

CHURCH TODAY

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November 12, 2018

ON THE INSIDE

Hearing the Cry of the Poor: Marking World Day of the Poor 2018

Last year, Pope Francis suggested the Catholic Church set aside one day each year when communities can “reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel.” See page 3 for ways that you and your family can mark the day.

#GivingTuesday: Global day of giving to charities

#GIVINGTUESDAY is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. For more information on the movement or how you can give of your time, treasure, and talent see page 6 or visit givingtuesday.org.

Who is your favorite saint?

Schools and CCD classes around the diocese celebrated All Saints Day and observed the month of October as the month of the Holy Rosary. See pages 12-13 for a look at some of your favorite little saints.

Bishop David Talley embracing all things Louisiana

As he begins his third year as Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria



Anti-Semitism of Past Generations Flared Anew in Pittsburgh Shooting

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In some quarters, people thought anti-Semitism had been swept under the rug. But hiding it didn't mean getting rid of it, as was painfully evident in the murder of 11 congregants at a Pittsburgh synagogue Oct. 27.

"There have always been people who are prejudiced anti-Semites, racists, but what we're seeing is that these people have easy access to do a lot of damage and that's a very scary combination," said Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld of Congregation Ohev Sholom in Washington in an Oct. 30 telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

Rabbi Herzfeld had chartered a bus for members of his synagogue to go to Pittsburgh and mourn at funerals for some of those killed. He estimated the bus was about a half-hour from Pittsburgh when CNS contacted him. The bus, he noted, was filled.

"We are seeing extremist behavior, extremist language, dangerous language that are targeting different people that are not represented by the majority. We are seeing people who are 'different,' being targeted. We're seeing African-Americans targeted, we're seeing gay people, we're seeing Latino communities being targeted, immigrants," Rabbi Herzfeld said. "We're seeing a lot of attacks on elements in our society which are not quote-unquote majority. When we see those attacks, Jews fit into it."

"This is of a different order," said Eugene Fisher, a professor of Catholic-Jewish studies at St. Leo University in Florida. "There's a difference between painting a swastika on a synagogue and going in with a gun."

Fisher, formerly associate



FAMILY MEMBER MOURNS LOST LOVED ONE. A mourner near Rodef Shalom Temple in Pittsburgh carries a poster with family photos of Irving Younger Oct. 31. He was one of the 11 victims of a synagogue shooting four days earlier. (CNS photo/Cathal McNaughton, Reuters)

director for ecumenical and interreligious affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, noted how the roots of anti-Semitism had its start in overwhelmingly Christian Europe.

"There was the historical Christian teaching of contempt of Jews -- they did terrible things and poisoned wells, and Jews were expelled from virtually every country in Western Europe ... except for Italy where they were protected due to the papacy," he said.

While Jews were confined to ghettos in Italy, Fisher said, popes took to heart what St. Augustine had written, that "you can't read the New Testament intelligently without the Hebrew Scriptures. Whenever Jesus said something,

he was referring to something in his Bible, the Hebrew Scriptures," more commonly known to Christians as the Old Testament.

Religious animus turned into racial hatred with, ironically, the onset of the Enlightenment, when Jews were viewed not as members of a religion but as members of a race. This, Fisher said, was done to "codify hatred of the Jews."

"According to modern racial anti-Semitism, which the Nazis picked up on and used to justify the Holocaust, you couldn't convert (to Christianity). You were racially inferior and racially like vermin. ... You had to be exterminated like you had to exterminate cockroaches," Fisher said.

Even in the New World, Jews

could not escape the hatred that existed in Europe. But they were not the only group to suffer.

"Catholics did, too," Fisher told CNS. "Catholics were seen as a threat to the WASPs -- the white Anglo-Saxon Protestants -- and were a lower religious and ethnic category. Jews and Catholics were kind of classified together." Jews and Catholics, he added, "were people with a bad religion, and people you wanted to keep out of your neighborhoods."

Rabbi Herzfeld has a three-pronged solution to counter modern anti-Semitism.

"We address it by our security," he said. "Number two, we address it by coming together with acts of unity and community and building allies across

religions, across communities with community partners, we address it by doubling down on acts of *love* to replace hate with acts of *love*."

Rabbi James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee for 32 years until his retirement, spent the first six years of life growing up in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh where the Tree of Life Synagogue, the site of the shooting, is located. Cecil and David Rosenthal, two of the victims, were second cousins of Rudin.

Greeting fellow worshippers each Saturday was "what they lived for. This was their community," Rabbi Rudin said of his cousins. "I'm crying now. But they loved, and were loved."

While anti-Semitism has seemed less virulent in the United States -- though Fisher noted an increase in reported incidents in each of the last two years -- "in the United States we had a saying: Our job, and the job of enlightened Christians and Christian leaders, was to keep the lid on the garbage can, because within the garbage can is religious bigotry, anti-Semitism, racism, violence," Rabbi Rudin said.

"And our job continues to be to keep the lid on so that pathology doesn't get into the mainstream of American life."

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HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for November

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

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Looking back



November 2016:

Welcome Bishop David P. Talley, Coadjutor Bishop of Alexandria - Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States; 18 bishops and almost 90 members of the clergy joined the people of the Diocese of Alexandria in welcoming Bishop David Talley as coadjutor to Alexandria during a Mass of Welcome held Nov. 7, 2016 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Bishop Talley was given an LSU cap by Father Scott Chemino, vicar general for the diocese. Although a life-long Georgia fan, he vowed to become an LSU fan.

November 2018:

Bishop Talley held true to his word and has become an LSU fan, attending the LSU vs. ALABAMA game on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018. He had the opportunity to take a selfie with Mike the Tiger as seen on the cover of this month's issue of the Church Today, and experience the gameday atmosphere of Death Valley. For more pictures of Bishop Talley's game day experience, visit www.diocesealex.org.

HURRICANE PRAYER OF PROTECTION

Our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, spare us from all harm during this hurricane season, and protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to our help. Amen.

Hearing the Cry of the Poor: World Day of the Poor 2018

November 18, 2018 marks the second annual World Day of the Poor. Last year, Pope Francis suggested the Catholic Church set aside one day each year when communities can “reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel.” He designated this day as the World Day of the Poor, and it will be celebrated on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time each year. In this year’s World Day of the Poor message, Pope Francis reflects on Psalm 34:7, “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him.” He challenges us to use the World Day of the Poor as an opportunity to make an examination of conscience and consider whether we truly do hear the cry of the poor.

You and your family can mark the World Day of the Poor by advocating on behalf of people who are hungry and living in poverty, raising money for the poorest and most vulnerable people worldwide; and praying for global solidarity. Visit www.usccb.org or www.diocesealex.org for more information.

Feast of the Month: Saint Francis Xavier

FRANCISCAN MEDIA - Jesus asked, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre



they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely

scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who

were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

Reflection

All of us are called to “go and preach to all nations—see Matthew 28:19. Our preaching is not necessarily on distant shores but to our families, our children, our husband or wife, our coworkers. And we are called to preach not with words, but by our everyday lives. Only by sacrifice, the giving up of all selfish gain, could Francis Xavier

be free to bear the Good News to the world. Sacrifice is leaving yourself behind at times for a greater good, the good of prayer, the good of helping someone in need, the good of just listening to another. The greatest gift we have is our time. Francis Xavier gave his to others.

St. Francis Xavier is the Patron Saint of:

- Japan
- Jewelers
- Missions
- Sailors

**St. Francis Xavier's
Feast Day:
Tuesday, November 13**

Remaining connected to the Vine of Life

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower... I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing (John 15.1, 5).

The world-wide Catholic Church exists because the Lord God has willed it so. The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus gave his apostles a mandate and a mission. **The mandate the Lord gave to the Apostles and to every disciple:** “to love as I have loved you” (John 12.24, John 15.16-17), to seek holiness of life in service to all. **The mission the Lord gave to the Apostles:** “go and make disciples of all nations... baptizing them . . . teaching all to observe all I have commanded you. And *behold*, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28. 19-20). When the Holy Spirit fell upon the gathered apostles and disciples at Pentecost including the mother of Jesus the Church became Christ’s Body



I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

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

for this world—instruments of His Presence, to the greater glory of God.

What the dark storm of turmoil and scandal and sadness and anger of these present days of scandal tells us is that some of the Lord’s priests and some of the Lord’s bishops **did not remain connected to the Vine of Life, were not obedient to His Way of Life, did not accept in humility the mandate and the mission given to his followers.** What we now know is that some Bishops and some Priests have lived **immoral lives** ... living falsely, living double

lives, living a lie not for God, not in service, but in an immoral self-seeking that has brought pain and brokenness to their victims.

Please know that the Church of central Louisiana, our Diocese of Alexandria, is committed to the mandate and the mission of the Risen Lord. Please know that I am committed to serve you as a successor of the Apostles, to serve you firstly by remaining connected to the Vine of Life, to the glory of our Father, to seek to live a happy and joyful and holy life as God grants, by continually saying NO to the evil one and saying YES

to an intentional and missionary discipleship, day by day. Please know that I will do all in my power, to exhort the priests and deacons and lay-faithful of our Diocese to live the life we were called to live: a life of humility and simplicity, a life dedicated in the Lord to the service of all, as proclaimers of the Kingdom and as lovers of humanity, chaste lovers in imitation of Christ the Lord.

