

CHURCH TODAY

Volume L, No. 2

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

February 18, 2019



Family foundations

This month, we celebrate marriages and families! See inside or visit www.diocesealex.org for photos submitted from couples across the diocese.

INSIDE

Diocese releases names of clergy.

On Feb. 6, the Diocese of Alexandria released the names of those clergy credibly accused of the sexual abuse of minors. See pages 6-8 for the *Letter to the Faithful of the Diocese of Alexandria* from Bishop David P. Talley, as well as the list of names.

Golf Tournament to benefit Manna House.

The annual APT/WAPT (Women's) Golf Pro Tour and the Hixson Ford Pro Am Golf Tournament hosted at Oakwing Golf Club in Alexandria will once again benefit Manna House. See page 9 for more Manna House updates.

Join us to celebrate weddings and anniversaries this month.

We celebrate Natural Family Planning, weddings, and anniversaries this month. See pages 12, 14, and 18 to join in the celebration. Pictured above, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perot celebrate their marriage, Feb. 7, 1959 at Church of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.

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Looking back



February 2014:

Longest married couple in U.S. attends Holy Ghost Church in Marksville -
 Norman and Norma Burmah recently celebrated their 83rd wedding anniversary, making them the longest known married couple in the United States. The couple were first recognized in 2012 by the Louisiana Family Forum as being the longest married couple in Louisiana, but after more research, it was discovered that they are also the longest known married couple in the United States. At 103 and 100, Norman and Norma live independently in their home in Marksville, where they attend Holy Ghost Catholic Church.

February 2019:

Join us as we celebrate weddings and anniversaries around the diocese. See pages 12, 14, and 18 for anniversary pictures from around the diocese, information on natural family planning, and tips on how to navigate conversations in marriage.

Mrs. Burmah, pictured to the left, passed away in Sept. 2014, and Mr. Burmah passed away in Sept. 2015.

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Feast of the Month: St. Claude de la Colombiere

*By Emily Ann McCullough
 Guest Contributor*

**The Story of
 St. Claude de la Colombiere**

**“O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
 I place all my trust in You.”**

Nearly every Catholic is familiar with these words and the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that came about as a result of a vision of Jesus in which He exposed His Sacred human heart, aflame with love for us, to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. On the other hand, few persons know of her spiritual director, St. Claude de la Colombiere, who was responsible for making that vision known.

St. Claude was a Jesuit priest from France who came to know St. Margaret Mary by way of his appointment as rector to the Jesuit Community at Paray-le-Monial, including the church next to the monastery of the Nuns of the Visitation, her order. St. Margaret Mary had suffered greatly from persecution due to her sisters' unbelief of her ongoing private revelations. She opened up her heart to St. Claude, who listened to her story a number of times.



Then after much prayer he was convinced of their validity and became not only her supporter but a champion and apostle of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the rest of his life.

While on assignment in England, he was falsely accused and thrown into prison. When he was finally released, his health had taken a turn for the worse. He returned to France to die. He was beatified by Pope Pius XI and canonized by Pope John Paul II, who said that St. Claude's promotion of devotion to the Sacred Heart provided "spiritual strengthening for Christian communities so often faced with increasing unbelief."

St. Claude taught boundless

trust in the mercy of God. He wrote this prayer: Lord, if I have grievously offended You, My Redeemer, let me not offend You even more by thinking that You are not kind enough to pardon Me. Amen.

This dear Saint is the patron of toy makers and his feast day is February 15.

Prayer and Action

- Create a colorful banner or a prayer card with a large Sacred Heart of Jesus and the words, "Jesus I trust in You" on it and hang it somewhere that you will see it daily.

- Light a candle at church as a prayer for a loved one who has great doubts about God's love for them.

- Go to confession with a renewed trust in the mercy of God and offer your penance joyfully, remembering that your sins actually no longer exist.

- Ask St. Claude to pray for you to be able to abandon a specific worry you have to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**St. Claude de la Colombiere's
 Feast Day:
 Friday, February 15**

“We cannot honor God by expecting great things from Him. Confidence is the virtue that gives Him the greatest honor.”

Emily Ann and her husband, a former Protestant minister, became Catholic in 1998. She has worked in Religious Education ever since, and at present teaches Religion to third graders at St. Frances Cabrini School.

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Pope names organizing committee for abuse conference in February

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis named U.S. Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago to be part of the organizing committee preparing for a meeting of the world's bishops' conferences, and representatives of religious orders to address the abuse and protection of minors.

The Feb. 21-24 Vatican meeting is not only "about keeping children safe from harm worldwide," said Greg Burke, head of the Vatican press office, in a written statement Nov. 23.

"Pope Francis wants church leaders to have a full understanding of the devastating impact that clerical sexual abuse has on victims," he said, soon after the Vatican announced the members of the preparatory committee.

Together with Cupich, the committee will include Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India; Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta; and Jesuit Fr. Hans Zollner, president of the Centre for the Protection of Minors at the Pontifical Gregorian University and a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, headed by Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley, and some survivors of abuse by members of the clergy also will be involved in the preparatory work for the meeting, the Vatican said.

"This is a critical moment for the universal church in addressing the sexual abuse crisis," O'Malley said, and the February meeting "will be an important moment for developing a clear path forward



USCCB MEETS FOR SEXUAL ABUSE SUMMIT IN FEBRUARY. Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago has been appointed by Pope Francis to be part of the organizing committee for the Vatican's Feb. 21-24 global bishops meeting to address clerical sexual abuse. Cupich is pictured during the Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment at the Vatican Oct. 18. (CNS/Paul Haring)

for dioceses around the world."

"We must continue to embrace and practice a commitment to zero tolerance, work for greater transparency, including the release of names of clergy accused of abuse, and encourage all religious orders to adopt a similar policy and cooperate with civil and legal authorities. Above all else, we must place the support and pastoral care of survivors first," he said in a written statement Nov. 23.

"This is a lifelong journey" that "requires a partnership between the laity and clergy in responding to the failures of episcopal leadership by holding bishops accountable for the crimes against children and vulnerable adults," he said.

O'Malley said the pontifical commission, as an advisory body to the pope, proposed the global meeting for the world's bishops. He said the commission has hosted meetings between survivors and groups of newly named bishops, and those meetings "have inspired our view that calling the bishops to Rome for a similar high-impact meeting would be very important in addressing the clergy abuse crisis globally."

Cupich told Crux Nov. 23 that while Francis understands very well the degree of suffering in the United States because of abuse, the pope is calling a global meeting because "he understands this to be a global issue."

"The pope is seeking both a comprehensive understanding of past failings, as well as global

solutions moving forward," the cardinal said Nov. 23.

Cupich told Crux it will be critical that all church leaders take "ownership for our failures fully in order to ensure they are not repeated." This will require clearly defining responsibilities and establishing "responsiveness, transparency, and accountability, particularly for bishops," he added.

He said the pope sees safeguarding as part of his call for a change of culture, "that is, a reform in how we approach ministry for, in addition to being a crime, sexual abuse of minors by clerics is about the corruption of our ministry."

The February meeting "is the beginning of a worldwide reform that will need to be ongoing

and will involve a process of initiatives on regional, national and diocesan levels," he said.

Gracias told Crux in October that the February meeting "cannot be cosmetic" or superficial. "Either it will be successful, or it will be a disaster for the church."

The other organizing committee member is Scicluna, who has assisted the pope with several high-profile abuse investigation cases. He serves as adjunct secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and is president of the congregation's board that reviews appeals filed by priests laicized or otherwise disciplined in sexual abuse or other serious cases.

Scicluna said the meeting will include "a penitential liturgy" because "Pope Francis wants it." He said abuse survivors "are going to be a part of that liturgy too, just as they will be consulted in advance of the meeting and be listened to during it."

The meeting will mark "the beginning of a new approach that I hope will be global, because it concerns the whole church," he said. However, all solutions and approaches will have to be lived concretely on the local level, "in every parish, in every school, in every diocese," he said, "otherwise it's not effective at all."

"We have to move away from panic-driven policies that put the good name of the institution above all other considerations."

Zollner, who is also a licensed psychologist and psychotherapist and has accompanied abuse survivors to the Vatican, said the pope will be present at the February meeting's work sessions. Those who are invited to the meeting include presidents of national bishops' conferences around the world; heads of the Eastern Catholic churches; representatives of the Union of Superiors General and of the International Union of Superiors General; top officials of the Secretariat of State; prefects of the congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith, for Eastern Churches, for Bishops, for the Evangelization of Peoples, for the Clergy, for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

A message from the Diocese of Alexandria's Safe Environment Program

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please call: Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437).

If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report also should be made to the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp at 318-542-9805.

For updated information, news articles, and documents regarding ongoing activity and planning for securing and maintaining a Safe Environment for all, visit www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing (visit www.diocesealex.org and look for "A Safe Environment For All" under the "Our Faith" tab). Here, you can find Bishop Talley's message for November 2018, as well as updates from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Also found on this page is the letter from Pope Francis to all Bishops in the United States regarding a meeting in February 2019 at the Vatican entitled "The Protection of Minors in the Church."

Rite of betrothal / Do miscarried children go to heaven?

Q. I have heard that the “rite of betrothal” is becoming popular in certain young Catholic circles. What does this rite entail? Was it more common prior to the Second Vatican Council? Would you recommend that an engaged couple seek out this rite? (Washington)

A. The rite of betrothal was a little-known but long-standing service of prayer in which a couple had their engagement formally blessed by a priest. The 1906 edition of The Catholic Encyclopedia notes that the ritual was more common in other countries than in the United States. An English version is still available, as an addition to Father Philip Weller’s translation of the 1962 Roman Ritual (although the rite did not form part of that ritual itself.)

There is no prohibition against using that rite today, although it has largely been replaced in the contemporary church by the Blessing of an



Question Corner

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

Engaged Couple from the church’s Book of Blessings, published in 1989. That newer rite celebrates in prayer a newly engaged couple and asks the Lord to guide them as they prepare for marriage; it can be celebrated by a priest, deacon or lay minister, and includes scriptural reading

The engagement rings may be blessed during the ceremony, and the celebrant prays:

“Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of your providence has brought these young people together. As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and

pray for your grace, grant that, strengthened by your blessing, they may grow in respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love.”

I would recommend that a couple use this newer blessing.

Q. I know that life begins at conception. So I want to believe that when a woman has a miscarriage, no matter how early in the pregnancy, her unborn baby goes to heaven -- but I am wondering what the church’s view is on this. (As a woman who has experienced a miscarriage, I would find great comfort in knowing that I

will be reunited someday with my baby in heaven.) (Pennsylvania)

A. I suppose that a theological purist might say that there is no definitive church position on the ultimate fate of a miscarried child.

