

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVI, No. 8

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

August 17, 2015

## ON THE INSIDE

### **Senate fails to pass legislation to defund Planned Parenthood**

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### **11 seminarians in formation for priesthood this Fall**

Eleven seminarians from the Diocese of Alexandria will be attending seminaries this fall, according to Father Louis Sklar, director of Vocations. For details on who is studying for the priesthood and the seminary they will be attending, see page 7.

## Prayer and the Pledge

Catholic schools start every day  
with a prayer and the pledge



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OPENED** for the 2015-2016 school year in early August. What better way to start the day than with a prayer to God and the pledge to our country. Raising the flag at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville   
 For more information about Catholic schools opening, see pages 11-13. (Photo by Karen Moreau)



# Pope designates Sept. 1 as World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

(CNS) -- Like their Orthodox brothers and sisters, Catholics formally will mark Sept. 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis has decided.

The day of prayer, the pope said, will give individuals and communities an opportunity to implore God's help in protecting creation and an opportunity to ask God's forgiveness "for sins committed against the world in which we live."

Pope Francis announced his decision to add the annual prayer day to the Catholic calendar in a letter to Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and to Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The text of the letter, dated Aug. 6, was released by the Vatican Aug. 10.

Pope Francis said he was instituting the prayer day for Catholics because he shares the concern of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, who initiated a similar prayer day for the Orthodox Church in 1989.

Metropolitan John of Pergamon, who represented the patriarch at the public presentation June 18 of Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si'," had suggested there that all Christians join in prayer Sept. 1.

"This would mark a step toward further closeness among them," he had said.

Pope Francis said Christians want to make their special contribution to safeguarding creation, but to do that they must rediscover the spiritual foundations of



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CARE OF CREATION** will be celebrated Tuesday, Sept. 1, as announced by Pope Francis. On this day, the Pope hopes Christians will discover that "the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature."

protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis said, will be a time for individuals and communities to "reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

The pope asked Cardinal Koch to consult with and work with the Catholic Church's ecumenical partners and the World Council of Churches to make sure the prayer day becomes a sign of Christians' commitment to work together to safeguard creation "in order to be more credible and effective."

He entrusted to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace the task of working with Catholic bishops' conferences and environmental organizations to publicize and coordinate the specifics of the celebration.

"I invoke upon this initiative the intercession of Mary, mother of God, and of St. Francis of Assisi, whose Canticle of the Creatures inspires so many men and women of goodwill to live in praise of the Creator and with respect for creation," he said.

their approach to earthly realities, beginning with an acknowledgment that "the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature," but lived in communion with all worldly realities.

The ecological crisis, he said, is a summons "to a profound spiritual conversion" and to a way of life that clearly shows they are believers.

Quoting his encyclical, he said, "living our vocation to be

## Prayer To Care For Our Common Home

Father of all,  
Creator and ruler of the universe,  
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.  
Help us to care for it and all people,  
that we may live in right relationship--  
with You,  
with ourselves,  
with one another,  
and with creation.

Christ our Lord,  
both divine and human,  
You lived among us and died for our sins.  
Help us to imitate your love for the human family  
by recognizing that we are all connected--  
to our brothers and sisters around the world,  
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,  
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,  
giver of wisdom and love,  
You breathe life in us and guide us.  
Help us to live according to your vision,  
stirring to action the hearts of all--  
individuals and families,  
communities of faith,  
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home.  
Amen.

This prayer from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is based on Pope Francis' Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home.

## Diocesan Directory

The 2015-2017 Diocesan Directory has not returned yet from the printer.

As soon as it is printed, it will be distributed. If you pre-ordered a copy, it will be either mailed to you or you will receive a phone call to come pick it up from the Diocesan office.

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Week of Prayer to end Evils of Planned Parenthood Aug. 22-29

## Senate fails to pass legislation to defund PP; new efforts expected

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The head of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee Aug. 3 urged U.S. senators to take the federal money that goes to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and instead fund women's health care providers that do not promote abortion.

"It has long been troubling to many Americans that the nation's largest abortion network, performing over a third of all abortions, receives over half a billion taxpayer dollars a year," said Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley.

"This concern has rightly grown in recent years," he wrote in a letter to the senators.

The cardinal, who is chairman of the USCCBs' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged senators to support S. 1881, a measure that would defund Planned Parenthood and its affiliates.

Later that day, the Senate voted 53-46 to stop efforts Republicans said Democrats were using to delay and ultimately kill S. 1881. According to an AP story, 60 votes were needed to enable the defunding measure to move forward.

The Senate action came just days before Congress was to begin its August recess. AP said the House is expected to vote on a similar measure when Congress returns.

Cardinal O'Malley's letter followed the release in mid-July of videos of the organization's officials filmed undercover by a nonprofit California-based organization called the Center for Medical Progress.

"The most recent revelations about Planned Parenthood's willingness to traffic in fetal tissue from abortions, and to alter abortion methods not for any reason related to women's health but to



**PEOPLE PROTEST** on a sidewalk Aug. 6 outside a San Antonio Planned Parenthood clinic that performs abortions. Federal and state lawmakers have called for an investigation of Planned Parenthood and defunding it after the organization's top physicians were videotaped talking about ways to perform abortions to better salvage intact fetal tissue and organs intact to sell to researchers. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

obtain more 'intact' organs, is the latest demonstration of a callousness toward women and their unborn children that is shocking to many Americans," he said.

In two of the videos, top Planned Parenthood physicians describe how abortions are carried out to best salvage fetal tissue and organs for researchers and described a range of prices paid for different body parts.

A third video was of an interview with a technician talking about harvesting fetal body parts and included graphic footage.

A fourth video has now been released. A temporary restraining order issued by the Los Angeles Superior Court prohibits the Center for Medical Progress from

releasing any video footage of interviews of officials from Stem-Express, a California-based company that provides organs and tissue to researchers.

Planned Parenthood receives more than \$500 million of its \$1.3 billion annual budget from federal and state programs. According to 2013 data, the latest available, Planned Parenthood says abortions represent 3 percent of the total services its facilities provide, which include dispensing birth control and doing some women's health screenings.

In addition to Republicans in the House and Senate pushing for an end to federal funding of Planned Parenthood, several states have launched investiga-

tions into the organization.

Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, in a statement said that "allegations that Planned Parenthood profits in any way from tissue donation is not true." She later apologized for "the tone" the physicians used in describing abortion procedures and also argued the videos had been heavily edited to distort the truth.

In his letter, Cardinal O'Malley added: "The Catholic Church comes to this issue from a perspective rooted in experience. Catholic charitable agencies and pregnancy help centers have helped countless pregnant women find life-affirming alternatives to abortion."

### Prayer to Our Lady to end U.S. funding of the Culture of Death

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America, we pray for your intercession in the defense of Life and Family in the United States.

We pray for the election of political leaders who will respect the dignity of each person from conception until natural death.

And we pray for the conversion of all members of Congress, and all those working in the U.S. government who are promoting the Culture of Death here and around the world.

Through your intercession, may our elected officials in the US reverse the policies that use taxpayer money to destroy Life, Marriage and the Family worldwide.

Blessed Mother, patroness of the Unborn, we humbly ask for your protection of all those working to build a Culture of Life.

May all who are persecuted for preaching the Gospel of Life be comforted by the love and mercy of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and may they have victory over the evils of this world.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us! Amen.

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## When baby parts are worth more than the baby

The problem is the child.

When you cut through the tortured logic Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards employs to defend the primacy of privacy over the natural law, what you are left with, unfortunately for the nation's abortion Goliath, is the child.

Or, more accurately, 57.5 million children and counting who have died through legal abortion in the U.S. since 1973.

The stain of a sin this big and this unchecked by society for more than 40 years cannot be fully grasped, much less examined.

We cannot view directly the revolting truth of abortion because that truth would blind us and maybe even turn our Lamborghinis into pillars of salt.

Do not look back. This is a settled issue.

In our patriotic fervor to sing "God Bless America" as though it were something more than a children's nursery rhyme, we must avert our eyes to the collateral damage of "choice" and continue living our unexamined lives -- from sea to shining sea.

But then, in a country hypnotized by YouTube cat videos, something utterly amazing happened in the past two weeks.

Two undercover videos, the product of careful planning by people who have examined their own lives and felt compelled to expose the hidden reality of death before birth, shook the YouTube cyber-community.



### Guest Editorial

Peter Finney,  
Editor, Clarion Hearld  
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Americans, young and old, stopped and clicked. Amazing. Grace.

The bottom line for me is this: When baby parts are more valuable than the babies who provide them, my God, we have lost our way.

Perhaps most disturbing was the sheer nonchalance of it all. In their unguarded conversations, Planned Parenthood medical professionals admitted there are ways, by modifying surgical procedures, to harvest more intact human tissue per specimen. They also acknowledged there is a Wild West market in baby parts -- the Walmart or the Tiffany's price for organs is totally negotiable, depending on the automotive preferences of the abortionist.

