Scott Chemino, V.G.; Father Silverino Kwebuza-AJ., pastor of OLL; & Deacon Ted Moulard.

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**HOLY CROSS (Natchitoches) CONFIRMATION.** Five students from Holy Cross Church in Natchitoches were confirmed recently by Father Scott Chemino V.G.

Back row: Deacon Ted Moulard, Father Scott Chemino, and Father Jason Gootee.



**ST. ANNE (Spanish Lake) CONFIRMATION.** Three students were confirmed recently at St. Anne Mission in Spanish Lake.

Back row is Father Scott Chemino and Father John Pardue, pastor.



**ST. PETER (Bordelonville) CONFIRMATION.** Four students were confirmed April 15 by Father Scott Chemino, V.G., at St. Peter Church in Bordelonville.



**STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE (Kolin) CONFIRMATION.** Five students from Sts. Francis and Anne Church in Kolin, were confirmed May 24 by Bishop Ronald Herzog at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.



**ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH (Isle Brevelle) CONFIRMATION.** Two students from St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle were confirmed recently by Father Scott Chemino, V.G.  
Back row: Father Scott Chemino and Father Tommy Paul.



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA (Natchitoches) CONFIRMATION.** Eight students were confirmed by Father Scott Chemino recently at St. Anthony Church in Natchitoches.

Back row: Father Scott Chemino, V.G.; and Father John O'Brien, pastor.

Back row: Father Scott Chemino, V.G.; and Father





**HOLY GHOST/ST. RICHARDS (Marksville) CONFIRMATION.** Five students from Holy Ghost Church in Marksville and St. Richard Mission in Hickory Hill were confirmed April 22 by Father Scott Chemino, V.G. at St. Joseph Church in Marksville.

Back row: Father Rusty Rabalais, Father Scott Chemino, and Father Abraham Varghese,



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH (Marksville) CONFIRMATION.** Seventeen students from St. Joseph Catholic Church were confirmed April 22 by Father Scott Chemino, V.G. at St. Joseph Church in Marksville.

V.G., Deacon Gary Schupbach.

ack row: Rev. Rusty Rabalais, Rev. Scott Chemino,



**CHRIST THE KING (Simmesport) CONFIRMATION.** Twelve students from Christ the King Church in Simmesport were confirmed Jan. 31, by Father Bruce Miller.



**ST. JOSEPH (St. Joseph) WELCOME NEW CATHOLICS.** Fr. Peter Kuligowski, pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joseph, La., on July 5 received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, through the Profession of Faith, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Belinda Capdepon (left) and Mike Gray, (right).



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Cloutierville) CONFIRMATION.** Three students from St. John the Baptist Church in Cloutierville were confirmed recently by Father Scott Chemino, V.G.



**ST. MARGARET (Boyce) CONFIRMATION.** Seven students from St. Margaret Church in Boyce were confirmed May 24, by Bishop Ronald Herzog at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.





**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH (Alexandria) CONFIRMATION.** Forty-four students from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church were confirmed by Father Scott Chemino, V.G.

Participating clergy were Father Scott Chemino, V.G., presider; Father Dan O'Connor, pastor; Father Bill Gearheard, Father Adam Travis, Deacon Todd Marye, and Deacon Bill Travis.



**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (Leesville) FIRST COMMUNION.** Twenty-seven students from St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville received First Communion on May 2.



**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (Tioga).** Ten students from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Tioga received First Communion April 26.



**ST. GENEVIEVE (Brouillette) FIRST COMMUNION.** Three students from St. Genevieve Church received First Communion April 12.

**ST. RITA (Alexandria) FIRST COMMUNION.** Seventeen students received First Communion recently at St. Rita.



# FIRST COMMUNION

**MATER DOLOROSA (Plaucheville) FIRST COMMUNION.** Nineteen students from Mater Dolorosa received First Communion recently.



**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION (Cottonport) FIRST COMMUNION.** Twenty-six students from St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church in Cottonport received First Communion recently.



**HOLY GHOST (Marksville) FIRST COMMUNION.** Six students from Holy Ghost Church in Marksville received First Communion May 16.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Fifth Ward) FIRST COMMUNION.** Fourteen students from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Fifth Ward received First Communion April 26.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Fifth Ward).** Kayla C received First Communion Jan. 25 after completing RCIA at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Fifth Ward. Pictured is Father Silverino Kwebuza, pastor; Kayla, and Deacon Ted Moulard.





