

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLIX, No. 6-7

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July 16, 2018

## ON THE INSIDE

### SPECIAL SACRAMENTAL PICTURE ISSUE!

#### Luke LaFleur enters priesthood

The Diocese of Alexandria rejoices in the ordination of Rev. Luke LaFleur to the priesthood on May 19 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Pictures of the ordination Mass can be found on page 6.

#### Nine ordained to the Permanent Diaconate

In two separate Mass celebrations, nine deacon candidates were ordained to the Permanent Diaconate. See page 7 for details.

#### First Communion and Confirmation pictures

For the past three to four months, parishes around the diocese have been celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. Pictures of each of these celebrations are printed on pages 10-18.

To view even more photos from these events, go to [www.diocesealex.org/photo-galleries](http://www.diocesealex.org/photo-galleries)

## Father Luke LaFleur ordained to priesthood



# Trump picks Judge Brett Kavanaugh as Supreme Court nominee

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service



**PRESIDENT TRUMP NAMES NOMINEE FOR SCOTUS.** On July 9 at the White House, President Donald Trump named Brett Kavanaugh, a Catholic, who is a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, as his Supreme Court nominee. (CNS photo/Jim Bourg, Reuters)

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Donald Trump announced July 9 that his nominee for the Supreme Court is Judge Brett Kavanaugh, a federal appeals court judge in Washington and a Catholic who once clerked for retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

"I am grateful to you and I am humbled by your confidence in me," said Kavanaugh, who was standing near his wife and two daughters.

Kavanaugh spoke about his Catholic faith, saying he tries to live by the motto instilled in him by his Jesuit high school: "be men for others." Kavanaugh, like Justice Neil Gorsuch, attended Georgetown Prep, a Jesuit boys school in Maryland. He also pointed out that his former pastor, Msgr. John Enzler, was in the audience. He said he used to be an altar boy for him and now the two serve the homeless together. The priest is the president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Washington. Kavanaugh also gave a shoutout to the girls basketball team at his parish which he coaches. He said the team has nicknamed him "Coach K."

He also told the group gathered in the East Room of the White House that he is "part of the vibrant Catholic community in the D.C. area," and added that

"members of that community disagree about many things, but we are united in our commitment to serve."

Kavanaugh said if he is chosen to be on the Supreme Court, he would "keep an open mind in every case" and "always strive to preserve the Constitution of the United States and the American rule of law."

Immediately after Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his retirement June 27, Trump said he would move quickly to nominate a replacement, saying he would review a list of candidates from the list he had to fill the seat now held by Gorsuch after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

Kennedy is one of five

Catholic justices on the Supreme Court along with Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor.

Kavanaugh, 53, is a Yale Law School graduate who currently serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where he has authored more than 280 opinions. He was part of the Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's Whitewater investigation, which ultimately led to President Bill Clinton's impeachment by the House and acquittal by the Senate.

His biography on the court website notes that he is a regular lecturer at his church, the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in

Washington. He also volunteers for the St. Maria's Meals program at Catholic Charities, has coached CYO, tutors at the Washington Jesuit Academy and belongs to the John Carroll Society, a group of Catholic lawyers and professionals.

Kavanaugh dissented from a majority decision of the D.C. Circuit that rejected a request from the Archdiocese of Washington and Priests for Life to have the full court review their challenge to the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate.

He said that "the regulations substantially burden the religious organizations' exercise of religion because the regulations require

the organizations to take an action contrary to their sincere religious beliefs." But he also wrote that the government "has a compelling interest in facilitating access to contraception for the employees of these religious organizations" and should "achieve it in other ways."

The nominee must be confirmed by the Senate in order to have a seat on the Supreme Court. The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold hearings questioning the nominee and if the committee approves, a vote for or against the nominee goes to the full Senate floor and must be approved with a simple majority of 51 votes.



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# Shreveport's Bishop Duca appointed bishop of Baton Rouge

By Andrea Gallo  
The Advocate

The next bishop of Baton Rouge told members of his future flock Tuesday that they must recognize the oneness of the church, emphasizing — in Spanish — that all members are welcome and should learn more about each other's personal stories and struggles.

The Vatican announced June 26 that Pope Francis wanted Bishop Michael Gerard Duca of Shreveport to be the sixth leader of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Duca, 66, will replace Bishop Robert Muench, who has been the spiritual leader for the area's

227,000 Roman Catholics since 2002.

In accordance with church law, Muench submitted his resignation to the Vatican when he turned 75 late last year. Duca's installation is set for Aug. 24 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge.

As a gesture to those who don't speak English, the Dallas native delivered a message in Spanish and said he wished he could have also delivered it in Vietnamese. He then translated for the English-speaking audience.

"I want them to know that they are part of our family," Duca said. "We are one church.

And I can say that openly because I know that Baton Rouge is a city of much diversity. When I moved to Louisiana, I thought I would have shrimp and seafood in my freezer more than I could eat. And I moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, and I ended up with meat pies and tamales."