As we have lived through these months of horror, in seeing the fruit of evil committed by our clergy broadcast on the nightly

news and through the various outlets on the Internet, many have asked **what must we do, what can we do to answer this evil of the sexual abuse of minors, this evil of some of our Churchmen living lives of the great lie?** The Lord answers our plea: give yourself completely to me (Mark 10.17-22); seek first the Kingdom and the Lord’s righteousness (Matthew 6.33); *be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful* (Luke 6. 36); and his mother says *do whatever he tells you to do* (John 2.5).

Along with my exhortation, as a brother in discipleship and as your Bishop, I have taken measures that will allow us *once and for all* to know about the sexual abuse of minors by clergy from the establishment of this Diocese (in 1853, as the Diocese of Natchitoches) until today. To this end, these are the measures that I have put in place:

See VINE OF LIFE, page 6

Do Catholics read the Bible?

Last month we learned that the Ordo helps ensure each Catholic Church throughout the world hears the same readings at Mass each day (with some exceptions for days with “optional readings”). As promised, this month’s column will discuss more on how the Church organizes the readings to ensure all scripture is proclaimed at Mass.

One of the things that frustrates me most is when I hear someone say or read that “*Catholics don’t read the Bible.*” That could not be further from the truth! In fact, if you read the “Daily Readings” (listed in the Ordo) either at home or by attending Mass, you will join the Church in reading through (most of) the Bible every three years. One thing that may feed the idea that Catholics do not read the bible may be because for Mass, the lector does not read from a bible you buy at the bookstore. Instead the lector reads from a book called a “Lectionary.” Don’t let that fool you though, because it contains the same scripture as found in the bookstore bible. It is used



Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard W. Mitchell

because it arranges the scripture into themes and corresponds to the readings prescribed in the Ordo. These individual readings are called “*periscopes*” which is a Greek word that means a “section” (USCCB). The lectionary allows for easier management of reading the proper readings each day and reduces the possibility of confusion from flipping to different books of the bible during Mass. When I refer to the Lectionary below, remember that it IS scripture readings from the Bible.

The questions still remain: “How are the readings arranged and how do we read the bible in a three-year cycle?” The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, usccb.org, explains the arrangement of the

Lectionary quite well:

“The Lectionary is arranged in two cycles, one for Sundays and one for weekdays.

The Sunday cycle is divided into three years, labeled A, B, and C. 2017 was Year A, 2018 is Year B, and 2019 will be Year C, etc. In Year A, we read mostly from the Gospel of Matthew. In Year B, we read the Gospel of Mark and chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. In Year C, we read the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season in all three years. The first reading, usually from the Old Testament, reflects important themes from the Gospel reading. The second reading is usually from one of the epistles, a letter written to an early church community. These letters are read semi-continuously.

Each Sunday, we pick up close to where we left off the Sunday before, though some passages are never read.

The weekday cycle is divided into two years, Year I and Year II. Year I is read in odd-numbered years (2009, 2011, etc.) and Year II is used in even-numbered years (2010, 2012, etc.) The Gospels for both years are the same. During the year, the Gospels are read semi-continuously, beginning with Mark, then moving on to Matthew and Luke. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season. For Advent, Christmas, and Lent, readings are chosen that are appropriate to the season. The first reading on weekdays may be taken from the Old or the New Testament. Typically, a single book is read semi-continuously (i.e., some passages are not read) until it is finished and then a new book is started.

The year of the cycle does not change on January 1, but on the First Sunday of Advent (usually late November) which is the beginning of the liturgical year.

In addition to the Sunday and weekday cycles, the Lectionary provides readings for feasts of the

saints, for common celebrations such as Marian feasts, for ritual Masses (weddings, funerals, etc.), for votive Masses, and for various needs. These readings have been selected to reflect the themes of these celebrations.”

So, there we have it... Catholics DO indeed read the bible...every three years! Now, we are all called to take what we hear and read in scripture and spread that Good News to those around us. So even if you cannot attend Mass on a daily basis, challenge yourself to read the daily readings. If you do, you will have a deeper love for your Lord, and will come to Love the Liturgy.

Send your questions and/or share your comments with Deacon Mitchell via email to: WhyDoWe@diocesealex.org.

Daily readings can be found at usccb.org/bible or through the *iphone app, Laudate.*

Join Bishop Talley for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2020!

Join Bishop Talley and others from around the Diocese of Alexandria on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land! Beginning Monday, March 9, 2020, Bishop Talley and up to forty pilgrims from around our Diocese will be led on a prayerful journey through the Holy Land, and returning home tentatively on Thursday, March 19, 2020.



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND. Join others from around the Diocese of Alexandria for a pilgrimage of faith to the Holy Land in March 2020.

The Holy Scriptures will be illuminated for the pilgrims on this trip through the very environment in which God chose to become man. Diocese of Alexandria pilgrims will depart from Alexandria on Monday, March 9 for New Orleans or Houston for a flight to Tel Aviv, transferring to Tiberias the following day. Upon arrival, a Tour Guide will lead the group to their hotel in Tiberias on the shores of the sea of Galilee. The following day the group will travel to Cana of Galilee where

Jesus performed His first miracle at the request of His mother. Additional travel destinations include visits to the Mount of Beatitudes, Capharnaum, Cana, Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, and Caesarea Philippi.

Pilgrims will be invited to pray at the birth place of our Lord in Bethlehem, renew their baptismal vows at the Jordan River, and travel to Jerusalem to visit the Upper Room, pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, descend into the pit where Jesus was held after being arrested, walk the Via Dolorosa, stand where Mary stood

at the foot of the cross, and enter the Empty Tomb. Individuals and couples from around the Diocese are invited to join Bishop Talley for this journey, with the hope that their faith will never be the same.

The total cost of the trip is yet to be determined (dependent on final flight costs), but includes 9 nights of hotel stays with open buffet breakfast and dinner, one lunch in Galilee, full days and transfers in an air-conditioned motor coach, and an English speaking Catholic tour guide. Entrance fees per the final itinerary, parking fees where applicable, and gratuities for the guide, driver, and hotel staff are also included the fee. In addition, the Holy Mass will be offered throughout the trip.

The journey is being organized by Catholic Faith Journeys, LLC, a company specializing in creating pilgrimages and itineraries specific to Catholic dioceses,

parishes, and organizations. Catholic Faith Journeys is dedicated to providing spiritual growth through pilgrimage group travel to destinations that enhance, teach, and proclaim the Gospel.

Final arrangements are currently being planned, but individuals are asked to prayerfully consider joining Bishop Talley on this once-in-a-lifetime journey. All interested parties are asked to contact the trip coordinator, Maggie McDaniel of Catholic Faith Journeys at 419-290-8782 or maggie@catholicfaithjourneys.com or visit catholicfaithjourneys.com for more information. Once final arrangements are made, they will be publicized throughout the diocese.

Contact Maggie McDaniel for details at 419-290-8782 or maggie@catholicfaithjourneys.com

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Vine of Life

Continued from page 4

• I have created an *Ad Hoc Committee* (A), made up of lay members of the **Permanent Review Board** and clergy members of that Board as well as clergy assisting me in the Chancery, to go through all records of the **Permanent Review Board** from its inception (after the Dallas Charter of 2002) through 2018. This Committee of dedicated Roman Catholics will look at every reported allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor by a bishop or priest or deacon. We will look to see how each allegation was answered and what actions were taken.

• At the same time, I have asked for a two-step systematic study of *all* correspondence of the Bishops of this Diocese and the systematic study *all* of the personnel files of the bishops and priests and deacons that have served our people. As we are an old Diocese and since we have benefited from international clergy (at first, from France and Spain, then later, from India and nations of Africa), this study will take us some time. We are looking for any mention of an allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor.

B1. The first complete study will be made by our Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.

B2. A second complete study of all records will be made by two *lay members* of the **Permanent Review Board**, assisted by the Vice-Chancellor.

The findings of these two studies will be compared and unified as to content, by all parties of the study.

• THEN, after consulting with Chancery personnel that have served under our former Bishops for any additional information, I will take the work of the Ad Hoc Committee (A) and the work of the two studies of the records of all clergy (B1&2) and present this to the *full* membership of the **Permanent Review Board**. The Board will decide how we will publish the names of all the clerics that have been credibly accused of the immoral and criminal sexual abuse of a minor. The list of names will be published in the Church Today and shown on our website. This publication will take place when we have completed this thorough study of

all correspondence and records.

The hope? We pray that the victims of this evil will find some solace, in seeing that the perpetrating cleric has been named publicly. We pray that this *transparency* will give each of you some small comfort, knowing that I will hope to serve you as Bishop in a way that exhorts the light and love of the Lord and rejects the immoralities of clerical malfeasance, of clerical arrogance, of clerical ambition and of clerical sin.

Please know that my brothers—our Priests and our Deacons are extraordinary men and they join me in seeking holiness of life and a transparency in the way we react to any future criminal immorality against a minor, God forbid. My hope? To proclaim to all that will hear me the Way and the Truth and the Life of the Lord Jesus, He, the Vine of Life and we, His branches, are connected to the dynamic life of the Trinity, connected to life, connected to Love.

