# CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLVII, No. 9

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

September 19, 2016

# INSIDE

## USCCB objects to research on part-human, part-animal embryos

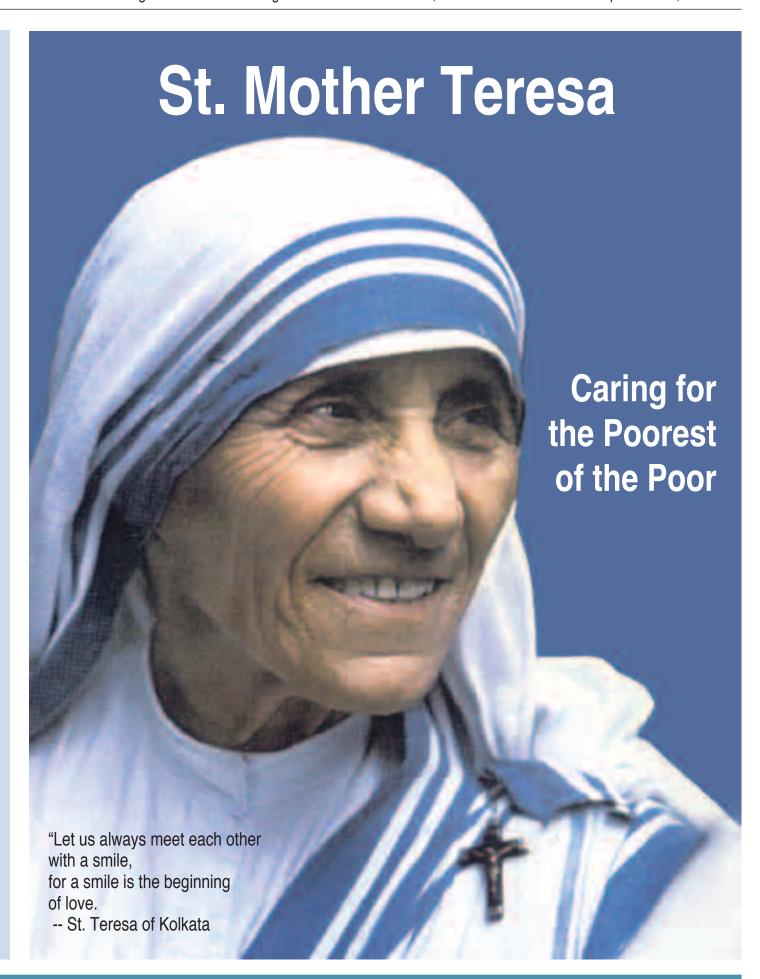
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops objected to a National Institutes of Health proposal to authorize federally funded research on part-human, partanimal embryos in comments submitted to the agency Sept. 2. Read more on page 2.

## Historic flooding leaves line of destruction across South Louisiana

The line of destruction caused by historic flooding in southern Louisiana stretches for 25 miles. It is the worst natural disaster in the United States since Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Turn to pages 14-17 for story and pictures.

### Fall fairs and festivals offer weekend fun

Expect to find a a church or school fair or festival almost every week in the months of September, October and November. For a list of church fairs and state festivals, go to page 19.



### Man confesses to killing two Sisters of Charity in Mississippi

By Dennis Sadowski Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- A man suspected in the slayings of two nuns found dead in their Mississippi home confessed to the killings, a sheriff said Aug. 27, in the latest twist to a crime that has horrified people in the small communities where the women served.

Rodney Earl Sanders, 46, of Kosciusko, Miss., was arrested and charged in the deaths of Sister Margaret Held and Sister Paula Merrill, Mississippi Department of Public Safety spokesman Warren Strain said Aug. 26. Both women were 68.

Willie March, the sheriff of Holmes County where the killings occurred, said he had been briefed by police from the town where the killings occurred and Mississippi Bureau of Investigation officials who took part in Sanders' interrogation.

Sanders confessed in the interrogation to the killings and gave no reason for the crimes, March said.

Sister Margaret Held, 68, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, and Sister Paula Merrill, 68, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky, had worked at the Lexington Medical Clinic in Lexington, about 10 miles from the house they shared.

Warren Strain, spokesman for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, said police discov-





**SLAIN SISTERS.** Sister Paula Merril, 69, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky, and Sister Margaret Held, 68, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, are pictured in undated photos. The two women religious were found stabbed to death Aug. 25 in their Durant, Miss. home, police said. (CNS photo/School Sisters of St. Francis and Sisters of Charity of Nazareth)

ered a car missing from the nuns' home the evening of Aug. 25 on a secluded street about a mile from where the women were found dead

Police officers discovered the women's bodies after co-workers called asking to check on them after they failed to report for work at the clinic.

"These were two wonderful, faith-filled women who just brought so much life to this poor little section of Mississippi. They and so many of the sisters who have come down here throughout the years are the unsung heroes," said Franciscan Father Greg Plata, sacramental administrator of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Lexington, where the sisters participated in parish life.

"They just bring the light of Christ to this area here. Both were extremely loved by the people in the area," Father Plata told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Aug. 26.

"These two sisters wouldn't hurt a flea. It's almost incomprehensible that someone could perpetrate such violence against them," the priest added.

Dr. Elias Abboud, the clinic's

owner, told The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson, Mississippi, the deaths are "a loss to the community. They were loved by everybody."

Authorities have released few details about the crime, but police suspect that robbery was a motive.

Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz of Jackson commended the sisters for their years of dedicated service

"They absolutely loved the people in their community," he said. "We mourn with the people of Lexington and Durant and we pray for the Sisters of Charity, the School Sisters of St. Francis and the families left behind."

Sister Susan Gatz, president of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, asked for prayers of gratitude "for the precious lives of Sisters Paula and Margaret" in a statement on the community's website. "They served the poor so well. Because we are Gospel women, please also pray for the perpetrators," the statement said.

Sister Susan also asked for prayers for the women's families, their religious communities, those who work at the medical clinic, the clinic's clients and the community of Durant.

In an interview on the motherhouse campus Aug. 26, she said: "We know their death was violent and they were two extraordinarily peaceful women. It's hard to put those things together. ... The loss to our congregation is huge. They

were valiant women. They were dear women who loved the ministry they were in."

In a statement, the leadership team of the U.S. province of the School Sisters of St. Francis announced its shock and grief over hearing the news of the deaths.

"Sister Margaret has been a member of our community for 49 years and lived her ministry caring for and healing the poor," the leadership team said. "Please keep Sister Margaret, Sister Paula and their families and loved ones in your prayers."

Sister Paula, a native of Massachusetts, moved to rural Mississippi in 1981, serving in health care ministry for more than 30 years. She joined the Lexington clinic in 2010.

"She was from Massachusetts, that's a big leap to move down south," noted Sister Susan. "There was something about the people there and the need of the people there that drew her heart."

Sister Margaret first ministered in Mississippi as a social worker at a health center in Holly Springs in 1975. She relocated to Omaha, Nebraska, from 1981 to 1983 as a community health nurse with the Visiting Nurse Association before returning to Mississippi that year.

She became a nurse practitioner in 1994, serving in Tupelo, Marks and Lexington. She began her service with her religious order as a teacher at St. Joseph High School in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

## Q & A

Q. How do I send in news to the Church Today?

A. Sending news to the Church Today is simple. The first step is write the information in a Microsoft Word document or in the text of an email. Don't worry about HOW it is written, but that all the information is included. Be sure to include pertinent information like the date, time, place, cost, and deadlines. The last step is to email it to jpetrus@diocesealex.org. There is

no need to call ahead to find out

the deadline. Just write it up and

send! It's that easy!

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

### PETER J. LEMOINE

Social Security Disability Law

Offices in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Cottonport Adjunct Professor (1994-1997), Northwestern State University

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives, Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State Bar Association).

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."

318-876-3174



### Mother Teresa remembered for her holiness, service to others

KOLKATA, India (CNS) -- A favorite motto of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata was: "Do small things with great love."

But the "small things" she did so captivated the world that she was showered with honorary degrees and other awards, almost universally praised by the media and sought out by popes, presidents, philanthropists and other figures of wealth and influence.

Despite calls on her time from all over the globe Mother Teresa always returned to India to be with those she loved most—the lonely, abandoned, homeless, disease-ravaged, dying, "poorest of the poor" in Kolkata's streets.

On Sept. 4, Pope Francis, who has spent this year preaching about mercy, canonized Mother Teresa, who traveled the world to deliver a single message: that love and caring are the most important things in the world.

"The biggest disease today," she once said, "is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference toward one's neighbor who lives at the roadside, assaulted by exploitation, corruption, poverty and disease."

Her influence is worldwide. The Missionaries of Charity, which Mother Teresa founded in 1950, has more than 5,300 active



MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY nuns attend a Mass of thanksgiving for the canonization of St. Teresa of Kolkata in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Sept. 5. The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

and contemplative sisters today. In addition, there are Missionaries of Charity Fathers, and active and contemplative brothers. In 1969, in response to growing interest of laypeople who wanted to be associated with her work, an informally structured, ecumenical International Association of Co-Workers of Mother Teresa was formed

The members of the congregation take vows of poverty,

chastity and obedience. In addition, the Missionaries of Charity -- sisters and brothers -- take a fourth vow of "wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor."