But from many things that the church has, in fact, taught in its official documents, it seems reasonable to assume that the child is in heaven. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking

for this sacrament” (No. 1257).

But the miscarried child has had, of course, no chance to ask for the sacrament. The catechism later says, “Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved, and Jesus’ tenderness toward children which caused him to say: ‘Let the children come to me, do not hinder them,’ allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without baptism” (No. 1261).

When an infant is baptized, the infant makes no personal profession of faith; instead it is left to the parents and godparents to voice their desire to have the child christened. Why wouldn’t the same logic prevail in the case of a miscarriage? Had the child been carried to term, the parents would certainly have had the child baptized, so why wouldn’t a merciful God who reads hearts consider that intention sufficient?

Be comforted and at peace: I think it’s quite likely that you will meet your child in heaven.

Marriage and Annulments

The Diocese of Alexandria is blessed to have dedicated people working in many ministries to spread the love and mercy of Jesus. Whether these efforts are through retreats, faith formation programs, or just within their social gatherings, the sharing of your faith story with others is the most impactful way to evangelize. Part of evangelization is listening to those around us who may be struggling in their faith, many who may have even left the Church for various reasons, and help to guide them back home. My favorite part of ministry is helping to heal the hurts of the past, walking with people who want to come into communion with the Church, all the while hopefully showing them the love and mercy Christ has for each one of us.

One fairly common struggle I have found with adults who wish to join (or recommit) to the Church is their concern with being divorced and/or divorced and remarried. I realize this edition of The Church Today is about marriage and I certainly do not want to dampen the spirit with discussing divorce, so



Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard W. Mitchell

please know I am addressing this question to say that even though each situation is different, divorce and/or being divorced and remarried does NOT necessarily permanently disqualify you from receiving the sacraments.

So here is this month’s question: “I am a baptized Catholic, but divorced and remarried outside of the Catholic Church. I want to reengage in my faith and have my marriage blessed. Is that possible? If so, where do I begin?”

If the National average of divorces in the United States is correct, this question is likely a common one with our readers (either from personal experience or with family and friends). As mentioned above, each situation is different and there really is no

absolute answer that will apply across the board, except for the answer...“It depends.”

Our Catholic Church teaches that a wedding (and subsequent marriage) is indeed sacred and its sanctity must be protected at all costs. With that said however, there are instances where an impediment or serious defect of consent may have existed on the day of the wedding. If the impediment is proven, it may be grounds to declare that, though the vows may have been exchanged, there was no true intention to fulfill them by one or both parties. The familiar term for the process of proving this is getting your wedding “annulled”. It is unfortunate that the stigma associated with going through an annulment brings much fear and

stress to those facing the process. I suppose knowing you may have to recall some of the difficulty in your past can be unpleasant and overwhelming, but it can also be a time for healing and bringing closure to that part of your life. ***Please do not let the anxiety of the unknown regarding the process keep you from moving forward.***

So, where do you begin?? My suggestion is to start with speaking with your pastor. Tell him about your specific situation and ask for guidance. He will be able to provide spiritual support and direct you to the resources that will help. Another valuable resource is the Diocese of Alexandria’s Tribunal Office. They are the experts and are dedicated to assisting you in the annulment process. To see their information (including an outline of the process and/or to begin the online application) visit our website at: www.Diocesealex.org, look for the tab “Our Diocese”, and then “Tribunal/Marriage Annulments”.

The only way you will know the answer to your specific situation is to ask the question.

So if this topic applies to you or a loved one, I encourage you to take the steps to find out more information. If you do, and you are able to come into full communion with the Church, I know you will come to have a better appreciation for the sacrament of matrimony and will Love the Liturgy.

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

Thank you for your generous submissions of wedding and anniversary photos! We have included as many photos as possible in this issue of the paper. Please visit www.diocesealex.org for additional photos.

Look for additional opportunities to submit photos and stories of your own in later issues.

Abundant Life, Today, All of Us

For those of you reading this column, whether in our February edition of The Church Today or on the Diocesan website, consider this: how did you come to know the great gift of God...in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth? How have you found the strength of faith that allows you to dedicate your hearts to Christ the Lord, the Image of the Invisible God? How is it that you are a member of Christ's Church...a unique and unrepeatable living stone in the temple of His Body (1 Peter 2.4), here and now?

Some of you, probably most of you reading these words, were brought into the mystery of Jesus by your mom, your dad or another family member. The domestic church (the Catholic family) is the foundation of it all, as parents seek to instruct and form their children, to grow into faith-filled adults capable of transforming the earth through the abundant life promised us in Christ (John 10.10). Along with this domestic church, your parish might have had a hand in forming you as a devout Catholic, as an



I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

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

intentional disciple of the Lord Jesus. Maybe a favorite priest or deacon or catechist—a disciple that offered you a sense of faith that was alive?

For some of us not Catholic growing up, we found our way—His Way for us—through a variety of avenues: the parish Catechumenate (“R.C.I.A.”); a spouse; a friend; a book read or a piece of art seen or a film viewed...maybe the A.C.T.S. retreat movement or the Charismatic Renewal...maybe through serving the hungry at Manna House?

However the Lord brought us and whenever the Lord brought us we are HOME as members of

this world-wide Church and we pray to remain in the Lord as He promises to remain in us. He, the Vine of Life, we, the living branches of this Vine (John 15. 4-5) to the Glory that is the living and majestic God.

Okay, maybe you are still reading. Maybe you are still with me, even though this might seem to some as boring “Church-talk”. What I want you to know is that this Lord that we love, this God that we seek to adore and serve, the Lord promises you and me abundant life today, all of us. How so? As this gift of faith becomes real to you, present to you.... guiding you, as you surrender to the Way of Love that is the

Way of Life, your life will be an abundance, even if poor, even if you deal with an illness, even if there are moments of uncertainty and confusion. Whether single or married, whether young or old, whether filled in consolation or manifestly broken...if you have been given the gift of faith and have seen something of His Light you have this intuition, that the darkness should not be feared (John 8. 12). For God so loved the world.

AMDG

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

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for February

Human Trafficking -
For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.



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Bishop Talley on Twitter:
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Vida abundante, hoy, todos nosotros

Para aquellos de ustedes que leen esta columna, ya sea en nuestra edición de febrero de The Church Today o en el sitio web de la Diócesis, consideren esto: ¿cómo llegaron a conocer el gran don de Dios ... en la persona de Jesús de Nazaret? ¿Cómo ha encontrado la fortaleza de la fe que le permite dedicar sus corazones a Cristo el Señor, la Imagen del Dios Invisible? ¿Cómo es que eres miembro de la Iglesia de Cristo ... una piedra viva única e irreplicable en el templo de Su Cuerpo (1 Pedro 2.4), aquí y ahora?

Algunos de ustedes, probablemente la mayoría de ustedes que leen estas palabras, fueron llevados al misterio de Jesús por su mamá, su papá u otro miembro de la familia. La iglesia doméstica (la familia católica) es el fundamento de todo, ya que los padres buscan instruir y formar a sus hijos, para que se conviertan en adultos llenos de fe capaces de transformar la tierra a través de la vida abundante que nos prometió en Cristo (Juan 10.10). Junto con esta iglesia doméstica, su parroquia podría haber participado en su

formación como católico devoto, como discípulo intencional del Señor Jesús. Tal vez un sacerdote, diácono o catequista favorito, ¿un discípulo que te ofreció un sentido de fe que estaba vivo?

Para algunos de nosotros que no somos católicos cuando crecimos, encontramos nuestro camino—su camino para nosotros— a través de una variedad de avenidas: el catecumenado de la parroquia (“R.C.I.A.”); una esposa; un amigo; un libro leído o una obra de arte vista o una película vista ... tal vez el A.C.T.S. el movimiento de retirada o la Renovación Carismática ... ¿quizás sirviendo a los hambrientos en Manna House?

Sin embargo, el Señor nos trajo y siempre que el Señor nos trajo, estamos en CASA como miembros de esta Iglesia mundial y oramos para que permanezcamos en el Señor mientras Él promete permanecer en nosotros. Él, la Vid de la Vida, nosotros, las ramas vivas de esta Vid (Juan 15. 4-5) a la Gloria que es el Dios vivo y majestuoso.

Está bien, tal vez todavía

estás leyendo. Tal vez todavía estás conmigo, aunque a algunos les parezca aburrido “hablar en la Iglesia”. Lo que quiero que sepa es que este Señor que amamos, este Dios que buscamos adorar y servir, el Señor nos promete a usted ya mí una vida abundante hoy, todos nosotros. ¿Cómo es eso? Cuando este don de fe se haga real para ti, preséntate ... guiándote, mientras te rindes al Camino del Amor que es el Camino de la Vida, tu vida será una abundancia, incluso si es pobre, incluso si tratas con un Enfermedad, incluso si hay momentos de incertidumbre y confusión. Ya sea soltero o casado, ya sea joven o viejo, lleno de consuelo o manifiestamente roto ... si se le ha dado el don de la fe y ha visto algo de Su Luz, tiene esta intuición, que la oscuridad no debe ser temida (Juan 8 12). Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo.

AMDG

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
(Para la mayor gloria de Dios)

?? Catholic Trivia ??

Who said the following:

*“Marriage is a duel to the death,
which no man of honour should decline.”*

Was it:

A. C.S. Lewis
B. Blaise Pascal

C. G.K. Chesteron
D. J.R.R. Tolkien

Answer on page 15.

Diocese releases names of Clergy credibly accused

Letter to the Faithful of the Diocese of Alexandria

February 6, 2019

Like many of you, I was horrified and scandalized to read the results of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report published in the summer of 2018 detailing the history of sexual abuse perpetrated by Catholic clergy against minors over so many decades. In the 1980s, the public prosecution of Fr. Gilbert Gauthé of the Diocese of Lafayette shined a light into the darkness of this evil in the life of the Church.

Since the adoption of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in 2002, the 'Dallas Charter', our diocese has urged victims of clergy sexual abuse of minors to come forward and many have. In the last sixteen years our Diocesan Permanent Review Board, composed of both laity and clergy, has reviewed all allegations made against clerics, diocesan and religious, and laity, living and deceased. Counseling and pastoral care have been offered to all who have come forward and in some cases, financial settlements were made.

As Bishop of Alexandria, I have promised to do everything in my power to safeguard our children and youth and to help those abused in the past. To aid in the healing process, in August of 2018, I ordered an examination of all our files dating back to the establishment of the Diocese of Natchitoches in 1853. A system of examination was established by which every file held by our Diocese of Alexandria would be reviewed by two sets of examiners: one comprised of the chancellor and vice-chancellor and one comprised of laity from our Permanent Review Board and other lay readers appointed by me.