AMDG

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

#GivingTuesday: A global day of giving to charities

#GIVINGTUESDAY is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Join the movement and give - whether it's some

of your time, a donation, gift or the power of your voice in your local community. It's a simple idea. Whether you come together with your family, your church, your community, find a way to give back and then share your idea.

If you would like to make a donation to the Diocese of Alexandria, go to www.diocesealex.org and click the Donate link.

For more information about the #GivingTuesday movement, visit their website at givingtuesday.org.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday

#GIVINGTUESDAY

November 27, 2018

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year when we reconnect with friends, family and our faith but it can also be a time when we feel rushed to finish our gift shopping. It's much too easy to overlook those who may not be as fortunate. One way to impact less fortunate lives and also finish your gift list is to shop for products made ethically.

Visit the Catholic Relief Services Ethical gift guide to support those less fortunate: ethicaltrade.crs.org/guide/holiday-gift-guide/

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How's your Catholic vocabulary?

Term: Advent wreath

Definition: A band or circle of green foliage, surrounding four candles that may be enclosed in glass and are lighted successively in the four weeks of the Advent season.

They symbolize the coming celebration of Christmas, when Christ the Light of the World was born in Bethlehem.

The wreath originated in Germany, and in some countries there is a special ceremony, with prayers and hymns, associated with the lighting of the candles on the Sundays of Advent.



**First Sunday of Advent:
December 2, 2018**



FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER. Fr. Craig Scott, Deacon Richard Mitchell, and Deacon Mike Young visited the Family Justice Center of Central Louisiana located in Pineville, Louisiana. The Center works to provide critical services to survivors of family violence, domestic abuse, and sexual assault. It is located at 220 Hospital Blvd., off of Main Street in Pineville. Please call 318-448-0884 for more information.

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Office of Life and Justice

The Diocese of Alexandria Office of Life and Justice has a new contact form on the Diocese of Alexandria website at www.diocesealex.org, to use for any inquiries that do not need immediate response.

Please call 318-445-6424 ext. 225 for assistance or for more information on the services provided.

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Quiz Answer:

B. St. John of Avila

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[@BishopDavidT](https://twitter.com/BishopDavidT)



MONSIGNOR HOPPE. Msgr. Ronald Hoppe concelebrates Queen of Palestine Mass for the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem on Saturday, Oct. 27.

MASS FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS. A Mass for Women Religious was celebrated by Bishop David Talley on Sunday, Oct. 14 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Several convents were represented including Our Lady of Sorrows, Sisters of the Holy Family, Marianites of the Holy Cross, Sisters of the Living Word, and Sisters of the Secular Institute of the Two Hearts.

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COME AND SEE WEEKEND. Students from St. Mary's School, Natchitoches and Holy Savior Menard High School in Alexandria, attend a "Come and See" weekend at St. Ben's Seminary College in Covington, on Nov. 2 - 4. These visits help those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or to devote their life as a nun.

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National Appeal Supports Elderly Catholic Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Order Priests

By Beth Kennedy
USCCB National Religious Retirement Office

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held Dec. 8-9 in the Diocese of Alexandria. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, the appeal benefits 31,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

The Diocese of Alexandria donated \$20,360.26 to the last collection. Almost 94 percent of donations aid senior religious and their communities, with the remaining funds used for administration and promotion of the national appeal.

The 2017 collection raised just over \$28 million, and the NRRO disbursed \$25 million to 360 religious communities for the direct care of elderly members. Communities combine these funds with their own income and savings to help furnish necessities such as medications and nursing care. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated for congregations with critical needs and for retirement planning and educational resources.



SISTER ANITA BIANCHINI, OLS. Bishop David Talley visits with Sister Anita Bianchini, OLS last April. Sister Anita celebrates her 80th year of religious life as well as her 99th birthday this year. She is originally from Italy and has spent the last 70 years serving for the Dioceses of Alexandria and Shreveport in Louisiana.

Religious communities apply annually for financial support from the national collection, and distributions are sent to each eligible community's central house. Although women and men religious often minister outside their home dioceses, they may benefit from the allocations

disbursed to their individual orders.

"Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious have a far-reaching impact," said Presentation Sister Stephanie Still, the NRRO's executive director. "Most importantly, they help communities care for aging

members, but they also underwrite initiatives aimed at addressing the underlying causes of the funding shortages."

Religious orders are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support of all members. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious

order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—served for little to no pay. Today, hundreds of orders lack sufficient retirement savings. Of 547 communities providing data to the NRRO, only 4 percent are adequately funded for retirement. Compounding the financial crisis are the rising cost of care and the increasing number of those needing care.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the national collection in 1988 to help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Since the collection was launched, U.S. Catholics have donated \$844 million to the appeal, helping many communities stabilize their retirement outlook.

"We are overwhelmed by the ongoing generosity toward the annual appeal and by the love and thanksgiving for the service of our elder religious," said Sister Still. "Our office is committed to stewarding these funds in ways that help religious communities care for older members while continuing to serve the People of God."

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.

Seminarian Burses

October Donations

Father Peter Kuligowski	\$30.00
Father Peter Kuligowski Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$50.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mrs. Barbara Rigby	\$50.00
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$100.00
Deacon Roderick "Benny" Broussard Burse	
Mr. Thomas Lomonte and Ms. Nancy Wilkinson ...	\$200.00
Msgr. Steve Testa Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$200.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Total	\$680.00



MASS FOR KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER. Bishop David Talley celebrated the Queen of Palestine Mass for the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

Amen.



ABOVE: THE BLUE MASS. Bishop David Talley celebrated the Blue Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria on Friday, Nov. 2., honoring our law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical personnel--those who are serving or those who have fallen in the line of duty or have passed in the last year. The law officer hat and firefighter helmet represented the lives lost in the line of duty.



GUMBO COOKOFF AT SACRED HEART, PINEVILLE. A competition gumbo cook-off, hosted by the Knights of Columbus John Paul II Council #14657, was held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville on Sunday, Oct. 14. The winners of the cook-off will advance to compete with other team winners from other church parishes. Pictured above are the participants who won (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams).



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATION. Pictured to the left are Bishop David Talley and John Morovich, District Marshal for the District of Louisiana 4th Degree Knights of Columbus as he presents a check to Bishop Talley for Excellence of Religious Education. All six Knights of Columbus assemblies within the diocese submitted donations for this check through their annual dues.



ABOVE: RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS. Marcus Descant displays various relics after Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria. Pictured above, Marcus shows a girl and her family the Relic of the True Cross, the cross that Jesus died on. The relic was given to Marcus by a priest, and contains splinters of the cross.



CONFIRMATION AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES, VIDALIA. Pictured above are Bishop David Talley and Fr. Joseph Xavier, along with confirmandi from Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Vidalia. Bishop Talley and Father Xavier celebrated Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Vidalia, on Saturday, Oct. 27.

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KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER FOUNDER'S DAY. The Knights of Council #268 celebrated Founder's Day at St. Juliana in Alexandria at Mass on Sunday, Nov. 4 with Fr. Jose Robles-Sanchez as celebrant. Grand Knight Winston Bell recognized and presented certificates of appreciation to the Charter members of Council #268 which was established August of 1985. Pictured left to right are Grand Knight Bell (Presenter), Knights Paul Desselle, Jr., Leroy Landry, Willie Davis, and Herbert "Bo" Rachal. Not pictured is Gilbert Martin.



ABOVE: SEMINARIANS INSTITUTED AS LECTORS. 1st year Theologians studying at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Grant Rabalais from Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine and David Keran from the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches, were instituted as Lectors on Oct. 16. Pictured are Fr. James Wehner, Rector of Notre Dame, David Keran, Bishop Mark Spalding of the Diocese of Nashville and Grant Rabalais.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS DAY. Court Padre Pio #2141 of Cottonport hosted National Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day for the Diocese of Alexandria on Sunday, Oct. 21. Pictured above are members from the surrounding courts including those from Alexandria, Pineville, Marksville, and Cottonport after the 9:30 a.m. Mass with Fr. John Wiltse as celebrant.

BELOW: DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA SEMINARIAN, THOMAS KENNEDY, was instituted as Acolyte on Nov. 6 at a Mass held at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Acolyte is the final ministry instituted before seminarians are ordained to the diaconate. Pictured are Bishop Bernard Schlesinger, III, Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta and Thomas Kennedy.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATION. The Natchitoches Knights of Columbus made a donation to the L.P. Vaughn Elementary School Art Program. Pictured with students are Sandy Irchirl, Principal 1st-2nd Grade; Emile Metoyer; John Scott; Alanna Nelson, Art teacher; Henry Magio; Mike Menou and Natalie Ducote, Principal Pre-K and Kindergarten.



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For more pictures from around the Diocese, please visit the photo galleries at www.diocesealex.org.

Month of the Holy Rosary



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, ALEXANDRIA. The CCD children at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral learned to make rosaries. The older children helped the younger ones string the beads.