**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL (Alexandria) FIRST COMMUNION.** Sixty-nine students from Our Lady of Prompt Succor School received First Communion April 25.

t,

Also pictured is Father Dan O'Connor, pastor and Father Bill Gearheard, parochial vicar.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Winnfield) FIRST COMMUNION.** Eleven students received First Communion May 19 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield, where Father Christian Ogbonna, pastor, celebrated Mass and Father Bob Courville concelebrated.



**CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER (Evergreen).** E D and M A received First Communion May 10 at Church of the Little Flower in Evergreen with Fr. Bartholomew Ibe, pastor.



**STS. FRANCIS & ANNE, (KOLIN) FIRST COMMUNION.** Eight students from Sts. Francis & Anne Church in Koline received First Communion April 12.



**ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH (Alexandria).** Four students received First Communion May 3 at St. James Memorial Church in Alexandria.

. Back row: Sherrie Dunn, Rev. Gabriel Uzundu, Glenda Williams, Janice Molette, and Deacon Benny Broussard.





**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, (Marksville) FIRST COMMUNION.** Thirty students received First Communion April 19 at St. Joseph Church in Marksville.



**ST. MARY'S CHURCH (Winnsboro) FIRST COMMUNION.** A Y received First Communion May 17 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Winnsboro. She is pictured with Father James Nellikunnel, pastor.



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Pineville) FIRST COMMUNION.** Twenty students from Sacred Heart Church in Pineville received First Communion April 18.



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Dupont) FIRST COMMUNION.** Seven children received First Communion recently at Immaculate Conception Church in Dupont.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL (Alexandria) FIRST COMMUNION.** Four students received First Communion May 3 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.



**SACRED HEART (Moreauville).** Thirty-one students from Sacred Heart in Moreauville made First Communion on April 18.



# Sharing the Word of God in Ecuador

## Joyfulness, simplicity of life inspires Menard students on mission trip in Ecuador

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

Backpacking through three-miles of knee-deep mud and fighting off mosquitos and other pesky insects through the jungles of South America, was not exactly what Kayla Busby had in mind when she signed up for a mission trip this summer instead of going on the senior class trip to the beach.

"I'm done with this," she lamented as she and 14 other students from Holy Savior Menard and one student from Pineville, labored through the mud to reach a remote village in Ecuador.

But trekking through mud and walking miles to remote villages was a small price to pay for an inspiring, exciting 10-day mission trip to Ecuador, May 28-June 7.

Fourteen Holy Savior Menard seniors, one student from Pineville, and four chaperones accompanied Father Taylor Reynolds to the village of Misahualli, where they shared the Word of God with the people there.

The mission trip, hosted by Family Missions, a Catholic mission organization, offers food, lodging, and a missionary experi-



**2015 ECUADOR MISSION TRIP.** Those who participated in the 10-day mission trip to Ecuador included Holy Savior Menard seniors Spencer West, Kayla Busby, Jason Badeaux, Jack Miller, Hunter Mansour, Natalie Seeser, Mallory Robicheaux, Lilly Hidalgo, Nicole Phillips, Bri Perkins, Jade Delaney, Abby Fields, Leah Aldridge, Tristan Kramer, and Pineville High School senior Lilli Patton; chaperones Bill Aldridge, Kevin Robicheaux, Will Travis, Shelly Travis; and Father Taylor Reynolds, chaplain at Holy Savior Menard.

ence for families or small groups who wish to share God's love with the people in the remote villages of Ecuador.

"Misahualli is a beauti-

ful place," said Kayla, "with it lush green jungles and beautiful people. But it is a third-world country and everything is different from what we are use to in the

U.S."

"The people there are very poor and have very little material things," said Natalie Seeser, another Menard senior on the trip.

"But they are also very happy -- very joyous and generous. They are eager to share what little they have with others."

The missionaries spent most of their time traveling to different remote villages visiting with the people and bringing God to the people.

"I enjoyed playing games with the children," said Natalie. "We also talked to them about God using hand gestures and communicating with love because our Spanish was not that good. I think we got the point across and the children loved it."

Father Taylor Reynolds, as the group's only priest, was busy tending to the spiritual needs of the villages. One native priest is usually in charge of the spiritual needs of 25 neighboring villages and he was out of the country at the time.

"One village that we went to had not had a priest celebrate Mass there in six months," said Jason Badeaux, another Menard student. "They were deeply honored and appreciative to have Father Taylor celebrate Mass (in Spanish) with them."

Jason said the faith of the people was inspiring to him. They had so little, but yet they were so happy. They had so little knowledge of the faith, yet their faith was so strong.