In between sips of wine and bites of salad, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, head of Planned Parenthood's Medical Services department, told the undercover operatives from the Center for Medical Progress about how presentation is everything: Human hearts, lungs and livers are har-

vested so much more easily if the baby is delivered feet first, which sometimes takes a little nudging here and there.

But what's a breech delivery among friends?

"I'd say a lot of people want liver," said Nucatola, munching on her salad. "And for that reason, most providers will do this case under ultrasound guidance, so they'll know where they're putting their forceps. The kind of rate-limiting step of the procedure is calvarium. Calvarium -- the head -- is basically the biggest part.

"We've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not gonna crush that part, I'm gonna basically crush below, I'm gonna crush above, and I'm gonna see if I can get it all intact."

With soft background jazz playing in the second video, Dr. Mary Gatter, who until 2014 was president of the Planned Parenthood Medical Directors' Coun-

See, When Baby Parts . . . , pg. 17



### ONE IN THE LORD

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

The days of summer are quickly coming to an end with the beginning of a new school year. Initial data indicates that at least some of our schools have a very significant increase in enrollment. May all who are a part of faith formation be richly blessed during the year ahead.

We have begun the work on the planning study to evaluate our potential and the receptiveness of our people through the help of representatives of the Steier Group. They plan to meet with all clergy and a representative group of lay persons. There will also be five focus sessions throughout the diocese. I hope you will give us your input. Thanks in advance.

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

Thanks again to all who participated in our 2015 diocesan appeal. It is not too late to make a gift if you have not done so.

Again we are blessed with more men entering seminary formation. We will have eleven men in four seminaries. Thanks for giving them your encouragement and prayers.

All are waiting for the visit of Pope Francis. I am certain there will be a great amount of media coverage. Please pray for his safety and his inspiration while he is with us.

May the Lord bless you and your family as we enter the fall of the year.

## CHURCH TODAY

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## Diocesan-wide Planning Study update: Attend a focus group or respond online

Bishop Ronald Herzog and the priests of the diocese are already responding to the planning study survey put together by the Steier Group, a consulting fundraising and development firm.

Now they want you to have the opportunity to have your voice heard too.

You may read about the proposed plans at [diocesealex.org/survey](http://diocesealex.org/survey) and then fill out the online survey. The password to the survey is "Alexandria."

If online surveys do not appeal to you, please attend one of these focus group meetings to learn more and share your thoughts.

Focus groups will be held:

• Tuesday, Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m., at St. Rita Church, 4401 Bayou Rapides Rd., Alexandria

• Wednesday, Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 626 Fourth St., Alexandria

• Tuesday, Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m., at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 911 5th St., Natchitoches

• Wednesday, Aug. 26, 6:30 p.m., at St. Joseph Church, 141 S. Washington St., Marksville

• Tuesday, Sept. 1, 6:30 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 1712 West St., Winnsboro

[www.diocesealex.org/survey](http://www.diocesealex.org/survey)

## How do you pray at night?

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

- ✓ Everyone's fed.
- ✓ Kids are in bed.
- ✓ Dishes are washed.
- ✓ Clothes are put away.
- ✓ Game on TV is over.

Now, it's time for bed. Time to think about what you didn't get done today and what you'll need to accomplish tomorrow.

... or you can pray.

What better way to end each day than with an intimate conversation with Jesus. It doesn't have to be long and it doesn't have to be formal.

Donna Culotta (from Servant House in Marksville) asked several people how they pray at night. Here are some of the responses:

• "I say the Guardian Angel prayer, my own prayer of thanksgiving for the day, an Act of Contrition, the Our Father, and Hail Mary. As far back as I can remember, I have said the Guardian Angel prayer every night."

• "I pretty much just fall into bed and utter an exhausted "thank you." -- from a young mother of five.

• "Sometimes my husband and I pray together. Sometimes the family gathers with a lit candle and reads the Gospel or prays a decade of the Rosary."

• "I try to pray the Rosary ev-



ery night, but I usually fall asleep before I finish."

• "I like to say this prayer -- 'Good night dear God. I'm going to bed. My day is over, my prayers are said. I am not afraid of night for you will watch til morning light.' Thank you for the blessings and please remember my intentions. Then I say three Hail Marys."

• "I read from "My Daily Bread."

• "I pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy or the Rosary for the release of souls from purgatory."

• "I pray the evening prayers in my Magnificat, and then a Hail Mary, Our Father, & a Glory Be."

• "With my grandkids, we pray, "Now I lay me down to sleep..." and then we go to "God bless Mom, Dad, etc. For myself, I pray three Rosaries and private thoughts of the day."

• "I do the adult version of a child's prayer. You know the one, "God bless mommy, daddy, brother, sister, the dog, cat, and friend next door." I'm usually sleepy so I start by putting people into God's care and thank Him for the day's blessing and the blessing of family. If I'm too wired and my mind is going a million miles an hour, usually an Our Father or Hail Mary helps me to

See, HOW DO YOU PRAY, pg. 15

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# Fr. Russell Lemoine dies August 4

A Mass of Chrisitan burial for Rev. Russel John Lemoine was held Aug. 7 at 11 a.m. in St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Mansura with Bishop Ronald P. Herzog officiating.

Msgr. John Timmermans served as homilist. Interment was held at the Maryhill Renewal Center Priest Cemetery, under the direction of John Kramer & Son Funeral Home.

Father Lemoine, a retired priest of the Diocese of Alexandria, passed from this life on August 4, 2015, the Feast of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests.

Son of Theo Lemoine and Iris Breaux Lemoine, he was born on December 7, 1934 and was baptized at St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport on December 15, 1934 by Father Milburn J. Broussard.

He entered St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington but left seminary formation in 1948 to pursue a degree in electrical engineering. Fr. Lemoine then went on to perform his military service and served as a lay missionary with the Benedictine Fathers in Guatemala.

Fr. Lemoine returned for theological studies at Pope John XXIII National Seminary in



Rev. Russell Lemoine  
1934-2015

Weston, Massachusetts and at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Alexandria by Bishop Charles Greco at St. Mary's Assumption Church on February 14, 1970, beginning his faithful 34 years of service.

After ordination, he served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Fatima Church and Jesus the Good Shepherd Church in Monroe as well as at St. Joseph's Church in Shreveport and the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.

Fr. Lemoine worked with permission in the Archdiocese of

Oaxaca in Mexico from 1975 to 1978. He then served as chaplain at St. Frances Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria and as pastor of St. Margaret's Church in Boyce.

Fr. Lemoine served as Vicar for Clergy of the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport and as an active member of the Presbyteral Council and College of Consultors; as president of the Priests' Personnel Board under Bishop Friend; as chairman of the Clergy Continuing Education Committee and as a member of the Louisiana Catholic Conference Worship Committee.

Fr. Lemoine went on to serve as pastor of St. Michael's Church in Leesville, St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura, where he was responsible for overseeing a beautiful restoration of the church as part of its 200th anniversary in 1996 and at St. Martin of Tours in Belledeau.

Father Lemoine is survived by one brother, Dr. Anthony Lemoine of Alexandria/Pineville and one sister, Mrs. Amy Lemoine Smith of New Roads, LA.

Priests of the Diocese of Alexandria served as pallbearers.

Memorials may be made to the Priests Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306.

## Seminarian Burses

### June Donations

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau	\$25.00
Edna Rabalais Burse	
Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Deacon and Mrs. Rodrick B. Broussard	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Tri-Community Nursing Center	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau	\$100.00
Msgr. Henry Beckers Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach	\$100.00
Msgr. Steve J. Testa Burse	
Mr. Murray J. Rabalais	\$100.00
Fr. Harvey J. Fortier Burse	
Mrs. Gladys M. Maddie	\$100.00
Fr. Daniel Corkery Burse	
Deacon and Mrs. L.G. Deloach	\$100.00
Fr. Rickey Gremillion Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dobard	\$200.00
Leo Dobard Burse	
Total	\$1,000.00

### July Donations

Knights of Columbus Council 9217	\$25.00
Fr. Adrian L. Molenschot Burse	
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau	\$25.00
Edna Rabalais Burse	
Deacon and Mrs. Rodrick B. Broussard	\$50.00
Msgr. Milburn Broussard Burse	
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau	\$100.00
Msgr. Henry Beckers Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Tri-Community Nursing Center	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Geraldine B. Deptula	\$1,000.00
Fr. Bruce Miller Burse	
Elizabeth S. Arthur	\$1,000.00
Sadie Stroud Burse	
Total	\$2,400.00

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood.

Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to:

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ST. PETER/ST. MICHAEL (Bordelonville) FIRST COMMUNION. Six students from St. Peter/St. Michael Church in Bordelonville received First Communion May 9 in a Mass celebrated by Father Shoury Ramji.

(This picture was submitted earlier, but it was left out

of last month's photo gallery of First Communion photos.)