ST. RICHARD CHAPEL, HICKORY HILL. Pastor, Father Abraham Varghese, and parishioners prayed the rosary at St. Richard Chapel in Hickory Hill on Oct. 13.



ST. WINNIFRED CHAPEL, EFFIE. Pastor, Father Anthony Dharmaraj, and the parishioners of St. Winnifred Chapel in Effie, gathered Saturday, Oct. 13, in celebration of Our Lady of Fatima and prayed the rosary.



ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, ISLE BREVELLE. 101 years ago Our Lady of Fatima requested, "Pray the Rosary." On Oct. 13, parishioners from St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle joined other churches in the diocese and across the nation at the noon hour to join the Coast-to-Coast Rosary for America.



ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH, MANSURA. Pastor, Father Irion St. Romain and the children of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura, participated in a Rosary Rally on Oct. 13.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. A rosary rally was held on Oct. 13 on the steps of St. Joseph Church in Marksville. This rally was conducted in conjunction with Coast-to-Coast Rosary and over 23,000 other rosary rallies held throughout the nation on that day. Pastor, Father Rusty Rabalais, led the praying of the rosary.

Who's your favorite saint?

Schools and CCD classes around the diocese celebrated All Saints Day as well as the month of the Rosary. Take a look for your favorite little saint below!



PARADE OF SAINTS, ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, LEESVILLE.



ALL SAINTS DAY CEREMONIES. ABOVE: Students from St. Joseph's School, Plaucheville. Students processed into the church at the beginning of Mass, and when Mass was complete, each student was called to the altar. As their saint was announced, a brief description was given, and each received a certificate of participation and a special blessing from pastor, Father Martin Laird.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO. CCD students dressed up as saints for All Saints Day Mass, Nov. 1.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCES. Students prayed and cleaned grave sites in anticipation of All Soul's Day.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCES. First graders dressed up as saints for the school's All Saints Day Mass.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. The faculty and staff at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville participated in the annual parade of saints. Pictured front row, left to right: Karen Moreau, Michelle Daigrepont, Tammy Guillory, Amanda Reed, Erica Coco, Kathy Couvillion, Amy Lemoine, Kathrine Freeman. Second row: Christel Voorhes, Barbara Vead, Rquel Lemoine, Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, principal, Brenda Coco, Carmen Necaie, Ashley Borrel. Back row: Carla Moreau, Cindy Roblin, Sr. Lizbeth Gutierrez, Marvin Guillot, Karen Guillot, Rhonia Smith, Dan Soldani.



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL, BUNKIE. Students from St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie dressed up as saints for their All Saints Day Mass, Nov. 1. Pictured with the students is pastor, Father Scott Chemino, VG.

Continue to be an evangelizing Church, Nuncio tells Encuentro delegates

By Norma Montenegro Flynn
Catholic News Service

GRAPEVINE, Texas (CNS) -- Quoting from Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel," Archbishop Christophe Pierre encouraged Hispanic Catholic leaders and bishops to continue working toward being an evangelizing church by seeking an encounter with Christ and taking initiative while accompanying those on the peripheries.

"The church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice," Archbishop Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, said Sept. 20, the opening day of the Fifth National Encuentro.

Nearly 3,000 ministry leaders at the gathering in Grapevine were selected to represent 159 dioceses across the country.

During the Sept. 20-23 event, participants were taking part in listening and dialogue sessions to discuss a wide range of issues they consider to be priorities in Hispanic Catholic ministry for the church in the United States.

The Fifth National Encuentro, also called V Encuentro, is a process of missionary work, consultation,

leadership development and community building that seeks to develop better ways in which the Catholic church can respond to Hispanic Catholics in parishes around the country. It also seeks to strengthen them as leaders and missionary disciples.

As in previous encuentros, the goal is to develop a national pastoral plan for Hispanic ministry for the present and for years to come.

Archbishop Pierre, in his keynote address, praised the work done by Encuentro leaders to reach those on the peripheries as they answer the call to be missionary disciples.

In remarks delivered in both English and Spanish, the papal nuncio warned against judging and condemning the church and considering it distant. "We are the church, if there's need for a conversion it starts with us," he said.

He also challenged the leaders to seek new ways to reach out to those who are indifferent and to those who have abandoned the church or are on existential and spiritual peripheries.

"What leads to a change of heart in Christians is precisely a missionary spirit," he said.

The archbishop described the characteristics of an evangelizing church: getting involved, taking initiative, staying committed,



V ENCUESTRO. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, delivers the keynote address to delegates Sept. 20 during the Fifth National Encuentro in Grapevine, TX. The Sept. 20-23 event was a gathering of more than 3,200 Hispanic Catholic leaders and about 125 bishops from across the country. (CNS photo / Tyler Orsburn)

accompanying others, bearing fruits and feeling joy.

He reminded participants that as Pope Francis said: "The church in the United States, as in other parts of the world, is called to 'go forth' out of its comfort zone and become leaven of communion."

The nuncio also urged everyone to get involved and not just remain as spectators and invited bishops and clergy to keep their vocations alive.

"Accompaniment entails guiding, encouraging and supporting, and uniting. The

church that actively does this is a synodal church -- a church that walks together. One speaks of synodality in the church and synodality of the church," he added.

He explained synodality "in" the church as a church that journeys together renewing the life and practice of faith through constant discernment and action involving many forms of participation and action. Synodality "of" the church, he said, refers to the journey of the church with humanity through

history.

"The Encuentro process has shown the effectiveness of synodality 'in' the church -- listening, speaking, participating by asking critical questions and discerning the path forward. If communion is a sharing of the faithful in the mysteries of faith and mission of the church, synodality is the sign and fulfillment of communion."

Bearing fruits requires discernment and patience, he stressed. "Patience in the art of discernment and accompaniment allows the whole church to move forward."

Archbishop Pierre told participants not to forget about joy along the journey. "Joy is the greatest experience of the church that goes forth. The Eucharist is the source and summit of all life in the church. The Eucharist is the sacrament which nourishes Christian joy."

He concluded by inviting others to live the joy of the Gospel.

"It is my sincere hope that as we gather for these days, we may be the church that Christ wants us to be -- with him at the center of our lives, our conversations and our ministry, confident that with the Holy Virgin of Guadalupe to accompany us and to intercede for us, we may always move forward in hope, making known the joy of the Gospel."



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Manna House serves up lunch, help, and hope

By Cari Terracina
Publications Manager

“Once you start serving at Manna House, you normally don’t stop,” says one Manna House volunteer.

Manna House, our local food kitchen, is open 365 days per year, including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. Begun 25 years ago by Father Gerard Foley and a group of volunteers, Manna House officially opened its doors on May 1, 1990 at 2655 Lee Street. Nineteen people showed up that day to eat a free, hot meal. Today, the food kitchen serves 200-250

people per day, totaling around 6,500 individuals per month.

All of these years later, Manna House still survives on the generosity of volunteers, and is dedicated to banishing hunger in Central Louisiana. The organization continues to rely on volunteers and donations to keep the ministry going, receiving no financial assistance from the federal, state, or local government, or from any one particular church, diocese, or organization.

Feeding several hundred people daily requires an army of dedicated volunteers to collect the food, prepare and cook the



IT STARTS WITH ONE MEAL A DAY. Manna House provides free, hot meals daily, 365 days a year, in addition to connecting individuals to the services they need, all with the goal of banishing hunger in Central Louisiana.

food, wash dishes, and clean up. But that’s not all that’s offered at Manna House. Claire Lemoine of the Cenla Pregnancy Center recently visited the ministry, visiting with individuals as they passed through the line, offering information concerning the women’s resource center and resources available to men and women alike. Manna House also partnered with Zion Hill, Walmart, and others to host a Health Fair at the Lee Street location, offering free haircuts and health screenings from medical professionals, just in time for the beginning of the school year.

“Feeding and bringing individuals services that they would not normally have access to is what we do,” says Jessica Viator, executive director of the ministry. Most recently, Emmanuel Baptist Church visited the clients of Manna House to offer free family photos, a small but important luxury for families who could not otherwise afford this precious gift.

“We want our Manna House family to feel special, especially during the holidays but all year round as well.” To accomplish this goal, Viator has a few suggestions for anyone interested in helping out at Manna House:

Volunteering

Volunteers are already scheduled to serve at Manna House on Thanksgiving and Christmas of this year, but additional volunteers are welcome throughout the rest of 2018 and into the new year. Children are welcome to volunteer with their parents, but parents are asked to only bring those children age 8 and older, and to maintain a ratio of one adult to four children. Parents or sponsors are asked to stay with their children as they volunteer. Individuals or groups are asked to call Manna House ahead of time at 318-445-9053 or email cenlamannahouse@gmail.com to schedule their hours.

Food and Supplies

Manna House is able to continue their ministry because of generous donations from the community. However, because they serve the public, various regulations must be maintained in order to keep serving those in need. Manna House is happy to accept non-perishable food items and bulk canned goods; sugar, spices, and cooking oil; coffee, tea, non-dairy creamer, shelf-stable milk, and bottled water; and grains and starches such as crackers, dry cereal, rice, oatmeal,

pasta and instant potatoes. A gift card to Sam’s Club also gives the ministry the resources it needs to go out and purchase the exact ingredients they need to prepare daily meals.