"When we mentioned celebrating Mass, everyone drops whatever they are doing and goes to Mass," said Jason. Not a second thought about whether or not they would go. They wear rosaries around their neck, -- not because they are a member of a gang or as a piece of jewelry -- but out of love and respect for the Blessed Mother. This made such an impression on me."



(bottom left) Students help each other drudge through the mud on the way to a remote village in Ecuador.

(bottom right) Two village children seem to enjoy hanging on to Hunter Mansour to test his physical strength.



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Tristan Kramer shares a Bible story with the kids.



Jason Badeaux and Hunter Mansour wave to the photographer.



Lilli Patton and Natalie Seeser play Ring around the Roses.

Despite all the goodness around the people and missionaries, a few bad apples fell from the tree during the trip. Toward the end of the week, it was discovered that a large sum of money (held by one of the counselors), clothes, and electronics were stolen from the students. The police came and questioned people but no one knew anything. After Father Taylor celebrated Mass in the village and prayed for healing of hearts, the thieves came forward and confessed. Three young boys -- ages 18, 21, and 26 -- were arrested and were facing 10 years in prison -- in a third world country. Kayla was among those who had a cell phone stolen.

"We waited at the police station, thinking we were going to get our cell phones back,

but instead realized we had to sit through the trial, which lasted a couple of hours," said Kayla. "During the trial, the boys sincerely asked for our forgiveness, which we did. They ended up getting two months of jail time."

All of the money and items were recovered from a bag stuffed in the trunk of a tree located in the jungle.

Other than the inconvenience of that experience, the rest of the trip was great.

Jason and his friend Hunter Mansour, enjoyed going out in the evenings to visit with the people in a nearby town.

"We became friends with a lady who owned the Internet Lounge and we talked to her at length about our experiences," said Jason. "She told us how

much she enjoyed having groups like us come to the village to share God's Word -- even more than the groups that come to build houses. They are just people like us, hungry to hear the Word of God."

The students agreed that they all learned so much from the experience and received so much more than they gave to the people.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Natalie. "I learned to envy their simplicity of life and their joyous love of God. I can't wait to go back again."

For more information about missions, go to [www.familymissionscompany.com](http://www.familymissionscompany.com).

To view a video of the trip by Jason Badeaux, type in 2015 Ecuador Mission Trip on YouTube.



Kayla Busby spends time with the children in an Ecuador village.



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(bottom left) A light rain falls on the students as they make their way back to camp.

(bottom right) Abby Fields and Jade Delaney talk to a young boy on the bank of the river.



# 3,000 flock to Steubenville South for 21st annual conference



More than 3,000 participated in the 21st annual Steubenville South Catholic Youth Conference held June 26-28 at the Alexandria Riverfront Center.

Under the direction of Father Jose Robles-Sanchez, and with the assistance of the Steubenville staff and hundreds of volunteers, this year's conference was deemed 'a success.'

One of the members of the Leader Team gives a testimony of her faith on the first evening of the conference.



(above) Bishop Herzog celebrates Mass.

(top-left) Sacred Heart, Moreauville

(left-middle) St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport

(bottom-left) Some of the students from Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

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# **Minions not so 'family-friendly' as original *Despicable Me* movies**

Mixed reviews give parents reason to be cautious about appropriate age for viewing

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

Before you load the kids in the car for a summer fun flick at the local theatre, be advised that the new movie *Minions*, may not be as family friendly as the original *Despicable Me* movies.

Although not entirely unsuitable for all ages, there is reason to be cautious about the content of the movie, depending on the age of your child.

Below are two movie reviews that give two different views.

## MovieGuide.org

*Minions* is not a family-friendly movie. Unlike the earlier *Despicable Me* movies, *Minions* stays despicable and glorifies crime, villains and violence. Without a change of heart or moral message, *Minions*, distracts the audience from the plotless storyline with lots of slapstick humor.

When the minions are left without a master, Kevin decides to set out with the help of Bob and Stewart to find an evil villain to serve. They travel great distances until they see an advertisement for Villain-Con, which is the biggest collection of villains in the world in Orlando, Fla.

They ride with a family to the conference that is also villains and assist them in robbing



**MINIONS.** Minions Kevin, Stuart and Bob star in a scene from the movie "Minions." The movie is rated PG, but some critics believe there is too much glorification of crime and villains, and not enough of a moral message to balance out in the minds of young children. (CNS photo/Image.net)

a store. The little girl idolizes Scarlett Overkill, the world's best supervillain and the main speaker at Villian-Con. Scarlett Overkill recruits the minions. Along with her inventor husband, Herb, they hatch a plot to take over the world.