# 11 seminarians in formation for priesthood this fall

Eleven seminarians from the Diocese of Alexandria will be attending seminaries this fall, according to Father Louis Sklar, director of Vocations.

They are John Wiltse, Daniel Hart, Dutch Voltz, Derek Ducote, Austin Burns, Luke Lafleur, Thomas Kennedy, Phillip Anglin, Andrew Flynn, Chase Masters

and Bryce Veillon.

The 11 men are attending four different seminaries including the North American Pontifical College in Rome, Italy; Pontifi-

cial College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans; and St. Joseph Seminary near Covington, LA.

This year's cost to send all

11 men to seminary... \$363,000, which is funded by the Annual Diocesan Appeal, Seminarian Burses, private donations and other fund-raisers.



**John Wiltse**

4th Year Theology Student  
Pontifical College Josephinum  
Home Parish: Sacred Heart,  
Pineville



**Daniel Hart**

3rd Year Theology Student  
Pontifical NA College, Rome, Italy  
Home Parish: St. Martin, Lecompte



**Gus 'Dutch' Voltz, III**

3rd Year Theology Student  
Notre Dame Seminary  
New Orleans  
Home Parish: OLPS, Alexandria



**Derek Ducote**

3rd Year Theology Student  
Notre Dame Seminary, N.O.  
Home Parish: St. Francis Xavier  
Cathedral, Alexandria



**Austin Burns**

2nd Year Theology Student  
Pontifical College Josephinum  
Columbus, Ohio  
Home Parish: St. John, Columbia



**Luke Lafleur**

2nd Year Theology Student  
Pontifical College Josephinum  
Columbus, Ohio  
Home Parish: OLPS, Alexandria



**Thomas Kennedy**

3rd Year Philosophy Student  
St. Joseph Seminary, St. Benedict  
Home Parish: MB of the Immaculate  
Conception, Natchitoches



**Phillip B. Anglin**

1st Year Pre-Theology Student  
Notre Dame Seminary, N.O.  
Home Parish: Immaculate Heart  
of Mary, Tioga



**Andrew Flynn**

1st Year Philosophy Student  
St. Joseph Seminary, St. Benedict  
Home Parish: St. Frances Cabrini  
Church, Alexandria



**Chase Masters**

1st Year Philosophy Student  
Pontifical College Josephinum  
Columbus, Ohio  
Home Parish: St. Gerard, Jonesville

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**Bryce Veillon**

1st Year Philosophy Student  
St. Joseph Seminary, St. Benedict  
Home Parish: St. Michael, Leesville





**4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS, REV. RYAN ASSEMBLY #0317.** Rev. Jacob Thomas, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Cheneyville, was recently presented with the Clergy of the Year Award by Herbert E. Thompson, Jr. P.F.N. and Darrel J. Tassin P.F.N. of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Father Ryan Assembly 0317 in Bunkie.



**4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, MSGR. HENRY VAN DER PUTTEN ASSEMBLY #2333,** met July 25 at Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville, for the annual installation of officers. Following the Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Jose Pallipurath, pastor at Sacred Heart, Dr. Walter Laboder, F.M. conducted the installation ceremony for all current officers. Lionel Bordelon, Jr. of Sacred Heart parish was installed as Faithful Navigator for the new term. Those in attendance were treated to a banquet for the occasion in Lacour Hall.



**4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, MSGR. S.J. DEKEUWER ASSEMBLY #2078,** met July 26 at St. Rita Church in Alexandria, for the annual installation of officers. Following the Mass celebrated by Rev. Craig Scott, pastor of St. Rita Church, Dr. Walter Laborde, F.M. conducted the installation ceremony for all officers. Mike Menou, Jr. was installed as Faithful Navigator for the new term. Other officers are Buford Grappe, David Bouchie, John Denny, Michael Yankowski, Timothy Felchle, Joseph Sklar, Gary Racine, Robert Scott, Richard Grenkevich, Dale Porche, and Robert Watson.



**4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, MSGR. ANTHONY PIEGAY ASSEMBLY #0328,** met July 26 at St. Rita Church in Alexandria, for the annual installation of officers. Following the Mass celebrated by Rev. Craig Scott, pastor of St. Rita Church, Dr. Walter Laborde, F.M. conducted the installation ceremony for all officers. Leonard Wilson was installed as the new Faithful Navigator. Other officers are Robert Welch, Michael Jeansonne, Robert Sherman, Tom Winegeart, Freddie Daigrepoint, J.T. Chestovitch, Michael Vandyke, Al Rafferty, Mel Waker, Huey Campbell, John Tumminello, and Richard Murray.



**KC AWARDS.** Awards presented during the installation of officers held July 26 at St. Rita Church are Leonard Wilson, Order of Merit; Major Ken W. Nelson, Civic Leader of the Year; Rev. Scott Chemino, Clergy of the Year; and Richard Murray, Knight of the Year. Not pictured is Jason and Angelia Lavergne, Family of the Year.



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## Dozens of Christians feared to be among 230 kidnapped in Syria

(CNS) -- Dozens of Christians are feared to be among the 230 people abducted by Islamic State after the extremist group's militants captured a central Syrian town in early August.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Syria-based activist Bebars al-Talawy said they have no information where militants took their captives after overrunning the heavily populated town of Qaryatayn. Al-Talawy put the number of Christians abducted at 60.

It is believed that many of the Christians had previously fled from Aleppo province in Syria's north to seek refuge in Qaryatayn.

A commentator for the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said those abducted were wanted by Islamic State for "collaborating with the regime," and

their names were on a list already prepared by the militants as they occupied the town. This has serious implications for those people and their lives could be in danger, warned the Christian rights group Middle East Concern.

Sources close to the Assyrian Orthodox metropolitan in Homs reported to Middle East Concern that while Qaryatayn was under Islamic State assault, another attack centered on the town of Hawwarin, six miles away. This is an Assyrian village and approximately 2,000 Assyrian Christians were forced to flee.

Residents of the Christian village of Sadad, 20 miles west of Qaryatayn, also feared for their safety.

Middle East Concern said it believes these developments suggest that Islamic State is again



**A YOUNG SYRIAN REFUGEE GIRL CRIES** after arriving at the Turkish-border city of Sanliurfa June 10. Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai denounced the "immorality of international politics," which he said provides the opportunity for terrorist groups to reproduce the genocide committed in the last century against the Christian minorities of the Ottoman Empire. (CNS photo/Sedat Suna, EPA)

starting to target local Christians in Syria.

In May, masked men kidnapped Syrian Father Jacques Mourad from the Syriac Catholic Mar Elian monastery in Qaryatayn.

Father Mourad, who helped both Christians and Muslims, was preparing aid for an influx of refugees from Palmyra when he was abducted, and his whereabouts remain unknown. Pope Francis mentioned him specifically in public prayer July 26.

While in February, Islamic State militants kidnapped more than 220 Assyrian Christians, after overrunning villages along the Khabur River in the northeastern Syrian province of Hassakeh. Only a few have been released since that time while the fate of the others remains unknown.

## KCs plan ad campaign to create awareness of persecuted Christians in Syria

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- The Knights of Columbus Aug. 4 announced it would launch a new phase in its efforts on behalf of persecuted Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East.

To date, the fraternal orga-

nization has donated more than \$3 million in humanitarian aid to assist them and will to launch a national TV ad campaign to draw more attention to their plight.

Plans for the ad campaign were announced at a news conference on the opening day of the

Knights' 133rd Supreme Convention in Philadelphia.

The theme for the Aug. 4-6 convention was "Endowed by Their Creator with Life and Liberty," paraphrasing the famous words penned by Thomas Jefferson in the same city 239 years ago.

The Knights said the TV ad was to begin airing the weekend of Aug. 8 and 9.

"A terrible microcosm of this phenomenon (of persecution)

is occurring in Iraq and Syria, where Christians have been murdered and enslaved in astonishing numbers," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

He was joined at the news conference by Melkite Catholic Archbishop Jean-Clement Jeanbart of Aleppo, Syria, and Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda of Erbil, Iraq.

"We have seen people killed, slaughtered, a woman violated, priests and bishops kidnapped,"

said the Syrian archbishop.

Archbishop Warda told reporters, "During the history, the Americans have been well-known that they are always with the persecuted people wherever they are."

The Knights began the Christian Refugee Relief Fund in August 2014 with \$1 million in matching funds that was quickly met and exceeded by its members and the public. The humanitarian assistance provided has included new housing for those who have had to flee their homes, as well as support for medical facilities in areas flooded with Christian and other refugees.

"Christians in the Middle East are facing a dire situation -- and even extinction -- while the response from the international community has woefully inadequate," Anderson said in an earlier statement about the relief effort.

"Pope Francis has urged the international community to take action to help Christians in the Middle East," he said, "as an organization that has long supported victims of religious persecution, the Knights of Columbus is responding by asking our own members, and the public at large, to help us save the lives of people who are being persecuted simply because of their Christian faith."

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PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited," "Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C," "Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Disability Hearings."