The tiny, wizened Mother Teresa in her familiar white and blue sari opened houses for the destitute and dying, for those with AIDS, for orphans and for people with leprosy. She founded houses in Cuba and the then-Soviet Union -- countries not generally open to foreign church workers.

Her combination of serene, simple faith and direct, practical efficiency often amazed those who came in contact with her.

In 1982, when Israeli troops were holding Beirut under siege in an effort to root out the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mother Teresa visited a community of her nuns at Spring School, a home for the aged in East Bei-

rut. It was her first visit in a war zone but not her last.

Meeting with Red Cross officials about relief needs, she asked what their most serious problem was. They took her to a nearby mental hospital that had just been bombed, requiring immediate evacuation of 37 mentally and physically handicapped children.

"I'll take them," she said.

"What stunned everyone was her energy and efficiency," a Red Cross official involved in the evacuation said afterward. "She saw the problem, fell to her knees and prayed for a few seconds, and then she was rattling off a list of supplies she needed -- nappies (diapers), plastic pants, chamber pots. We didn't expect a saint to be so efficient."

She was an advocate for children and was outspoken against abortion.

In a 1981 visit to New York, she proposed a characteristically direct and simple solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy: "If you know anyone who does not want the child, who is afraid of the child, then tell them to give that child to me."

When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, Dec. 10, 1979, she accepted it "in the name of the hungry, of the naked, of the homeless, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those who feel unwant-

See ST. TERESA, pg. 4

### USCCB objects to research on part-human, part-animal embryos

### Bishops say Chimera research is grossly unethical and would be funded by our tax dollars

Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops objected to a National Institutes of Health proposal to authorize federally funded research on part-human, part-animal embryos in comments submitted to the agency Sept. 2.

The bishops made ethical and legal arguments in opposing the plan, saying that such research result in "beings who do not fully belong to either the human race or the host animal species."

Current NIH guidelines for human stem cell research specifically prohibit introducing human pluripotent cells -- those capable of giving rise to several different cell types -- into nonhuman primate blastocysts, which are cells at an early stage of development. NIH has proposed funding scientists researching such embryos, known as chimeras.

The bishops' statement said that while the plan calls for review of some research proposals by a NIH steering committee, "the bottom line is that the federal government will begin expending taxpayer dollars on the creation and manipulation of new beings whose very existence blurs the line between humanity and animals such as mice and rats."

By funding such research, the bishops argued, the NIH would be ignoring laws that prohibit it. They said such research "is also grossly unethical."

On the moral and ethical side of the issue, the statement said the bishops are concerned about the destruction of human embryos that serve as a source of "raw material" for research. They said the NIH proposal for producing human/animal hybrids raises "new and troubling questions of its own."

Acknowledging that the respectful use of animals in research can benefit humanity, the bishops stressed, however, that

the unique dignity of the human person puts limits to what can morally be done in the field.

"Herein lies the key moral problem involved in this proposal, beyond the already grave problem of exploiting human embryos as cell factories for research. For if one cannot tell to what extent, if any, the resulting organism may have human status or characteristics, it will be impossible to determine what one's moral obligations may be regarding that organism," the bishops said.

"We submit that producing new organisms, regarding whom our fundamental moral and legal obligations are inevitably confused and even contradictory, is itself immoral, the statement said. NIH should give far more serious consideration to this and other moral problems before seeing to fund human/animal chimera research."

Legally, the bishops added, federal funding for such research would violate the Dickey-Wicker Amendment, which prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars to create or destroy human embryos for experiments.

The statement concludes that the proposal is "seriously flawed" and urged NIH to withdraw it.

### St. Teresa of Kolkata

ed, unloved, uncared for throughout society." She also condemned abortion as the world's greatest destroyer of people.

"To me, the nations who have legalized abortion are the poorest nations," she said. "They are afraid of the unborn child, and the child must die."

Often when criticized about her approach to social issues, Mother Teresa told of a man who suggested she could do more for the world by teaching people how to fish rather than by giving them fish.

"The people I serve are helpless," she said she told him. "They cannot stand. They cannot hold the rod. I will give them the food and then send them to you so you can teach them how to fish."

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Ganxhe Bojaxhiu to Albanian parents in Skopje, in what is now Macedonia, Aug. 26, 1910. She had a sister, Aga, and a brother, Lazar. Her father was a grocer, but the family's background was more peasant than merchant.

Lazar said their mother's example was a determining factor in Agnes' vocation.

"Already when she was a little child she used to assist the poor by taking food to them every day like our mother," he said. ne did not steal the jam."

As a student at a public school in Skopje, she was a member of a Catholic sodality with a special interest in foreign missions.

"At the age of 12, I first knew I had a vocation to help the poor,"



**WINNSBORO CATHOLICS ATTEND CANONIZATION.** Four parishioners from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Winnsboro ran into Father Taylor Reynolds at the canonization of St. Teresa in Rome. Pictured are (from left) Shirley and Kirk Reed, Carmen Simms, and Amalie, a German exchange student.

she once said. "I wanted to be a missionary."

At 15, Agnes was inspired to work in India by reports sent home by Yugoslavian Jesuit missionaries in Bengal -- present-day Bangladesh, but then part of India. At 18 she left home to join the Irish branch of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Loreto Sisters. After training at their institutions in Dublin and in Darjeeling, India, she made her first vows as a nun in 1928 and her final vows nine years later.

While teaching and serving as a principal at Loreto House, a fashionable girls' college in Kolkata, she was depressed by the destitute and dying on the city's streets, the homeless street urchins, the ostracized sick people lying prey to rats and other vermin in streets and alleys.

In 1946, she received a "call within a call," as she described it. "The message was clear. I was to leave the convent and help the poor, while living among them," she said.

Two years later, the Vatican gave her permission to leave the Loreto Sisters and follow her new calling under the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Kolkata.

When Blessed Paul VI visited Bombay, now Mumbai, India, in 1964, he presented Mother Teresa with a white ceremonial Lincoln Continental given to him by people in the United States. She raffled off the car and raised

enough money to finance a center for leprosy victims in the Indian state of West Bengal.

Twenty-one years later, when U.S. President Ronald Reagan presented her with the presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House, he called her a "heroine of our times" and noted that the plaque honoring her described her as the "saint of the gutters." He also joked that Mother Teresa might be the first award recipient to take the plaque and melt it

down to get money for the poor.

In addition to winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Mother Teresa was given Pope John XXIII Peace Prize in 1971; the Templeton Prize in 1973; the John F. Kennedy International Award in 1971; the \$300,000 Balzan Prize for Humanity, Peace and Brotherhood in 1979; the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997; and dozens of other awards and honors, including one of India's highest -the Padmashri Medal.



**TOUCHING RELICS.** People hand the Sisters of Charity items they wish to have touch the relics of newly canonized St. Teresa.





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## The 'Decision'

### How Catholics can form their consciences to be 'faithful citizens'

By Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond Archdiocese of New Orleans

In society today we are witnessing national and local political campaigns that have become very negative and in many cases disrepectful to others. We must make sure our voices are heard and call for greater civility in politics. Likewise, we must speak with our children and help them to realize such "name-calling" is not according to Christian principles.

Despite the negativity surrounding political campaigns, it is very important that we as Catholics participate in the political process and elections. It is our responsibility as disciples of Jesus to look carefully at the platform of each candidate and compare these principles to the teaching of the Church. There are many moral issues we must be aware of to form our conscience and to decide how to vote.

In order to assist you, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has once again published "The Chal-



**Donald Trump** 

lenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

This information is meant to help us know the moral teaching of the Church and to use these principles in choosing to vote for a candidate. Information from the USCCB is the only approved voter guidance that can be distributed in our Catholic churches.

I have heard people say, "I am not going to vote in this presidential election." Please be reminded that we should not abstain from voting. If no candidate presents the values we believe in, we are called to vote for the candidate that most reflects Christian principles or has the potential to

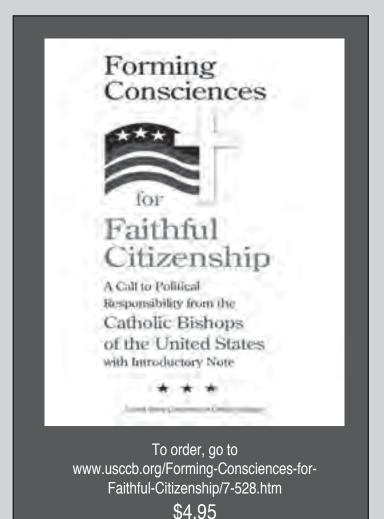


**Hiliary Clinton** 

do so if elected. Please be reminded that the Catholic Church does not support a candidate nor can any candidate or their representative speak in our churches or on parish/school premises.

As Catholics, we believe in the values handed on to use by Jesus and and our traidtion. Please join me in studying carefully the information from the bishops' conference andd, throug prayer, make a responsible decision in thsi upcoming election.

Let us together pray for our country and for peace in our world. May we form our conscience and be faith-filled citizens.



or view online at usccb.org





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### CHURCH TODAY

Well, it looks as though Louisiana made it through one of the rainiest months on record, which resulted in the devastating floods in Baton Rouge, Denham Springs, and the Lafayette area. It was heartbreaking to watch -- deja vu Katrina -- as the floodwaters wreaked havoc on the homes and lives of so many people. It will take years for those areas to fully recover. Our prayers are with them.