To insure the most thorough process of examination in these cases, a special ad-hoc committee of the Review Board was established to review all the case histories of the Review Board from its inception up to the present day, along with all the information gleaned from the file review. This

was done with a view to publish a list of the names of those clergy (bishops, priests and deacons), living and deceased, who we believe could be credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors.

In publishing this list, it is not our intent to re-victimize those who have already been so wounded by the actions of some clerics who served in our diocese over the past one hundred sixty-five years. This evil can only be purged through a vigilant process that is transparent to the public. Our response must demonstrate the highest levels of honesty and scrutiny.

I believe, together with all the members of the Permanent Review Board, that we have done what we can to present as truthful and as thorough a record of the alleged instances of sexual abuse by clerics against minors during our long history. I know that this list may be incomplete, not because we have held anything back, but because this kind of evil is perpetrated in secret and out of fear and shame some may not have been able to come forward.

The names that are published below are those of clergy, diocesan and religious, living and deceased, whom the Permanent Review Board unanimously believes have been or could be credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor. If any allegation is made against a living cleric, national and diocesan protocols, in place since 2002, become applicable. When this occurs, the police are notified and our Victims' Assistance Coordinator begins his service to the victim while an assessor begins an investigation for the Permanent Review Board.

Some of the names below are of living clerics. Such cases have been brought forward for review according to national and diocesan protocols and procedures. However, the great majority of the names listed below are of clergy who were deceased at the time allegations were made or their files were reviewed. On examination, in regard to these deceased clerics, enough written

evidence was reviewed case by case to believe that accusations against them are, in all likelihood, credible.

While this process of review and publication is not a declaration of guilt, it is our best assessment of all the evidence available to us at this time. We believe that publically listing these names is a matter of justice if we are to help the victims and the Church we love and serve. It is our continued hope that anyone who has been abused will come forward to speak the truth and seek the healing that all desire.

If you are a victim of sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency. Sexual abuse is a serious crime and must be treated as such. If you would like more information or are in need of assistance, please contact our Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, at (318) 542-9805.

Along with the need for justice, we must, at the same time, seek the healing grace that can come only from Our Savior who has ransomed us from the darkness of sin and death. Remembering Christ, Who is our Light, I ask all of us to continue to be vigilant in our efforts to safeguard our children and youth.

Names of Clergy accused

The following names are those of clergy duly incardinated or at one time serving in the Diocese of Alexandria accused of sexual misconduct and abuse of minors by allegations brought by victims or by written testimony:

A: Diocesan Clergy – Living

Fr. Frederick Lyons

- Multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 1960s were brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2005 and 2006.
- Fr. Lyons was removed from active ministry in 2006.
- The allegations were deemed credible.
- After completion of the

investigation, Fr. Lyons' case was referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome and ecclesiastical penalties were imposed in 2013.

Deacon Raymond M. Jones

- Review of Deacon Raymond Jones' file in 2019 showed evidence of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating from 1982.
- Deacon Jones was suspended from active ministry when the allegation was made known in 1986.
- His scheduled ordination to the priesthood was cancelled in light of the evidence and he was encouraged to seek laicization by Bishop Friend.
- He subsequently left the diocese.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegation was deemed credible.

Donald Rogers

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1962 was brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2004.
- Fr. Rogers was removed from active ministry in 1967.
- Fr. Rogers was laicized in 1974.
- Review of Fr. Rogers' file in 2019 showed evidence of multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of minors.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.
- Fr. Rogers was born in 1930 and would be 88 at the time of this letter. His whereabouts are unknown.

Fr. Victor Sepsi

- Review of Fr. Sepsi's file in 2019 showed evidence of multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 1960s.
- Fr. Sepsi left the diocese and active ministry in 1967.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.
- Fr. Sepsi was born in 1930 and would be 88 at the time of this letter. His whereabouts are unknown.

B: Diocesan Clergy – Deceased

Fr. Edward Terry Allen

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1973 was brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2005.
- The accusation was deemed credible.
- Fr. Allen resigned from active ministry in 2005.
- A settlement was made with the victim in 2012.
- Fr. Allen died in 2018.

John Wesley Andries

- Multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 2000s were brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2003 and Fr. Andries was removed from active ministry.
- The allegations were deemed credible.
- Civil charges were brought and Fr. Andries was convicted and sentenced.
- After completion of the investigation, Fr. Andries' case was referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome and Fr. Andries was laicized in 2007.
- John Andries died in 2013.

Fr. William Allison

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1961 was brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2004.
- Fr. Allison died in 1986.
- Review of Fr. Allison's file in 2019 showed evidence corroborating the allegation.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegation were deemed credible.

Fr. William Cody Bressler

- Multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male and female minors dating back to the 1960s were brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2004 and again in 2005 and were deemed credible.
- Fr. Bressler died in 1990.
- Settlements were made with the victims in 2006 and 2017.
- Review of Fr. Bressler's file in 2019 showed evidence

corroborating the allegations.

- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Msgr. Paul Conway

- Allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of female minors dating back to 1956 was brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2004 and after investigation the allegations were deemed credible.
- Msgr. Conway died 1996.
- Settlements were paid to the victims in 2005 and in 2017.

Fr. Francis O. Couvillion

- Review of Fr. Couvillion's file in 2019 revealed multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 1950s.
- Fr. Couvillion died in 1978.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. Francis Patrick Donohoe

- Former Capuchin friar, incardinated in the Diocese of Alexandria by Bishop Desmond in 1942.
- Review of Fr. Donohoe's file in 2019 showed evidence of multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating from the 1960s.
- Bishop Greco asked for and received Fr. Donohoe's resignation as pastor and he was removed from active ministry in 1966.
- Fr. Donohoe died in 1983.
- This evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. Harvey Fortier

- Review of Fr. Fortier's file in 2019 revealed an allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1954.
- An allegation was made of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor in 1994.
- The allegation was deemed credible.
- A settlement was made with the victim in 1995.
- Fr. Fortier died in 1999.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. John Franklin

- An allegation of sexual

misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1966 was brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2004 and after investigation, the allegations were deemed credible. A settlement was made with the victim in 2005.

- Fr. Franklin left the diocese in 1973.
- Fr. Franklin died in Alabama in 1986.
- Review of Fr. Franklin's file in 2019 showed further evidence of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Msgr. Robert Friend

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1954 was brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2004.
- Msgr. Friend died 1977.
- The allegation was deemed credible and a settlement was made with the victim in 2005.

Fr. Edmund Gagné

- Review of Fr. Gagné's file in 2019 showed evidence of multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 1980s.
- Fr. Gagné was removed from public ministry in 1986.
- Fr. Gagné died in 1990.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. Moise Richard Gremillion

- Review of Fr. Gremillion's file in 2019 revealed multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating from the 1960s.
- Fr. Gremillion retired from active ministry in 1969.
- Fr. Gremillion died in 1973.
- This evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. Michael G. Hannon

- Review of Fr. Hannon's file in 2019 showed evidence of multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating from the 1960s.
- Fr. Hannon left the diocese in 1963.
- Fr. Hannon was incardinated in the Diocese of Brooklyn in New York in 1982.
- Fr. Hannon died in 2000.

- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. Kenneth Mathews

- Review of Fr. Mathews' file in 2019 showed evidence of multiple allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 1980s.
- Fr. Mathews left active ministry on a leave of absence in 1998.
- Fr. Mathews died in 2008.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Msgr. H. Clinton Teacle

- Allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 1960s were brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2009.
- Msgr. Teacle died in 1969.
- Review of Msgr. Teacle's file in 2019 showed further evidence of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Joseph Tisch

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1967 was brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2014.
- Fr. Tisch left the diocese and active ministry in 1968.
- Joseph Tisch died in 2007 publically separated from the Church.
- Review of Fr. Tisch's file in 2019 showed further evidence of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. Léger Tremblay

- Allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 1950s and 1960s were brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2003 and again in 2005.
- Fr. Tremblay died in 2002.
- Settlements were made in 2004 and in 2005.
- Review of Fr. Tremblay's file in 2019 showed further evidence of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were

deemed credible.

Fr. Leo Van Hoorn

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1967 was brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2006.
- Fr. Van Hoorn was suspended from active ministry by Bishop Graves in 1979.
- Fr. Van Hoorn died in 2006.
- Review of Fr. Van Hoorn's file in 2019 showed further evidence of another allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

C: The following name is that of a Diocesan priest, incardinated in another diocese accused of sexual misconduct while serving in the Diocese of Alexandria:

Fr. Gilbert Gauthe

- Priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana
- Allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating from the 1970s were brought before the Permanent Review Board in 2004.
- Fr. Gauthe was tried and convicted for similar offenses in Lafayette.
- The allegations were presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

D: The following names are those of religious priests, living and deceased, accused of sexual misconduct with minors while serving in the Diocese of Alexandria:

Fr. Charles Dekeukelare, CICM

- A priest of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Review of Fr. Dekeukelare's file in 2019 showed evidence of an allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1982.
- Fr. Dekeukelare was removed from public ministry. He pled guilty to and was prosecuted for Indecent Behavior with a Juvenile in Avoyelles Parish in 1982.
- The evidence was present to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. Norman Rogge, SJ

- A priest of the Society of Jesus.
- Review of Fr. Rogge's file in 2019 showed evidence of an allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1985.
- Fr. Rogge was arrested on a charge of Sexual Battery of a male minor in Florida.
- He was sentenced in Florida on a charge of Lewd Conduct in the Presence of a Minor in 1985.
- Fr. Rogge died in 2009.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegations were deemed credible.

Fr. Louis Senesac, CSV

- A priest of the Clerics of Saint Viator.
- Review of Fr. Senesac's file in 2019 showed evidence of an allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to 1945.
- Fr. Senesac was removed from active ministry in the diocese.
- Fr. Senesac died in 1966.
- The evidence was presented to the Permanent Review Board in 2019 and the allegation was deemed credible.

Fr. Antonio Valez- Lopez

- A priest of the Congregation of Capuchin Religious Tertiaries of Our Lady of Sorrows.
- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a female minor dating back to 2006 was brought to the attention of the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2009 where the abuse took place.
- The Diocese of Alexandria was informed of the investigation by the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2016 and Fr. Valez-Lopez was removed from public ministry in the Diocese of Alexandria.
- The Archdiocese of Baltimore initiated proceedings and Fr. Valez-Lopez's case was sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome.