There are many humorous moments in *Minions*, but there is a lack of substance behind the laughs. There is a lot of frenetic cartoon violence, some of which will be objectionable to discern-

ing parents. The violence includes lava lamp guns, hypnohats, guns, bombs, swords, pushing, and hitting. All this violence looks fun and is showed in an appealing way.

Although at one point Bob is nice to Scarlett and Kevin steps up as a selfless leader, the rest of the movie shows the main characters acting in a bad way all the time. Thus, they remain despicable at the end, still chasing after the next villain to serve.

## Catholic News Service

In hauling these sweetly bumbling beings to the front, and providing them with an ever upbeat -- though not always tightly crafted -- adventure of their own, co-directors Pierre Coffin and Kyle Balda avoid any genuinely objectionable material. Only a few scenes of combustive mayhem and a couple of mildly out-of-place visuals may give some parents pause.

Narrated by Geoffrey Rush, and interspersed with familiar

## MOVIE REVIEW

hippie-era musical standards, the freewheeling plot that follows pursues its own logic down curious courses, some of which feel like detours. But the underlying morality is sound enough.

In contrast to Gru, the supposed bad guy of the earlier outings, Scarlet is a truly negative character given to selfishness, greed and disloyalty. Her evil tendencies, which carry straightforward consequences, are all the more obvious when compared to the virtues consistently displayed by Kevin and his pals -- an appreciation for one another and a sensitivity to the common good prominent among them.

The climactic conflict might prove too much for small fry. In the buildup to it, a few possible irritants for vigilant grown-ups also appear, including a sumo wrestler's frequently glimpsed backside and the brief presence of a mustachioed bystander whose enthusiasm for Scarlet leads him to dress exactly like her. While treated comically, his quirky behavior may not sit well with some adults.

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## Fundraiser for Old Catholic Cemetery

KC Council 13296 of Kolin will host a Pulled Pork Dinner and Gun Raffle/Auction on **Sunday, July 26** from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Deville. Dinners are \$8 a plate and include a pulled pork sandwich and chips. Raffle tickets, for a Howa/Hogue 7mm08 Remington™ Bolt Action Centerfire Rifle, are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. To purchase dinner tickets or raffle tickets, call Kenneth at 318-487-4869 or 318-446-4386. All proceeds from the dinner and raffle will go to the Old Catholic Cemetery project in Deville that includes identifying the unknown gravesites and making new markers for the graves once they are identified.

## Teen ACTS Retreat: July 30 - Aug. 2

Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine will host a Cenla Teen ACTS Retreat July 30-Aug. 2 for high school students entering grades 10-12. Registration is open until June 15. To register or for more information, contact Stacey Dixon at 337-258-9650 or stacdix@yahoo.com or Rena Crooks-Saucier at 318-623-7175 or Rcrooksauier@yahoo.com.

## Refreshed in Spirit seminar: Aug. 1

CENLA Magnificat and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Louisiana will present *Refreshed in the Spirit* on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria. If you would like a deeper union with God, a greater love for others, and a fuller presence in your life of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, join us! There is no registration fee, but you must pre-register by July 29, 2015 – by email at cenlamagnificat@gmail.com or by mail to Diane Ardoin 1415 Creed St, Pineville, La. 71360. Open to men and women. Bring a brown bag lunch. Drinks and desserts will be provided.

## Marriage Prep Workshop: Aug. 2

Strong Foundations Marriage Preparation Workshop will be held Sunday, Aug. 2 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. Register at [www.comprehensivetherapygroup.com](http://www.comprehensivetherapygroup.com)

## Back to School with God Event: Aug. 5

A night to kick off the school year for all youth groups (7-12th) will be held 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Prompt Succor's Divine Providence Center (2120 Elliott St. Alexandria,) featuring Josh Blakesley Band and Paul Hood including time for prayer, music, testimony and Adoration. Cost: Free. Parish registration form and fly-

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS



**DONATION TO ST. MARY'S TRAINING SCHOOL.** Victor Tolo, a member of the Bishop Charles P. Greco KC Council No. 1134 presents checks totaling \$500 to Tony "Bo" Vets for St. Mary's Residential Training School. These funds were raised through fundraisers that the council participated in over the past few months. Upcoming fundraisers include breakfast sales at St. Rita's Catholic Church on August 16, where St. Mary's also hopes to have a booth selling crafts handmade by the residents and a raffle.

ers available at [www.diocesealex.org/youthministry](http://www.diocesealex.org/youthministry). For more information, call Luc Noël at 318-445-6424 Ext. #207.