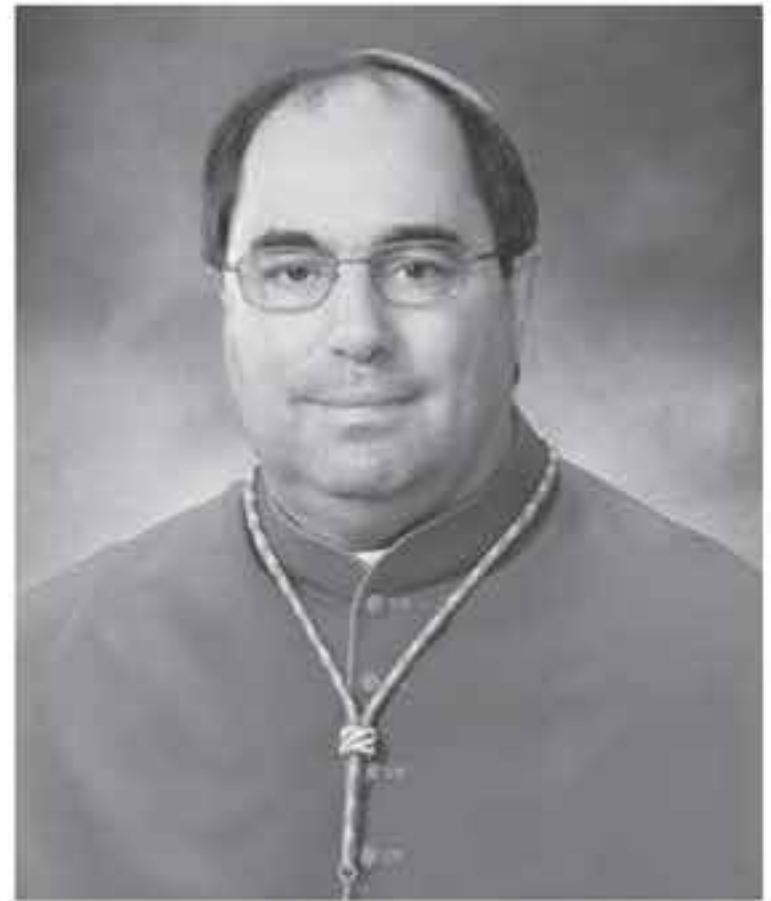
Duca said he will need to spend time to learn Baton Rouge culture, though he said he already understood its sense of hospitality, love of family and appreciation of food. A parishioner in his native Dallas introduced him to Louisiana cuisine, he said, but there is more to learn.

"That's one thing about the church, even though there may be a great difference in culture, there is one church language, the language of Mass, the language of sacraments, the language of prayer," Duca said. "The rest is lagniappe that I'll have to learn along the way."

Duca teared up as he addressed a room full of priests, lay ministers, reporters and others about the "goodness of the people of God" and the call to come to Baton Rouge. Papal nuncio Christophe Pierre — the pope's representative in the United States — asked him a couple weeks ago to become the bishop of Baton Rouge.

Duca said he did not know why he was chosen for the role. He said he has often been puzzled by his pastoral appointments during his 40 years as a priest, yet he has found joy and blessings in each of them. And he said he accepted the role as bishop of Baton Rouge with no reservations.

Duca was ordained a priest



Most Reverend Michael Duca, Bishop-elect of Baton Rouge

in Dallas in 1978 after studying at Holy Trinity Seminary there and he later received a license in canon law from the University of St. Thomas Angelicum in Rome. He served as a priest at multiple churches in Dallas, the vocations director for the diocese there and then rector of Holy Trinity seminary.

Among the challenges before him are a priest shortage that has led to some parish closures and mergers in recent years, along with a changing face of Catholicism in Baton Rouge.

He referenced his experience working with those discerning calls to the priesthood and religious life. He said he hopes to increase vocations to the priesthood in Baton Rouge while also maximizing "the talent that you have."

Duca's installation Mass is scheduled for 2 p.m. Aug. 24 at St. Joseph's Cathedral, at which time Muench will become bishop emeritus. The outgoing bishop said Tuesday he will serve in whatever capacity that Duca asks of him.

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## Moving again and the lessons offered

When I came to Alexandria, in September of 2016, just before the announcement of my appointment here, I was welcomed to our Diocese by three of our priests, Fathers Scott Chemino, Bruce Miller and Jim Ferguson. My first meeting with Bishop Herzog was arranged by Fr. Miller. At that initial meeting, it was decided that Bishop Herzog would remain at the house we call the "Bishop's Residence" and I would take up residence at the rectory of our Cathedral. I moved into the Cathedral rectory in late October 2016, and from the beginning, Fr. Jim Ferguson and the rectory staff have been like family. When Fr. Bill Gearheard took up residence with us, it enhanced what was already a happy house. But this will change in early August. I'm moving again.

In early August, I will move into the Bishop's Residence. It



### I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

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

is a beautiful home, given to the Diocese by Hugh and Anne Coughlin. Father Craig Scott is assisting us in arranging for some needed work on the house. Father Louis Sklar, who has lived at the Residence for a time, is assisting Bishop Emeritus Herzog in moving the last of his personal things to his new home at Regency House. A group of men and women that are part of the A.C.T.S. renewal/retreat ministry have volunteered to move all my stuff from the Cathedral rectory

to the Bishop's Residence, saving the Diocese lots of dollars. And, to prepare for this early August move, Deacon Richard Mitchell and his family and a few friends will assist me in packing up all I own...which is mostly books... for this change of residence.