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Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office, Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.

Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino  
Chairman

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- Bishop Charles P. Greco
- Monsignor Thomas F. Early (3 completed)
- Monsignor B. A. Scallan
- Father H. Gerald Bordelon
- Father Michael P. Kammer
- Father Bruce Miller
- Father William B. Provosty
- Angelo R. and Ena F. D'Angelo
- John Dominick Driscoll
- Miss Mary F. Early
- Irvin and Elma Moreau, Harrison P. Moreau, Michael N. Moreau, Deborah S. Moreau Bouchie, Emily A. Moreau, Tom and Mary Candiotto, Ruby Moreau
- John Gregory Simms

The following is a list of established burses and amounts each:

Blessed Damien de Vauster.....	175.00
Bishop William Friend.....	100.00
Bishop Lawrence P. Graves.....	5,805.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco.....	1,200.00
Bishop Sam G. Jacobs.....	1,100.00
Monsignor Marcel J. Anderson.....	100.00
Monsignor Leon R. Aycock.....	1,535.00
Monsignor Henry F. Beckers.....	11,557.50
Monsignor Milburn J. Broussard.....	6,650.00
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens.....	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway.....	825.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert.....	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer.....	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer.....	550.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote.....	560.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend.....	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe.....	750.00
Monsignor James E. Howard.....	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler.....	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd.....	1,500.00
Monsignor William Kwitaal.....	850.00
Monsignor Warren T. Larroque.....	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon.....	125.00
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Monsignor Patrick Murphy.....	2,204.00
Monsignor William C. O'Hanlon.....	5,000.00
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Monsignor John V. Plauche.....	400.00
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Monsignor Henry A. Thompson.....	360.00
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Monsignor Henry Van der Putten.....	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer.....	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer.....	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman.....	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle.....	2,170.00

# Seminarian Burses

## Total contributions from January - June, 2015

Father William G. Allison.....	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar.....	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar.....	50.00
Father Lawrence Bonin.....	70.00
Father H. Gerald Bordelon.....	13,885.00
Father Vernon Bordelon.....	445.00
Father Gilles Boyer.....	85.00
Father Basil Burns.....	100.00
Father Scott Chemino.....	100.00
Father Jules L. Claes, C.I.C.M.....	4,761.00
Father Wilbur G. Cloutier.....	3,590.50
Father Daniel Corkery.....	10,100.00
Father Anthony N. Cumella.....	1,250.00
Father John H. Cunningham.....	725.00
Father Dennis A. Curren.....	550.00
Father Leonard Curtis, O.P.....	1,050.00
Father Ferreolus D'Cruz.....	875.00
Father Edward Deasy.....	625.00
Father Blake Deshautelle.....	25.00
Father Rudolph J. Engelen.....	550.00
Father Richard Fale.....	5,700.00
Father James A. Ferguson.....	600.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier.....	1,375.00
Father Joseph Alfred Fortin.....	200.00
Father James A. Foster.....	280.00
Father John M. Gayer.....	870.00
Father Serafin Glasnovic.....	150.00
Father Rickey Gremillion.....	5,850.00
Father William M. Hopp.....	10.00
Father Mark W. Horacek.....	50.00
Father Bartholomew Ibe.....	200.00
Father Tom M. Jezek.....	400.45
Father Michael P. Kammer.....	921.00
Father W. John Kiley.....	625.00
Father Francis X. Kronemeyer.....	100.00
Father George Krosfield.....	50.00
Father Henri Jacquemain.....	50.00
Father Russell J. Lemoine.....	425.00
Father Frederick J. Lyons.....	1,600.00
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Father Robert M. Maure.....	10.00
Father Jamie Medina-Cruz.....	200.00
Father Jack Michalchuk.....	150.00
Father Bruce Miller.....	13,100.00
Father Adrian Molenschot.....	3,025.00
Father Joseph Montalbano.....	300.00
Father Govie J. Moraus, Jr.....	200.00
Father Peter T. Norek.....	400.00
Father Dan O'Connor.....	1,400.00
Father Thomas O'Connors.....	10.00
Father Martin L. Plauche.....	50.00
Father Samuel J. Polizzi.....	1,000.00
Father William B. Provosty.....	7,605.00
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Father August Thompson.....	1,240.00
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Reverend H. Biggers.....	158.50
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Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard.....	100.00
Deacon L. G. Deloach.....	300.00

Deacon Raymond J. Dunn.....	300.00
Deacon Ray D. Gibson.....	100.00
Deacon Charles A. Jones.....	1,150.00
Deacon Gregory P. LeBlanc.....	100.00
Deacon Todd Marye.....	100.00
Deacon Patrick C. McCusker.....	100.00
Deacon Richard W. Mitchell.....	100.00
Deacon Ted A. Moulard.....	100.00
Deacon Clifford "Kip" J. Pelto.....	100.00
Deacon William E. Schaidnagle.....	100.00
Deacon Gary A. Schupbach.....	100.00
Deacon William "Bill" M. Travis.....	100.00
Deacon John L. Whitehead.....	100.00
Deacon Michael L. Young.....	100.00
Sister Margaret McCaffrey.....	100.00
Sister Marie Therese McGee, O.P.....	100.00
Ismael and Libby Agosto.....	250.00
Shirley Alexander.....	1,125.00
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N. J. and Hannah Nolan.....	10,000.00
Mr. W. D. O'Neal.....	8,159.00
David Stafford "Brother" O'Shee.....	9,294.66
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## 2015-16 Back to School

# Catholic schools experience renovations, expansions, curriculum improvements, enrollment increases at start of 2015 school year

By Thomas E. Roque  
Superintendent of Schools

Welcome back students, parents, and teachers! I hope your summer has been relaxing!

Although summer is a wonderful opportunity to rest and refresh ourselves, I am looking forward to a new school year; after all, each school year is a new opportunity to thank God for the blessing of Catholic education.

Our office and the hardworking people in all of our schools are ready to make this coming school year the best it can be. Throughout the summer, many of the principals have taken on renovations and expansion projects to improve the physical needs of their school. Teachers have been working on curriculum initiatives

and on ways to strengthen our Catholic identity. We always need to remember that Christ is at the center of all we do in our Catholic schools.

Parent groups have been meeting to work out better ways of increasing parent involvement in the academic lives of their children. Our schools are all the better because of the parents who devote time and talent to the ministry of Catholic education.

I am very much looking forward to this new school year -- with the many surprises that are around each corner. Every school year brings new challenges and new blessings. With God's guidance, I know we are ready to handle whatever comes along!

Please join me in praying for a wonderful new school year!



**SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THOMAS ROQUE** visits with some students at St. Anthony School in Bunkie at the end of the 2014-15 school year. Roque says the new 2015-16 school year is shaping up to be one of the best school year openings in recent years.

### BRUMFIELD vs DODD POLICY.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following statement is published:

#### DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA NON-DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL POLICY August, 2015

The Diocese of Alexandria School System re-affirms its non-discriminatory policy on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, activities and employment policies in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Sections 4.03(a) and 4.03 (c) Revenue Procedure 75-50.

All students, faculty members and staff, without exception, are admitted to all rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available at the schools which do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its employment policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

- Sacred Heart School, Moreauville
- St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie
- St. Joseph Elementary and High, Plaquemine
- St. Mary Assumption School, Cottonport
- St. Mary's Elementary and High, Natchitoches
- Holy Savior Menard Central High, Alexandria
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria
- St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

Most Rev. Ronald Herzog  
Bishop of Alexandria

## Catholic School improvements for 2015-2016

By Jeannie Petrus  
CT editor

While families were taking time off this summer to go to the beach, the mountains, or just to spend some quality time together at home, the schools were busy gearing up for the 2015-2016 new school year.

Here's a quick view of each school and some of the new things that students can expect to see on the first day of school.

#### Holy Savior Menard Central High School Alexandria

An extensively renovated Science Lab and a new assistant principal are among some of the new things at Holy Savior Menard Central High School in Alexandria.

Renovations to the new Science Lab that have been under construction since June, are expected to be fully functional for the school year by the end of September or early October.

Named for a former longtime beloved chemistry teacher,



**Rebecca Foltz**  
Assistant Principal  
Holy Savior Menard

Sister Cecile Claire Vanderlick, CDP, the new lab was a collaborative project of the Menard PTC (Parent-Teacher Club) and the Development office.

The new science lab, used by all students in grades 7-12, will include new desk stations, and all new science equipment (microscopes, dissecting kits, bunsen burners, etc) and new chemicals for experiments.

"The old science lab was gut-

ted all the way down to the studs," said Tamara McNulty, director of development. "So the new lab is basically a brand new room that will offer new opportunities in science for the students."

With new floors, ceilings, and walls in, the main things needed to complete the project are the desk stations, which are expected to arrive soon. An open house for the new science lab is being planned for September or October.

For the first time in several years, Menard will be guided once again with the help from an assistant principal.