Beginning in August of 2018, a group of lay leaders and a group of our clergy have assisted me in a complete study of our records of all the clergy that have served in our parishes, missions, institutions and schools. This action has been done to offer the people of this diocese a complete record of those clerics that have been credibly accused of the sexual abuse of minors. The work has been a

LIST

cont. from page 7

painful but necessary examination of the past. It is only by shedding light on our past that we as the Church in central Louisiana can move forward in hope of healing and strength. Eight lay people, including three members of the Permanent Review Board and seven members of the clergy assisted me in reviewing 535 files of clergy who have served in the diocese since its establishment in 1853. This represents all existing records of clergy who have served in the diocese since its establishment to the date of this publication.

A careful examination of this publication will show that most of these clergy were deceased before any investigation of allegations against them could be made according to the standards implemented by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (2002). What we see in examining the written records is that there was no standard response on the part of our past bishops and clergy to the allegations made. This publication of the names of the clerics listed above is not a declaration of their guilt. But, from an exhaustive review, the evidence of allegations brought against each cleric was deemed to be credible based on the materials examined. The Permanent Review Board of the Diocese of Alexandria in their study of each case unanimously agreed to the publication of these names.

To gain perspective on this evil chapter in the life of our diocese, it is important to look at a chronology of the credible accusations made against 27 out of

over 535 clerics who have served the diocese since its founding. These 27 cases represent roughly 5% of the number of clerics who have served in central Louisiana. The majority of the documented cases of abuse occurred in the 1950s, '60s and '70s:

1940 to 1949	One case
1950 to 1959	Four cases
1960 to 1969	Thirteen cases
1970 to 1979	Two cases
1980 to 1989	Five cases
1990 to 2002	One case

After the implementation of the 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People:

One case

Since the adoption of the Dallas Charter and the implementation of the VIRTUS program, along with greater vigilance in our formation programs, we have seen one new case where an allegation of abuse has been deemed credible by the Permanent Review Board. Still, one instance of abuse is one too many. It is my hope that by constant vigilance and awareness we may prevent this tragedy from ever happening again. We must never forget the damage that has been done to the victims, their families and to the whole Body of Christ which is the Church. While we live with the reality of evil, it is my hope that none of us will ever lose sight of the victory that has been won for us by Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Trusting in his love for us, I, together with all my fellow priests, deacons, religious and coworkers in the diocese extend our heartfelt sorrow for all the pain and anguish caused to our children and youth

by this evil. Please know that I am ready to meet with any victim in this healing process.

I remain fraternally yours in the light and love of the Lord,

– Most Reverend David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D., Diocese of Alexandria

Permanent Review Board Members:

- Chad Gremillion, Chair
- Dcn. William Aldridge
- Stacey Auzenne
- Fr. Scott Chemino, V.G.
- Fr. James Ferguson
- Carol Hirschak
- Claire Lemoine
- Dr. Lee Kneipp, Victims Assistance Coordinator

Team of Personnel File Reviewers:

1. Pamela Delrie
2. Robert Dvorak
3. Gabriel Rodriguez
4. Robert Tompkins
5. Kenneth Wasmer
6. Chad Gremillion, PRB Chairman
7. Carol Hirschak, PRB Member
8. Claire Lemoine, PRB Member
9. Fr. Chad Partain, Chancellor
10. Dcn. Richard Mitchell, Vice - Chancellor

For additional information on the policies that govern the matters discussed above, please visit www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED:

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please first call the Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) and/or your local law enforcement agency. If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report should then also be made to the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist at 318-542-9805.

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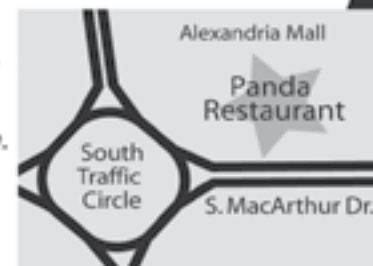
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Golf Tournament to benefit Manna House

The annual APT/WAPT (Women's) Golf Pro Tour and the Hixson Ford Pro Am Golf Tournament hosted at Oakwing Golf Club in Alexandria will once again benefit Manna House.

The Hixson Ford Pro Am Tournament will be held Tuesday, March 12. Each team of three will be paired with a professional golfer.

The entry fee of \$1,000 per team includes green fees, golf cart, hole sponsorship, six invitations to the Pro Am Party, the Pro Am Awards Party (with food and drinks included), and the opportunity to play with a professional golfer. Entry forms may be picked up at the Oak Wing Golf Course.

The Coca-Cola, Dr. Pepper APT Golf Pro Tournament will be held March 13-16 at Oakwing and

Links on the Bayou.

Professional golfers like Harrison Frazar, Tag Riding, and Ron Whittaker, many who in the past, have graduated to the PGA Tour, will be competing for a \$30,000 purse.

"We are so excited to once again be the beneficiary of this world-class golf tournament," said Jessica Viator, executive director of Manna House. Viator said a number of sponsorship packages are available including the Shoot-Out, Pro-Am Party, Pro-Am Awards Party, Leader Group, Cart Sign, Driving Range, Putting Green, Pro-Am Team Sponsorship, and Hole Sponsorship.

For more information, contact Theresa Slater, tournament chair person at 318-664-3603 or Jessica Viator at 318-445-9053 or cenlamannahouse@gmail.com.



2018 HIXSON FORD PRO AM. Local amateur golfers and their pro get ready to tee off for last year's tournament which raised approximately \$40,000 for Manna House. There's still time to put your team together for this year's tournament.

Tournament Schedule:

Monday, March 11

4:00 p.m.

Robbie Rogenmoser Shoot Out

4:00 p.m.

Dr. David Rogenmoser Sip and Chip

(Free chipping and putting clinic with APT Pro Golfers providing instructions.)

6:30 p.m.

UTLX / Leeco Steel / Alexandria Pineville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Pro-Am Party (Casual Attire)

Tuesday, March 12

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

HIXSON Ford Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Oakwing Golf Club

Thursday, March 14

7:00 p.m.

Roy O' Martin / Tunk's Pro-Am Awards Party (Casual attire)

BEAT THE PRO

Glow Ball Championship

March 13 - 16

8:00 a.m. each day.

Coca-Cola Dr. Pepper Open

Saturday, March 16

1:30 p.m.

Coca-Cola Dr. Pepper Open Champion's Presentation

MANNA HOUSE OPEN POSITION: COOK / SUPERVISOR

Manna House currently has an open position for a Cook / Supervisor. All applicants are encouraged to apply at indeed.com (Seach "Manna House" under "What").

Requirements include 3 years of food service experience, food safety and sanitation certification, ability to lead a team, maintain a safe and positive work environment, ability to work under stress in a high-speed environment, lift objects up to 50lbs. and work standing for long periods of time.



EVA HORN RETIRES. Mrs. Eva Horn, cook supervisor for Manna House, retired after 29 years of service. Mrs. Eva began working there with Father Foley when the doors opened in 1990. Bishop David Talley attended the retirement party held in her honor on Jan. 24.

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APT / WAPT Golf Pro Tour Returns to Alexandria for the Coca-Cola / Dr. Pepper Open

Hixson Ford Pro Am Golf Tournament
benefiting the Manna House
March 12

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, call Theresa at 318-664-3603.

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office, Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417. -- Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino, Chairman

Completed burses at \$15,000.00 each:

- Bishop Charles P. Greco
- Monsignor Thomas F. Early (3 completed)
- Monsignor B. A. Scallan
- Father H. Gerald Bordelon
- Father Daniel Corkery
- Father Michael P. Kammer
- Father Bruce Miller (2 completed)
- Father William B. Provosty (2 completed)
- Angelo R. and Ena F. D'Angelo
- John Dominick Driscoll
- Miss Mary F. Early
- Irvin and Elma Moreau, Harrison P. Moreau, Michael N. Moreau, Deborah S. Moreau Bouche, Emily A Moreau, Tom and Mary Candiottio, and Ruby Moreau
- David Stafford "Brother" O'Shee
- John Gregory Simms
- Joseph T. Simms, Jr.

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

Saint Damien de Veuster	175.00
Bishop William Friend	100.00
Bishop Lawrence P. Graves	5,805.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco	1,400.00
Bishop Ronald P. Herzog	100.00
Bishop Sam G. Jacobs	1,100.00
Bishop David P. Talley	450.00
Monsignor Marcel J. Anderson	100.00
Monsignor Leon R. Aycock	1,535.00
Monsignor Henry F. Beckers	13,657.50
Monsignor Milburn J. Broussard	8,650.00
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway	825.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer	650.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote	560.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe	950.00
Monsignor James E. Howard	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd	1,500.00
Monsignor William Kwaitaal	850.00
Monsignor Warren T. Larroque	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon	125.00
Monsignor George W. Martinez	500.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy	2,304.00
Monsignor William C. O'Hanlon	5,000.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger	865.00
Monsignor Mozart Pelletier	100.00
Monsignor John V. Plauche	400.00
Monsignor F. Joseph Rateau	570.00
Monsignor Russell J. Richie	616.14
Monsignor B. A. Scallan	10,085.90
Monsignor Matthew J. Scanlon	310.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi	9,906.00
Monsignor Steve J. Testa	8,905.00
Monsignor Henry A. Thompson	360.00
Monsignor John M. Timmermans	7,820.00
Monsignor Martin J. Tyrrell	4,250.00
Monsignor Henry Van der Putten	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle	2,170.00
Father William G. Allison	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar	50.00
Father Lawrence Bonin	70.00
Father H. Gerald Bordelon	13,885.00
Father Vernon Bordelon	445.00
Father Gilles Boyer	85.00
Father Basil Burns	100.00
Father Scott Chemino	325.00
Father Jules L. Claes, CICM	4,761.00
Father Wilbur G. Cloutier	3,690.50

