

CHURCH TODAY

Volume L, No. 5

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 27, 2019



Helping our kids rise up

Forty-five students were confirmed on May 2 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. Pictured above with the confirmandi are Father Daniel O'Connor (Pastor) and Father Derek Ducote (Parochial Vicar).

After the long season of Lent, He is finally risen! It is a blessed duty to walk alongside the children in our lives. See pages 12 and 13, and the Diocese of Alexandria website to continue celebrating the Easter season through pictures of First Holy Communion and Confirmation celebrations around the diocese.

INSIDE

“Our Lady of Prompt Succor, we are lost unless you hasten to our aid!”

Our Lady of Prompt Succor is the patroness of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans, and her intercession is sought during Hurricane Season at every Mass in New Orleans and many parts of the state. See page 2 for the full story of her patronage.

Deacon candidates continue formation

Fifteen new deacon candidates were accepted to continue their formation at the annual Deacon Mass of Renewal held Saturday, May 11. See page 8 for more information on the deacon formation program and how you can help.

Why your teens need a summer ministry experience

It's not easy to decide which summer events to offer your kids and teens. But providing opportunities for them to be ministered to throughout the summer is worth every inconvenience. See page 20 for more.

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Looking back

**June 2005:**

Left: SISTER HELEN MARCANTOGNINI, the last of the original Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows to travel from Rimini, Italy to serve at St. Mary's Residential Training School, retired in 2005 after 51 years of service.

Today:

St. Mary's held a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 1, 2019 to introduce the new group home community located on the school's campus. The \$9.2 million project consists of 12 homes with eight beds in each, all of which are handicap accessible and will include 24-hour supportive services to assist the residents. A \$450,000 grant from Red River Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas helped to fund the construction of six of the new group homes.

Tamara McNulty, Director of the school's development program, said she's thankful for the generous donations. "St. Mary's really stepped out on faith when we started with this project," McNulty explained. "So, we are super excited that our community has joined behind us, and is making the contribution to make these homes possible for our clients." For more information on how you can donate towards the new homes, visit <https://www.stmarysalexandria.org/>.

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Our Lady of Prompt Succor and Hurricane Season

By *Emily Ann McCullough*
Guest Contributor

Finding herself short of teachers in the early 1800's, Mother Saint Andre Madier, an Ursuline nun in charge of the first school in what is now the United States, wrote to her cousin, Mother Saint Michel Gensoul in France, asking for reinforcements. The school was for girls of any ethnic background, slave or free. Mother Saint Michel asked Bishop Fournier of Montpellier if she could go to New Orleans to help. The Bishop, himself short of nuns, said the only way she could get permission to leave was to ask the Pope, who was Napoleon's prisoner at the time.

Prompt and Favorable

Mother Saint Michel wrote a letter to Pope Pius VII, knowing it would be a miracle if it got to him, so that is exactly what she asked for. She prayed before a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, "O most Holy Virgin Mary, if you obtain for me a prompt and favorable answer to this letter, I promise to have you honored at New Orleans under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor." Her letter was sent on March 19, 1809, and she astonishingly received his "favorable answer" on April 29, 1809. She commissioned the now familiar golden statue of the Blessed Mother holding the baby Jesus, Bishop Fournier blessed it and her work, and she arrived in New Orleans, statue in hand, on December 31, 1810.

**Fire and War and Hurricanes**

Many miracles have been attributed to the prayers of the Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. One of them happened during the great fire of New Orleans in 1788., when the Ursuline convent was nearly destroyed. As the winds blew the devastating fire towards the convent, the order was given for the sisters to evacuate. But Sr. St. Anthony (Marthe Delatre) placed a small statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in the window as Mother St. Michel prayed, "Our Lady of Prompt Succor, we are lost unless you hasten to our aid!" At that moment the wind changed direction causing the convent to be one of the few buildings saved from the fire.

Another famous miracle occurred during the Battle of New Orleans. As Andrew Jackson's soldiers (including the pirate Jean Lafitte and his men) faced an army twice their size, residents of New Orleans came to the convent to pray all night with the sisters, again begging Our Lady of Prompt Succor to intercede on their behalf. The next morning a Mass was offered in the convent for victory. A statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor had been placed on the altar. The sounds of the battle were heard even in the chapel. The prioress promised in prayer to have an annual Mass of Thanksgiving offered if the American soldiers won. A messenger ran in while Communion was being served

to announce that the British had miraculously been defeated! General Jackson came in person to deliver his thanks. Masses are still prayed every January 8th in thanksgiving for the victory.