Rebecca Shannon Foltz, a graduate of Holy Savior Menard, will serve as the school's first assistant principal in more than 10 years.

Foltz has a master's degree in Education/Educational Technology from Northwestern State University; a bachelor's degree in Science from Louisiana State University, Alexandria & Baton Rouge; and also is a Certified Educational Technology Facilitator for grades K-12 and is a Certified



Teacher for gades 1-8.

She served at OLPS in Alexandria as a teacher for 8 years; and as the Technology Facilitator & Curriculum Coordinator for four years. Since June of 2014, she served as an administrator and Director of Admissions at Holy Savior Menard.

Sarah Hamilton Schlessman has been hired as the new guidance counselor.

The front office at Menard also received a facelift. New paint and new flooring to the office area were among the major changes.

#### St. Frances Cabrini School Alexandria

A new principal and a 34 percent increase in enrollment is just some of the good news coming out of St. Frances Cabrini School this Fall.

Taking on the role as the new principal at Cabrini is Sister Nina Vincent, OLS. Sister Nina, was formerly the guidance counselor at Holy Savior Menard. In addition to Sister Nina, two other religious sisters -- Sister Elizabeth Ann Holmes and Sister Rosalind Barbineaux, both Sisters of the Holy Family -- will also be teaching at Cabrini.

As it enters its 67th year, the



**HOLY SAVIOR MENARD'S SCIENCE LAB** is finished except for the new desk stations expected in the next few weeks, before it can be considered completely finished.

school is back to 225 students — the enrollment Cabrini had when it first opened Sept. 8, 1948, according to Father Chad Partain, pastor. That's up 34 percent from last year's 145.

Seventy-five of the 225 students are there through the Louisiana Scholarship Program, in which the state Department of Education provides scholarships for students in failing schools to attend private schools.

The total figure not only harkens back to the school's beginnings but it also meets a target set by administration.

"Three years ago, we made

225 our target in four years," Partain said. "We are a year ahead of schedule."

The summer was also used to make repairs and updates to the school including adding all new windows to the cafeteria, new carpet in some classrooms, roof repairs, and new paint in the lobby and on the exterior doors.

#### Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

The biggest change at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School this year will be the new faces of teachers.

A total of seven new teachers have been hired for the start of the new school year, according to Jo Tassin, principal.

The new teachers this year are Amy Litton and Stefanie Watkins (Kindergarten); Ashley Bordelon (1st grade); Laura Davis (3rd grade); Mary Nassif and Mallory Tatum (4th grade); and Mary Roshto (5th grade). Tassin was happy to report that very few repairs or renovations were made this summer, since major projects were taken on over the past few summers.

"We made some routine maintenance repairs over the summer, installed a huge fan in the gym, and hired some new teachers," said Tassin. "We are

looking forward to a great school year."

#### Sacred Heart School Moreauville

Finishing touches on Sacred Heart School's new Junior High Media Center continued throughout the summer, according to Sister Sandra Norsworthy, OLS, principal.

At the end of the 2014-15 school year, Sacred Heart dedicated the new 4,194 sq. ft. Sr. Marisa Ricci Jr. High Media Center that includes four classrooms -- two for 7th grade and two for 8th grade, and three restrooms. Each of the classrooms have designated purposes including one for Science, Religion, Social Studies and Language Arts.

The same new building also includes a 2,550 sq. ft. media center that is designed for multiple functions such as an area for traditional classroom arrangement for 28 students, a computer kiosk for eight students, and another arrangement of tables to accommodate another 28 students. The media center houses computer labs, and numerous Accelerated Reading library books and will serve as the faculty meeting and prayer gathering area.



**SEVERAL BUILDINGS** at St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport were renamed.

When School started for Sacred Heart students Aug. 12, the new Junior High Media Center was fully functional and ready for students.

#### St. Mary's Assumption Cottonport

A lot of new things are happening at St. Mary's Assumption-School in Cottonport.

A new six-classroom building, with separate rooms for a computer lab and a religion class is the newest project on the campus of St. Mary's Assumption School, according to Nathan Laborde, principal. Several of the



**FATHER CHAD PARTAIN**, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church, welcomes Sister Nina Vincent, OLS to the school as the new principal. Sister Nina was formerly the guidance counselor at Holy Savior Menard.



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**THE NEW MEDIA CENTER** is ready to accommodate the students at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville this Fall.

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**5TH GRADE TEACHERS** Brandi Chatelain, Suzanne Bordelon, and Kathy Joffrion at St. Mary's Assumption enjoy their new large classrooms in a new building added over the summer.



**THE ST. DOMINIC BUILDING** at St. Mary's Assumption School includes new classrooms for students in grades 2-5, a new computer lab, and religion classroom.

buildings on campus were also given names.

The new classroom building, named St. Dominic, includes new rooms for grades 2-5 and new space for a computer lab and a religion classroom that will be used by the entire school.

The old religion classroom was renovated into a new music room (renamed St. Cecelia Music Room) for the new State Championship Choir. This past May, the St. Mary's Choir won 1st place in the state choir competition to win the State Championship Choir title. The choir is under the direction of Brother Anthony Dugas, FSE.

Other renovations made during the summer at St. Mary's included moving and renovating a new space for the principal's office, creating a space for the new after-school program, and the renovation of two smaller classrooms into one large kindergarten class.

"The kindergarten kids needed extra space to move around in, so with the addition of the new classroom space in the new building, we were able to renovate two of our classrooms into one large learning area," said LaBorde.

Other buildings receiving designated names are the Father

Bill Provosty Middle School building and the Holy Family Pre-K building.

#### St. Joseph School Plaucheville

St. Joseph School made many changes over the summer, both physically and academically.

According to Principal Bryan Runyan, crews finished painting the exterior of the classroom buildings as well as the interior of three high school classrooms and one elementary classroom. St. Joseph also acquired two buildings from Avoyelles High School that contain two classrooms each.

"Academically, we are starting a Pre-K 3 year-old class, offering Algebra I as a high school credit to qualifying 8th grade students, expanding our elective classes, and offering dual enrollment for our senior English students" said Runyan.

"Partnering with LSU-A, our participating seniors will be able to graduate with 6 hours of college credits in English. We are also exploring the possibility of offering our junior students a semester of dual enrollment in English. We are also finalizing our certification with the Louisiana Dept. of Health and Hospi-

tals to offer a Certified Nursing Assistant class. Students will be able to advance their career and or education in the medical field."

#### St. Anthony School Bunkie

Students returning to St. Anthony School in Bunkie were happy to find that two restrooms (girls and boys) were renovated over the summer.

According to Martha Coulon, principal, the two restrooms received a nice facelift with new flooring, fixtures, and paint.

The convent, located next to the school, was also renovated for continued use as a computer lab, Art Room, and Homework House. The renovations includ-

ed new flooring and a complete paint job. The entire campus is being updated in order for all classrooms and buildings to have wireless internet access."

#### St. Mary's School Natchitoches

St. Mary's School in Natchitoches spent the summer upgrading its computer equipment and network system. Upgrades include all new equipment, wireless access points in every classroom and the addition of 80 Google Chromebooks in two computer labs, and additional tablets in elementary classrooms.

CP-TEL designed and installed the network as part of an effort to optimize technology.

The school now has two computer labs for students that boasts the newest network systems as well as the most current and reliable computers in the parish.

"The transformation is like going from the slow lane to the fast lane," said Jacque Horton, principal. "The computer system, the network and the Internet are always up and running which, when you're in an educational environment, is obviously critical."

"Before, while our bandwidth was sufficient, our network was not. Now our wireless network handles the load of every teacher, student and all administrative personnel with no issues whatsoever," said Karen Lee, technology director.



**DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS** to the practice football field were made at St. Mary's School this summer.

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# Divorced, remarried couples are not excommunicated, says Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Catholics who have divorced and are civilly remarried "are not, in fact, excommunicated -- they are not excommunicated -- and they absolutely must not be treated as if they were," Pope Francis said.

Resuming his Wednesday general audiences Aug. 5 after a month's break, Pope Francis returned to the series of talks he has been giving on the family. It was the 100th general audience of his papacy.

At his last audience, June 24, he talked about the damage caused especially to children when couples fight and hurt each other. "Today," he said, "I want to draw our attention to another reality: how to care for those who, after the irreversible failure of the matrimonial bond, have undertaken a new union."

Without an annulment of the sacramental marriage, "such a situation contradicts the Christian sacrament," which is meant to be an indissoluble bond, the pope said.

According to church teaching, in most cases such couples are not permitted to receive Communion. But bishops at the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family last October and preparing for the general synod Oct. 4-25 have been studying and debating possibilities for allowing some couples in some situations to return to the sacraments.



**NOT EXCOMMUNICATED.** Pope Francis urged Catholics to welcome and assist those who are divorced and remarried, especially for the sake of their children. Without an annulment of the sacramental marriage, "such a situation contradicts the Christian sacrament," which is meant to be an indissoluble bond, the pope said. According to church teaching, in most cases such couples are not permitted to receive Communion. But bishops at the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family last October and preparing for the general synod Oct. 4-25 have been studying and debating possibilities for allowing some couples in some situations to return to the sacraments.