## Back to School Start Dates

- Aug. 10 Holy Savior Menard (Alexandria)
- Aug. 10 St. Frances Cabrini (Alexandria)
- Aug. 10 St. Joseph (Plaquemine)
- Aug. 12 Sacred Heart (Moreauville)
- Aug. 13 St. Anthony (Bunkie)
- Aug. 13 St. Mary's (Cottonport)
- Aug. 14 OLPS (Alexandria)
- Aug. 14 St. Mary's (Natchitoches)

## Ignite Back to School Rally: Aug. 15

Holy Savior Menard High School will host *Ignite: Back to School Rally* on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Menard Gym. All parents, siblings, grandparents, students, alumni, and community are invited to hear special guest speaker Katie Prejean, and then to celebrate Mass. Don't miss this back to school event and enjoy the music, door prizes and much more!

## Catechist Workshops: Aug. 22 & Sept 19

Beginning this Fall (2015), and for the next five years, the Office of Religious Formation and Training will offer, for ongoing catechist formation, Catechist Workshops on the Content of Our Faith. Topics to be covered are Church History, Scripture, Liturgy & Sacraments, Spirituality of the Catechist, and Moral Teachings of the Church. All five topics will be covered, going further into depth each year. This year, two identical workshops will be held on August 22 & September 19 from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Center. Registration is required. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. To register, email: [emccullough@diocesealex.org](mailto:emccullough@diocesealex.org) or call Emily Ann McCullough at 318-445-6424 ext. 251 and leave a voice message with your name and phone number.

## Job opportunity

**Seeking: 4-Day Cook at Manna House.** Manna House is seeking a person to cook at Manna House from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., every Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. In addition to being able to cook, applicants must be dependable, trustworthy, and flexible in creating dishes from a constantly changing food inventory. Call John McLure, volunteer director of Manna House, at 318-445-9053 to schedule an interview. Competitive salary.

## Young People's Beginning Experience: July 23-25

If you are hurting and in pain after your parent's death, separation or divorce, the Beginning Experience® program for Teens and Young Adults is designed to help you overcome these feelings. The Beginning Experience® program for ages 14 and up enables you to become better adjusted to your changed surroundings and family structure. The event will be held July 23-25 at the Rosaryville Spirit Life Center located in Rosaryville, La. (near Pontchatoula, La). To register, go to [www.catholicretreatcenter.org/download/attachment/8560](http://www.catholicretreatcenter.org/download/attachment/8560)

## Beginning Experience: Sept. 18-20

Widowed, separated or divorced? Don't know where to turn? Struggling with grief or loss? Beginning Experience, to be held Friday evening, Sept. 18 through Sunday afternoon, Sept. 20 at Maryhill Retreat Center, helps grieving single-again persons emerge from the darkness of grief into the light of a new beginning, and move into the future with renewed hope. Cost is \$185, which includes two nights' lodging and meals. For more info, call Anna at (318) 452-2678 or Michelle at (318) 729-0129 or Martha at (985) 226-6458.

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# July - August

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20	21 VIRTUS Training 5:30 pm Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville	22	23	24	25	26 Pulled Pork Dinner 11:00 am-1:00 pm St. John the Baptist Church, Deville
PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY	PRAY FOR FR. A. FIGREDO	Young People's Beginning Experience -- Rosaryville		PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION
27	28	29 VIRTUS Training 6:30 pm St. Joseph Church, Colfax	30	31	AUGUST 1 Refreshed in the Spirit Seminar 8:30 am-2:30 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	2 Strong Foundation Marriage Prep 9:00 am-6:00 pm Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	Teen ACTS Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center		FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE
3	4 VIRTUS Training 1:30 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	5 Back to School with God 6:30-8:30 pm Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria	6	7	8	9
PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL	PRAY FOR FR. J. KAYALA	PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD	PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. F. KUMAI	PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM	PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA
10 School Starts: • Holy Savior Menard HS • St. Frances Cabrini • St. Joseph School	11	12 School Starts: • Sacred Heart School	13 School Starts: • St. Anthony of Padua • St. Mary's Assumption	14 School Starts: • Our Lady of Prompt Succor • St. Mary's School	15 IGNITE Back to School Rally 6:30-8:30 pm Holy Savior Menard Gym	16
PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD	PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME	PRAY FOR FR. R. LEMOINE	PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE	PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER	PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA
17	18	19	20	21	22 Catechist Workshop 8:30 am-3:00 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	23
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	PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL



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