I know that most of you reading this column have moved before, and have experienced the lessons available to us when we have to pack up and move: of all our stuff, what do we really use? In packing up all of our clothes,

how much is too much? Could others wear what I never wear? Could others use what I never use? How many pots do I really need? Having to pack up all you own allows you to take stock, and ask those important questions that every disciple of the Lord Jesus should ask, about ownership and stewardship and the care of those who go without. Jesus of Nazareth talks about storing up stuff and sharing with others and the one great gift (c.f. Luke 12:16-34).

It is hard to believe but since my ordination as a Roman Catholic priest (in 1989), I have moved thirteen times. With this fourteenth move in early August, I should have one more move in me...retirement (way down the road)...or to be with the Lord (as He sees fit). I am so grateful to those that are assisting me with this change of residence. The kindness of friends...the love of the brothers and sisters in the Lord...the goodness of our people...these gifts give me such hope for our future as a Diocese...as we proclaim the Good News of the Risen Lord... as we live abundantly, as branches connected to the Vine of Life... the Lord.

AMDG

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

Follow Bishop Talley on Twitter:  
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## Prayers and Postures during Ordination

This issue of the Church Today includes many pictures of the most recent ordinations in May and June. What a blessing it is for our diocese to have one new priest and nine new permanent deacons in active ministry doing the work of spreading the Good News of Jesus. These pictures capture the fact that the liturgy throughout an ordination is filled with beautiful postures and prayers which contain rich meaning that is often overlooked as we become caught up in the moment or due to us simply asking the question: "Why do we...?"

The most common question regarding an ordination is: "Why do the men being ordained lay on the floor during the ceremony?" To fully understand and appreciate this posture, it is important to take a small step back in the liturgy. Before the elect prostrate themselves (lay face down on the floor), they are asked a series of questions to ensure they intend to uphold the office for which they are going to be ordained (priesthood or diaconate). While the elect make these promises, they also understand they are not worthy of this calling to ordination and will need all the graces and prayers possible to fulfill these promises.



### Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard W. Mitchell

So as a sign of their unworthiness, the elect prostrate themselves while we invoke the intercessions of the Saints to pray for them and indeed to pray for us all. Having been on that floor completely surrendering myself to the Lord, I can attest that this posture is the most vulnerable and defenseless position one can take; yet is very moving because it is here that one must rely on God for protection and can hear the support of the people's prayers as we sing the Litany of Saints.

Another question I hear after a priesthood ordination is: "What is the significance of putting oil on the hands of the new priest?" Using holy oils during a liturgy is not that uncommon. At a baptism, holy oils are typically used to anoint the baby; Sacred Chrism is used during confirmation, and holy oil is used during the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; so the use of holy oils is a familiar sight to us. However, the

significance of the Bishop using Sacred Chrism (consecrated oil) during the ordination is to anoint those hands that are now most important to us. For it is those hands that will now be the instruments used in the sacrament of Eucharist; those hands that will anoint us and our families when we are sick, baptize our children, and bless us in the sacrament of reconciliation and in times of need...those are more than just hands, but are indeed anointed hands used to do God's work.

Please continue to pray for your priests and deacons that they may always have the strength to fulfil their promises made at their ordination in doing the good work of the Lord.

Keep those questions coming! You can write to Deacon Richard W. Mitchell at [dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org) or send questions to: [whydowe@diocesealex.org](mailto:whydowe@diocesealex.org)



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# Church Today Office becomes Office of Communications

To support his vision of evangelization and faith formation, Bishop David Talley has transformed what was the "Church Today Office" into the Communications and Evangelization Office. By doing this he restructured the two existing positions to carry out the office's new mission and vision of evangelization; continuing Christian formation and carrying out a cohesive plan for communicating the activities of the diocese through various media.

Cari Terracina steps in as Publications Manager and Joan Ferguson will become the Multimedia Manager.

Cari first worked for the Diocese in the Steubenville South Youth Conference office, and in the Office of Religious Formation and Training, before starting her own business managing Christian bands, musicians, and speakers. She is a member of the local Public Relations Society of Louisiana, and has her Bachelor's degree in Communications. Through her own website, *cariterracina.com*, and serving alongside the members of the *Everyday Missionaries* team, Cari considers herself blessed to gather, equip, and send out faith-filled women to live out their faith in their daily lives.

As Publications Manager,



**Cari Terracina**  
Publication Manager



**Joan Ferguson**  
Multimedia Manager

she will be responsible for the publication of the Church Today newspaper as well as other print publications for the diocese.

Cari is a parishioner at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. She is married to Dustin Terracina of Alexandria and has two step-daughters, ages 9 and 10, and a beloved family dog, Jack.

Joan Ferguson has worked for the diocese in the Church Today Office since 2004 as graphic artist and website administrator. Joan has over 30 years of experience in advertising and marketing. She will be responsible for website content development and social media engagement.

## Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick passes away



Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick, CDP, entered eternal life on June 10, 2018 at the age of 90.

Sister V. Lee, as she was affectionately called, was born in 1928 and reared on Bayou Rapides Road in Alexandria, Louisiana. She graduated from Providence Academy in 1944, became a beautician and owned and operated the Alexandria Beauty Shop for five years. Then, in 1949 she entered Our Lady of the Lake Convent in San Antonio, Texas. After three years of formation she joyfully entered the convent of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

Her work began as a teacher but after ten years, she served as principal for the next 39 years, 29 of those at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria. In 2001 she became President and resumed teaching at the school until her retirement in 2012.

Sister V. Lee may be best remembered for her "Cookie Ministry" as she baked and shared literally tens of thousands of delicious cookies throughout the diocese. So many have stories of her baking and distribution of these prize pastries.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 13 in San Antonio and a Memorial Mass was held on June 21 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, in Alexandria.

## Sister Ann Regina Ross passes away



Sister Ann Regina Ross, CDP, entered eternal life on May 22, 2018 at the age of 87.

Sister Ann Regina was born in Berwick, Louisiana but grew up in Pineville. She made her vows with the Sisters of Divine Providence on July 31, 1969. Having worked as a Catechist in parishes, Sister Ann Regina began her CDP ministry as a Director of Religious Education in St. Augustine Parish in Isle Brevelle, Louisiana.

Sister Ann Regina earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, Texas in 1970, and a Masters of Arts in Religious Education from Loyola University in New Orleans. She was certified by the Catholic University of American, Washington, D.C. in the area of content and methods of Modern Catechetics for Teachers.

Sister Ann Regina's sensitivity to the poor and women's issues opened her heart and eyes to a greater need which she called "the sense of faith." Throughout her 47 years of service as a Director of Religious Education she enriched and educated thousands in this sense of faith. She served in this capacity in numerous parishes including: Alexandria, Bunkie, Pineville, Placheville, and Isle Brevelle.

All services were in San Antonio on May 30.

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## Luke LaFleur ordained to Holy Priesthood, May 19, 2018

**LAYING PROSTRATE.** During the ordination ceremony, the ordinand lays prostrate (face down on the floor) before the altar as a sign of humility while the congregation prays the Litany of Saints. (All photos on this page courtesy of Lilly B. Photography)



**RIGHT:** Bishop Talley performs the anointing of hands portion of the ceremony.

**BELOW:** Father Dan O'Connor, pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, performs the vesting rite.



**RIGHT:** The newly ordained Father Luke LaFleur gives his very first blessing to Bishop David Talley.



To see more photos from Father Luke LaFleur's Ordination, go to [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

All photos by Lilly B Photography

**RIGHT and BELOW:** Bishop David Talley performs the "laying on of hands" during the ordination rite portion of the ceremony as Deacon Gary Schupbach looks on. Below: Each priest in attendance followed with laying on of hands.



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**ABOVE: NEWLY ORDAINED DEACONS.** Pictured from left to right: Deacons Larry Feldkamp, Paul Sunderhaus, Darrell Dubroc, Tommy Robichaux, William Endris, Bishop David Talley, Deacons William Aldridge, Luke White, Stephen Gramigna and Steven Newbury. (All photos of the deacon ordinations by Lilly B Photography)

## Nine men ordained as Deacons in June

A total of nine men were ordained as deacons in two separate ceremonies in June at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

On June 2, Bishop David Talley ordained Deacon Stephen Gramigna of St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville; Deacon Lawrence Feldkamp, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria; Deacon William Endris, St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville; Deacon William Aldridge, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria and Deacon Darrell

Dubroc of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Fifth Ward.

On June 16, Bishop David Talley ordained Deacon Paul Sunderhaus from Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth; Deacon Gene “Tommy” Robichaux, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville; Deacon Luther “Luke” White, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria and Deacon Steven Newbury, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches.

Most of the newly ordained deacons will serve their first

assignments in their home parishes.

Deacon Richard Mitchell was named Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the diocese, as Father Dan O’Connor steps down from that position after serving for the last 12 years.

A new class of deacon aspirants begins in the fall of this year.

For more information about the Permanent Diaconate program for the diocese, contact Deacon Richard Mitchell at 318-445-6424, ext. 206.



**LAYING PROSTRATE.** The deacon candidates lay facedown on the floor during the Litany as a sign of humility.



*The monks, students, faculty and Permanent Diaconate Formation Office of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology congratulate the new permanent deacons of the Diocese of Alexandria. Helping with your formation has been a blessing to us.*



*Saint Meinrad*

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To see more photos from the Permanent Diaconate Ordinations, go to [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)



ABOVE: Candidates Stephen Gramigna and Larry Feldkamp walk in procession at the beginning of the Mass.

ABOVE: Candidates Tommy Robichaux and Steven Newbury await the start of Mass.

ABOVE: Bishop David Talley lays hands on Candidate Tommy Robichaux.

BELOW: Deacon Candidates Bill Endris, Darrell Dubroc and Bill Aldridge await the next step in the Holy Rite.



BELOW: Bishop David Talley lays hands on Candidate Luke White. The act of laying on of hands is the moment that the men become ordained Deacons.