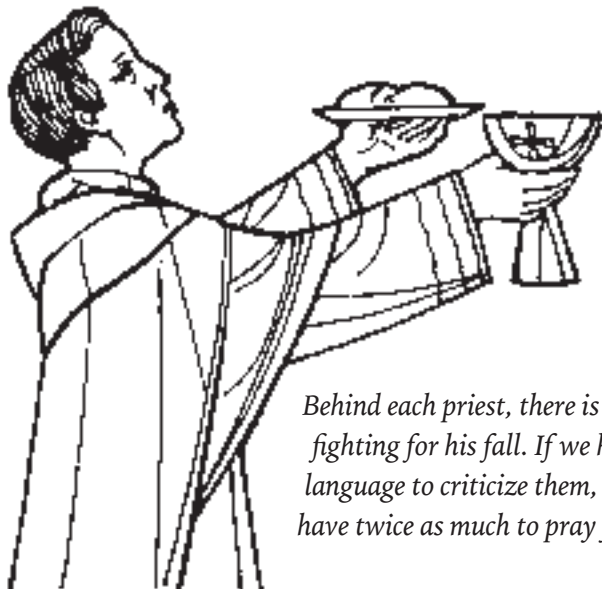
Other items that community members often don’t think about when giving to Manna House include paper products and cleaning supplies that are used daily. Again, a gift card to Sam’s Club is an excellent way to help provide these much needed products, but community members may also give quickly and easily through the AmazonSmile Charity program. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. To select Manna House as the charity of your choice, please visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0737060>. A wish list of items that Manna House uses is also available at amazon.com, by searching “MannaHouse” (one word) under the “Find a List” menu option.

Monetary donations and sponsorships

In addition to money, Manna House accepts gifts of time, food, and supplies. However, recurring donations or sponsorships help the ministry to better plan throughout the year. Support the work of Manna House by visiting givetomannahouse.com, and donating as little as \$3.00 to provide one plate of food.

Individuals and families are also able to donate in honor of or in memory of a loved one, and groups and corporations are able to “Adopt Manna House for a Day” by providing for the cost of that day’s meal, typically about \$800, and even serving the meal as a team building opportunity.

For more information on the Manna House Sponsored Meals Program, or to schedule volunteer hours for the new year, please call 318-445-9053 or email cenlamannahouse@gmail.com.



Behind each priest, there is a demon fighting for his fall. If we have the language to criticize them, we must have twice as much to pray for them.

The Priest’s Prayer

Oh Holy God, Lord of Hosts
Bless our priest with the Holy Ghost.

Give them graces to come through the day,
Shower them with love for this we pray.

You placed them on earth to imitate you,
Many were called but you chose
only a few.

You gave them power to change
bread and wine,
Into your body and blood, eternally divine.

So, protect them from the evil one,
And stay by their side until your
work is done.

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Continúa siendo una Iglesia evangelizadora, Nuncio le dice a los delegados de Encuentro.

Por Norma Montenegro Flynn
Servicio de Noticias Católicas

GRAPEVINE, Texas (CNS) - Cita de la exhortación apostólica del Papa Francisco "La alegría del Evangelio", el Arzobispo Christophe Pierre animó a los líderes y obispos hispanos católicos a continuar trabajando para ser una iglesia evangelizadora buscando un encuentro con Cristo y tomando la iniciativa. Acompañando a los de las periferias.

"La iglesia que 'avanza' es una comunidad de discípulos misioneros que dan el primer paso, que están involucrados y apoyan, que fructifican y se regocijan", dijo el 20 de septiembre el Arzobispo Pierre, nuncio apostólico en los Estados Unidos. Día del V Encuentro Nacional.

Cerca de 3,000 líderes ministeriales en la reunión en Grapevine fueron seleccionados para representar a 159 diócesis en todo el país.

Durante el evento del 20 al 23 de septiembre, los participantes participaron en sesiones de escucha y diálogo para discutir una amplia gama de temas que consideran prioritarios en el ministerio hispano católico para la iglesia en los Estados Unidos.

El Quinto Encuentro Nacional, también llamado V

Encuentro, es un proceso de trabajo misionero, consulta, desarrollo de liderazgo y desarrollo de la comunidad que busca desarrollar mejores formas en que la iglesia católica pueda responder a los católicos hispanos en parroquias de todo el país. También busca fortalecerlos como líderes y discípulos misioneros.

Al igual que en encuentros anteriores, el objetivo es desarrollar un plan pastoral nacional para el ministerio hispano para el presente y para los próximos años.

El Arzobispo Pierre, en su discurso de apertura, elogió el trabajo realizado por los líderes de Encuentro para llegar a aquellos en las periferias mientras responden al llamado a ser discípulos misioneros.

En comentarios pronunciados en inglés y en español, el nuncio papal advirtió contra juzgar y condenar a la iglesia y considerarla lejana. "Somos la iglesia, si hay necesidad de una conversión, comienza con nosotros", dijo.

También desafió a los líderes a buscar nuevas formas de llegar a aquellos que son indiferentes y a aquellos que han abandonado la iglesia o están en periferias existenciales y espirituales.

"Lo que conduce a un cambio de corazón en los cristianos es precisamente un espíritu misionero", dijo.



V ENCUESTRO. El arzobispo Christophe Piere, nuncio apostólico en los Estados Unidos, pronuncia el discurso de apertura a los delegados el 20 de septiembre durante el Quinto Encuentro Nacional en Grapevine, TX. El evento del 20 al 23 de septiembre es una reunión de más de 3,200 líderes católicos hispanos y unos 125 obispos de todo el país. (Foto CNS / Tyler Orsburn)

El arzobispo describió las características de una iglesia evangelizadora: involucrarse, tomar la iniciativa, mantenerse comprometido, acompañar a otros, dar frutos y sentir alegría.

Recordó a los participantes que, como dijo el Papa Francisco: "La iglesia en los Estados Unidos, como en otras partes del mundo, está llamada a" salir "de su zona de confort y convertirse en levadura de la comunión".

El nuncio también instó a todos a involucrarse y no solo a permanecer como espectadores e invitar a obispos y clérigos a mantener vivas sus vocaciones.

"El acompañamiento implica

guiar, alentar, apoyar y unir. La iglesia que hace esto activamente es una iglesia sinodal, una iglesia que camina junta. Uno habla de sinodalidad en la iglesia y sinodalidad de la iglesia", agregó.

Explicó la sinodalidad "en" la iglesia como una iglesia que viaja junta renovando la vida y la práctica de la fe a través del discernimiento y la acción constantes que involucran muchas formas de participación y acción. La sinodalidad "de" la iglesia, dijo, se refiere al viaje de la iglesia con la humanidad a través de la historia.

"El proceso del Encuentro ha demostrado la eficacia de la

sinodalidad en la iglesia: escuchar, hablar, participar haciendo preguntas críticas y discernir el camino a seguir. Si la comunión es un compartir de los fieles en los misterios de la fe y la misión de la iglesia, la sinodalidad es el signo y el cumplimiento de la comunión".

Dar frutos requiere discernimiento y paciencia, subrayó. "La paciencia en el arte del discernimiento y el acompañamiento permite a toda la iglesia avanzar".

El arzobispo Pierre les dijo a los participantes que no olvidaran la alegría a lo largo del viaje. "La alegría es la experiencia más grande de la iglesia que sale. La Eucaristía es la fuente y la cima de toda la vida en la iglesia. La Eucaristía es el sacramento que nutre la alegría cristiana".

Concluyó invitando a otros a vivir la alegría del Evangelio.

"Espero sinceramente que al reunimos por estos días, podamos ser la iglesia que Cristo quiere que seamos, con él en el centro de nuestras vidas, nuestras conversaciones y nuestro ministerio, confiados en que con la Santa Virgen de Guadalupe "Para acompañarnos e interceder por nosotros, siempre podemos avanzar en la esperanza, dando a conocer el gozo del Evangelio".

QUIZ: Who said it?

Which saint said the following:

"One act of thanksgiving, when things go wrong with us, is worth a thousand thanks when things are agreeable to our inclinations."

Was it:

- A. St. Teresa of Avila
- B. St. John of Avila
- C. St. Francis Borgia
- D. St. Thomas Aquinas



Answer on page 7

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By Michelle Johnson
EWTN Global
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close as your nearest smartphone or computer. All you have to do is go to your favorite podcast app, type in the name of the show and subscribe. Below is a small sample of available podcasts.