The church, Pope Francis said at the audience, must have "the heart of a mother, a heart that, animated by the Holy Spirit, always seeks the good and the salvation of persons."

The children of such couples suffer most and deserve particular

care, the pope said.

"How can we tell these parents to do everything possible to raise their children in the Christian life, giving them the example of a convinced and lived faith, if we keep them at a distance from the life of the community as if

they were excommunicated?" the pope asked.

Particularly over the past few decades, he said, "the church has not been insensitive or lazy" when it comes to providing pastoral care to the divorced and civilly remarried.

In his apostolic exhortation, "Familiaris Consortio," St. John Paul II saw an "obligation, 'for love of the truth,' to exercise a 'careful discernment of situations,'" noting for example "the difference between one who has endured a separation and one who provoked it," Pope Francis said.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI also studied the question, he said, "calling for an attentive discernment and wise pastoral accompaniment, knowing that no 'simple recipes' exist."

As the studies and discernment continue, Pope Francis said, it is essential that Catholic pastors "openly and coherently demonstrate the willingness of the community to welcome and encourage" divorced and remarried couples and their families to participate in church life.

Prayer, listening to the word of God, attending Mass, educating their children in the faith, serving the poor and working for justice and peace should be part of their lives, he said.

Quoting his apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis told those gathered for the audience, "The church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open ... Everyone can share in some way in the life of the church; everyone can be part of the community."

## When baby parts are worth more than the baby

Continued from page 4

cil, orders a beet salad for lunch at a California bistro -- "can you throw some chicken on that?" -- before matter-of-factly telling the undercover operatives that the price for baby parts is negotiable.

"I want a Lamborghini," she joked at the end of lunch.

Maybe she was, maybe she wasn't.

Gatter decried the frenetic pace inside her California abortion clinic that sometimes prevents the staff from having enough time to get women to

sign the required tissue-donation forms.

"The busier you are, the less likely the staff is going to take the time to say, 'By the way, here's two more forms for you to sign,'" Gatter said. "Sometimes, poor Heather (a clinic staffer) would be there (and say), 'Oh, I really need liver today.' There would be a 17-week (gestation) patient who would be perfect (as a body parts donor), but she wasn't approached (to sign the consent forms)."

Poor Heather. Poor baby.

Another "complication"

is that Gatter's clinic is doing "only" 800 surgical abortions a year, which she knows could make her clinic less attractive to tissue-hungry researchers, frustrating her Lamborghini lust.

"The problem is we're only doing 60 second-tris (second-trimester abortions) a year -- that's one a week," Gatter said.

Maybe Gatter needs to hire a marketing director to pump up business.

In the end, a baby girl or a baby boy is dead, but their liver is worth \$100.

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## How do you pray at night?

Continued from page 5

calm down and focus.”

holiness.”

- “An Act of Contrition, an Our Father, and a Hail Mary. I ask God to show me where I wasn’t loving or kind or Christian during the day. I ask Him for help to be better the next day. I ask Him to show me all His blessings for the day.”
- “I listen to Laudette (a free Catholic app) on my iPhone. There’s an item under ‘Daily Readings & Saint of the Day’ that lets you listen to all of the daily podcasts together. It’s a good way to end the day.”
- “I also like to listen to the Laudette app, but I like to listen to the Daily Examination of Conscience. It’s peaceful, relaxing, and it lets me think about my day on a different level.”
- “I pray the Divine Office nighttime prayers on my iPad, the Litany of Humility, prayer in thanksgiving for today and help for tomorrow; examination of conscience, prayers for family and friends, and to grow in
- “I thank God for another day, a good night’s sleep and a tomorrow that will be pleasing to Him.”
- “I try to think about my day and thank God for his love and protection. Then I try to say 10 Hail Mary’s, but don’t often finish before I fall asleep.”
- “Lately I’ve been trying to teach my young children how to say their night prayers, so I use that time to think about my day too. With my kids we ‘bless everyone’ special in our lives and then try to say a ‘prayer of thanks’ in our own words.”
- “I don’t always remember to say my prayers at night, especially if I’ve had a bad day at work or I have a lot on my mind. To help remind myself, I keep a Rosary by my bed. I don’t usually pray the whole Rosary, but at least it reminds me to spend a few minutes at night to say my prayers.”
- “I say the St. Michael the Archangel prayer and turn out the lights.”

## Live the Love: Rebranding Natural Family Planning to attract young adults

The Couple to Couple League is unveiling the results of an extensive rebranding effort aimed at better engaging millennial couples and refreshing stale notions of natural family planning.

The changes include a recently unveiled new logo, tagline and website, and a soon-to-launch self-paced online course offering.

“This rebranding effort gives us a better way for everyone in the organization to be on the same page and working off of the same understanding of who CCL is and how we want others to experience us,” said Ann Gundlach, director of communications. “We’re trying to be more deliberate and effective at communicating who we are as an organization.”

With a new logo and tagline, CCL is conveying one of its key attributes - being marriage-building.

The logo is a symbol of two heads of a couple embracing to form a heart. This, along with the simple yet powerful tagline “Live the Love,” presents an attractive, welcoming invitation to create strong, joyful marriages by learning natural family planning from CCL.

The hope, said Gundlach, is to introduce NFP to a higher percentage of the 150,000 couples



expected to marry in the Catholic Church this year.

CCL’s new website and self-paced online course is part of an effort to become more available to today’s young couples and meet them where they’re at, a charge issued by Pope Francis.

The new website has a much simpler and more polished look, providing any information you may need right at your fingertips - for consumption via desktop, tablet or smartphone - and the self-paced online course will give couples the opportunity to learn NFP on their own time, across time zones and around other commitments.

Updated technology has created a more accessible CCL, making it easier to learn natural family planning without compromising its thorough and effective nature.

The rebranding reflects CCL’s mission to lead more couples into the practice of NFP, but

does so in a way that does not judge or impose religion on millennials.

The CCL staff has identified a number of key attributes that guided the brand re-fresh, including a desire to be perceived as pastoral and professional, relevant and inspirational.

While the look and feel of CCL’s instruction is changing, Executive Director Mike Manhart emphasizes that “We’re not going to change what we do, but the way we talk about ourselves can be phrased in a way that’s more interesting and attractive.”

CCL is a Catholic, nonprofit organization that has been teaching natural family planning, couple to couple, for more than 40 years. It was founded in response to Pope Paul VI’s 1968 encyclical, Humane Vitae, calling on married couples to “become apostles and guides to other married couples” in embracing the Church’s teaching on marriage and sexuality.



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## Diocesan Directory

The 2015-2017 Diocesan Directory has not returned yet from the printer.

As soon as it is printed, it will be distributed. If you pre-ordered a copy, it will be either mailed to you or you will receive a phone call to come pick it up from the Diocesan office.

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## Look what we did this summer!



**STARS OF COTEAU BASKETBALL CAMP** was held at St. Mary's Assumption School June 15 - 18. A total of 110 campers and 10 camp counselors participated in the camp, with Gayle Montalvo as the head coach. Thanks to all of the parents and people in the community who helped make this event such a huge success! More pictures can be seen on our website, [www.st-maryscottonport.com](http://www.st-maryscottonport.com)



**BACK TO SCHOOL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT:** A Swing and a Prayer was held at the Wardville Sports Complex Aug. 1 in Pineville. Sts. Francis and Anne sponsored the tournament for the first year. Teams participating included Sts. Francis & Anne, Kolin; St. John the Baptist, Deville; Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria; Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria; Pineville First Baptist Church and Longview Baptist Church, Deville. Games started at 8 a.m. and by 5 p.m. after many games all throughout the day, the final showdown came between Calvary Baptist and St. Francis & Anne with St. Francis & Anne Team A taking home the trophy and championship t-shirts! We want to thank all who planned this event, all our volunteers, all the fans who came out and cheered on their teams, all the teams who came out and especially we'd like to thank the Lord above for the beautiful weather and breeze all day. This was such a blessing for all involved as we spent the day in Christian fellowship through sports. We are already making plans for our 2nd annual tournament - and we hope to have more churches come out and join us!



**ST. MARY'S STUDENTS ATTEND JOSHUA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.** Nine students from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches attended the Camp Joshua Leadership Institute June 28 - July 2. After attending the March for Life in D.C. last year and seeing the affect it had on the students, Tara Whitehead, SMS religion teacher decided to start a Pro-Life group at St. Mary's. She selected nine students to attend the camp for leadership skills to start up the new program.

After returning home from the Leadership Institute, two members of the team got up the next morning and drove to an abortion clinic in Bossier and prayed outside the clinic for unborn babies.

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# Pope talks to youths about discernment, grandparents, Eucharist

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Following Jesus and doing the right thing gives believers a sense of peace, but sometimes "it comes wrapped in the cross," Pope Francis told a group of teenagers and young adults.