On the other hand, it was heart-warming to see the generosity of so many people who rushed to aid those in need. In the middle of the devastation, certain people



# ONE IN THE LORD

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

whose own homes had flooded (later dubbed 'the Cajun Navy'), immediately got into their own boats and rushed to aid others who were trapped in their homes.

Here in the Diocese of Alexandria, we used our Facebook

page to let people know we were collecting items to send immediate aid to Baton Rouge and Denham Springs. Within three days, generous individuals, our Catholic schools and churches managed to collect and deliver tens

of thousands of cleaning supplies, towels, blankets, baby items, and personal care items which in turn were delivered to shelters in Baton Rouge through Lynn Ray and the Catholic Student Organization at LSUA. Thank you to all who participated so generously in this effort.

Earlier this month, the world watched as Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa of Kolkata, a saint. Even to those around the world who are not Catholic, this tiny little woman was recognized as a person of strong faith and courage and admired for her ministry of caring for the poorest

of the poor. She was once asked the source of her strong faith and courage and she responded, "From Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist." Let us follow her example of faith and courage and her strong devotion to the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

May you all enjoy cooler temperatures of the upcoming Fall season and please remember to keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine.

& Coult P. Heyen

### Stop endorsing; start praying for one nation under God

In 2007, during the Presidential elections of the United States, I endorsed my last candidate, Governor Sam Brownback. When he left the campaign, I was about to endorse another candidate, Governor Mike Huckabee.

Just as I was about to press the "send" button on the release, I was impressed to read my Bible. During those moments, it was as if God was speaking to my heart. "Stop endorsing, and start praying."

Having been elected to office in the Georgia House of Representatives during the 1970's **Guest Editorial** 

by Alveda King Niece of Dr. Martin Luther King

and 1980's, I understood the importance of political endorsements. I still do.

So, for many years, especially since the time that God impressed me to pray for all candidates, and vote for the platforms that are closest to my heart and His Word, I have been voting prolife and pro-America.

Messages like the sanctity of life, reconciliation of the one blood, the one human race; the sanctity of procreative monogamous; social economic justice; equal education rights; constitutional rights, and so much more continues to resonate in my heart as I prepare to vote.

This year, during this im-

portant election, with a clear conscience, I am honoring my commitment to God to spend more time in prayer, rather than endorsing any candidates.

Some are texting and posting that this is lack of courage. Believe me, it takes quite a bit of courage to stand up to the pressure of not endorsing, even to the point of being called a coward. However, I still love everyone, and I still love America.

I encourage you to view the video of Pastor Will Bates of Living Faith Christian Church in Baton Rouge, and my video at Fox Business News.

Pastor Bates and I have something in common; he took his daughter to her first protest, my daddy Rev. A. D. King took me to mine; The Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama. I have been peacefully protesting every since.

I pledge allegiance to the Kingdom of God, with a burning desire to be that city/nation on a hill, shining light to the world. I sing our National Anthem with gratitude, believing for that day when we can truly be one nation under God. May God bless us all!

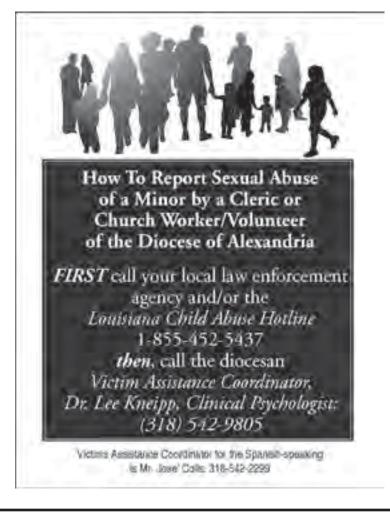
#### **VIRTUS**

- Thursday, Sept. 22 -- 6 p.m., Sacred Heart Church (Hall), Moreauville
- Tuesday, Sept. 27 -- 6 p.m., MB of the Immaculate Conception (Hall), Natchitoches
- Thursday, Sept. 29 -- 6 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

#### To register, go to www.virtus.org.

Every adult who works/volunteers with children/youth in the Diocese of Alexandria's churches/schools must attend the VIRTUS™ Protecting God's Children for Adults sexual abuse awareness training. In addition to the 2-3 hour Virtus program, "ongoing-training" is also part of the training component.

For more information, call Pam Delrie, Safe Environment Coordinator at 318-445-6424 x 213.



### CHURCH TODAY

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### Pray the Rosary during October: the Month of the Holy Rosary

### Meditating on the Mysteries can deepen your relationship with God

October 7 is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary and the month of October is traditionally celebrated as the month of the Rosary.

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Rosary on Oct. 7 in memory of the glorious and triumphant victory at the Battle of Lepanto. That battle in 1571 was the most convincing military victory that proved without a doubt the great power of the Rosary.

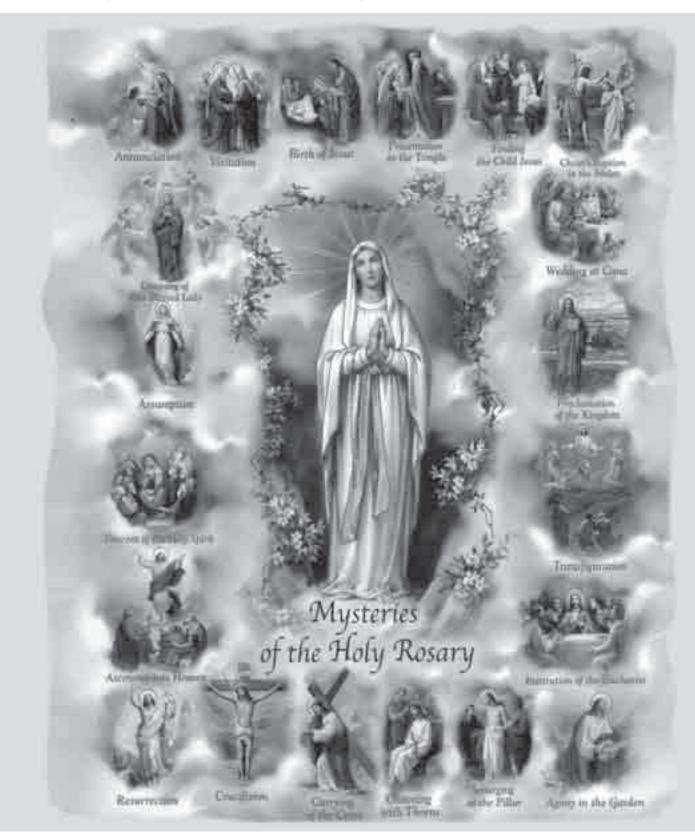
The month of October is a good time to commit to praying the Rosary everyday. The Rosary will bring great peace and holiness to your life and is a powerful instrument for conversion.

It protects the Church from false teachings and keeps her safe from the attacks from the Enemy.

Here are some ways to celebrate the month of the Holy Rosary:

- Pray the Rosary everyday this month. Pray it especially for priests. They need your constant prayers.
- Make rosaries, have them blessed and give them away. You can teach a group of children to make rosaries of their own. They will really be excited about praying with a rosary they made themselves. Give the rosaries to the elderly in nursing homes, take them to Catholic schools or religious education classes at your parish, or mail them to prisons. Have them blessed by a priest first.
- Print some Rosary booklets (many online) and hand them out to a CCD class, or your neighbors and friends.
- Attend Mass on Oct. 7 the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and on Oct. 13 the day of the final visit of Mary to Fatima.

Source: www.how-to-praythe-rosary-everyday.com





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**INSTALLATION OF FATHER BINO PALLIPPARAMBIL.** Bishop Ronald Herzog installed Father Bino Pallipparambil as pastor of Sts. Francis & Anne in Kolin Aug. 21 during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Afterwards, the parish celebrated with a covered dish meal in the parish hall. Also pictured is Father Dale Meade and Deacon Gred LeBlanc.



Friday, Sept. 23 • 9:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

The annual Red Mass will be celebrated Friday, Sept. 23 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. Father Bruce Miller will be the homilist. The Red Mass is open to the public.

The Red Mass is celebrated annually in the Catholic Church for judges, attorneys, law school professors, students, and government officials. The Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice, and offers the opportunity to reflect on what Catholics believe is the Godgiven power and responsibility of all in the legal profession.



Saturday, Oct. 22 • 9:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

The annual White Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 22 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. The White Mass is celebrated annually in the Catholic Church for all healthcare professionals. The Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who provide comfort and healing to the sick. Medical professionals are asked to wear their scrubs or other medical clothing to the Mass. The public is also invited.

Sept. 29:
Feast of the Archangels -- Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael
Oct. 2:
Feast of the Guardian Angels

### **Seminarian Burses**

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Mrs. Joy Broussard\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse
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Msgr. Steve Testa Burse
Memory of John Michael & Mary Thiels \$100.00
Father Chad Partain Burse
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Deacon Willian Travis Burse
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center\$100.00
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Tri-Community Nursing Center\$100.00
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Sadie Stroud Burse
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Father Scott Chemino Burse
Ms. Mary Broussard\$50.00
Father Louis Sklar Burse
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center\$100.00
Floyd J. LaCour, Sr. Burse
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau\$150.00
Edna Rabalais Burse
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Landreneau\$600.00
Monsignor Henry Beckers Burse
Total\$1,050.00

### St. Joseph Seminary enrollment more than doubles in 6 years

St. Joseph Seminary College, in Covington, La., welcomed a record 153 seminarians this year for the Fall 2016 semester, more than double the enrollment from just six years ago, when 75 seminarians enrolled.