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Bar Association).

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"Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C,"  
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ABOVE: Father John O'Brien assists newly ordained Deacon Steven Newbury with vesting.



ABOVE: Bishop Talley hugs newly ordained Deacon Paul Sunderhaus.



ABOVE: Bishop Talley hands over the Book of Gospels to newly ordained Deacon Larry Feldkamp.

BELOW: Father Dan O'Connor assists newly ordained Deacon Bill Aldridge with vesting.



BELOW: Newly ordained Deacon Darrell Dubroc hugs his wife during the ceremony.



BELOW: Deacon Paul Sunderhaus announces to the congregation where his first assignment will be—Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth.



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**FIRST COMMUNION, STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH (Kolin).** Nine students made their First Holy Communion:

Deacon Greg LeBlanc and Father Binochan Jacob, pastor.

## Sacramental photo gallery: First Holy Communion and Confirmation



**ABOVE: FIRST COMMUNION, ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE AND OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR (Mansura),** held May 6 at St. Paul's. Eleven students pictured

: Amie Smith, Director of Religious Education, Shelia Chatelain, 2nd grade teacher and Fr. Irion St. Romain, pastor.



**LEFT: FIRST COMMUNION AT ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH (Isle Brevelle)** on May 6.

Pastor, Fr. Charlie Ray, CCD teachers, Nichol Delphin and Theresa Demery.



**FIRST COMMUNION, OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL (Alexandria).** Sixty-four students made their First Holy Communion on April 21.



FIRST COMMUNION, ST. GENEVIEVE (Brouillette), April 8, 2018.

Mrs. Janice Brevelle, DRE; Father Abraham Palakkattuchira; and Mrs. Judy Decuir, CCD teacher.



FIRST COMMUNION, SACRED HEART CHURCH (Moreauville), held on Saturday, May 5.



FIRST COMMUNION, OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH (Winnfield). The First Communion Class of Our Lady of Lourdes proudly display their First Communion certificates given to them by Reverend Brian Seller.



FIRST COMMUNION, OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Fifth Ward). Nine students from Our Lady of Lourdes in Fifth Ward received First Communion on March 18.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH (Hessmer).



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CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. PETER CHURCH (Bordelonville) AND ST. MICHAEL CHURCH, (Rexmere), on Wednesday, May 9.



FIRST COMMUNION, HOLY GHOST CHURCH (Marksville), on April 22. Pictured with Pastor, Fr. Abraham Varghese



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH (Alexandria)

Adults Row: Clayton Cobb, DRE, Leigh Schneider, First Communion Coordinator, Fr. Chad Partain, Pastor, Sr. Elizabeth Ann Holmes, First Communion Coordinator.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, HOLY CROSS CHURCH (Natchitoches), May 6. Pictured left to right are: Patricia Duraso, CCD Teacher,

and pastor, Fr. Marc Noel.



View these photos and more, go to [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. JAMES MEMORIAL (Alexandria) on April 22. Pastor, Fr. Gabriel Uzundu and the First Holy Communicants

Congratulations!!!



CONFIRMATION, ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CHURCH (Tallulah) May 6, 2018. Those making their confirmation



**STUDENTS AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH** recently made their First Communion. Shown with Vicar General and Pastor Scott Chemino



**CONFIRMATION, ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH (Mansura),** April 26, 2018.



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Dupont) CELEBRATED FIRST COMMUNION** on Mother's Day, May 13.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH (Marksville),** on April 25, 2018.



**CONFIRMATION, SACRED HEART CHURCH (Moreauville),** June 27.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. RITA CHURCH (Alexandria).** St. Rita Church 2017-2018 Second Graders made their First Communion on Saturday, May 12, 2018.



**FIRST COMMUNION, MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH (Woodworth), May 6.**



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH (Natchitoches), Wednesday, June 20.**



**CONFIRMATION, HOLY GHOST CHURCH (Marksville) AND ST. RICHARDS CHAPEL (Hickory Hill) was held on May 27 at Holy Ghost Church.**

, Father John O'Brien, pastor, Bishop David Talley, Deacon Steven Newbury and Deacon Richard Mitchell.



**CONFIRMATION, ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH (Alexandria).** Bishop David Talley, Father Chad Partain and Father Joseph Desimone confirmed twelve students on May 5.



**CONFIRMATION, MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Natchitoches), held Thursday, May 10.**



**CONFIRMATION, HOLY CROSS CHURCH (Natchitoches), on April 20.** Front row left to right: Rev. Francis Carabello (visiting priest from New Orleans), Bishop David Talley, Kathy Friday (Confirmation instructor); back row left to right: Deacon Richard Mitchell, Fr. Marc Noel, Dr. Cheryl Stoker (Confirmation instructor).

t, Fr. Blake Deshautelle, Fr. Brian Seiler, Deacon John Whitehead, Fr. John Cunningham, Bishop David Talley, Deacon Richard Mitchell.



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH (Cheneyville).** received First Communion April 22 during a special Mass celebrated by Father Dwight de Jesus, pastor.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, ST. ANNE MISSION, (Spanish Lake).** Fr. Thomas Paul with the parishioners and students making their First Communion.