Seminary Burses

Father Daniel Cook	2,500.00
Father Daniel Corkery	700.00
Father Anthony N. Cumella	1,250.00
Father John H. Cunningham	1,475.00
Father Dennis A. Curren	650.00
Father Leonard Curtis, OP	1,050.00
Father Ferreolus D'Cruz	875.00
Father Edward Deasy	625.00
Father Blake Deshautelle	25.00
Father Derek Ducote	350.00
Father Rudolph J. Engelen	550.00
Father Richard Fale	5,700.00
Father James Ferguson	700.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier	1,475.00
Father Joseph Alfred Fortin	200.00
Father James Foster	280.00
Father Louis Gagnard	50.00
Father John M. Gayer	870.00
Father Serafin Glasnovic	150.00
Father Rickey Gremillion	10,465.00
Father Daniel Hart	50.00
Father William M. Hopp	10.00
Father Mark W. Horacek	50.00
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Father Michael P. Kammer	921.00
Father W. John Kiley	625.00
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Father Henri Jacquemain	50.00
Father Russell J. Lemoine	425.00
Father Frederick J. Lyons	1,600.00
Father Bernard F. Maguire	105.00
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Father Jack Michalchuk	150.00
Father Bruce Miller	300.00
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Father Peter T. Norek	400.00
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Father Martin L. Plauche	50.00
Father Samuel J. Polizzi	1,000.00
Father George Pookkattu	50.00
Father William B. Provosty	105.00
Father Charles Ray	100.00
Father Frederick Taylor Reynolds	1,085.00
Father Yves J. Robitaille	1,900.00
Father José Robles-Sanchez	450.00
Father James Roy	100.00
Father Kenneth J. Roy	3,505.00
Father Sheldon Roy	200.00
Father Lloyd M. Samson	50.00
Father Craig Scott	2,000.00
Father Louis Sklar, III	250.00
Father Paul B. Smith	250.00
Father Ker Texada	200.00
Father August Thompson	1,240.00
Father Antonio E. Villaverde	1,300.00
Father Nino G. Viviano	200.00
Father Silvan A. Waterkotte, OFM	160.00
Father Kenneth Williams	880.00
Father Joseph Xavier	100.00
Father Bernard L. Zagst	1,275.00
Reverend H. Biggers	158.50
Deacon Emile "E. J." Barre, III	100.00
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard	2,600.00
Deacon L. G. DeLoach	500.00
Deacon Darrell Dubroc	200.00
Deacon Raymond J. Dunn	300.00
Deacon Ray D. Gibson	100.00
Deacon Charles A. Jones	1,150.00
Deacon Gregory P. LeBlanc	100.00

Deacon Todd Marye	100.00
Deacon Patrick C. McCusker	100.00
Deacon Richard W. Mitchell	100.00
Deacon Ted A. Moulard	300.00
Deacon Clifton "Kip" Pelto	100.00
Deacon William E. Schaidnagle	100.00
Deacon Gary A. Schupbach	450.00
Deacon William "Bill" Travis	200.00
Deacon John L. Whitehead	100.00
Deacon Michael L. Young	200.00
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Sister Marie Therese McGee, OP	100.00
Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick, CDP	100.00
Ismael and Libby Agosto	250.00
Shirley Alexander	1,125.00
Charles P. and Florence C. Anastasio	880.00
Germaine Armand	550.00
Virgie D. Aymond	225.00
Bobby D. Basco	4,690.00
Delores Basco	150.00
Harold and Lillie Baridon	6,000.00
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Dr. Lamar and Jean Boese	50.00
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T. W. Clark	50.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Philip Flynn	50.00
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Anthony and Mary Glorioso	100.00
Toby Guedry	1,000.00
Gail T. Gutierrez	100.00
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Maria S. Keran	1,000.00
Floyd J. LaCour, Sr.	8,100.00
Gerry and Connie Leglue	100.00
Huey and Neen Lemoine	150.00
Judge Alfred and Mary Jo Mansour	2,050.00
Huey and Ethel Mathews	1,000.00
Louis "Dump" Henry Mathews, Sr.	100.00
Daryl "Pat" Mauterer	3,000.00
Ethel Miller	100.00
Odis James Miller	190.00
Gerald Moreau	215.00
Helen Morgan	12,000.00
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Alcide A. Nassif	522.29
Kitty Treadway Nassif	100.00
Maurice Noel	295.00
N. J. and Hannah Nolan	10,000.00
Harvey Miller "Buddy" Normand	100.00
W. D. O'Neal	8,159.00
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Dr. Sidney Rud	50.00
Luis R. Robles-Cortez	125.00
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John Gregory Simms	4,275.00
Sadie Stroud	10,000.00
Robert Upton	100.00
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Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Regina Pacis #1372, Natchitoches	775.00
In Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959	1,450.00
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Tallulah	100.00
St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Cottonport	700.00
General Fund	2,000.00
TOTAL	576,757.17

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.

Clergy assignments

Bishop David Talley announces two clergy assignments effective Feb. 1, 2019.

Father Walter Ajaero will serve as Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Fifth Ward and St. Martin of Tours Church, Belledeau, from Feb. 1 until June 30, 2019.

Father Luke LaFleur will serve as Assistant Director of Vocations while remaining a Parochial Vicar for the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches.



Father Walter Ajaero



Father Luke LaFleur

Seminarian Burses January 2019 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$50.00
Father Adrian L. Molenschot Burse	
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Father Peter Kuligowski Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard	
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach	\$50.00
Deacon Gary Schupbach Burse	
Mrs. Barbara Rigby	\$50.00
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Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
Mrs. Newlyn Broussard	\$100.00
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Seminary Burse	
Father Derek Ducote	\$100.00
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Brockner	\$1,000.00
Daryl "Pat" Mauterer Burse	
The Holmes Family	\$2,000.00
Father Daniel Hart Burse	
Total	\$3,830.00

GET TO KNOW OUR PRIESTS, DEACONS, RELIGIOUS, AND SEMINARIANS

**We asked our Priests, Deacons, Religious, and Seminarians:
*What childhood memory are you most thankful for, and why?***

Father Derek Ducote, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria: A childhood memory I am thankful for is the support and encouragement of my grandmother (Doris Ducote) who was so proud that she had a grandson who wanted to be a priest. She would often ask me, "Mon cha, do you still want to be a priest?" I still see her proud glimmer in her eyes and smile.

Father Taylor Reynolds, Judicial Law student of Santa Croce University, Rome, Italy: A few, such as laying outside on the ground at night at our home in the country and being able to see the Milky Way. Eighty percent of people have never seen it, and it's so beautiful. I'm also thankful for going out with my dad to the old bridge and throwing rocks - they stay as good memories of me of a Father.

Deacon Richard Mitchell, Director of the Office of Divine Worship: Growing up with a single mother, I spent a lot of time with my maternal grandparents. Many of my fondest memories come from the times we spent together. My grandfather had season tickets to the LSU football games. He and I would go early, eat at the Student Center and enjoy the game. Since I was a kid, I would of course sleep as he would drive home.

Check back here and on the diocese website each month for a new Q&A with our priests, deacons, religious, and seminarians!



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Family Foundations



MR. AND MRS. CEDRIC RABALAIS. Cedric Rabalais and Barbara Lemoine. Married Feb. 8, 1969 at St. Paul's Church, Mansura.



MR. AND MRS. JOEY MATHEWS. Joey and Elaine Matthews. Married April 4, 1964 at St. Margaret's Church, Boyce.



MR. AND MRS. BRANDON BEEBE. Brandon Beebe and Meredith Hartt. Married July 15, 2006 at St. Rita's Church, Alexandria.

Congratulations to all of our beautiful couples and families!
Join us here and at www.diocesealex.org to celebrate marriages and families across the diocese!



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS SLATTEN. Thomas Slatten and Susan Campbell. Married Feb. 18, 1984 at St. Rita's Church, Alexandria.



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS DELRIE. Tommy Delrie and Pam Aymond. Married April 9, 1988 at St. John the Baptist Church, Cloutierville.



MR. AND MRS. JAMAL STAFFORD. Jamal Stafford and Whitney Hammond. Married Sept. 30, 2017 at St. Juliana Church, Alexandria.



MR. AND MRS. MARTIN MASDEN. Martin and Ann Masden. Married July 10, 1965 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville.



MR. AND MRS. WALTER HAMMOND. Walter Hammond and Jackie Elie. Married April 16, 1983 at St. Juliana Catholic Church, Alexandria.



DEACON AND MRS. RICHARD MITCHELL. Deacon Richard and Nicole Mitchell. Married Dec. 5, 1992 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria.



MR. AND MRS. PRESTON STEMMANN. Preston Stemmann and Connie Terracina. Married Sept. 8, 2001 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria.



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT YERBY. Robert Yerby and Laura Gauthier. Married April 24, 1992 at St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria.



MR. AND MRS. TIMOTHY KNOBLOCH. Timothy Knobloch and Margaret Perot. Married Dec. 27, 29917 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria.



MR. AND MRS. BRIAN BRODNAX. Brian and Rebecca Brodnax. Convalidation (blessing) of their marriage, Dec. 20, 2018 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria.



MR. AND MRS. LEROY HART. Leroy Hart and Margaret Hanes. Married Sept. 5, 1964 at St. Margaret's Church, Boyce.



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD METOYER. Edward and Mary Sue Metoyer. Married March 23, 1968 (50th Anniversary above) at St. John the Baptist Church, Cloutierville.



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH FRANK. Joseph and Gloria Frank. Married 1957 at St. James Church, Alexandria.

Ten Benefits of Natural Family Planning

By Leah Pelto
Guest Contributor

There are many benefits of using natural family planning in marriage, but let's start simple....

1. It's Healthy. There's lots of hype these days around all-natural, non-GMO, organic, unprocessed, preservative free, grain free, dairy free, no added sugar, and additional choices for our diet. But have we thought about what we may be putting into our bodies for family planning purposes? Natural family planning (NFP) passes all of the above requirements and more. It's medication-free! Which means there are absolutely no unwanted or troublesome side effects from its use.

2. It's Green. It's extremely friendly to the environment since it does not require oil or any kind of pollution for its production or shipment. There are no artificial



hormones that end up in our tap water and environment from its use.

3. It's Economical. After the one-time cost for the main class (around \$135 for the book and supplies), it's virtually free for the rest of your life. There is a small fee for supplemental classes, such as the Postpartum (fertility after childbirth) and Pre-menopause classes. But, NFP does not impose a monthly cost. That's a lot of savings over a lifetime!

4. Awareness to Medical Issues. Using natural family planning may bring attention to medical issues

that a wife may not have known she had. When a woman's cycle is unaltered by outside synthetic hormonal influence, and there is a certain irregularity or problem present, it could mean there is a medical concern that needs to be addressed, progesterone or thyroid deficiency for example.

5. It's Effective. The Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP has several different rules to choose from for the different phases of a woman's cycle. The married couple adheres to the guidelines for physical intimacy when wanting to space pregnancies.

The most common rule to use for the longest infertile phase has a method-effectiveness rate of 99.6%. All of NFP science is based on decades (almost a century, really) of collective research and numerous scientific studies, particularly those of Dr. Petra Frank-Hermann and Dr. Josef Roetzer.

6. Growth in Virtues. Using natural family planning to space children in marriage compels practice in self-control, self-discipline, patience, purity, obedience to the Church in her insightful teachings, respect for God, and respect for your spouse to name a few. All of these being virtues we should strive for in our Christian life as well as our use of NFP.

7. Shared Commitment. The accountability of tracking fertility signs is meant to be shared by both spouses, not just one or the other. The husband is asked to hand his wife the thermometer in the morning to take her basal (waking) body temperature, which is one of the fertility signs. The wife then makes fertility observations throughout the day.