Present Day Devotions

Our Lady of Prompt Succor is the patroness of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans and her intercession is sought during Hurricane season at every Mass in New Orleans and many of the cities in the state. Anyone can visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in New Orleans, where the original statue is kept.

Whatever storms you are facing in your life - whether they be actual hurricanes this year or simply storms in your soul - have faith in the intercession of our Blessed Mother under her mantle as Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Trust that her answer to you will be as "prompt and favorable" as it has been for the past 200 years.

To pray:

***Our Lady of Prompt Succor,
hasten to help us.***

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, Alexandria.

Washington's archbishop plans to get 'out in field' to meet people, listen

By Julie Asher
Catholic News Service

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (CNS) -- Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory will have a lot of things on his plate when he becomes the newest leader of the influential archdiocese situated in the nation's capital: the sexual abuse roiling the Catholic Church, the tense political climate on the Hill and the challenges that come with learning about a new archdiocese.

The newest archbishop of Washington knows what his first priority will be however.

The "first and most important thing" is "getting out in the field and meeting the people," Archbishop Gregory told Catholic News Service in a May 17 interview.

He has six listening sessions scheduled with priests of the Washington Archdiocese, and "I'm trying to fill up my calendar right now with moments when I can be in the parishes with the people," he said. Like "a Sunday supply priest," he wants to visit local parishes to say Mass and afterward stand at the back of church and greet people.

Archbishop Gregory has "no fancy requirements" for such visits, nor would he expect any "fancy preparation." He just has "the real desire to be there as a listener," he said, adding that "it is that casual encounter with people that often proves to be the most fruitful."

"I've discovered the best approach to learning about a diocese is to listen to the diocese so you don't go in with all kinds of preprogrammed intentions that may or may not fit the experience of the people or their needs,"



ARCHBISHOP WILTON GREGORY GREETES STUDENTS. Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, 71, greets students at St. Anthony Catholic School in Washington April 5, 2019. In a May 17 interview with Catholic News Service, he said getting out to visit parishes is one of his first priorities as the new archbishop. (CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Catholic Standard)

said the 71-year-old prelate, who will be installed as Washington's seventh archbishop May 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

When Pope Francis appointed him to Washington April 5, he had been Atlanta's archbishop for 14 years. Before that, the Chicago native was bishop of Belleville, Illinois; he was a Chicago auxiliary bishop when he was named to head that diocese.

In Washington, he succeeds Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, who

had headed the archdiocese for 12 years until his retirement last October.

In an interview with CNS at the Archdiocese Pastoral Center in Hyattsville, just outside the District of Columbia, Archbishop Gregory covered a wide range of topics.

He talked about bringing hope and healing to Catholics coping with the clergy abuse scandal; how his new duties include speaking for the church "to the powers that be" in the nation's capital when the times

call for it; the significance of his appointment as the first African American archbishop to head an archdiocese with "a storied history of African American Catholics going back to pre-nationhood"; what he'll miss most about his former archdiocese; and a few of his side interests, like cooking and golfing.

Archbishop Gregory said the abuse scandal erupting again in the church over the last year is "chapter two" of what the church went through in 2002. He was bishop of Belleville at the time and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and was involved in the drafting and the implementation of the bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

"The dynamic then was the scandal that people were experiencing and voicing, that clergymen, priests, deacons, church officials had harmed their children," he said.

"Chapter two is the revelation that those in leadership too frequently did not address those issues appropriately and in a very few cases, some of the leaders themselves were engaged in that behavior," Archbishop Gregory said.

There is "anger at the failure of leadership," he said, "and from my perspective that's more problematic, because now you're looking at the very authorities that have been asked to guide and govern and teach and sanctify the church, and they themselves either did not handle those case well or even worse were a part of that."

"The two moments are related, but they are distinct,"

Archbishop Gregory said. "It seems to me that the task that lies before me is to both listen to the people -- to hear them, to hear the hurt, acknowledge it, recognize it, but then also to invite them to reach into their own spiritual treasures and to say now we can't allow our history to determine our future and to invite them with me to chart a new direction and engage them."

Archbishop Gregory said he is hopeful the U.S. bishops, when they meet in June in Baltimore, will build on Pope Francis' "motu proprio" issued May 9 giving clear direction to the global Catholic Church about reporting abuse and holding church leaders accountable.