CONFIRMATION, IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH (Tioga), on April 22.



CONFIRMATION, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH (Bunkie), on April 7.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH (Cloutierville). Bishop David Talley and Father Christina Ogbonna confirmed two students on May 25 at St. John the Baptist Church in Cloutierville.



ST. MARGARET CHURCH (Boyce). Left to right: Robert Williams, Janet McDaniel, Shelly Shuttles, Cody Michael Shuttles,



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH (Winnfield). Mrs. Tammy Procell was welcomed into the Catholic faith by Reverend Brian Seller.



ST. PATRICK CHURCH (Ferriday), received 4 candidates into the Church at the Easter Vigil. They are (R-L) Matt Malone, Vicki Malone, Fr. John Pardue, Molly Malone Hoffpaur and Danny Malone.



CONFIRMATION, CHRIST THE KING CHURCH (Simmesport), May 30, 2018.

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ST. MARY CHURCH (Winnsboro) CONFIRMATION. Three students from St. Mary Church in Winnsboro and one from St. John in Columbia were confirmed Feb. 8, by Bishop David Talley.

CONFIRMATION, ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH (Leesville), May 12.



CONFIRMATION, MARY MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH (Woodworth), on May 4. Pictured are: Fr. Paul M. LaPalme, and Bishop David Talley.

CONFIRMATION, ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH (Isle Brevelle), May 2. Bishop David Talley and pastor Father Charlie Ray bestowed the Sacrament of Confirmation to . A reception and fellowship followed.

CONFIRMATION, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH (Cottax), Saturday, April 26. Two Parishioners were confirmed by Bishop David Talley on Saturday, April 26 the at 5:30 pm Mass. Pictured are , Bishop Talley, and Father Silverino Kwebuza.

View these photos and more, go to [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

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CONFIRMATION, MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH (Plaucheville), April 5, 2018.



CONFIRMATION, STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH (Kolin), May 23, 2018.



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH (Alexandria), on April 2.



CONFIRMATION, SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH (Pineville), on Sunday April 29.

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home one day.

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CONFIRMATION, ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH (Hessmer), April 21, 2018, Bishop David Talley, Father Edwin Rodriguez, Father Derek Ducote, Deacon Richard Mitchell, Sybol Guilbeau, DRE,



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH (Fifth Ward). Bishop David Talley, Deacon Richard Mitchell, Father Kurian Zachariah and Deacon Ted Moulard with the confirmandi and religious education staff.



CONFIRMATION, ST. RITA CHURCH (Alexandria), April 6, 2018.



CONFIRMATION, ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH (Cottonport), April 14, 2018. Bottom Row: Deacon Richard Mitchell, Bishop David Talley, Fr. Jose Robles-Sanchez, pastor.

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**CONFIRMATION, ST. GENEVIEVE CHURCH (Brouillette), May 3, 2018.**  
 First row: Deacon Richard Mitchell, \_\_\_\_\_, Bishop David Talley,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Second row: Rev. Abraham Varghese,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Rev. Abraham Palakkattuchira, Rev. Rusty Rabalais. Third row: Rev. Jose Pallipurath,  
 Rev. Gus "Dutch" Voltz.

## Graduation 2018



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL (Bunkie) EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION.** 8th grade graduation was held May 18, 2018.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES SENIORS (Winnfield).** The 2018 graduating seniors of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Winnfield, received special blessings and crucifixes from pastor Rev. Brian Seiler.



**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE (Mansura) GRADUATION MASS.** The 2018 high school graduation Mass was held at St. Paul's in Mansura, Saturday, May 12.



**GRADUATION MASS, ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH (Isle Brevelle).** A special Mass was celebrated on May 27 for those graduates who are parishioners of St. Augustine Church. Pictured from left to right: \_\_\_\_\_ graduates of Natchitoches Central High School; Father Charlie Ray, pastor; Blaise Lacour, graduate of LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication; Devon Metoyer, graduate of the University of Miami with a Masters degree in Public Health and Thomas Roque, Sr., superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Alexandria.



**KC COUNCIL #3200 (St. Francis Xavier Cathedral)** held a fish fry Friday, May 4 and Gary Elliott presented a check to Deacon Richard Mitchell for the Permanent Diaconate Program.

**KC Council #3200** also presented a check to Fr. Bill Gearheard and the ladies of the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Altar Society. The funds will be used to help maintain the linens and purchase flowers for the day-to-day use in the Cathedral.

**KC COUNCIL #4156 OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH (Leesville)** held a crawfish boil on May 19. Charles Renz presented a check to Bishop David Talley for the Permanent Diaconate program.

## Enrich your faith by going on a Pilgrimage

### Pilgrimage to Ireland October 1-10, 2018

Heart of Ireland! Take a spiritual adventure through our Catholic heritage in the Emerald Isle. October 1-10, 2018 with Fr. Kenneth Michiels. To receive an information packet with application please contact St. Michael the Archangel in Leesville: 337-239-2656.

or Pierre Allemond at 318-452-6443 or email [ehsjalexandria@gmail.com](mailto:ehsjalexandria@gmail.com), or go to [sleohs.com](http://sleohs.com), and at the news/events dropdown, click *pilgrimages*.