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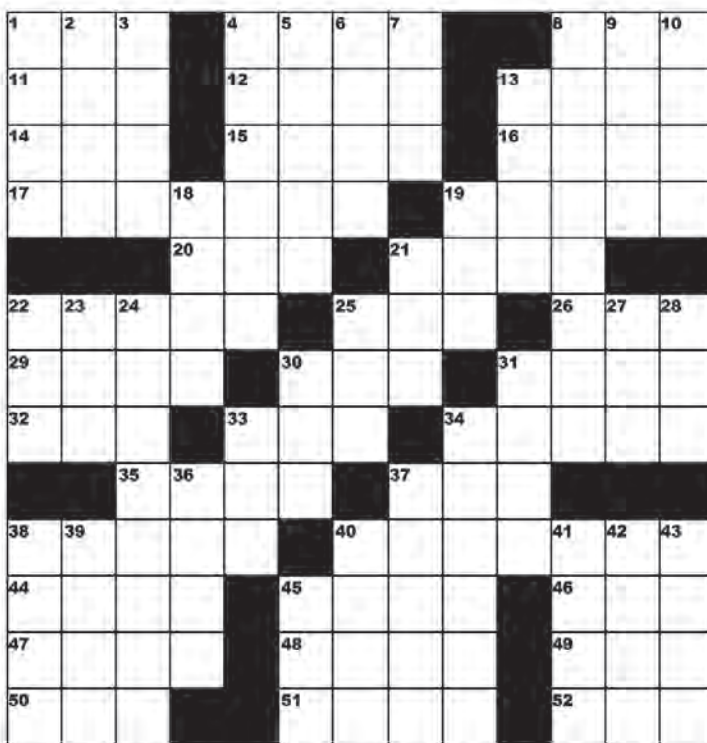
- "Daily Catholic Mass" for inspiring homilies by EWTN's own Franciscan Friars of the Eternal Word (MFVAs);
- "Mother Angelica" for timeless wisdom from EWTN's foundress.
- "EWTN News Nightly with Lauren Ashburn" for the day's breaking news;
- "The World Over Live with Raymond Arroyo" for in-depth news discussions & interviews;
- "EWTN Pro-life Weekly" with Catherine Hadro for actionable pro-life information;
- "EWTN Bookmark" with Doug Keck for a discussion about great Catholic books;

- "Called to Communion" with David Anders for answers to your most burning Catholic questions;
- "The Journey Home" with Marcus Grodi for conversion stories;
- "EWTN Live" with Fr. Mitch Pacwa for intelligent discussions with Catholic thinkers;
- "Scripture & Tradition" with Fr. Mitch Pacwa for a weekly Catholic Bible study;
- "Father Spitzer's Universe" with Fr. Robert Spitzer and Doug Keck for discussions on the intersection of faith and reason.
- "Life on the Rock" with the MFVAs for a focus on the New Evangelization.

Visit ewtn.org for a complete list of available podcasts or more information concerning the EWTN organization.

The Cross Word

November 18
and 25, 2018



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Readings: Dan 12:1-3; Heb 10:11-14,18; Mk 13:24-32
And Dan 7:13-14; Rev 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

ACROSS

- 1 Recede
- 4 Jesus rose from the ___
- 8 Received
- 11 Shall see Christ's coming
- 12 ___ mater
- 13 European monetary unit
- 14 Long-term memory
- 15 Glowing gas
- 16 False bible god
- 17 Not good on water
- 19 Globe
- 20 "My kingdom is not of this ___"

21 "___ of Zebulun"

- 22 "___ obstat"
- 25 Brined salmon
- 26 Annoy
- 29 Reverent
- 30 Israelite
- 31 Tropical island
- 32 "The Lord, Our ___"
- 33 Jesus chose to ___
- 34 Restricted area of city
- 35 Uses shallow words
- 37 "___ Grande"
- 38 Dead do in dust
- 40 "Martyr" means
- 44 Metal thread
- 45 A bludgeon

- 46 Also
- 47 Names written in the ___
- 48 Jab ___
- 49 Pot
- 50 West northwest
- 51 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- 52 Possessive pronoun

DOWN

- 1 Snaky fish
- 2 Computer memory unit
- 3 Torah table
- 4 Visionary prophet
- 5 The chosen ones
- 6 Wild
- 7 Fifth son of Jacob
- 8 ___ angel
- 9 Spoken
- 10 Bidden
- 13 Dark brown
- 18 Skidded
- 19 Used to make church candles
- 21 Not a "high" Mass
- 22 Old horse
- 23 ___ Jima
- 24 Row of trees
- 25 Sheltered side
- 27 Regret
- 28 Baby goat
- 30 Sail
- 31 Will not give its light
- 33 Brief swim
- 34 Harp
- 36 Related to onion
- 37 Takes a chance
- 38 Southwest by west
- 39 ___ of Judah
- 40 Courts
- 41 Decorative needle case
- 42 Arrange in order
- 43 Jacob had 12
- 45 Central processing unit

Diocese of Alexandria • Catholic Schools Office

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2019-2020 School Year**

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Inquiries and applications may be sent to:

Diocese of Alexandria
Catholic Schools Office
4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, Louisiana 71303

Deadline to submit Application Packet: November 30, 2018

For Application Packets, please contact:

Denese Carter (318) 445-6424 Ext. 227

or

Rev. Dan O'Connor, Pastor (318) 445-3693

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Penance Services

Times below were available at press time. Check www.diocesealex.org for an updated list.

Eastern Deanery

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:15 p.m. -- St. Patrick Church, Ferriday
 Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:00 p.m. -- Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Vidalia
 Thursday, Dec. 13, 6:00 p.m. -- St. Gerard Mission, Jonesville
 Monday, Dec. 17, 5:30 p.m. -- St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph

Central Deanery

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6:00 p.m. -- Mary Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 6:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin

Friday, Dec. 7, 5:00 p.m. -- St. Louis Church, Glenmora

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:00 p.m. -- St. Francis Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 6:00 p.m. -- St. Peter Mission, Elmer
 6:10 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville
 6:30 p.m. -- St. John the Baptist Church, Deville

Monday, Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m. -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 6:30 p.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria

Avoyelles Deanery

Mondays in December: 3, 10 & 17 at 5:00 p.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle Church and Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Mansura "The Light Is On" Confessions

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m. -- St. Genevieve Church, Brouillette
 6:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:00 p.m. -- Holy Ghost Church, Marksville
 6:00 p.m. -- St. Francis de Sales Church, Echo

Friday, Dec. 14, 6:00 p.m. -- St. Joseph Church, Cheneyville

Monday, Dec. 17, 6:00 p.m. -- Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 6:00 p.m. -- St. Charles Chapel, Goudeau

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 6:00 p.m. -- St. Peter Church/St. Michael Church, Bordelonville
 6:00 p.m. -- Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine
 6:00 p.m. -- St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie

Natchitoches Deanery

Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m. -- St. John the Baptist Church, Cloutierville

Dec. 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8 is always a Holy Day of Obligation because the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the patronal feast of the United States. In other words, we claim Mary as our patron saint under this special title of the Immaculate Conception. That means she was conceived in the marital union of her parents--who were believed to have been St. Joachim and St. Anne.

"The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." --Pius IX, *ex cathedra*, *Ineffabilis Deus* 1854.

This year the solemnity falls on a Saturday, causing special Mass times and provisions for your convenience. Contact your church parish office for Mass times if you do not see it on the list below:

Friday Dec. 7, Vigil Mass

4:00 p.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria
 4:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville
 4:00 p.m. -- St. Francis of Assisi Mission, Waterproof
 5:15 p.m. -- St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport
 5:30 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 6:00 p.m. -- St. John Chapel, Columbia

Saturday, Dec. 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

8:00 a.m. -- (Latin) St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 9:00 a.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria
 9:00 a.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
 9:00 a.m. -- St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie
 9:00 a.m. -- St. Mary's Church, Winnsboro
 10:00 a.m. -- St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport
 10:00 a.m. -- St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph
 12:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville
 12:15 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 4:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville
 4:00 p.m. -- St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie
 8:00 a.m. -- (Latin) St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
 10:00 a.m. -- St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph
 10:30 a.m. -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
 12:15 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria

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Local Christmas events

Nov. 17-Jan. 6, 2019:

City of Natchitoches 92nd Christmas Festival of Lights

Over 300,000 Christmas lights and 100 lighted set pieces illuminate downtown Natchitoches and Cane River Lake every evening at dusk through January 6, 2019. All Christmas events take place in Downtown Natchitoches along the banks of Cane River Lake and the Historic District. Visit www.natchitocheschristmas.com for a complete schedule of dates, times, and events.

Nov. 17-18:

Stocking Up for Christmas

The St. Frances Cabrini Church Sanctuary Society will hold a "Stocking Up for Christmas" event on Nov. 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Activities Bldg. Shop our Frozen Foods Dept. and Sweet Shoppe for all your holiday needs. Also, bid on your favorite items in the Silent Auction as well as taking a chance to win our "Split the Pot" drawing at 5:45 p.m. on Nov. 17. On Sunday, Nov. 18, dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Nov. 22: Ferriday Community Thanksgiving Service

Join St. Patrick's Church, along with the Methodist and

Presbyterian churches in Ferriday, for a Thanksgiving service on Thursday, Nov. 22 at 6:00 p.m. Reception to follow.

Christmas at the Nest - Nov. 27

Holy Savior Menard High School invites you to the 5th Annual "Christmas at the Nest" from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 27 in the school library. If your child is in Pre-K through 6th grade, join us for story time with Award winning storyteller, Sylvia Davis. We will have pictures with Santa, ornament making, pinatas and light refreshments. Free and open to the public. Please bring a non-perishable food item as donation to the Food Bank of Central La.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1: Alex Winter Fete, Downtown Alexandria

Alexandria will be able to step into a magical experience in Downtown Alexandria. This year will see the return of several favorite attractions along with some new events and hidden activities for everyone to enjoy. This winter celebration is free for all ages. Visit www.cityofalexandria.com for more information.