8. It's Versatile. The strength (that I love!) of the Sympto-

Thermal Method of natural family planning is its incorporation of three different fertility signs. That way, when one sign is possibly affected by sickness or stress, you can rely on the other sign(s) for accurate interpretation of the phases.

9. Witness God's Design. When a married couple uses NFP, they can clearly see the intricate and beautiful way that God created their bodies and their gift of fertility.

10. Practice of Putting God First. When we choose to honor God and His design of our bodies first and foremost with our fertility, the practice of putting Him first in other areas of marriage more easily follows. When we elect the Lord as the center of planning our family, it innately flows to put Him first when it comes to communication, finances, education, parenting, work, etc.

Is using NFP always easy? No, not always. But I can't think of a single thing the Church calls us to do specifically because "it's easy."

My husband, Michael, and I are certified teachers through The Couple to Couple League International and teach the Sympto-Thermal Method, which uses three different fertility signs to identify the natural fertile and infertile phases of a woman's cycle. The Couple to Couple League is a Catholic non-profit organization established in 1971, and is the largest provider of NFP instruction in the United States.

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Maryhill Wish List

Maryhill Renewal Center opened in 1948 and has been in continuous operation ever since. It consists of 186 partially wooded acres and a large lake, with multiple, various-use buildings onsite and requires ongoing maintenance every day of the year. As with any facility of this size and age, personnel, equipment and outsourced services are used to help with the upkeep.

To help offset the minimal budget available to Maryhill for these purposes, a "Wish List" has been created so that you may donate needed items or services if you would like. **Thank you to everyone who responded and donated to the initial wish list requests! The list below has been updated, and will continue to be updated from time to time.**

Please contact Deacon Luke White, Maryhill Facilities Manager, if you are interested in donating any of these items and to make sure the list is up-to-date. He can be reached at: dcnlwhite@diocesealex.org or (318) 542-1707.

Blankets - Replace all blankets (some of which are 20 years old)
Need 50 full size at \$13.95 each / Need 100 Twin size at \$11.95 each

Replace the tables in the Youth Building
Need 12 Commercial Grade 8' Tables
Can be purchased at Sam's Club for \$80.00 each

Dry Erase Boards - Need 2 - 72" x 40" at \$230.00 each

Sidewalk Edger (Model 8.1 Ft HP) (DR Power / DR Trimmer)
Need 1 at \$499.00

Walk behind string trimmer (Model 8.75 Pro XL) (DR Power / DR Trimmer) - Need 1 at \$930.00

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"Tell those who are rich in the world's goods not to be proud, and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth. Let them trust in God who provides us richly with all things for our use. Charge them to do good, to be rich in good works and generous, sharing what they have. Thus will they build a secure foundation for the future, for receiving that life which is life indeed."

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

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Lenten Missions

St. Rita Church

Mark your calendars now for "The Deep Heart of God: Finding Redemption, Healing and Restoration," Mar. 25-27, 6:30 p.m. nightly at St. Rita Holy Family Center. The mission will conclude with a Parish Penance Service on Thursday, Mar. 28, 6:30 p.m. Our mission director will be Mr. Ken Kneipman of the John Paul II Healing Center in Tallahassee, Florida. Ken is the author of "Lenten Healing: 40 Days to Set You Free from Sin," published by Ave Maria Press.

Lenten Missions presented by Deacon Paul Murphy

Deacon Paul's topic is "Forgiveness Through Reconciliation and Mercy." Deacon Paul Murphy is from the Diocese of Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. For more information contact Deacon Ted Moulard, (318) 447-2746 or tedmoulard@att.net. Check with these church parishes for specific times:

- March 10-12, Our Lady of Lourdes, Fifth Ward
- March 13-15, St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau
- March 17-19, Sts. Frances & Anne Church, Kolin
- March 20-21, Holy Ghost Church, Marksville
- March 22, St. Richard Chapel, Hickory Hill
- March 24-26, Christ the King Church, Simmesport

Natural Family Planning Spring Series

The Spring series of NFP classes starts next month, so this is the perfect time to sign up! The dates and information are listed in the back under "Diocesan Briefs." Contact Michael and Leah Pelto at michaelandleah@suddenlink.net with any questions. To sign up for classes, please visit www.ccli.org.

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Quiz Answer:

critic.
biographer, and literary and art
journalist, orator, lay theologian,
poet, philosopher, dramatist,
(1874 - - 1936) English writer,
ANSWER C. G.K. Chesterton



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE. The Alexandria Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade was held Jan. 21, downtown Alexandria. Mrs. Deborah Deorosan, Fr. Craig Scott, and Mrs. Patricia Thomas were just a few representing the Diocese on the diocesan float provided by Holy Savior Menard High School.



MARCH FOR LIFE . The Central Louisiana March for Life was held Saturday, Feb. 2. Many from across our diocese participated, including Deacon Richard Mitchell, Deacon Bill Aldridge, Bishop David Talley, Deacon Paul Sunderhaus, and Deacon Darrell Dubroc.



HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE. Father Martin Laird, pastor of Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine, led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land early February. The group is pictured at the Jordan River where they renewed their baptism promises in the river. They had the opportunity to visit many locations including: Basilica of the Annunciation where the Archangel Gabriel appeared before Mary, walked on the shores of the Sea of Galilee barely 100 yards from where Jesus appeared to the disciples and told them He would make them "fishers of men", saw the actual spot where Jesus healed the woman with the hemorrhage, visited the Church of the Nativity and touched the spot where Jesus was born and saw the spot where Mary stood watching as her son was crucified, touched the stone where Jesus's body was prepared for burial and touched the spot where the Cross was on Calvary. Father Martin Laird had the opportunity to celebrate Mass in the actual tomb.



STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN. Troop 626 held their Scout Sunday on Feb. 3. Pictured are the Scouts, Scout leaders and Father Bino Palliparambil.

See more photos at www.diocesealex.org



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, FIFTH WARD. Bishop David Talley confirmed eleven students at Our Lady of Lourdes in Fifth Ward. Pictured are the confirmandi and Father Dan O'Connor, Deacon Darrell Dubroc, Bishop David, Father Kurian Zachariah, Father Rusty Rabalais and Deacon Richard Mitchell.

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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE HELD FIRST SPANISH ACTS RETREAT. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Forest Hill hosted their first Spanish ACTS Retreat for men from Jan. 31-Feb. 3 at Maryhill Renewal Center. The twenty-two retreatants were led by host/facilitating team consisting of 24 individuals from Midland, TX, Odessa, TX, El Paso, TX and Alexandria, LA. Pictured is Fr. Adam Travis (back row) with ACTS team members and retreatants. A Spanish ACTS Retreat for Women will be held March 28-31.

Martha Neil Anthony



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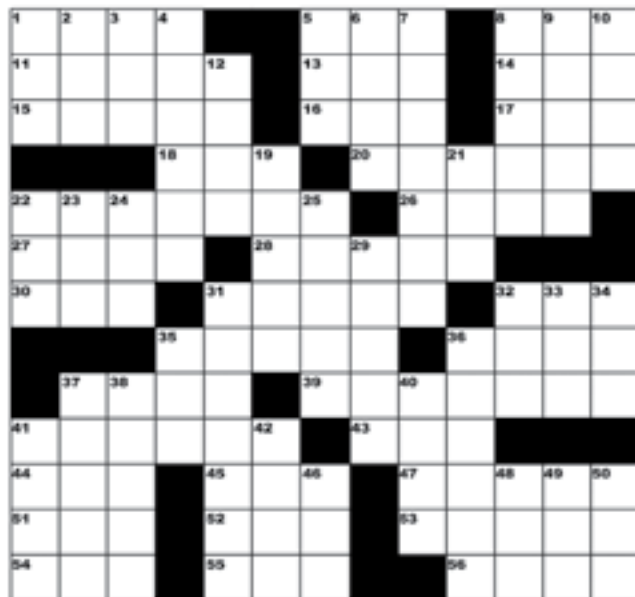
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The Cross Word

February 17 and 24, 2019



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Readings: Jer 17:5-8; 1Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26 & 1Sm 26:2 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1Cor 15: 45-49; Lk 6:27-38

ACROSS

- 1 Sycamore trimmer prophet
- 5 Explosive
- 8 Wooden leg
- 11 "Give and receive ___"
- 13 "You shall not ___"
- 14 Flightless bird
- 15 More
- 16 Cycles per second
- 17 Able
- 18 Not on
- 20 Genesis ___ the Bible
- 22 Type of seasoning (2 wds.)
- 26 Lazily

27 Abbr. for Philipians

- 28 Monte ___
- 30 Traveler's aid
- 31 Fake
- 32 Epoch
- 35 ___ know you (2 wds)
- 36 Botch
- 37 Small lake
- 39 "___ your check"
- 41 Cleaning machine
- 43 Bro.'s sibling
- 44 Time zone
- 45 Gives milk
- 47 "Strikes you on one ___"
- 51 Her

- 52 Also
- 53 Saint-___, Montreal
- 54 Cereal grain
- 55 South southeast
- 56 Temple veil was, when Jesus died

DOWN

- 1 "Until the end of the ___"
- 2 Mingle
- 3 Often poetically
- 4 Walk
- 5 Tender loving care
- 6 Nibbles
- 7 Snappishly
- 8 "___ of great price"
- 9 "A salt and ___ earth"
- 10 Intestines
- 12 Secure
- 19 Edge of diamond
- 21 Hubbub
- 22 Beats per minute
- 23 Expression of surprise
- 24 Shrill bark
- 25 Truths
- 29 Stretches to stream
- 31 Subtracts
- 32 Deer relative
- 33 Regret
- 34 Type of brakes
- 35 African antelope
- 36 Peter was one
- 37 Turkish officer
- 38 Eight
- 40 "Woe to you ___"
- 41 Veteran Employment Services Office
- 42 Cow sounds
- 46 "___ to you who laugh"
- 48 Vane direction
- 49 Sea eagle
- 50 Fox's offspring



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Came down from heaven to be with us here.

He came to us to give us grace,
To help us each day to see him face to face.

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Just raise your head and look above.

You will receive graces necessary for life,
To overcome trouble, temptation, and strife.

So, as we pass thru this life to reach the kingdom above,
We know for sure we will meet our God of Love.

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Chat 2.0 - Marriage: It's Worth Talking About

By Holly Carbo
and Mandi Chapman
Guest Contributors



The months of planning leading to the perfect wedding can become so all-encompassing, that it consumes a couples' conversations. "Is that on your list or mine?" "Do we really have to invite Uncle Gerald?" "Why is your mom being so difficult?"