### Pilgrimage to Holy Land Jan. 28-Feb. 6, 2019

Join Magnificat Travel and Father Martin Laird as the spiritual director for a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land Jan. 28-Feb. 6, 2019. See the Mount of the Beatitudes, Nazareth, Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulcher, Dead Sea Scrolls, Cana and so much more. For more information, call 337-291-1933 or email [info@holytravels.org](mailto:info@holytravels.org) or visit the website at [www.holytravels.org](http://www.holytravels.org).

### Pilgrimage to Holy Land November 5-15, 2018

ALMOST FULL! The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, is offering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Nov. 5-15. For more information contact Roz



**ST. RITA WISECRACKERS SENIOR QUILTING GROUP** presented a \$5,000 check to Fr. Louis Sklar, Director of Vocations, for the Seminarian Education Fund. Left to right: Brenda Daenen, Barbara Carlin, Joan Andries, Leta Juneau, Fr. Louis Sklar, Marge Harrington, Debbie Metoyer and Ann LaHood.



**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE.** Father Paul LaPalme, pastor of Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth, led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this past April. The group of 33 toured the Jordan River where they renewed their Baptismal promises.



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- **Aug. 16-19, 2018**  
**Cenla ACTS for Men**  
For more information, contact Les Glankler at 318-664-5269 or [www.cenlaacts.org](http://www.cenlaacts.org).
- **Sept. 13-16, 2018**  
**St. Joseph ACTS for Women**  
For more information, contact John Gary Dautat at 972-333-3490 or [orjdautat@crcins.com](mailto:orjdautat@crcins.com).
- **Oct. 4-7, 2018**  
**St. Marys Assumption ACTS for Men**  
For more information, contact Luke Welch at 318-359-3372 or [www.thestmarys.com](http://www.thestmarys.com).



**STEBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE.** A photo gallery of pictures from this year's Steubenville South Youth Conference, held June 22-24, can be viewed at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org). Above: Bishop David Talley shares a photo of he and Service Crew, the volunteer helpers, preparing for the beginning of this year's conference. Over 2,000 Catholic youth from across Louisiana and surrounding states attended this year's conference titled "REVEALED."

## St. Cecilia Chorale

The St. Cecilia Chorale of Avoyelles performed an all Marian concert entitled "Mary, Full of Grace" in honor of our Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God on Sunday, May 6 at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura.

The Chorale is an amateur group of choir members from throughout Avoyelles parish. They perform concerts twice a year and sing for special Masses in Avoyelles Parish throughout the year upon request. They recently performed for the 65th ordination anniversary of Msgr.

John Timmermans, at Confirmation at Christ the King in Simmesport, and two local funeral masses. On Oct. 7, they will perform for the 90th anniversary of the establishment of Church of the Little Flower in Evergreen and will sing for the 150 anniversary of the establishment of St. Joseph's Church, Marksville next year. They will be participating in the dedication of the new organ for St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura later this year as well.



**ST. CECILIA CHORALE OF AVOYELLES.** Members left to right, front row: Francine Sons, President; Joyce Brunson, Dr. Paula Childress (keyboard), Nettie Chenevert, (Organ), Wayne Coco, Music Director, Wanda Moreau, Cecilia Dailey, Velma Guillot, Karen Moreau. Second row: Roy Riche, Carlos Mayeux, Alfred Couvillion, Jennifer Dubea, Brenda Ducote, Evelyn Juneau, Carolyn Lemoine, Margret Ducote. Third row: Philip Ducote, Buddy Lemoine, William Teller, (Guitar), Gerard Moreau, Annie Lacombe, Becky Descant. Fourth row: Percy Armand, Mark Dubea, Geraldine Link, Carla Moreau, Claudette Lemoine, Amy Chenevert. Not pictured: Olivia Dear and Sharon Juneau.

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Excerpt from *Devotion to the Holy Spirit*, TAN Books, Charlotte, NC  
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**Church Today:  
August 13**

### Life in the Spirit Seminar – July 21

Do you remember your heart being set on fire at Steubenville, at ACTS, at any retreat? Do YOU want more? Come out into the deep! The Spirit has more for you! A Life in the Spirit Seminar based on Acts, Chapter 2 sponsored by CENLA Magnificat and Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Louisiana (CCRC) will be given on July 21, 2018 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. No registration fee required but you must pre-register. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. A "love offering" will be taken to offset any expenses.

For more information or to register, contact: Diane, 318-419-1547 or [dianeardoin@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeardoin@yahoo.com) or Mary, 318-359-7735 or [marykwilson51@gmail.com](mailto:marykwilson51@gmail.com).

### Supper with the Seminarians – July 27

Bishop David Talley invites you to Supper with the Seminarians for the Central Deanery set for Friday, July 27 at the St. Rita Church Holy Family Center. Father Louis Sklar, director of vocations, and the seminarians of our diocese will prepare and serve dinner. This year's event will have two seatings: 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. This all you can eat event is free, but donations are welcome and benefit the seminarian education fund.