Dec. 2: Advent Lessons and Carols, St. Patrick's Church in

Ferriday

Join St. Patrick's Church, along with the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Ferriday, for a Lessons and Carols service at 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 2: St. Nicholas Day, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

Join Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria for a celebration of St. Nicholas Day for children at 11:30 a.m.. Call 318-445-9748, ext. 216.

Dec. 7-8 and 14-23: Holiday Light Safari, Alexandria Zoo

Alexandria Zoo is lighting up the season with Holiday Light Safari, featuring hundreds of thousands of lights, holiday train rides, Santa, and activities for the kids. Admission is \$8 (children ages 3 and under get in free), opening 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 8: Old-Fashioned Christmas, Kent House Plantation

Featuring plenty of crafts for everyone to make and take, Kent House will again host their Old-Fashioned Christmas, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and entertainment with the family.

Admission is free. Call 318-487-5998 for more information.

Dec. 8: Christmas Spectacular, Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center

Don't miss your chance to have your Christmas spirit lifted for the 11th year in a row with the Coughlin-Saunders Christmas Spectacular at 7:00 p.m. Visit coughlin-saunderspac.org for more information or to purchase tickets.

Dec. 12: Children's CCD Nativity Program, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

The church's annual nativity program for CCD students and parents will be held 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Church. Call 318-445-9748, ext. 216 for more information.

Dec. 13: Advent Reflection, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

Fr. Derek will present a faith formation talk at 6:30 p.m. in the Church, free to all adults. Call 318-445-9748, ext. 216 for more information.

Christmas Concerts

Dec. 3: The Rapides Parish Symphony Orchestra returns to its long-time home, Guinn Auditorium for a concert of holiday favorites with the Louisiana College Chorale. Visit www.rapidessymphony.org for more information or to purchase tickets.

Dec. 4: Lessons and Carols featuring the NSU Chamber Choir at Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches at 6:00 p.m. with free admission.

Dec. 11: Join the Red River Chorale for their annual holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. This concert features choral selections accompanied by string ensemble and organ as well as unaccompanied pieces, all to prepare us for the Christmas season. Visit redriverchorale.com for more information or to purchase tickets.



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Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday Dec. 8

a Holy Day of Obligation

Detroit Archdiocese unveils 'Unleash the Gospel' missionary movement

By Mike Stechsulte
Catholic News Service

DETROIT (CNS) -- What began as a rallying cry for the Archdiocese of Detroit is slowly building into a full-fledged missionary movement called "Unleash the Gospel."

Inspired by Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron's 2017 pastoral letter on the missionary transformation of the archdiocese, the movement was being launched at parishes in southeast Michigan the weekend of Nov. 3-4.

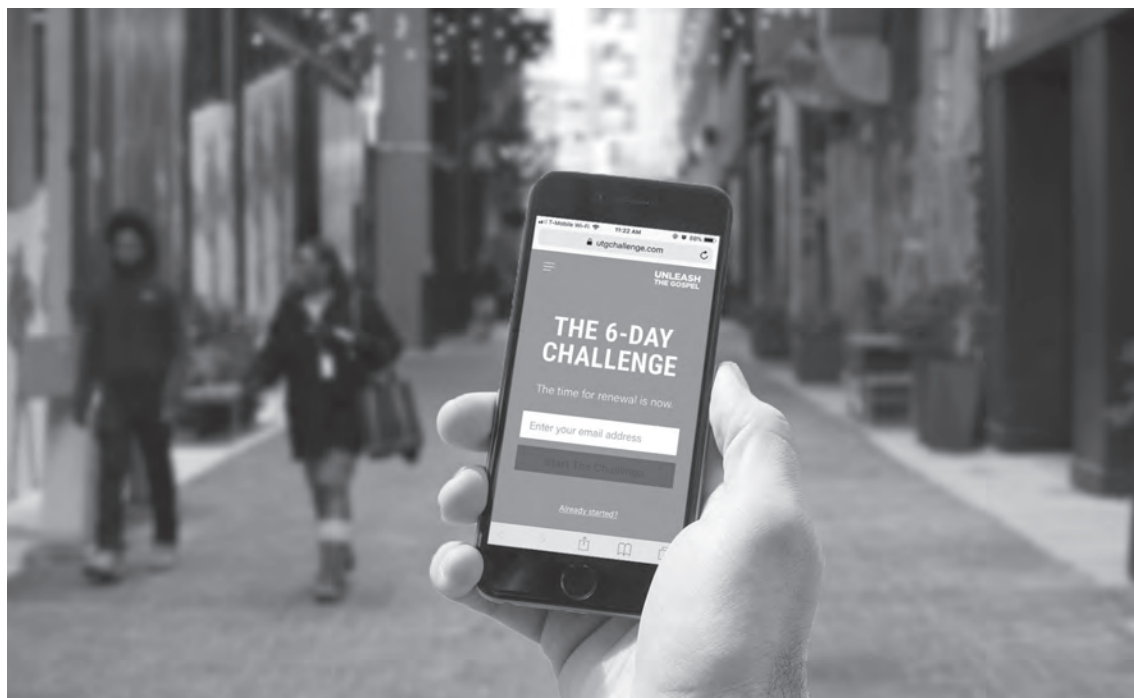
It is serving to help the faithful continue in what diocesan leaders called a journey of transformation and spiritual renewal centered on Jesus and the life-changing message of the Gospel.

Hundreds of volunteers were to be dispatched to all 218 parishes. The volunteers were commissioned to encourage parishioners to take up the mission of renewal through a six-day challenge.

The challenge, which includes a digital component, asks Catholics to devote five minutes per day to learn and pray about what it means to be a church on mission filled with joyful, missionary disciples.

"We have heard the Holy Spirit speak clearly of God's missionary plan for our archdiocese. We are called to go back to the original mission of the church and to share the good news of the Gospel -- to unleash the Gospel -- throughout southeast Michigan and beyond," Archbishop Vigneron said in a statement.

"It is with a renewed spirit of hope and faith in the Lord Jesus that I invite the faithful throughout the archdiocese to embrace this mission and walk with us this path



UNLEASH THE GOSPEL CHALLENGE. In this photo illustration, a person holds a cellphone with the "Unleash the Gospel Challenge" website displayed. More than 550 volunteers from the Detroit area were dispatched to every parish Nov. 3 to introduce the next phase of the missionary movement in the Detroit Archdiocese. (CNS illustration/courtesy Detroit Catholic)

to the kingdom of God," he said.

At the core of the initiative, which follows the 2016 archdiocesan synod on evangelization, is the need to make the message of salvation readily accessible and available to a culture that often seems to have forgotten Jesus, said Father Stephen Pullis, archdiocesan director of evangelization, catechesis and schools.

"Unleash the Gospel" really is a missionary movement of the Holy Spirit that seeks to invite people to consider how God might be active in our age," Father Pullis said. "It's not enough to simply say we believe in Christ. We need to equip evangelizers by

inviting people to become joyful, missionary disciples and learning how to share that message with others."

In a sense, he explained, the movement is about returning to the church's roots of proclaiming the "kerygma," or the initial, basic message of salvation: that humans were created in God's image, man and woman betrayed God's friendship through sin, and Jesus Christ was sent to repair that relationship through his saving death and resurrection.

The initiative also was designed to teach people to live that basic message of salvation as being true -- which includes sharing that Gospel with others.

something about it."

In 2019, the archdiocese plans to launch a separate magazine and online evangelization and faith-formation platform centered on "Unleash the Gospel."

The archdiocese also planned to introduce a podcast in November and make resources available to parishes to help parishioners becoming bold Christian witnesses.

Susan Wit of St. Hubert Parish in Harrison Township said it is inspiring to see the Catholic Church taking a lead in using modern communication tools.

"It seems like we're always two steps behind because there's always something new that the young people are into that we don't know about yet," said Wit, another volunteer. "I think it's a good starting point to get people interested and aware. We're the jumper cables to get people excited about it."

Reyes said part of the weekend's challenge is helping people to see "Unleash the Gospel" not as a letter, which will unavoidably age with time, but as a Spirit-led transformation of the archdiocese.

"That's the difference between a pastoral letter and a movement: You read a pastoral letter, but you join a movement," he said. "A movement grows stronger the more people join. We need to go all in."

The archdiocese planned to do that through a multi-pronged effort that includes an overhaul of the way the church communicates and engages with the faithful, said Edmundo Reyes, director of communications.

"Unleash the Gospel" is a movement," Reyes said. "Think about what a movement is. At its core, a movement is when something is wrong that needs to be right, and enough people know about it and are willing to do

Upcoming VIRTUS sessions

• Nov. 29, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph School
(Religion Classroom)
Plaucheville

To register,
go to www.virtus.org

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AWAKENING RETREAT FOR LSUA AND LC. Pictured are students from LSUA and Louisiana College who participated in the Awakening Retreat for college students held on Nov. 2-3 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville.