It's easy to get distracted from what the engagement period is really for: to continue to learn about your future spouse in a more intimate way; to continue to grow your relationship with each other in love and understanding; to continue to build a foundation for a lasting marriage. Don't be satisfied with chatting about surface conversations. Many of the deeper conversations can be difficult and awkward, or they can be eye-opening and fun. Approach serious conversations with joy, knowing that you are becoming closer to the person with whom you will spend the rest of your life.

We have taught our program "Strong Foundations: A Marriage Preparation Program for Catholic Couples" for several years. Through our own marriages and through our years of research, we have learned that when couples want to build a strong foundation for marriage, they address the following topics before their wedding:

1. Faith and Spirituality

If you are seeking a sacramental marriage in the Church, share with each other why this is important to you. Take time to learn what you believe and how you live out your beliefs. By taking time to share your expectations for living your faith within your marriage, you can deepen your relationship.

Most people have heard the adage, "A family who prays together, stays together." (—Fr. Patrick Peyton). Consider praying together, if you aren't already doing so. If you need a simple way to begin, try blessing your meals or saying an Our Father before a road trip. Simple starts can lead to an amazing spiritual connection.

2. Conflict Management

Every couples disagrees at some point. What kind of

"fighter" are you? Do you shut down? Lash out? Run away? Say things you regret later? Stay uber rational and cool?

We have worked with couples react to conflict in every way imaginable. Ultimately, you can learn to recognize your own triggers and those of your fiancé. You can also learn how you and your future spouse react to conflict. This knowledge can help you disagree in a way that is less hurtful and more constructive.

3. Careers

We spend more time at work than with our spouses. Try to stay connected to each other's work. Be open about what happens at your job. Do you love your job? Does your career cause conflict in your marriage? Does your career fit your long-term needs and wants for your marriage? Will one of you stay home if and when children come along? Is there a chance of relocation for your job?

When you keep each other involved in the story of your day, you stay connected. Don't get us wrong, there are some jobs that bore us to tears. However, boredom is irrelevant. It is the act of listening and being available that builds your relationship.

4. Finances

Finances are often cited as the cause of most divorces. However, it isn't the finances, but the lack of discussion about finances that is the culprit in most divorces. Get on the same page with your finances. Share your accounts whenever possible, or, at the very least, share your account passwords. It is too easy to hide things when finances are not transparent in a marriage.

Do you have debt you are bringing into the marriage? Do you have savings? Do you have issues with over-spending? Do you have an inheritance? What does your budget look like? At

what dollar amount would you need to consult your spouse before making a purchase?

At one of our marriage prep workshops, one couple stated they would have to consult their spouse for any purchase over \$50. Another couple stated they would need to consult their spouse for any purchase over \$1000. These couples had different incomes and lifestyles, so they picked a number that worked for them. Neither amount is right or wrong...they are perfect because they are agreed upon.

5. Intimacy / Cohabitation

When we discuss intimacy with couples in our workshops, we ask them to write on a card, "How many times per week do you plan to have sex?" Then we ask them to show each other their cards. Inevitably, there's a lot of laughter in response to this question. But the question is a valid one...and it speaks to the expectations that are often unspoken in marriage.

When it comes to cohabitation, many couples don't realize that living together before marriage is problem until their first meeting with a priest. We are called through our Christian faith to live chastely until marriage. That means no sex. When couples live together, they are blatantly ignoring the standards to which Christ is calling them.

We offer this challenge in our workshops: What prevents

you from living apart from now until your wedding? Statistics show that those who live together before marriage are more likely to divorce. Give your relationship a chance to grow through abstinence and purposeful interaction.

6. Family of Origin

Who raised you? That's your family of origin. The people who raised you affect your interactions with your spouse. Notice, we didn't say you will have a marriage exactly like your family of origin. They will affect your marriage, not pre-determine it.

Sometimes the marriages modeled before you were amazing, and you hope that your marriage is equally as strong as those you have witnessed. Often, though, couples are from backgrounds of divorce, addiction, infidelity, apostasy, apathy, etc. You may not want to emulate any part of the marriages you have experienced.

Be smart about what your marriage should look like. Implement the best parts of the marriages you have seen; seek a mentor couple; discuss your family's not-so-hot interactions in marriage and chat about how you can avoid the same in your marriage. Whatever you do, talk about it. Be real with what you were exposed to in your family of origin's marital interactions and seek unity on how to implement or exclude those interactions from your own marriage.

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7. Children

Children are the greatest blessing and greatest challenge of marriage. Parenting is difficult, even when both parents are on the same page. If you disagree greatly about parenting styles, it is even more challenging.

All couples are called to procreate, if they are able. A marriage isn't valid if one or both of you decide you don't want to have kids. This is a chat that needs to happen when you meet with your priest.

Your conversations about children can't just be about your favorite baby names and the color you want your future nursery. Talk about the potential challenges inherent in child-bearing and child-rearing. How will you handle it if one of you is infertile? If you have an unplanned pregnancy in your marriage? If you have a child with special needs? How will you handle blending your families if you have children from a previous relationship?



ANNIVERSARY COUPLES were honored at St. Rita Church, Sunday, Feb. 10 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass with a Papal Blessing from Pope Francis. Pictured are Fr. Craig Scott and all of the couples honored. (Top left) 40 years: Jerry and Gwen Deville, Malcolm and Susan Hebert, Jr., Lynn and Donna Mathews, Gary and Susan Wagers. (Top right) 50 years: Kenneth and Dolores Dunn, Sam and Judy Despino, Michael and Judith Madden, Harry and Mary Ann Vermaelen. (Bottom left) 60 years: Knight and Meta Doggett, Gene and Barbara Leckie, Richard and Joan Vanderlick. (Bottom right) 65 years: Joseph and Shirley Brouillette.

8. Commitment

We have a friend who once said of her marriage, "Somedays we live on love, most days we live on commitment." She is in a happy marriage, so what does she mean? Even in the happiest marriages, things pop up that require couples to dig deep and work together to get through their troubled times. While "love" may run deep, sometimes "like" feels like a shallow puddle.

What will hold you to your vows when everything in you wants to throw up your hands in resignation? What will push you to seek help when things get difficult? Your commitment to God, to your vows, to your spouse, to your family.

As you approach the altar, remember to tackle sensitive topics as often as task lists. Remember, you aren't seeking complete agreement on every little topic; what you are seeking is agreement on the biggest topics

and a working compromise on the smaller issues.

Be vigilant: No one plans to end up at the divorce attorney's office. No couple says, "I hope this will be a fun first marriage!" Couples approach the altar with "forever" in mind, yet 50% of marriages end in divorce. This statistic doesn't have to be you.

Create your forever today. Be open, honest, and brave when chatting about the controversial topics of marriage. Build your relationship on the strong foundation of Christ and common values. Be real...so that your marriage is as amazing as your wedding.

Marriage. It's worth chatting about.

Holly Carbo and Mandi Chapman are both Nationally Certified Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, and Licenses Professional Counselors. Holly is married to Michael and has four children, Briggs, Emily, Ben, and LG. Mandi is married to Kevin and has three children, Lily, Oliver, and Simon.

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ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL, BUNKIE. In partnership with the Food Bank of Central Louisiana's Good Food Project, the 4th Graders at St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie are learning about the importance of nutrition through gardening and have grown broccoli and cauliflower in the school garden. The cafeteria prepared a dish with their produce for the rest of the school to enjoy!



SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR. St. Frances Cabrini School had 12 students in 5th and 7th grade qualify for the Regional Social Studies Fair at NSU on Jan. 19. Nine students took 1st or 2nd place at regionals and qualified for the State Social Studies Fair in Lake Charles on March 1.

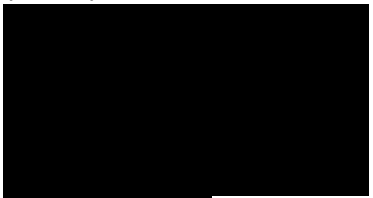


(RIGHT) RELIGION SCHOLARS. Students from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches participated in the St. John Berchmans Religion Scholars Bowl competition in Shreveport recently. Students from St. Mary's 3rd-7th grade classes participated. 7th grade finished in third place, 6th grade finished in second place and 3rd grade placed first.

See more photos and information from Catholic Schools Week at www.diocesealex.org.



(ABOVE) STUDENTS OF THE YEAR.



These students moved to the Regional level of competition, held at the Catholic Life Center in Baton Rouge on Wednesday, Feb. 13. Regional winners will be announced by the Louisiana State Department of Education on March 4.

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- **Feb. 26**, 6:00 p.m.
 MBIC, Natchitoches
- **Feb. 28**, 6:00 p.m.
 St. Joseph Church, Marksville

To register,
 go to www.virtus.org

As World Youth Day closes, pope prompts volunteers to keep serving

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service



WORLD YOUTH DAY. Pope Francis personally thanks three World Youth Day volunteers at Panama City's Rommel Fernandez Stadium Jan. 27, 2019. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)

PANAMA CITY (CNS) -- Just before leaving the physical and human warmth of Panama Jan. 27, Pope Francis stopped to thank the thousands of official volunteers, young and old, gathered at the capital city's Rommel Fernandez Stadium to tell them that they had just participated in an event similar to one that took place early in Christianity.

In their case, they didn't just multiply food, he said.

"You could have easily chosen to do other things, but you wanted to be involved, to give your best to making possible the miracle of the multiplication, not only of loaves, but also hope," he said, telling the volunteers to go out into the world and make that attitude contagious. "We need to multiply that hope."

Volunteers at Panama's World Youth Day showed it was possible to renounce one's interests in favor of others, the pope said.

On stage, before the pope spoke, Bartosz Placak of Poland offered his testimony in Spanish to those gathered at the stadium and said that while volunteering for World Youth Day in Panama, he had experienced a taste of what living in the early Christian communities must have been like: sharing food, homes, anything

other people needed.

"In sharing, you create a small community and we return to the times of the first Christians ... we follow their example," he said.

Panamanian volunteer Stella Maris del Carmen told the story of how she had planned to attend the previous World Youth Day, an event she'd longed to attend since she was a child. She had saved enough money to go to Poland in 2016 and then her grandparents died. She canceled her plans and used the money she had saved to tend to her family.

The pope said he was touched by her story. By renouncing the trip for the family, "you honored

your roots," the pope told her. "That's what makes you a woman, an adult." But then consider what happened because of that sacrifice, he said.

"The Lord had the gift of (World Youth Day) waiting for you in your homeland," he said. "The Lord likes to play those tricks. That's how God is."

What a person gives to others "the Lord returns" many times over, he said. And the world needs more such examples of surrender and love to provide a "balm in the lives of others," he said.