Asked Aug. 7 what his greatest challenge was as a Jesuit, Pope Francis responded that it was and continues to be "discernment," prayerfully seeking God's will and doing it, which gives one a sense of peace.

About 1,500 members of the Eucharistic Youth Movement from 35 countries were meeting in Rome Aug. 4-10. The movement is the junior affiliate of the Apostleship of Prayer, a Jesuit-run outreach that has brought Catholics the popes' monthly prayer intentions since 1890.

The Eucharistic Youth Movement, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, has different programs designed specifically for young people ages 5 to 25. Through the formation of small groups and prayer experiences focused on the Eucharist, the Bible and discernment, the movement hopes to lead young people to a life of active church involvement and service.

Five young men and women from different countries asked Pope Francis questions at the gathering in the Vatican audience



**POPE FRANCIS** smiles as he greets a young woman during a special audience with members of the Eucharistic Youth Movement in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Aug. 7. (CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters)

hall. As he often does on such occasions, the pope told the young people he had written out answers to the questions, which were submitted in advance, but decided to speak "from the heart" instead.

At a certain point, talking about the difference between being unafraid of tension and seeking it out, Pope Francis asked the young people, "Is this clear? No, it's not clear. Let's move on."

However, he did summarize that section of his talk.

"First, don't be afraid of tension, because it helps you grow," the pope said. "Second, resolve tension with dialogue because dialogue unites, both in a family and with friends, and you'll find a path for moving forward without losing your identity. Third, don't become too attached to tension because this will harm you."

Conflicts can be positive because they help people understand their differences and learn to discuss them and reach a com-

promise, the pope said.

"It's true: If I have a conflict with you and I kill you, the conflict's over. But that is not the way," Pope Francis said.

On the question of discernment, Pope Francis said an experience of Jesus' peace is a sure sign that a person is on the right path. But it isn't always simple.

"You need to learn this and ask the Lord to help you discern real peace from false peace," he said. "Superficial peace, that peace that makes you a bit content, that's superficial, comes from the enemy -- the devil, eh?"

Deep inside, he said, a Christian will know if he or she has been fooled by the devil, who "makes you think this is the right path, but then he leaves you all alone."

The devil, he said, "will help you have a little fun, he will put on a bit of a circus for you, he will make you happy for a moment, but he will never give you the joy that only Jesus can give."

Speaking of family relationships and family tensions, Pope Francis urged the young people to honor their grandparents, visit them and ask them about what they have lived and seen in order to learn from them. They can sur-

prise you, he said.

At a recent general audience, the pope said he saw a "little grandma" with "eyes that shone with joy." He stopped the pope-mobile and went to greet her.

He asked how old she was, he said, and she responded "92." He asked her what her secret for such a long and happy life was. "'You know,' she told me, 'I eat ravioli' and she added, 'I make them myself.'"

One of the young people asked the pope if he sees any signs of hope and joy in the church. The pope said, "Seeing young people like you who believe in Jesus present in the Eucharist, who believe that love is stronger than hatred and peace is stronger than war" is one sure sign of hope. "This gives me joy," he said.

The Eucharist, he said, is the place where Jesus is present and "at every Mass, he is there and saves us."

Every time one goes to Mass or prays before the Eucharist, he said, remember how his love was so great that he gave his life to save all people.

Mass is not just a ritual or ceremony, he said, but it is going "to Calvary where Jesus gave his life."

## VIRTUS

- **Aug. 19 (Wednesday)** -- 6:30 p.m., MB of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- **Aug. 20 (Thursday)** -- 6 p.m., St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria
- **Sept. 3 (Thursday)** -- 6 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria
- **Sept. 8 (Tuesday)** -- 6 p.m., Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Mansura
- **Oct. 15 (Thursday)** -- 6 p.m., St. Alphonsus Church, Hessmer

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# Alexandria hosts two national conferences this summer

## National Tekakwitha Conference July 22-26

More than 500 people, from 34 states and 76 Kateri Circles, attended the 76th Annual Tekakwitha Conference held July 22-26 at the Alexandria Riverfront Center. According to Sister Kateri Mitchell, executive director of the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Conference, this was the first time Alexandria and Louisiana hosted the event. Presenters and celebrants included Bishop Ronald Herzog, Bishop Sam Jacobs, Archbishop Charles Chaput, Bishop Shelton Fabre, Rev. Glenn LeCompte, Donald Dardar, Janie Luster, Cheryl Boquet, Sister Judith Gomila, Sister Gretchen Dysart, and Richard May, all from Louisiana. At right is a Kateri Circle from St. Anthony in Pueblo of Sandia, N.M. The next Tekakwitha Conference will be held in Burlingame, Calif. The Tekakwitha Conference moved its national headquarters to Alexandria in 2013, from its former home in Montana.



## DISC Conference June 16-19

More than 85 people attended the Annual DISC (Diocesan Information Systems Conference) held June 16-19 at the Best Western of Alexandria. According to Chris Lemoine, Chief Technology Officer for the diocese and coordinator of the event, the group that usually attends the annual conference is not a large group to begin with, so it made Alexandria a good place to host the event. The meetings were held at the Best Western, but an evening social (Fais-do-do) was held at the Kent House in Alexandria.



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## Two new resources available by two of our best Catholic authors

### Lectio: Eucharist -- *Discovering the Mass in the Bible*

By Dr. Brant Pitre

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Jesus said "This is my Body" and "This is my Blood." Some say they're merely symbols of remembrance. Others say they're really the Body and Blood of Christ, but can't explain how that's possible. The Eucharist is the center-point of the Mass—but why?

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This 5-DVD set features 10 episodes with over seven hours of video presentation filmed at the studios of the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colorado.

6. *Miracles of Jesus: Water, Wine, Loaves, and Fishes* (45 minutes)
7. *Bread of Life Discourse: John 6 and the Real Presence* (46 minutes)
8. *The Last Supper and the Cross: The New Passover of Christ* (48 minutes)
9. *The Mass: Emmaus and the Mystery of the Eucharist* (45 min)
10. *Revelation: Heavenly Worship and the End of Time* (45 minutes)

Also available to accompany the Lectio Eucharist series is a Participant's Study Guide as well as a Leader's Guide.

The Participant's Study Guide can be purchased by itself for \$34.95 or it can be purchased as a kit for \$154.90, which would include the five DVDs and the Participant's Study Guide.

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The Leader's Guide can be purchased by itself for \$49.95 or it can be purchased as a kit for \$169.90, which would include the five DVDs and the Leader's Guide.

To order any part of the Lectio Eucharist series (DVD set or kits) go to [www.lighthouse-catholicmedia.org](http://www.lighthouse-catholicmedia.org).

Lectio Eucharist DVDs -- \$119.95  
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#### Episode Listing:

1. *Source and Summit: Introducing the Eucharist* (38 minutes)
2. *In the Beginning: Garden of Eden and Sacrifice* (45 minutes)
3. *Lamb of God: The Sacrifice of Isaac and the Passover Lamb* (47 minutes)
4. *Miracles of Exodus: Manna and Water* (42 minutes)
5. *Mysteries of the Tabernacle: The Bread of the Presence* (47 minutes)



### Rediscover Jesus By Matthew Kelly

CINCINNATI — Matthew Kelly, a New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and USA Today bestselling author, announces the release of his new book, *Rediscover Jesus*, in hardcover.

In the first day of pre-orders on Amazon.com (July 1, 2015), the book reached number four on the overall Bestsellers list, and number one on the Movers and Shakers list.

In the time since July 1, *Rediscover Jesus* has ranked number one on the Catholicism, Prayer, and Christian Books & Bibles lists, and has more than 21,000 pre-orders.

"More books have been written about Jesus than any other person or subject in history," said Kelly. "This book is not a book with all the answers. It is just a simple, approachable, digestible, starting point for anyone who shares my yearning to rediscover Jesus. It, too, is an invitation," he

added.

The world is constantly grappling with crisis and war. People are weary from the dysfunction of their own lives. The chaos is crying out for order. The complexity is crying out for simplicity. Many individuals are looking for something to solve the crisis of their lives and the crisis of our times.

It is time to stop looking for something and start looking to someone — Jesus of Nazareth. It's time to rediscover Jesus.

In *Rediscover Jesus*, Kelly takes readers on a 40-day spiritual journey to encounter Jesus. Short reflections at the end of each chapter help integrate what readers learn into their everyday lives.

"There is a lot of talk about how important a personal relationship/encounter with Jesus is," Kelly said. "But we find that most Christians don't know what it is or how to get it. I think the promise of this book is to facilitate that encounter and kick-start that relationship with Jesus," he added.

*Rediscover Jesus* is the sequel to *Rediscover Catholicism*, which other than the Bible is the bestselling Catholic book in American history; it has sold more than seven million copies.

You can pre-order a copy of *Rediscover Jesus* on either Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com.