Last November, during the fail general assembly, the Vatican had asked the U.S. bishops to postpone a vote on to implementing new protocols to boost the accountability of bishops to laypeople and survivors of clergy sex abuse.

In June, the bishops can go forward with those protocols, he believes, putting "into place structures and procedures that will be a resolve and a direction for the future. Those procedures also have to include lay involvement, lay engagement in a similar way to what the charter did in establishing lay review boards."

"These steps will go a long way to bringing some healing" from the abuse crisis, Archbishop Gregory remarked. "But also I have to stand in the presence of these people of the archdiocese before God and ask their pardon."

He added, "There's a family I am still very close to from

continued on page 5

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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."

Receiving Holy Communion

Q. My daughter went away to college last year and now chooses not to attend Mass -- although there is a Catholic parish just a couple of miles from her school. When she comes home (every few months), she attends church with me.

Should I tell her not to receive Communion -- since she has not been to confession and has been consciously neglecting her Sunday obligation? (I want to encourage her to stay with the church, so I am not sure how to proceed.) (Richmond, Virginia)

A. Your question, as I view it, is more one of strategy than of theology -- and reasonable minds could well differ as to how to respond. Everyone's goal, of course, is the same: to get your daughter back to regular practice of the sacraments.

The teaching of the church is clear; the Catechism of the



Question Corner

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

Catholic Church says this: "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants). ... Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (No. 2181).

Gravity of matter, though, is just one of three necessary conditions for a mortal sin -- the

others being complete consent of the will and full knowledge of the sinful character of the act or omission. In that light, I would not be certain that your daughter has been committing mortal sin because I don't presume to know the state of her mind (how fully she recognizes her duty to be at Sunday Mass.)

So I don't think that I would tell her directly that she can't receive Communion. I would, though, find a way -- in a low-key manner that is not confrontational -- to explain

to her from time to time what the sacraments mean in your own life and to suggest that she might find a similar benefit in her own.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.

*God mounts
his throne to
shouts of joy:
a blare of
trumpets for
the Lord.*

Psalm 47:6
Responsorial Psalm
for June 2

Corpus Christi Procession

Now that our journey through the season of Lent has concluded and we have celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord, many have participated in First Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. These are two important milestones in our spiritual journey so it is wonderful to see many of our church parishes celebrate these important sacraments with much fanfare. Our young people and parents alike come well-dressed and excited about these most special days. It is a chance for all of us to celebrate the goodness of God and participate in a public proclamation of our belief in Jesus and the importance of having faith in our life.

What if the special attention given to receiving "First Communion" was extended to include each time we receive communion? The preparation, the contemplation of receiving JESUS, dressing our best, being on our best behavior, inviting friends and family to join us in the experience...after all, receiving the Eucharist IS special each time we receive Him. For it is the sacrament of the Eucharist that sets Catholics apart from our protestant brothers and



Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard W. Mitchell

sisters and something we should always approach with the same excitement and awe as we did the first time we received Him.

To ensure we recognize the importance of the Eucharist, Mother Church has a solemnity (a feast day of the highest ranking) called "The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ" or more commonly known as "Corpus Christi". This Solemnity is celebrated on the Sunday after the Most Holy Trinity Sunday which this year will be on June 23, 2019. The focus on the Mass and likely the priest or deacon's homily is on the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist.

This leads to this month's question: "What is the

significance of a procession outside of the church for Corpus Christi?"

There is a tradition that is making a nice comeback throughout the United States with a "Eucharistic Procession" to celebrate this solemnity. Many do not realize that the last words spoken to us at each Mass is for us to "GO" and take what you have received at the Mass, i.e., Jesus, in both Word and Eucharist, and bring Him to those we encounter on a daily basis. So the procession helps remind us that we are to bring Jesus outside of the Church as we promote and honor the goodness of our Lord. As St. Pope John Paul II taught: "Our faith in the God who took flesh in order to become our companion along

the way needs to be everywhere proclaimed, especially in our streets and homes, as an expression of our grateful love and as an inexhaustible source of blessings." The procession will likely consist of servers carrying the cross and candles while the priest, wearing a humeral veil, carries Jesus in a monstrance. For outdoor processions, there should be a canopy over the priest carrying the monstrance which serves both as a protection from outdoor elements and it creates a "sacred space" for the Eucharist.

So I challenge those who are able, to prepare as if this year's Solemnity is again your "First Communion". Prepare yourself by making a good confession, dress your best, invite friends and family, and receive our Lord with the same excitement you had the first time you received Him. Whether your church parish has a Eucharist procession or not, GO and spread the Good News of Jesus by your words and actions! By doing so, you will be a beacon for others so they too can come to "Love the Liturgy."