Contact Sandi Tarver at [starver@diocesealex.org](mailto:starver@diocesealex.org), or go online at [www.diocesealex.org/supper-reservation](http://www.diocesealex.org/supper-reservation) to reserve your seat.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter – July 27-29

**A NEW SEASON: Let The Full Life of Summer Be Reflected In Your Marriage.** The kids are out of school... now give some time to the two of you. Consider making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and bring joy and passion to your special love. The next weekend in Louisiana is scheduled on July 27-29 at the Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. You can register online today at [www.LAMS-wwme.org](http://www.LAMS-wwme.org) or call Matt & Gail Quinn at 504-371-5066.

### Discernment for Women – Aug. 22-25

"Hands-ON + Hearts-IN" Program provides week-long discernment experiences for women who are considering life as a Catholic Sister. The next experiences are scheduled for Aug. 22-25, and Sept. 10-14 in Holly Springs, MS.

For five full days, women will be accompanied by Sisters from various orders in providing hands-on service to the needy. All will live in community for the week, sharing prayer, cooking, reflections, guidance and plenty of fun. Applicants must register one full month prior to the start of a specific week-long program. For more information, contact Sister Sharon Glumb at [sglumb@slw.org](mailto:sglumb@slw.org) or (847) 577-5972 or (601) 291-6738.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### Come and See – Oct. 5-7

Do you wonder if God is calling you to a deeper encounter with Him? Wonder what it's like to be completely given to God as a nun? St. Scholastica Priory in Petersham, Massachusetts will have a "come and see" Monastic Experience Weekend June 8-10 and again Oct. 5-7, 2018. Single Catholic women ages 18-40 years are invited to experience life in a house of contemplative Benedictine nuns. Participants will join in the daily balance of prayer, work and study, and have the opportunity to talk to others who have been called to a religious vocation. Listen to conferences on monastic life and prayer, learn discernment tools and more. No charge for the weekend experience. For more information contact Sister Mary Frances: [smfwym@aol.com](mailto:smfwym@aol.com) or call (978) 724-3213.



THE ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHOIR participated in the 2018 Louisiana State Choir Festival in Shreveport and received a rating of Excellent in performance and a rating of Superior in Sightreading.



THE ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR received all Superior ratings at the 2018 Solo Ensemble Festival in Alexandria. Five students also made the 2018 District II Honor Choir.



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (Leesville) CRAWFISH BOIL. The Knights of Columbus #4156 hosted a crawfish boil on Saturday, May 19 at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville. All proceeds benefited the Permanent Diaconate program.



CHRIST THE KING ROADBLOCK (Simmesport). KC Council #10564 of Christ the King Church conducted a "roadblock" on May 19 to raise money for church parish projects. One of their major projects underway at this time is the construction of a new rectory and morning chapel. Pictured left to right: Perry Lartigue, George L. Mayeaux, and Wayne Coco.



CDA COURT NOTRE DAME #1452 (Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church) present a check to Bishop David Talley for the Seminarian Education Fund. Court #1452 conducts a "Penny Collection" all year long. This year, they donated the money collected to the Seminarian Education Fund. Pictured are: Donna Young, Suzanne Evans, Marlene Sawrie, Elsie Campbell.

### Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: Aug. 13

Deadline for news:  
Friday, Aug. 3



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# July - August

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<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Illuminated Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Cenla ACTS: Retreat for Teens -- Maryhill Renewal Center						
Vacation Bible School -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville -- 8:00 a.m.-12 noon			Spirit in the Life Seminar 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria			
Vacation Bible School -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria -- 8:00 a.m.-12 noon			Vacation Bible School -- Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches -- 9:00 a.m.-12 noon			
Vacation Bible School -- Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville -- 6:00-8:00 p.m.						
PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD	PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI	PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM	PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA	PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD	PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle, (Community Center), Mansura	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Illuminated Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>27</b> Supper with the Seminarians Central Deanery 5:00 p.m. St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Worldwide Marriage Encounter -- Baton Rouge						
Vacation Bible School -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria -- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.						
PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR	PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE	PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER	PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA	PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK	PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHELS
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	AUGUST <b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Illuminated Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER	PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE	PRAY FOR J. O'BRIEN
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> VIRTUS Training 1:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	<b>9</b> Illuminated Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
FEAST of the TRANSFIGURATION of the LORD	Sacred Heart ACTS: Retreat for Men -- Maryhill Renewal Center					
PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR	PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA	PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM	PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA	PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPARAMBIL	PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH	PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> First day of class: ALL Catholic Schools	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Illuminated Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN	PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL	SOLEMNITY of the ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (a Holy Day of obligation) PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATU	PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS	PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY	PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS	PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES SANCHEZ

# Thank you

FATHER CHRISTUDAS NAYAK

*We honor and celebrate  
the retirement of our  
beloved Fr. Chris*

.... for your sincere  
and dedicated service  
these last 30 years and  
congratulations on  
your 50th anniversary  
of priesthood, may  
God bless you.



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Now we ask you, brothers and sisters,  
to acknowledge those who work hard  
among you, who care for you in the  
Lord and who admonish you.

Hold them in the highest regard in love  
because of their work. Live in peace  
with each other.

– 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-13