St. Joseph Seminary College is a community of faith and learning in the liberal arts rooted in the Benedictine tradition that promotes the development of the whole person. The Seminary College also supports preparation for service in lay ministries and makes available its educational and other resources to the local community.

As part of the strategic plan to accommodate an expected surge in enrollment over the next several years, Seminary College leaders broke ground on a new library on Feb. 27, which would free up the current library to be used as a residence hall. Just 13 days later those plans changed when the entire campus was devastated by flooding from the Bogue Falaya River.

In the midst of the disaster

as well as unprecedented growth, Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B, President-Rector of the Seminary College, was determined to ensure that not only would the seminarians finish the Spring semester on time, but that the campus would be ready for their return this se-

mester. While some classroom and dorm rooms have yet to come back online, modular units were brought onto campus over the summer.

According to one seminarian, the inconveniences of a campus still recovering are minute

compared to the bigger picture.

"It seems to me that God doesn't take away our brokenness or burdens—He consoles us by taking them on Himself with us, which is way better. Consequently, our constant struggle becomes the very thing that calls down

Jesus, that keeps us humble and One with Him. I see this in the Flood of 2016—which had no effect on our historical enrollment at the seminary. And I think our community and fraternity of good men shows how the Church only flourishes in her weakness."



ST. JOSEPH SEMINARY COLLEGE welcomed 153 seminarians this fall, which is more than doubled the enrollment six years ago. There are currently three seminarians from the Diocese of Alexandria -- Thomas Kennedy, Andrew Flynn, and Jacob Cass -- who are attending St. Joseph Seminary. Seminarians also come from Atlanta, Ga.; Galveston-Houston, Texas; Mobile Ala.; New Orleans; Austin, Texas; Baton Rouge, La.; Beaumont, Texas; Biloxi, Miss.; Corpus Christi, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Houma-Thibodaux, La.; Jackson, Miss.; Lafayette, La.; Lake Charles, La.; Memphis, Tenn.; Shreveport, La.; St. Augustine, Fla.; Victoria, Texas; and Brownsville and Nashville, Tenn.

### Vincentians offer assistance to the needy in Natchitoches

A small group of Catholics in Natchitoches are doing what they can to help those in need in the area -- even if they do work out of a storage unit. They call themselves the Vincentians and they make up the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. John II Conference

"We are not a store at all," said Carol Green, president of the society. "We have a storage unit where we collect and distribute donations to the needy in Natchitoches Parish."

Every third Saturday of the month is a work day for its members and is frequently open to the general public that day. Items, such as clothing, household goods and furniture, are available for monetary donations.

"Our mission is to distribute clothing and household items to the needy," said Green. "We can also help with utilities, rent, food, medications and some transportation for medical reasons." These requests, however, require a home visit from two of the society members.

Anyone who needs any of these items or services, should



**SERVING THE NEEDY IN NATCHITOCHES.** St. Vincent de Paul Society distributes clothing and household items to the needy in Natchitoches, in addition to assisting clients with financial needs. The Knights of Columbus, Council 1357, recently donated funds to purchase four shelving units for their storage building. The shelves are being used to organize items that will make it easier to serve the clients of SVDP. The Vincentians meet on the third Saturday of every month at the storage unit to process donations and serve their clients. Pictured are Carol Green, president of SVDP, and Mike Menou, from the Knights.

contact Green at 318-652-4999.

Anyone who wishes to donate items, should visit the storage unit on the third Saturday of the month and drop them off.

"We are always happy to accept donations of household items, such as dishes, cookware, linens and small appliances. We also accept furniture as space allows and may even be able to pick up those larger items. At this time, we are unable to accept anymore clothing donations," she added.

The Society is also open to new members, who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the MB of the Immaculate Conception in the parish hall/gift shop at 6:30 p.m.

The conference, organized in March 2014, is the only official conference in the Diocese of Alexandria. It has 12 Vincentians including Carol Green, president; John Vercher, vice president; JoAnn St. Clair, treasurer; Kathy Meric, secretary; and David Bouchie, spiritual advisor.

For more information contact Green at 318-652-4999 or check out their Facebook page.

### Church Today

### Fire destroys home of St. Frances Cabrini School family

On Friday, Aug. 26, while the five Thompson kids were in class at St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria, little did they know that they would not have a home to go to that evening.

Their home was completely destroyed by fire, believed to have been started by faulty electrical wiring.

"I opened my daughter's bedroom door and smoke was everywhere," said Jessica Thompson, mother of the Thompson children. The house was completely destroyed with almost nothing salvageable.

The school faculty and staff, parents, and students were saddened by the news of their fellow school family members and decided to do something.

Throughout the weekend, donations were accepted in the school gym. By Sunday evening, the gym was filled with clothing, toys, household items, and personal care products.





**CABRINI SCHOOL FAMILY LOSES HOME TO FIRE.** The home of Kevin and Jessica Thompson and their five children was destroyed by fire Aug. 26. Thanks to the community and the St. Frances Cabrini School and Church, the Thompsons have received donations of clothing and household items to help them get back on their feet.

"It's overwhelming," said Jessica. "That people who don't know us or anything about us, would be so generous and caring toward our family."

The Thompson kids went back to school on Monday and Jessica and her husband went back to work. They said their goal is to try to find a sense of normalcy for the family.

"The response from the community has been overwhelming," said Liz Hines, director of Development at Cabrini. "We had more than 60,000 hits on our Facebook page within 24 hours of it being posted."

Hines said the family has received lots of clothes and household items. Gift cards and cash donations are still being accepted for the family, but the school is no longer collecting material items.

Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the school at 2215 E. Texas Ave., Alexandria, LA 71301.

#### Body of missing Natchitoches woman found in Grand Canyon

Family members confirmed Aug. 18 that the remains of a woman found in the Grand Canyon are those of 22-year-old Diana Zacarias of Natchitoches.

The family asked for privacy at this time. Funeral services were the following week at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.

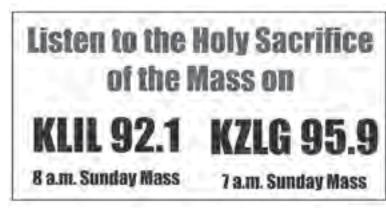
Park rangers discovered the body of a woman below Pima Point at the Grand Canyon July 30.

According to officials with the National Park Service, evidence found at the scene indicated the remains were probably those of Zacarias. She had been missing for approximately four months. The remains were sent to the Coconino County Medical Examiner's Office for positive identification.

They believe Zacarias fell to her death shortly after her last contact with family in Natchitoches.

Please keep Diana and her family in your prayers.





# OLPS students collect \$3,300 for Thompson family

The students and faculty at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria recently donated \$3,300 to the Thompson family who lost their home in a fire.

After hearing about the fire that destroyed the home of five children who attended St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria, the students at OLPS wanted to do something to let them know they had another Catholic family not far down the road who loved them and wanted to help.

Principal Jo Tassin said the students were asked to make a donation to the Thompson Family Fire Fund. Students who donated received an out of uniform pass.



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### Suicide prevention walk organized by family with personal loss

By Jeannie Petrus CT editor

Seventeen-year-old Adam Dixon was an altar server, played soccer, baseball, and the trombone, loved to run cross country, hunt, and eat crawfish, and had his own successful lawn service.

His parents and five siblings were so proud of the fact that he had just been accepted to attend Louisiana Tech.

On May 16, 2014, Adam Dixon died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

For his parents, Angie and Andy Dixon, the shock of it all was unbearable.

"We didn't see it coming," said Angie. "We had no idea that Adam had suffered for years from severe depression."

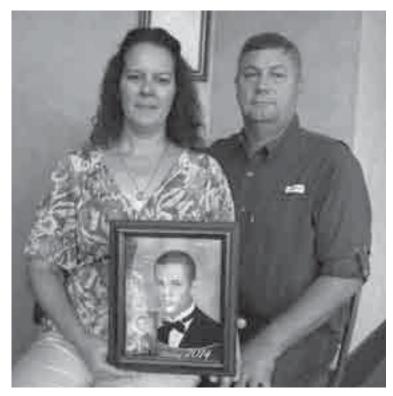
Married for 26 years, Angie and Andy Dixon tried to raise their family under the Father Peyton McGivney law: the family that prays together, stays together.

The family attended Mass regularly at Immaculate Conception in Dupont, where Adam was an altar server and played the role of Jesus in the church's annual Passion Play. He attended Steubenville and SALT retreats.

"We did things together as a family -- trailriding, camping, hunting, sports -- because we wanted our kids to value the strength that comes from family," said Andy.

As the family participated in school activities, sports and family outings, no one knew Adam was struggling with depression.

"That's what makes it so hard for someone suffering from depression," said Andy. "Even with a loving home, they are sad,



**IN MEMORY OF ADAM.** Angle and Andy Dixon, parents of Adam Dixon, who took his own life in 2014, are hoping the Out of the Darkness Community Walk to Prevent Suicide will help educate others about the signs of depression and its significant role in the fight to prevent suicide.

and they don't understand why.