BELOW: ST. MARY'S SCHOOL TEACHER AWARD. The Em W. Knipmeyer Excellence in Teaching award is given annually to a staff member of St. Mary's School, Natchitoches, given in honor of former teacher and principal, Em Knipmeyer by her sister Mrs. Owen Stamey. This year's honoree is Mrs. Annie Sawyer, the 14th winner of the teaching honor.



LEFT: STUDENTS OF THE MONTH AT ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL, BUNKIE. Pictured are the October Students of the Month at St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie:



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Position Available at Fort Polk Catholic Religious Education Coordinator

Search for a Catholic Religious Education Coordinator to render services at Fort Polk. This position requires immediate hiring. Requirements: Must be familiar with the Catholic Liturgies Must have experience in administrative support work. Must possess, or be in the process of completing AMS Catechist Certification, or be willing to begin the certification process within 30 days of contract award. Must have functional experience using Microsoft Office programs to include Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Must be able to assist with volunteer recruitment for teachers and assistants to conduct the Catholic catechetical program and religious education teacher training. Must submit and pass background check. Compensation: \$1,500/mo. Contact: Sawyer Contracting, Christine Aldeguer at office@sawyercontracting.com or (407) 602-7780. Attach resume and character references when submitting application.

Position Available: Maintenance Assistant

St. Rita Church is seeking a motivated and skilled person to assist our Maintenance Supervisor. Some knowledge of and experience in minor electrical, plumbing, HVAC and other maintenance areas is preferred. The operation of lawn maintenance and other equipment and some lifting will be required. Benefits available (health care, life insurance, annual leave, sick leave). 37 hours/week, hourly pay based on experience. Interested applicants should contact Ms. Etta Ohrt at 445-7141 ext 210.

Stocking Up for Christmas - Nov. 17-18

The St. Frances Cabrini Church Sanctuary Society will hold a "Stocking Up for Christmas" event on Nov. 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Activities Bldg. Shop our Frozen Foods Dept. and Sweet Shoppe for all your holiday needs. Also, bid on your favorite items in the Silent Auction as well as taking a chance to win our "Split the Pot" drawing at 5:45 p.m. on Nov. 17. On Sunday, Nov. 18, dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Everyday Missionaries and WINE

Nov. 27-28

Everyday Missionaries will be joining with Women In the New Evangelization (WINE) for two events this November. Do you desire a life that teams with joy, fulfillment, and the peace that surpasses all understanding? Join us to learn how women are created relational, and how it is key to a happy life! Both events will feature Kelly M. Wahlquist, Catholic speaker and author of *Created to Relate*. God's Design for Peace and Joy, as well as music by Angela McCann of Everyday Missionaries. Come learn why women are pivotal to the new evangelization.

- Ville Platte, LA - Tuesday, November 27, 2018 - 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church- Cost: Donation of any amount. Click here for further details and link to online registration.
- Washington, LA - Wednesday, November 28, 2018 - 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM - Steamboat Restaurant. Cost: \$40 includes lunch and wine tasting. Click here for further details and link to online registration.

Gumbo Cook-off/Silent Auction - Dec. 2

Sts. Francis and Anne Church in Kolin will sponsor a Gumbo Cook-off and Silent Auction after 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 2. Teams will compete for the title of "Master Gumbo Cook." Each team supplies the ingredients for their gumbo and the church will provide the rice, crackers and eating utensils. The cost to taste and vote is \$6.00 per bowl. If you would like to participate in the competition, call (318)- 767-2078 or (318) 613-3327. Highest bidders of the Silent Auction will be notified late Sunday afternoon. Please join us for a fun-filled day!

Advent Bible Study - Dec. 2, 9, 16

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria will have Advent Bible Study on these Sundays in December: 2, 9 & 16. Study will be held in the Madonna Room with two sessions on each day to choose from-- 8:00-8:45 a.m. or 7:00-7:45 p.m. For more information contact Renee Aldridge: (318) 445-9748, ext. 216 or renee.aldridge@olpschurch.org.

St. Joseph Church T-shirt and Poster Contest - Dec. 31, 2018

St. Joseph's Church, Marksville is holding their 2nd annual "Da Parish Crawfish Festival," and is seeking out artists of all ages! The design must include the text "2nd Annual Da Parish Crawfish Boiling Championship," and "April 27, 2019." The winning design will remain the property of Da Parish Crawfish Boiling Championship Committee, St. Joseph ACTS Apostolate, and St. Joseph Catholic Church. The winner of the contest will receive a \$100 cash prize, two wristbands for admission into the event (worth \$50), will be introduced at the event, and have the opportunity to sign posters on the day of the event. To enter the contest or receive more information, please contact Glenn Leger at glennleger@bellsouth.net or Vickie Husbands at 318-359-2772.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Contest - Jan. 11, 2019

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will take part in the 2019 National Education Contest, open to those in grades 4 - 12, as well as adults. Contestants may enter a Category only once but may submit entries in multiple categories, and must be sponsored by a local Catholic Daughters Court. Please visit catholicdaughters.org for more information.

Holy Spirit Women's Retreat - Jan. 25-27, 2019

Msgr. David Toups, Deacon Larry and Andi Oney will be featured at the annual Holy Spirit Women's Retreat from Jan. 25-27, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Lafayette, LA. The prophetic theme is "For Such a Time as This." The liturgies, music, prayer, teaching, and fellowship will bring encouragement to all those who love the Lord and the Church. Msgr. Toups is Rector of St. Vincent Seminary in Florida and Spiritual Director for Magnificat Ministry to Catholic Women. He writes and speaks out of his deep love for God and his profound faith. Deacon Larry and Andi Oney will be leading an Empowerment Service Saturday night. Their preaching ministry has brought them around the world, most recently to Poland and Canada. Patti Mansfield will be teaching on Spiritual Warfare and Janice Charbonnet on the Feminine Genius. This retreat is sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO) and has been serving hundreds of women from the Gulf South since 1988. Weekend and Saturday commuters are welcome. Early bird savings until noon Dec 3. Register online at www.ccrno.org or call 504-828-1368.

See pages 18 and 19 or visit the General Calendar at www.diocesealex.org for updated penance services, and Advent and Christmas events.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: Dec. 10

Deadline for news:
Friday, Nov. 29

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Upcoming Retreats

The following ACTS retreats will be offered soon:

- Nov. 15-18, 2018
Sacred Heart of Jesus
ACTS for Women
For more information, contact Cheryl Paul at 318-308-5026 or go to www.jesusinpineville.com



Additional ACTS Retreats will be hosted beginning in January 2019. Visit the website at www.diocesealex.org or your church parish for upcoming dates.

November - December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12	13 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches Adult Faith Series 10:30 a.m.-12 noon St. Joseph Church, Marksville FEAST of ST. FRANCIS XAVIER	14	15 Adult Faith Series 6:30-8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	16	17 Natchitoches Festival of Lights begins Nov. 17-Jan. 6 Stocking up for Christmas -- Cabrini, Alexandria	18 World Day of the Poor
PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES SANCHEZ	PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ HERNANDEZ	PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN	PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT	PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER	PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY	PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA POSADA
Sacred Heart of Jesus ACTS Retreat for Women -- Maryhill Renewal Center						
19	20	21	22 Ferriday Community Thanksgiving Service 6:00 p.m. THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24	25 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS
26	27 GIVING TUESDAY Christmas at the Nest 6:00 p.m. Holy Savior Menard, Alexandria	28 Penance Service: 6:00 p.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth 6:00 p.m. Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin	29 VIRTUS 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph, Plaquemine	30	DECEMBER 1	2 Gumbo Cook-off Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin Advent Bible Study 8:00-8:45 a.m., 7:00-7:45 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria Lessons and Carols, 5:30 p.m. St. Patrick, Ferriday
PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO	PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE
Alex Winter Fete, Downtown Alexandria						
3 Confessions 5:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle and OLPS, Mansura Rapides Parish Symphony 2:30 p.m.	4 Lessons and Carols 6:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches	5	6	7 Penance Service 5:00 p.m., Glenmora Holiday Light Safari, Alexandria Zoo Visit www.diocesealex.org for Mass times.	8 SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY A Holy Day of Obligation PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	9 Annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection Advent Bible Study 8:00-8:45 a.m. 7:00-7:45 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO
Priests Convocation -- Maryhill Renewal Center						
10 Confessions 5:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle and OLPS, Mansura	11 Penance Services 6:00 p.m. St. Genevieve 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart, Moreauville 6:15 p.m. St. Patrick, Ferriday Red River Chorale concert 7:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral	12 Penance Services 6 p.m. OLL Vidalia 6 p.m. Cabrini 6 p.m. St. Peter, Elmer 6 p.m. Holy Ghost, Marksville 6 p.m. St. Francis de Sales, Echo 6:10 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus 6:30 p.m. St. John, Deville OLPS CCD Program: 6:30 p.m. FEAST of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE	13 Penance Service 6:00 p.m. St. Gerard, Jonesville Advent Reflection 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria	14 Penance Service 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph, Cheneyville Holiday Light Safari, Alexandria Zoo Dec. 14-23	15	16 Advent Bible Study 8:00-8:45 a.m. 7:00-7:45 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT
PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK	PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY	PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE

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