Readers who pre-order the book by August 16, 2015, have a chance to win one of several prizes, including an all-expenses-paid trip to Italy with Kelly and those going on the Dynamic Catholic Pilgrimage to Rome this November. Visit: [DynamicCatholic.com/RediscoverJesus/entry/](http://DynamicCatholic.com/RediscoverJesus/entry/).



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# Ricki and the Flash: A character study that fails to firmly set

By Maria Macina  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Not even the storied talent of Meryl Streep can hold together the scattershot elements of the character study "Ricki and the Flash" (Tri-Star).

Despite the perennial Oscar nominee's presence, director Jonathan Demme's film veers disconcertingly between drama and romantic comedy. It also shifts unconvincingly from a realistic view of moral shortcomings to the illusion of simplistic solutions.

Streep plays Ricki Randazzo, a 60-something failed rock star and current bar-band front woman. Ricki, whose real name is Linda Brummell, long ago abandoned her family to pursue her musical ambitions.

Ricki spends her days working at the check-out register of an organic food mart. Constantly broke, she's also a commitment-phobe who keeps her very likeable band mate and live-in boyfriend, Greg (Rick Springfield), at arm's length.

Though she seems content enough with her honky-tonk existence, Ricki is forced to confront the legacy of her own selfishness when her sympathetic ex-husband, Pete (Kevin Kline), summons her beck from L.A. to Indiana to help him cope with a family emergency.



**RICKI AND THE FLASH**. Rick Springfield and Meryl Streep star in a scene from the movie "Ricki and the Flash." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (CNS photo/Sony)

Their daughter, Julie -- portrayed by Streep's real-life daughter, Mamie Gummer -- has been thrown into a downward emotional spiral by the sudden desertion of her hubby, Max (Gabriel Ebert), who has thrown her over for another woman. Along with Julie's difficulties, Ricki faces

the enduring hostility of her two sons, Josh (Sebastian Stan) and Adam (Nick Westrate), as well as the no-nonsense truth telling of Pete's second wife, Maureen (Audra McDonald).

While Springfield turns in a strong performance as Ricki's ethical anchor, Streep feels un-

comfortable in the character's skin and is never really believable as a rocker. Diablo Cody's disconnected script, moreover, fails to set. Instead, the geographically disparate parts of Ricki's story feel like two largely unrelated narratives unfolding in a single movie.

The musical performances do serve to advance the plot in a few instances. But they more often come across as extraneous.

The screenplay takes an interesting approach with Ricki, making her a leather-wearing, free-spirited hippie who also holds at least some of the convic-

## MOVIE

## REVIEW

tions of a conservative Republican. Thus she openly expresses her dislike of President Barack Obama and her admiration for the U.S. military. (Ricki's brother, we learn, was killed in the Vietnam War.) Ricki also shows her discomfort with Adam's homosexual lifestyle.

What degree of sympathy are we meant to feel for these opinions? As with the treatment of Ricki's fundamental choice to forsake domestic life in favor of her dreams of musical greatness, the exploration is shallow and the evidence ambiguous.

In dealing with that central topic, Cody is unsparing in her portrayal of the long-lasting damage caused by Ricki's disappearing act. Yet, not only do Greg's dogged affections offer her fresh hope, viewers are also left with the distinct -- and unsatisfying -- impression that all the ruinous destruction Ricki left behind can ultimately be cleaned up with good intentions and a well-chosen song.

The film contains cohabitation, a nongraphic premarital bedroom scene, benignly viewed drug use, mature themes, including homosexuality, at least one use of profanity and several crude and crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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## 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.

## OLS Church Fair: Sept. 4-6

Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Moreauville will celebrate its Fall Fair on Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 4-6. Friday night there will be an Oldies But Goodies dance in the church hall; Saturday: Bingo starting at 7 p.m. with food and other games, and Sunday: a chicken and pork BBQ dinner from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Plates are \$9 each. Tickets can be purchased from the office or after Mass. There will also be a bingo for prizes and several raffles Sunday afternoon with games for the kids. Please join us for an enjoyable and relaxing event.

## 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.

## 40 Days for Life: Sept. 23- Nov. 1

40 Days for Life is a powerful campaign of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach in an effort to end abortion. Since it was started 10 years ago (2004) in College Station, Texas, 8,973 lives have been saved, 101 abortion workers quit, and 56 abortion centers have closed! There are several ways to participate: sponsor a campaign in your area, attend a campaign in another city, or pray and fast with a group at church or at home privately, with the intentions of ending abortion. For more information, go to [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com).

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### WRC Celebration of Life Gala: Sept. 25

Michele Pillar will be the guest speaker for the annual Women's Resource Center Celebration of Life Fundraising Gala, to be held Thursday, Sept. 24 at the Natchitoches Events Center in Natchitoches. A 3-time Grammy Award nominated singer, Michele Pillar is also the author of the book *Untangled* and creator of the live event, *The Clothesline*. She survived the common ravages of alcoholic parents and later, God taught her how to lean on Him to function free from the damages of it. Don't miss her inspiring story. All proceeds from the Gala will benefit the Women's Resource Center, a pregnancy help medical clinic in Natchitoches. For more information visit [www.wrcfriends.com](http://www.wrcfriends.com)

### Pilgrimage to Holy Land: Dec. 27 - Jan. 6

Join Father Martin Laird on an 11-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Dec. 27, 2015 - Jan. 6, 2016 for \$3,799 per person (plus tips & taxes of approximately \$795) Experience this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sail the Sea of Galilee, to sing Christmas carols in Bethlehem, carry the cross on the Via Dolorosa, and so much more! The principal guide will be Marcellino D'Ambrosio, a Biblical and Church history expert, and Mass will be offered daily in the holiest places in the world with opportunities for con-

fession, healing prayer, and spiritual counsel. For more information, visit [www.goholyland.info](http://www.goholyland.info), or call Cyndi from the Crossroads Initiative at 214-882-7262, or email her at [lucky@crossroadsinitiative.com](mailto:lucky@crossroadsinitiative.com).

### Trip to Spain & Portugal: March 11-25

Join us for a 14-day trip to Spain and Portugal, sponsored by Travel & Cruise with Me. The trip includes a visit to Fatima! March 11 - 25, 2016 (Return on Good Friday). Cost for the trip with group discount is \$1,961.75. If paid by August 30 the cost would be reduced to \$1,806.88. Deposit is \$200 per person non refundable. Insurance is available in case you have to cancel the trip. Gratuities can be paid up front. For more information contact Marie Michael at 318-449-9746.

### Win a trip to Holy Land or Medjugorje

Win a free trip to the Holy Land or to Medjugorje by entering the Radio Maria Queenship of Mary Sweepstakes. Donations are \$10 each or six for \$50, however no purchase is necessary. To enter, call 1-888-408-0201 to request a form or go by the Radio Maria office at 601 Washington Street in Alexandria. The deadline to enter is November 15, 2015.

### Weekly outdoor Rosary in Marksville

Join St. Joseph Church in Marksville every Thursday, at 8:15 p.m. to pray the Rosary before an illuminated Rosary located outside on the grounds of the parish hall. (Time changes to 7:15 p.m. in September). In case of inclement weather, the Rosary is prayed in the church.



THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OF CENLA AND CENLA MAGNIFICAT hosted a "Refreshed in the Spirit" one-day retreat Aug. 1 at St. Joseph Center in Alexandria. The attendance was great with 80 men and women as far north as Shreveport and as far south as Plaquemine. How the Holy Spirit is active in our lives was the main focus of the talks. Fr. John Pardue and Fr. Taylor Reynolds participated during the prayer session by leading the group in praying for and with one another for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

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# August - September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>17</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Focus Group 6:30 pm St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Focus Group 6:30 pm St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:30 pm Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</div>	<div>20</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 pm St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</div>	<div>21</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Catechist Workshop 8:30 am-3:00 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. NELLIKUNNEL</div>	<div>23</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</div>
<div>24</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Focus Group 6:30 pm St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Focus Group 6:30 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</div>	<div>27</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</div>	<div>28</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM</div>	<div>29</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALLAKATTUCHIRA</div>	<div>30</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL</div>
<div>31</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Focus Group 6:30 pm St. Mary Church, Winnsboro</div> <div>World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation</div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>	<div>2</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</div>	<div>3</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</div>	<div>4</div> <div>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</div>	<div>5</div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU</div>	<div>6</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</div>
<div>7</div> <div>Diocesan Offices Closed Catholic Schools Closed</div> <div>LABOR DAY PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</div>	<div>8</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 pm Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Mansura</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</div>	<div>9</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ</div>	<div>10</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</div>	<div>11</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROY</div>	<div>12</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN</div>	<div>13</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</div>
<div>14</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</div>	<div>15</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</div>	<div>16</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</div>	<div>17</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</div>	<div>18</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. SOARES</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Catechist Workshop 8:30 am-3:00 pm St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</div>	<div>20</div> <div>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</div>



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