Most times, they are ashamed to admit they are unhappy, and usually do a good job of hiding it from others."

At home, Adam began showing signs of intense outbursts of anger. Angie and Andy thought maybe it was typical adolescent behavior that had gotten out of hand and decided to send him to five months in the Youth Challenge Program to help him cope. He returned home after the program, happy and eager to continue his life. Even the counselors at the YCP had no concerns about Adam and even made him a counselor.

He received his GED in the Spring, made a 25 on his ACT, and received a letter of acceptance from Louisiana Tech. He planned to attend community college for a year and then go to Tech. After an excitement-filled week of shopping for things for starting college and after an overnight camping trip with friends, Adam ended his life.

Adam's story is typical of someone who suffers from depression. Days of feeling "not okay" are hard to rationalize and most often result in isolation.

Relational warning signs of depression include how we inter-



Saturday, Oct. 8

Marksville Courthouse
Registration starts at 8 a.m.; 5K Run/Walk starts at 9 a.m.

For more information, call:

337-519-1888

act with others. Examples include becoming extremely irritable and easily angered, cutting off close ties and friendships or becoming more isolated.

"Now that we know more about depression, we see the symptoms in Adam," said Angie. "If only we knew the symptoms, we would have recognized his mental illness and sought help for him."

"If only we knew" is the reason Angie and Andy are helping to organize an Out of the Darkness community walk to raise awareness of depression, mental illness, and suicide prevention.

"If we can help one parent out there, or one child who is suffering from depression, we feel this walk will be a success," said Andy. "We want parents to know the signs of depression so they can get help for their child.

We want kids to know that it is OK to not be OK,' but to talk to someone you trust about the way you feel."

The 5K (3 miles) Run/Walk on Oct. 8 will start at the Marks-ville Courthouse with registration at 8 a.m. and the event at 9 a.m. Throughout the morning, there will be vendors with free information, speakers, lots of great door prizes and a balloon launch. There is no cost to participate but any donations accepted will go to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention.

For more info, call Angie at 337-519-1888, or Jackie Bordelon at 318-419-0620 or visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at www.afsp.org.

To register for the walk go to http://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=4270.





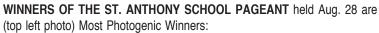




**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR WILD KIDS TRIATHLON.** Students in grades PK -6 from Our Lady of Prompt Succor participated in the second annual Wild Kidz Triathlon Aug. 20 at Louisiana State University at Alexandria. Students biked, ran, and swam to raise money for the school's technology fund. Pictured below is Father Dan O'Connor, pastor; Jackie DeWorth, assistant principal; and Jo Tassin, principal.







(top right photo) Queens: People's Choice,
Tiny Miss St. Anthony, ; Little Miss St. Anthony,
; Junior Miss St. Anthony, ; and Miss St. An-

**ST. MARY'S (Natchitoches) TEDDY BEAR TUESDAY.** St. Mary's Pre K3 program had fun on a Teddy Bear Tuesday. Activities included making bear snacks, bear art, teddy bear awards and they even went on a bear hunt!! (He was found hiding in the cafeteria). Pre K3 students are

thony,







**SACRED HEART FLAG RAISING CEREMONY.** On August 26, Sacred Heart School held its Annual Flag Raising Ceremony and Flag Bearer Commissioning Service. Fr. Jose Pallipurath gave a beautiful invocation after school Mass. The 3rd Grade lead the student body in "The Pledge of Allegiance", and Ms. Ethel Baudin (Social Studies teacher) read "The



History of the American Flag." The 4th Grade recited what it means to be "An American".

r and lead the student body in Patriotic Songs. Commissioned were

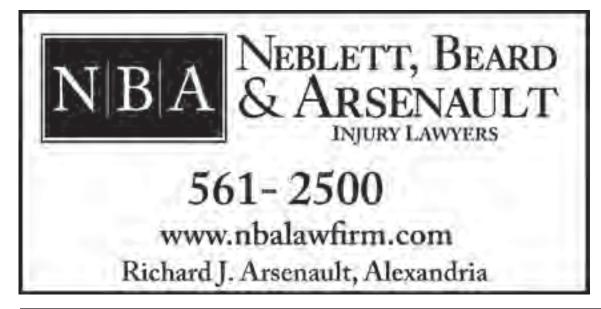


ST. JULIANA JUNIOR KNIGHTS ASSIST IN COMMUNITY CLEAN UP. Anthony Deshautelle and his son Deputy Jr. Knight
and Deputy Grand Knight Winston Bell participated in the Acadiana Village Concerned Citizens Community Clean-Up on July 23. There was a good turnout in the community and a lot was accomplished.



**ST. JULIANA JUNIOR KNIGHTS COLLECT FOOD FOR FOOD BANK.** The Junior Knights at St. Juliana Church in Alexandria boxed and delivered a total of 264 lbs of non-perishable food items to the Central Louisiana Food Bank recently. Pictured are (front row) Knight , Jr. Deputy Grand Knights

and Knights . Back row: Knight Anthony Gillard Sr. and Deputy Grand Knight Winston Bell. (Photo by Gary Davis, assistant Junior Knights Commander)





### 2016 South Louisiana Flood: when good rises from destruction

### Stories of disaster overshadowed by stories of faith, courage, compassion

**By Catholic News Service** 

BATON ROUGE, La. (CNS)
-- The line of destruction caused by historic flooding in southern Louisiana stretches for 25 miles, and according to Red Cross officials, it is the worst natural disaster in the United States since Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

"As we all know the severe flooding in many areas of our diocese has dramatically affected the well-being and livelihood of countless people," said Baton Rouge Bishop Robert W. Muench in a videotaped message posted to the diocese's website, www. diobr.org.

"To those so impacted I express genuine empathy, heartfelt solidarity and commitment to help as best as we can," he said, adding his thanks "to those who have so impressively and sacrificially reached out to serve." He called the "outpouring of concern" extraordinary in "our area and beyond." On Aug. 14, Bishop Muench visited three evacuation shelters to comfort evacuees.

In his video message, the bishop also pointed out that the diocesan website has a how-to for people who want to donate money or items to flood victims.

In a statement released Aug. 24, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called on Catholic parishes across



A STATUE OF MARY is seen partially submerged in flood water in Sorrento, La., Aug. 20. (CNS photo/Jonathan Bachman, Reuters)

the U.S. to take a second collection on or around Sept. 18. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, encouraged U.S. Catholics "to respond generously. Our prayer and material support is urgently needed to help rebuild lives."

Donations, he said, will go to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA, the church's domestic relief agency.

News reports said the civil

entity of East Baton Rouge Parish was the hardest hit of parishes in the region by the heavy rains that fell Aug. 11-14. In some areas, as much as 2 feet of rain fell in 48 hours; in another, more than 31 inches of rain fell in 15 hours.

Civil authorities reported that at least 13 people died in the floods and that about 60,000 homes were damaged, although a Baton Rouge economic development group put the number of damaged houses at 110,000. The Red Cross put the overall cost of recovery at \$30 million.

"Thousands of people in Louisiana have lost everything they own and need our help now," Brad Kieserman, the Red Cross' vice president of disaster services operations and logistics, told CNN.

Four feet of water inundated the new Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School, which had just opened Aug. 5.

In such a short time, "we'd experienced growth as a family, with the students, with the faculty," said Jim Llorens, the school's president, who called the flooding "heartbreaking." The brand-new school building is closed while school officials assess the damage and find another location to hold classes

"It was really beginning to come together as a true Cristo Rey family, so we have to regroup ... and make sure we don't lose that," Llorens said in an interview with the diocese's CatholicLife Television apostolate and The Catholic Commentator, the diocesan newspaper.

The newspaper and the TV outlet have produced a series of six videos on the flood and its aftermath. Titled "When the Waters Rose," the series can be viewed at www.catholiclifetv.org in the site's "Programming" section.

In another of the videos a mom and her children, all members of St. Margaret Parish, were helping flood victims -- even though the family had their own losses, including their house and three vehicles.

"We are fortunate we have each other and that's a blessing. We have a lot of friends in the same situation," the mom told a

See FLOOD, pg. 15





### 2016 South Louisiana Flood

#### Continued from page 14

reporter. "We're just very thankful we're able to give back ... and people have blessed us very much in clothes and water and such. We're just doing a little bitty bit of what we can do (for others)."

In his statement, Archbishop Kurtz urged all Catholics to join the church "in being a visible witness to the healing presence of Jesus alive in the world" by helping flood victims. He acknowledged that not all U.S. parishes may be able to have a second collection and encouraged individuals to donate directly to Catholic Charities USA at https://catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Whether your donation is large or small, let us also be sure those suffering feel the power of our prayer to sustain them in the difficult days ahead.

The Knights of Columbus, based in New Haven, Connecticut, said in an Aug. 23 new release statement its members have volunteered to help flood victims by preparing and distributing pallets of food and water, and providing bleach and other cleaning materials. Local Knights' councils are running soup kitchens to feed thousands of people each day.

The Knights as an organization has given a \$200,000 donation to the Baton Rouge Diocese and sent \$30,000 to the Knights' Louisiana State Council.

In a week's time the Knights of Columbus also raised more than \$250,000 for flood relief, the release said.

"We have seen incredible generosity from our members," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in a statement. "The funds we raise will go directly to help those affected by this tragedy, and working closely with the Catholic Church and our Knights in Louisiana, we will continue to make a real difference in the lives of the people of the Baton Rouge area."