Panamanians certainly had heeded that counsel long before the event.

World Youth Day 2019 in Panama may not have been the largest, in terms of attendance. Event officials say some 113,000 registered as pilgrims to attend various events -- though it was obvious that many more who did not register filled up the venues.

What the event in Panama may -- or may not -- have lacked

in numbers, it made up for in its treatment of young pilgrims. Priests, bishops, women religious and thousands of volunteers, young and old, officially and unofficially, seemed to devote more quality time to participants than in the past, said pilgrims such as Francisco Apenu Cofie of Ghana.

"It was more intimate," said Cofie, who attended World Youth Day in Poland and Brazil. Panama had a special touch, he said.

"I have received more than what I expected, and this is the mystery of the divine gifts. I am happy," he said.

Though the pope spent time with the volunteers who attended the ceremony at the stadium, there were thousands of other unofficial helpers, such as those who offered water to pilgrims passing through their neighborhoods, who sprayed them with water hoses to cool them off, and offered use of their facilities or couches to rest, but who did not attend the event.

"Thank you all, because in these days you have been attentive to even the smallest details, however ordinary and apparently insignificant, like offering someone a glass of water," the pope said to volunteers at the ceremony.

In giving to others, God blesses, the pope said,

"You have had a more lively and real experience of faith. You have experienced the strength born of prayer and a new and different kind of joy, the fruit of working side by side even with people you did not know," he said.

There were many moments when volunteers did not understand the pilgrims or vice versa but, by and large, most did not let that stop them from attempting to communicate with one another.

Panamanians outwardly celebrated pilgrims from various visiting countries, spontaneously shouting out the name of the nation as they spotted them carrying their respective flags on the streets of their city.

One of the gifts of Panama's World Youth Day, El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz told Catholic News Service, is that at a time when some in the world are embracing nationalism, the international Catholic festival for youth, in which 156 countries participated, delivered the opposite message. People from different countries, who spoke different languages and had different customs and practices, managed to unite around faith and serving others.

"World Youth Day says, 'We're one family of humanity,'" Bishop Seitz said. "Separating ourselves from others does not make us secure."

Catholic Campus Ministry is provided at LSU of Alexandria, Louisiana College, and Northwestern State University. Contact any University for more information.

LSU of Alexandria: Catholic Student Organization
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Northwestern State University Catholic Student Organization
Phone: 409-749-9971 / dylan.browning@nscatholic.org

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Mass with Anointing of the Sick - Feb. 20

A Mass with the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered for all those in need on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 12:15 p.m. at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria. All are welcome!

Find Your Greatness - February 22

Great habits create great lives. Are your habits helping you become the-best-version-of-yourself? At the Find Your Greatness Dynamic Catholic Event, learn the habits for a great life! This Dynamic Catholic event will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shreveport, LA, 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., with speaker Dominick Albano. Purchase tickets for \$25 each at www.dynamiccatholic.com.

Worship Night for Women - February 25

A worship night for women will be held Monday, Feb. 25 at 6:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Marksville. The night will include worship music led by Angela McCann and a talk by Mary Wilson. Fellowship and refreshments will follow in the Church hall. The night is free and open to all women, ages 15 and up. For more information, contact Tammy Bernard at 318-305-1730 or Christy Reed at 318-305-8886.

Theology on Tap for Young Adults - February 27

There will be a Theology on Tap for young adults at Finnigans' Wake in downtown Alexandria on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 6:00 p.m. Come enjoy the lively discussion and company! For more information contact Ashley at Cabrini at 318-445-4588.

Scout Sunday - March 3

The annual Scout Sunday Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Sunday, Mar. 3 at 11:00 a.m. Please join us as we recognize the achievements of our young people participating in Scouting activities in our diocese. For more information, contact Fr. Steve Brandow at sbran62261@aol.com.

Vocation Discernment Retreat for Hispanic Women - March 7 - 10

Hispanic women ages 21 - 40 who are discerning a call to religious life are invited to a national vocation discernment retreat. It will be offered in English and Spanish. Where: Hilton Airport Hotel, San Antonio, TX, March 7-10. Cost is \$30 (non-refundable) and includes lodging and meals. For more information contact Sr. Marichui Bringas, CCVI at escribe@nationalcatholicsistersproject.org or visit our website at www.nationalcatholicsistersproject.org.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS**OLPS Youth Annual Golf Tournament - March 8**

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church Youth Group is having their annual Golf Tournament at OakWing on Friday, Mar. 8. Proceeds help fund summer camps. Tournament format is four person scramble. Lunch and beverages included, great prizes, team entry fee is \$350 or \$100 a person. They can register at the rectory or the youth center of OLPS Church. For more information: youth@olpschurch.org or call (318) 445-9748, ext. 228.

PreCana Day of Reflection for Engaged Couples - March 9

PreCana Day of Reflection for Engaged Couples will be held at St. Frances Cabrini Church on Saturday, Mar. 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Cost for the day is \$25 per person; \$50 per couple. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. To register, call Michelle at 318-445-4588.

Saint Meinrad Alumni Assoc. Day of Service - March 9

The Saint Meinrad Alumni Association is hosting its sixth annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service on Saturday, March 9, in the Diocese of Alexandria at Maryhill Renewal Center. Volunteers are asked to register by March 1 to ensure an accurate count. For more details or to register, visit <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/dayofservice> or call the Alumni Office at 800-682-0988 or you can contact Deacon Mike Young at dcnmyoung@parish.diocesealex.org.

Addictions Workshop - March 11

Please join us for a presentation on Addictions, Mar. 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Rita Holy Family Center. Professionals from the Shalom Center, Splendora, TX will make the presentation. Open to the public. Free of charge.

Manna House Golf Tournament - March 12

The annual Hixson-Ford Pro-Am Golf Tournament will be at OakWing Golf Course, Tuesday, Mar. 12. The cost is \$1,000 per team, which includes a three-man team with a pro, plus a hole sign, lunch provided by Tony Chachere's, the Pro Am Party, and the Awards Party. Benefiting Manna House. Please call Jessica Viator at 318-445-9053 or Theresa Slater at 318-664-3603 for more information or to register.

Women's Day of Renewal - March 16

Join CCRC and Magnificat, a Ministry to Catholic Women for a Day of Renewal - "I Am a Warrior." The main speaker will be Andi Oney, an international Catholic evangelist from the New Orleans area. She is the author of *Extravagant Praise: Our History, Heritage, and Hope*. The Day of Renewal will be held in Natchitoches at St. Anthony's Church Hall on March 16, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. There is a \$30 registration fee, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Mail check payable to CCRC to Diane Ardoin at 1415 Creed Street, Pineville, LA 71360. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Mary Wilson at cenlamagnificat@gmail.com.

Natural Family Planning Classes - March 16

You are invited to attend a Natural Family Planning class series teaching the 99% effective Sympto-Thermal Method on the Saturdays of March 16, April 13, and May 11 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Attendance of all 3 classes completes the course. The one-time fee of \$135 includes the Student Guide Book, fertility tracking charts, basal body thermometer, and subscriptions to Family Foundations magazine and CycleProGo mobile app. Natural family planning is 100% safe, natural, and morally acceptable to delay or achieve pregnancy. For more information or to register for classes, visit www.ccli.org or contact Michael and Leah Pelto at michaelandleah@suddenlink.net.

Catechetical Quiz Bowl - March 30

The Annual Catechetical Quiz Bowl for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades is scheduled for Mar. 30, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Maryhill Renewal Center. Cost is \$10 per 4-person team. First prize: \$500/trophy; second prize: \$200/trophy. Pizza lunch is included. Questions will be generated from Genesis and Matthew. To register or for a copy of the questions and answers, email emccullough@cabrinischool.com or call 318-448-3333.

Radio Maria Pilgrimage - May 30 - June 7

Radio Maria US announces a Marian 2019 pilgrimage to Medjugorje on May 30 to June 7 with daily Mass, Rosary, and much more for \$2600. Join the Radio Maria Family pilgrimage with Priest Director Fr. Emlio Garreaud by contacting Kathie at 318-640-4570, or Carla at 1-888-408-0201 for more information. Pilgrims have been flocking to Medjugorje since 1981. Our last three Popes supported Medjugorje through comments and actions. Pope Francis named Archbishop Henryk Hosier, Vatican Apostolic Visitor to Medjugorje on the feast of the Epiphany. He told of a project to extend the space for liturgical celebrations to assist the increasing number of pilgrims. Receive the life-changing fruits of the Queen of Peace.

Visit www.diocesealex.org for more information about Lenten missions.

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Upcoming Retreats

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at 318-308-5026
or jesusinpineville.com.



• Feb. 28-Mar. 3
Cenla ACTS for Men
Contact Les Glankler
at 318-664-5269
or www.cenlaacts.org.

February - March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
18	19	20 Anointing the Sick Mass 12:15 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria	21	22	23	24
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. TIMMERMAMS
25 Worship Night for Women 6:00-9:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	26 VIRTUS Training: 10:00 a.m. St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches	27 Theology on Tap 6:00 p.m. Finnegan's Wake, Alexandria	28 VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	MARCH 1	2	3 Scout Sunday 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria
PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ	PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE
4	5	6	7	8 OLPS Golf Tournament OakWing Golf Course, Alexandria	9 PreCana Day of Reflection 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria St. Meinrad Alumni Day of Service 10:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center	10 Special Collection for the Church Today Lenten Mission: Our Lady of Lourdes, Fifth Ward
PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	ASH WEDNESDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	FIRST SUNDAY LENT PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET
11 Addictions Workshop 6:00 p.m. St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria	12 Manna House Golf Tournament OakWing Golf Course	13	14	15	16 Women's Day of Renewal 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall, Natchitoches NFP Class Series begins Bridal Fair at Kent House	17 Lenten Mission: Sts. Francis & Anne, Kolin
Lenten Mission: Our Lady of Lourdes, Fifth Ward	Lenten Mission: St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau	Lenten Mission: St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau	Lenten Mission: St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau	Lenten Mission: St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau	Lenten Mission: St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau	SECOND SUNDAY LENT PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS
PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	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	
18	19	20	21	22 Lenten Mission: St. Richard Chapel, Hickory Hill	23	24 Lenten Mission: Christ the King, Simmesport
Lenten Mission: Sts. Francis & Anne, Kolin	Lenten Mission: Holy Ghost, Marksville	Lenten Mission: Holy Ghost, Marksville	Lenten Mission: Holy Ghost, Marksville	Lenten Mission: Holy Ghost, Marksville	Lenten Mission: Holy Ghost, Marksville	THIRD SUNDAY LENT PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY
PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	SOLEMNITY of ST. JOSEPH PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ	PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE	PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON	



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