In Gonzales, members of St. Theresa of Avila Parish were little

Pray the Rosary Daily



**THE CAJUN NAVY**, who are just neighbors helping neighbors, left their own flooded homes and used their own aluminum fishing boats to go out and rescue people from their homes immediately after the flooding began. An estimated 20,000 people were rescued from their homes.

affected by the flooding so they have found creative ways to help those who have been, said Father Eric Gyan, pastor.

In an Aug. 19 video interview for the diocese's "When the Waters Rose" series, he outlined four ways they are reaching out. First, there's the Laundry Brigade, which offers to pick up clothes, bed linens and other items muddied by the rising waters, launder them and "get them back the next day," Father Gyan said.

Next parishioners are running St. Theresa's Taxi service to provide transportation for those without any way now to get to the store, doctors' appointments and the like. Cooks for Christ is made

up of parishioners preparing and taking meals to residences where families have absorbed other family members and friends left homeless, the priest explained.

Finally the God's Gutters demolition crew will go into damaged houses to clear out water-soaked carpet, drywall and furniture and anything else that is damaged.

Father Gyan added that the parish intends to have second collection to raise funds to buy gift cards to Lowe's, Home Depot and other stores to help people repair their homes and replace what they have lost.

Editor's Note: Donations to help flood victims can be made

directly to:

- Diocese of Baton Rouge Disaster Assistance Fund at www. diobr.org.
- Catholic Charities USA at https://catholiccharitiesusa.org. (Donations can be sent by mail with a check payable to Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Charities USA, P.O. Box 17066 Baltimore, MD, 21297-1066; or by phone with a credit card, (800) 919-9338.
- Knights of Columbus at www.kofc.org/flood. (Donations via check or money order can be sent to: K of C Louisiana Flood, Knights of Columbus Charities, P.O. Box 1966, New Haven, CT, 06509-1966.)



**TONS OF DEBRIS** line the streets in neighborhoods in Baton Rouge. An estimated 70,000 homes were damaged in the flood.

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### 2016 South Louisiana Flood

### The Resue

A statue of Our Blessed Mother serves as an inspiration to the rescuers.

Bishop Robert Meunch, of Baton Rouge, visits one of the shelters.







Volunteers rescue a horse.

A little boy sleeps on the roof of his house while waiting to be rescued.



### The Clean-Up



(At left) Baton Rouge residents begin the clean-up process.

**THE DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA** collected tens of thousands of cleaning supplies, blankets, pillows, diapers and baby supplies, and personal care items from individuals, schools, and churches throughout the diocese who bought them and dropped them off at the center. Since most of the stores were flooded in Baton Rouge, cleaning supplies and personal care items were almost impossible to purchase. A team of LSU-A students from the Catholic Student Organization transported the items to shelters in Baton Rouge.



### CHURCH TODAY



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, Natchitoches. Northwestern State University's National Pan-Hellenic Council collected donation items from NSU's student body. Making the donation on behalf of NPHC is President Angel Greer. Mrs. Peggy Gardner's 5th grade religion class accepted the donation items. A 15-foot U-Haul transported the items to St. Thomas Moore Church for distribution.

#### A HEART OF GOLD. St. Mary's 5th grader,

, celebrated her birthday earlier this month. In lieu of gifts, asked her guests to bring gift cards for the flood victims in South Louisiana. presented the gift cards to Principal Jacque Horton, during morning prayer. The gift cards were sent to St. Joseph's Academy, an all girl Catholic high school in Baton Rouge. is the daughter of Jim and Beth Cole of Natchitoches.

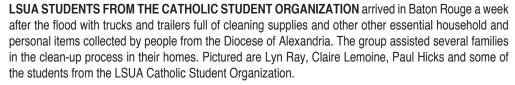


### Help Arrives

Tim Bordelon and the KCs from Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville and the KCs from St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport joined forces Aug. 20 when they rolled into the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Baton Rouge with 12 volunteers. They worked primarily in the Lake Iris subdivision clearing debris from homes, carrying it out to the curb, cleaning out a warehouse, and offering manpower to anyone who needed help. Everyone they assisted were extremely appreciative.









**LSUA CATHOLIC STUDENTS** brought supplies and manpower to help a single mom clean up her home. The lady lost everything she owned in the flood.





# Keep your Catholic Faith alive! Sign up today for **Religious Education Classes**



#### **First Communion Classes**

First Communion classes prepare a child spiritually to understand the significance of becoming one with the presence of Christ through the Holy Eucharist. First Communion classes also include instruction for preparing oneself to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. First Communion candidates must be in the second grade or 8 years old, and a baptized Christian. To sign up for First Communion class, call your nearest Catholic Church.

#### **Confirmation Classes**

The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred on baptized individuals who have the desire to deepen and strengthen the union between God and their soul through the powers of the Holy Spirit. The celebration is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as was once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Generally, Confirmation classes begin for students who are entering the 10th grade; however, adults of any age are invited to enroll as well. To sign up for Confirmation class, call your nearest Catholic Church.



#### Catechism (CCD) Classes

Catechism class (or CCD: Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) is a parish-based religious education program for Catholic children (grades K-12) attending public schools. Catechism class attendance is considered by Vatican officials to be vital to children's development as Catholics. These classes not only educate children about Jesus and the Catholic faith, but prepare children to receive the sacraments. To sign up for Catechism (or CCD) classes, call you nearest Catholic Church.

#### **RCIA Instruction**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process through which interested adults are gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and way of life. The RCIA process involves a number of stages punctuated by liturgical rites to aid and assist the potential convert toward the final rite at the Easter Vigil at which time they will become full members of the Roman Catholic Church. The entire process takes several months, but participants are invited to proceed at a pace that suits them individually. To sign up for RCIA classes, call your nearest Catholic Church.





#### Volunteer to help!

At most churches, CCD, First Communion, Confirmation and RCIA education is provided by both members of the clergy and lay staff. Parishes are almost always in need of qualified persons to teach these classes. To volunteer, you must be a practicing Catholic with a strong background in the Catholic faith. All volunteers in the Diocese of Alexandria MUST be certified in the VIRTUS Child Protection Training Program. Resource materials are provided for volunteers as well. To volunteer, call your nearest Catholic Church.

### CHURCH TODAY



#### Sept. 23-25 St. Francis de Sales Church Fair, Echo

Fair activities begin at 5 p.m. with a \$5 per person general admission fee. Children 12 and under FREE. Pork and sausage jambalaya is \$5 per serving. Entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. featuring Rousseau's Taekwondo, The Dance Factory, and Lagniappe Theatre. Dance to the music of the Chris Trahan Band at 8 p.m. On Saturday, the fair begins at 5 p.m. and will include gumbo at 5 p.m. (\$6 all you can eat), food, bingo, and a trainride for kids. On Sunday, a pork/chicken dinner will be served from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for \$8 a plate in advance, or \$9 at the door. For more info, call Ronald Lacombe at 318-308-3277.

#### Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 Holy Ghost Church/St. Richard's Chapel Fall Fair, Marksville

Holy Ghost /St.Richard's Chapel will hold its annual Fall Fair Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at Holy Ghost Church in Marksville.

The fair begins on Friday with the County Store opening from 7 a.m. to noon. On Saturday, registration for the 2nd Annual 5k Run/1mile Walk is from 7 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. and the race begins at 8 a.m. An entry fee of \$25 is due by Sept. 17 (includes a t-shirt on race day). After this date, the entry fee is \$30 and t-shirt is not guaranteed.

On Sunday, the fair continues with a dinner served from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The menu consists of a pork/chicken combo dinner with dirty rice, green beans, sweet potatoes and a roll for \$9 per plate. The Special Bingo games will begin at 3 p.m. followed by the church raffle drawing. For more information, call the church office at 253-7131.

## October 1 Characters and Customs from the Crypt Tour (Cemetery Tour)

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the American Cemetery, 140 Second Street in Natchitoches, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. for the annual Characters and Customs from the Crypt Tour.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, and FREE for children 12 and younger accompanied by a parent. For more information call 1-800-259-1714. or go to http://www.historicfoundation.org

### October 8 Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria

Join us on the OLPS playground on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for the 2016 OLPS Fall Festival. Lots of food, games and entertainment all day, plus a Silent Auction. We'll close the festival with an outdoor Mass at 4 p.m.

#### October 8-9 St. Joseph School Fair, Plaucheville

Join us Oct. 8-9 in Plaucheville for the annual St. Joseph School Fair that starts Saturday after the 4:30 p.m. Mass and ends Sunday evening. We will have silent and live auctions, games, face painting, lots of delicious food (we are known for our egg rolls!) live music by Lee's Last Stand and bingo. On Sunday a Cochon de Lait dinner will be served after the 9:30 a.m. Mass for \$9 a plate.

#### October 14-16 St. Augustine Fair, Isle Brevelle

The fair starts on Friday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. with a fish dinner, \$9 a plate, and music by DJ Bootsie Wootsie. At 8 p.m., there will be a concert by TRIO Lacour. On Saturday, Oct. 15, starting at 9 a.m., there will be games, prizes, bingo, silent and live auctions, music by Doc Couty, and delicious homemade Creole cuisine all day. At 8 p.m., there will be dancing. On Sunday, Oct. 16, the fair continues from 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### October 14-16 Fall Pilgrimage/Tour of Homes, Natchitoches

The 62nd Annual Fall Tour of Homes gives you the opportunity to explore the most beautiful historic town homes and plantations in Natchitoches. Choose from:

- Candlelight Tour: homes TBA
- Town Tour: homes TBA
- Cane River Country Tour: homes TBA

Tickets are \$25 per person for a single tour; \$40 per person for a double tour; and \$50 per person for a triple tour. Tickets for kids ages 6-12 are \$5 per tour per child; children under 6 are free. Tickets are available at each home or buy online: http://www.melroseplantation.org/fall-tour-destinations

### October 15-16 Sacred Heart School Fall Fair

The fair starts Saturday with a 5K Run/Fun Walk. Registration is at 7 a.m.; race at 8 a.m. Entry fee of \$20 includes a t-shirt on race day. Contact Michelle Daigrepont at 337-344-3218 or michelle.daigrepont@yahoo.com.

This year's 5K Run and Fun Walk will be in memory of Isabela Ducote, a Sacred Heart student who died this summer in a car accident. She had just made her First Communion this past Spring.

A Blood Drive will be held from 1-4 p.m. in Lacour Hall. Also at 1 p.m., registration for the Motorcycle Poker Run starts; the Run starts at 2 p.m. Entry Fee is \$20 per bike; Extra Hand: \$10. Call Kim Adams 318-306-3457.

Mass starts at 4 p.m., followed by fair game booths and food booths opening at 5 p.m., fried catfish dinner for \$8, and live music at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, a Cochon de Lait dinner for \$9, will be served after 9 a.m. Mass with all booths continuing. For more information, call Karen Moreau at 985-2772 or 359-1943 or karenmoreau@kricket.net

#### October 22 Cabrini Fest, Alexandria

This day of fun we call Cabrini Fest at St. Frances Cabrini School starts at 9 a.m. with a Character Breakfast in the Activities Building. Then join us from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. for a day of games and great food.

#### October 29 St. Rita Mini Fall Festival, Alexandria

What better way to celebrate Halloween early than attending the St. Rita Mini Fall Festval Oct. 29 from 4 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the church in Alexandria. Our famous "St. Rita" Chicken & Sausage Gumbo will be served beginning at 4 p.m.,-- \$6 a bowl. A costume contest for children will be held at 5 p.m. and the carnival and Bingo will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.. Trunk or Treat will be sponsored by St. Rita Youth! Donations are being accepted for the Country Store and the Sweet Shop ONLY!!! Call 445-7141 ext 214 for further information.





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Starting at \$10

Call 318-445-6424 ext 264

### Year of Mercy ends Nov. 20: Are you just getting started?

### Fr. Gaitley's new book 33 Days to Merciful Love is great do-it-yourself retreat

The Year of Mercy end Nov, 20. Are you just getting started?

Those who truly want to do what Pope Francis has asked us to do, say we need another year (at least) to really break open an understanding of mercy and how to live it out. Mercy is such a rich concept that seeps into all aspects of life. It's not too late to go deeper.

What mercy looks like in our own lives? Have you taken time to contemplate that? Have you had the desire to join one the small groups in your parish or to attend one of those one-day seminars on Divine Mercy, but just never found the time to do it?

Father Michael Gaitley, author of 33 Days to Morning Glory, Consoling the Heart of Jesus, and The Second Greatest Story Every Told, understands.

That's why he is offering two Do-It-Yourself Retreats in preparation for Conseration to Divine Mercy.

#### Small group retreat

The first is a new small group retreat based on Father Gaitley's best sellig book, 33 Days to Mer-



ciful Love.

It's easy to get started.

- 1. Gather your group
- 2. Pick your starting date (From Oct 12-18)
- 3. Order the materials (Order by Oct. 1 and get 25 percent off of all materials.)
- 4. Start the retreat
- 5. Consecrate with Father Joseph, MIC on Nov. 20 -- the end of the year of Mercy.

#### **Do-It-Yourself Retreat**

Live the Jubilee Year of Mercy to the full! Get your copy of 33 Days to Merciful Love, the

stirring sequel to the international sensation, 33 Days to Morning Glory.

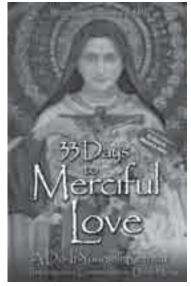
Using the same 33-day preparation format, 33 Days to Merciful Love journeys with one of the most beloved saints of modern times, St. Therese of Lisieux, and concludes with a consecration to Divine Mercy.

St. Therese was declared a Doctor of the Church by St. John Paul II, because she had developed a specific spirituality that is recognized as something new and important for the Church. This books hones in on that spiritual-

ity, and how it connects with Divine Mercy.

Therese made a consecration to Divine Mercy which she calls her Offering to Merciful Love, which is really the culmination of her whole spiritual teaching on her Little Way. Fr. Gaitley thinks this is the most powerful form of consecration to Divine Mercy, and understandably so, since it made her such a great saint in such a short time (24 yrs.).

Her Offering to Merciful Love is based on her profound in-



### BOOK REVIEW

sight that the Heart of Jesus is full of mercy, and he longs to pour out that Merciful Love on we sinners. Therese realized that sinners often close their hearts to the Lord's great mercy, and their rejection actually causes Jesus deep suffering.

So for the purpose of consoling the Heart of Jesus, Therese asked the Lord to pour into her soul all the mercy rejected by others - and He did. That experience set her on fire with Merciful Love, so that everything she did, no matter how small, was done for love of Jesus.

So whether you want to deepen your love of Divine Mercy or have a devotion to St. Therese, 33 Days to Merciful Love is the book to transform you in this "Year of Mercy".

Order any of these books from Marian Press at www.marian.org

#### **IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING**

**Administrative Manager** 

#### Manna House

The job of Administrative Manager has become available at the Manna House in Alexandria. This position requires the overseeing the daily operations of a seven-day a week noon meals program. The Administrative Manager provides direction and management of both employees and volunteers. A plus for applicants would be any experience in the running of a commercial kitchen, or similar administrative experience. The applicant should also have a heart for the ministry of feeding the poor and needy.

Interested persons should contact either Brenda or Bill Holmes at (318) 445-9053 for more information.





### Apparition Hill in theatres now for a limited time -- Oct. 7-13

### Documentary follows journey of first time pilgrims to Medjugorje

Millions of people from all over the world have traveled to this small Eastern European village in search of answers to life's biggest questions.

It all started in 1981, when six children claimed to see a mysterious lady on a hillside near their village, Medjugorje.1981.

Identifying herself as the Queen of Peace, the lady continues to appear to the six "visionaries" today, giving them messages for the world and entrusting them with prophetic secrets that concern the future of mankind.

When the visionaries experience these apparitions, they are momentarily enraptured in a state of ecstasy. Similar events have happened throughout history, but none to such an intense degree as in Medjugorje.

When the apparitions first began, Medjugorje was located in communist Yugoslavia. The visionaries endured intense persecution by the communist government, but the children never changed their stories.3

Communism is over now and peace has returned to the Medjugorje region, but the apparitions continue. According to the visionaries, the "ten secrets" about the world's future will happen within their lifetimes, and many signs indicate that the time is near.

#### But is it all a hoax?

Some of the world's top doctors and scientists have done tests



**APPARITION HILL.** One June 24, 1981, more than 35 years ago, the Blessed Virgin Mary allegedly began appearing to seven children at the top of what is known as a "Apparition Hill" in Medjugorje (formerly Yugoslavia). Although the Catholic Church has made no decision on the authenticity of the apparitions since the visionaries claim they still have the visions, numerous miracles and miraculous conversions have been reported. The documentary Apparition Hill explores these miracles.

on the visionaries, and all of them have concluded that all six are completely healthy and are not lying. In fact, the studies reveal that the children's brain activity during the "apparition" shows that they are seeing something "beautiful."

Furthermore, the vast majority of visitors to Medjugorje describe a sense of unearthly peace,

and many seem to find whatever kind of healing they went there seeking.wayne-weible-medjugorje-the-last-apparition-mary-earth

Is it mass hysteria, or is something truly happening in Medjugorje? That's what we want to find out.

By bringing people who have never been there before and documenting their journey, we conducted an investigation of sorts to find out what's really going on in Medjugorje.

The group was completely immersed in all the wonders of the place, and the result is a film called APPARITION HILL.

The movie is the journey of two atheists, two terminally ill patients, an addict, police officer and widower who won free

### MOVIE REVIEW

trips to Medjugorje. The unlikely group of pilgrims investigated the truth of the world's greatest mystery captured on film and what they found.

Independent filmmaker and author Sean Bloomfield is best known for the documentaries The Triumph and If Only We Had Listened, both of which explore the modern phenomena of miracles, apparitions, and spirituality. His work has been featured on The History Channel, ABC, Oprah's OWN, Fox, PBS, EWTN, and across the globe on international television and cinema screens.

Published works include a novel, The Sound of Many Waters, and a new work for kids titled Dear Children. A former fishing guide and avid scuba diver, Bloomfield studied Writing and Communication at The University of Tampa, where his prose won the coveted Quilt Literary Magazine contest two consecutive years.

His work has taken him all over the world, including Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, New Zealand, and South America. A native Floridian, Sean and his wife reside in the Sunshine State with their three children.

#### OUTDOOR ILLUMINATED ROSARY

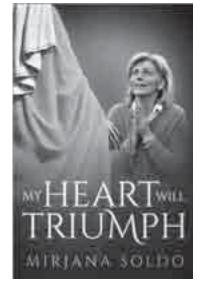
#### prayed every Thursday

Join St. Joseph Church in Marksville every Thursday, at 7:15 p.m. (time changed to 7:15 in Sept and Oct.) to pray the Rosary before an illuminated Rosary located outside on the grounds of the parish hall. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary is prayed in the church. The last Illuminated Rosary will be on Thursday, Oct. 27.

### Mirjana's first book My Heart will Triumph is #1 bestseller

Mirjana Soldo was only 16 years old when she and five other children saw a mysterious young woman on a remote hillside in the village of Medjugorje, then part of Yugoslavia. The woman—who possessed a beauty and grace that seemed to come from beyond—identified herself as the Virgin Mary.

The apparitions that began on the afternoon of June 24, 1981 would dramatically change Mirjana's life and the lives of countless people around the world. Her claims, however, contradicted the atheistic ideologies of the Com-



munist government and Mirjana was deemed "an enemy of the state." They persecuted her, but she never denied what she saw.

Amazingly, the apparitions have continued for over 35 years. Millions of people travel to Medjugorje every year in search of answers to life's biggest questions.

The messages given by Mary are a call for mankind to return to God. And, according to Mirjana, the Virgin entrusted her with ten secrets that foretell the future of the world—secrets that she will reveal within her lifetime.

Mirjana believes that now is

### BOOK REVIEW

the time to share her story with the world through her auto-biography, MY HEART WILL TRI-UMPH. Each book sold benefits Mary's Meals, a charity that feeds over a million children every day.

To order, go to www.catholic-shop.com. 380 pages,-- \$19.99.

#### Sept. 23: Red Mass

The annual Red Mass will be celebrated Friday, Sept. 23 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

Join us as the priests of the diocese celebrate this Mass. Father Bruce Miller will be the homilist. The Red Mass is open to the public.

The Red Mass is celebrated annually in the Catholic Church for judges, attorneys, law school professors, students, and government officials. The Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice, and offers the opportunity to reflect on what Catholics believe is the God-given power and responsibility of all in the legal profession.

#### Sept. 24: Pre Cana for Engaged Couples

A Pre Cana for Engaged Couples will be held Saturday, Sept. 24 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria. This event will feature a panel discussion, Q and A and talks on the theology of marriage, prayer and communication, finances and family planning. The cost is \$25 per person or \$50 a couple. Lunch will be provided. For more information or to register please contact Michelle at 318 445-4588.

#### Sept. 28-Nov. 6: Forty Days for Life

40 Days for Life is a powerful campaign of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach in an effort to end abortion. More than 700,000 people participate in 36 countires. Since it was started 9 years ago (2007) in College Station, Texas, 11,796 lives have been saved, 133 abortion workers quit, and 73 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.

#### Oct. 1: Catholic Charismatic Conference

Cenla Magnificat will host a one-day Catholic Charismatic Conference on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville. It is open to men and women. The cost is \$60 for singles and \$100 for married couples and includes breakfast and lunch. Speakers include Deacon Larry Oney from the Archdiocese of New Orleans and president of Hope and Purpose Ministries, and his wife, Andi Oney. To register call Diane Ardoin at 318-419-1547 or go to cenlamagnificat@gmail.com.

### DIOCESAN BRIEFS

#### Oct. 2: Cenla Life Chain

The Louisiana Right to Life Federation will sponsor a Cenla Life Chain on Sunday, Oct. 2 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. at the foot of the Jackson Street Bridge in Alexandria. (In case of rain, it will be held at the Alexandria Riverfront Center.) Join us while we hold pro-life signs and witness to the sanctity of life. Signs are available. For more information, call Donna Domzalski at 318-445-7525.

### Oct. 8: Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Awareness 5K Run/Walk

An "Out of the Darkness" Suicide Prevention Awareness 5K Run/Walk will be held Saturday, Oct. 8 starting at the Marksville Courthouse. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the Run/Walk starts at 9. Anyone who has known someone or lost someone to suicide is encouraged to form a team in his/her name and participate to draw awareness to the prevention of suicide. In addition to the 5K run/walk, there will also be vendors, a balloon launch, and speakers throughout the morning including Dr. L. J. Mayeaux, Marksville coroner; and Toby Dixon, suicide attempt survivor. For more information, contact Angie Dixon at 337-519-1888 or email angela227@centurytel.net.

#### Oct. 14-15: Marrigage Encounter Weekend

Rekindle your love for another on a get-away weekend. What better way to celebrate the gift of your unique love than to make time to focus on each other and your marriage? Consider attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to renew those feelings you had during your first few years together. The next weekend is Oct. 14-15 at the Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. You can get more information or register online at LAMS-wwme.org or by calling 470-297-8560.

#### Oct. 14-16: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

The Rachel's Vineyard ministry for healing after abortion is having a retreat the weekend of Oct. 14 - 17, at the Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie, LA 70006. Cost: \$170; financial assistance available, if necessary. This Catholic healing retreat is open to everyone whose life has been touched by abortion. All faiths welcome. For more information

& to register, contact Pam Richard, (504) 460-9360 or (985) 809-0773; email address: richj504@bellsouth.net or Melanie Baglow, (504) 710-6458; email address: mkbaglow@cox.net. This retreat is strictly confidential.

#### Oct. 15: Marriage Enrichment

Please join us Saturday, Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. for a marriage enrichment talk. Leland and Emily Ann McCullough will speak on "Mercy in Marriage" in the Madonna Room at Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria. Childcare will be provided, free of charge, for all ages in the church nursery. For more information, contact Leah Pelto at 318.640.8678 or michaelandleah@suddenlink.net.

#### Oct. 15: Magnificat Brunch

CENLA Magnificat will host a women's brunch on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Merci Beaucoup Restaurant on Church Street in Natchitoches. The speaker will be Casey Sprehe, a stay-at-home wife and mother with three young children. Casey spends her extra time as a Catholic speaker and evangelist. She has an MA in Theology from the Augustine Institute and a member of the NSC for the Charismatic Renewal.

For information and/or reservations: cenlamagnificat@gmail.com or Mary at 318-359-7735. Tickets are \$18 (breakfast included). Reservations must be made by Oct. 11, 2016.

#### Oct. 16-18: St. Louis de Montfort Mission

Deacon Cody Miller from Lafayette will present a mission Oct. 16-18 on the topic of St. Louis de Montfort's True Devotion to Mary. The mission will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Chapel in Gorum. Deacon Miller will also deliver the homily at the following Masses:

Saturday, Oct. 15, 4 p.m. Mass at St. Margaret Church in Boyce

Sunday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m. Mass at St. Margaret Church in Boyce

Sunday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m. Mass at St. Margaret Mary Chapel in Gorum

The public is invited to attend.

#### Oct. 22: White Mass

All healthcare personnel in the diocese are invited to celebrate the White Mass with the Central Louisiana Physicians Guild of the Catholic Medical Association on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Frances Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. The public is also invited to attend.

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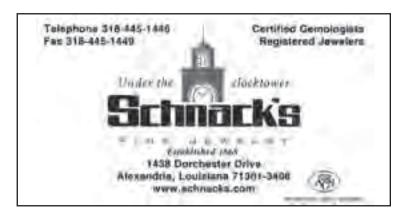
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# September - October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
19	20	21	VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville	The Red Mass 9:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria	Pre-Cana Day for Engaged Couples 8:00 a.m 2:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria	25
			Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville			
			WRC Celebration of Life 6:30 p.m. Natchitoches Events Center			Cobo
PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE	PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	PRAY FOR FR. T. ALLEN	PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY
VIRTUS 7 6:00 p.m. Minor Bas	27 VIRTUS Training	28 40 Days for Life begins (40daysforlife.com)	VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	30	OCTOBER Catholic Charismatic Conference 9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m.	Cenla Life Chain 2 - 3:30 p.m. Foot of Jackson St Bridge Alexandria
	6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception,		Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville		Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville	
	Natchiloches		Pro-Life Novena for Unborn Babies begins		10:00 a.m. Tracy Center, Baton Rouge	
PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG	PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY
PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville  PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	Fall Fest 10:00 a.m 3:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Awareness 5K Run/Walk 9:00 a.m. Marksville Courthouse St. Joseph School PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	Fair Plaucheville PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON
Bishop's Golf Tournament	2:00 noon	12	Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	14	Magnificat Breakfast Merci Beaucoup, Natchitoches Marriage Enrichment	16
Oak Wing Golf Course					10:00 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Madonna Room, Alexandria	Mission: St. Louis de Montfort St. Mary's Chapel, Gorum
					stine Church Fair Isle I	
COLUMBUS DAY PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY	PRAY FOR FR. R. GARRIONE	PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	l's Vineyard Retreat Me PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG
17	18	19	20 Illuminated Rosary 7:15 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	21	White Mass 9:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria	23
Mission: St. Louis de Montfor	rt St. Mary's Chapel, Gorum				CabriniFest 10:00 a.m 8:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria	
PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE	PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	PRAY FOR FR. K. ISHMAEL	PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD	PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI