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

**Feast of
Corpus Christi:
June 23**



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ARCHBISHOP

(continued from pg. 3)

Belleville, and the wife, who knows me well, once said, "You know Wilton, when a married man has made a terrible mistake he can never say, "I'm sorry enough," and I think that analogy is also appropriate to this moment."

The abuse crisis has "broken the hearts of many of our priests," Archbishop Gregory said, "because here they are in the trenches working hard and doing the best they can, trying to make 'bricks with no straw' and this is then dropped in their laps and that's hurt them."

In Washington, he said his listening sessions with the priests of the archdiocese will "lay the foundation of a relationship that I want to build" with them.

There will be times "when we're together to do business" but also "times when we're together to pray together, to relax together, to joke together. A friendship can't simply be established on doing business. It has to be established on opening hearts and engaging one another."

With regard to him being Washington's first African American archbishop, he said he knows that for many African American Catholics, his appointment "is a great source of pride, and I am honored those feelings are there."

"I look forward to encountering the African American Catholic community as one of their sons who has now become their shepherd," he added.

"I'm very much aware the Archdiocese of Washington has a storied history of African American Catholics going back to pre-nationhood. There's a sacred heritage that I hope to both recognize and to honor," he



WASHINGTON'S NEW ARCHBISHOP. Bishops and clergy gather to congratulate and welcome Archbishop Gregory into his new appointment.

commented.

Archbishop Gregory also observed that our nation is at a moment "where the ugly presence of racism has come to the fore again -- and I say 'come to the fore' because some of the problems and some of the attitudes that have now gotten media attention obviously have been there latently and but now they have come to the surface again."

"I hope that in my ministry as an African American archbishop, I can invite people of all races and cultures and traditions (to) be church together," he said, adding that "we are best ... when we are together."

What he will miss most of all about the Archdiocese of Atlanta are the people -- priests, deacons, religious sisters and the laity. "Every church enjoys its greatest treasure in its people," he said

The people there have been "so generous and gracious and loving to me -- they became family," he added.

As he makes the transition to the Archdiocese of Washington -- at least one thing will be different:

He will not be able to drive himself anywhere. He must have a driver, he explained, because the archdiocese "is a corporation sole for legal protection."

This "is going to be a real challenge for me because I am an independent soul. ... That's limiting (but) we will get through."

He is a sports fan. In whatever spare time he may have, sports is one of the three things he watches on television, along with news and nature shows. And speaking of sports, he feels that as the bishop of the local church, "I've got to root for the local team," so when it comes to baseball, now he'll be rooting for the Washington Nationals.

He likes to play golf -- or "tries" to play golf, but spending time in the kitchen and making a meal, "that's relaxing for me."

"Part of the job" of a bishop is attending a lot of formal dinners and banquets, Archbishop Gregory said, "but when I'm home I like to put on casual clothes and go into the kitchen and bang the pots" and make a meal.



CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING. The April meeting of the Catholic Medical Association Alexandria Guild (est. 2012), took place on April 4. Fr. Martin Laird was guest speaker and talked about spiritual warfare with further reference to the book on Spiritual Combat and a Treatise on Peace of Soul by Dom Scupoli. Sacramentals such as the brown scapular were blessed and given to the attendees in addition to holy water bottles which were donated by Marcus and Liz Descant of Holy Trinity Ministry. Spiritual Combat by Dom Scupoli were donated by Dr. Joseph Landreneau and handed out during the meeting. CMA meets every first Thursday of the month and is open to all physicians. Fr. Joy Antony is the current chaplain of the guild. Meeting attendees: Rev. Martin Laird, MD; Father Joy Antony; Joseph Landreneau, MD; Anthony Amigo, MD; Anita Go, MD; Gonzalo Hidalgo, MD; Joseph Hollier, MD; Christopher Lee, MD; Hong Yang Liu, MD; Alfred Mansour, MD; Michael Manuel, MD; Michael McGinity, MD; Michael Melcher, MD; Sue Melcher, MD and Erlinda Tan, MD.

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Look for a special edition of the Church Today paper next month, celebrating 50 years of news in the Diocese of Alexandria!

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for June

The Mode of Life of Priests - That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

10 ways to welcome and connect with your new parish priest

By Cari Terracina
Publications Manager

Our parish priests are some of the hardest working members of the Church. The typical parish priest works every weekend and holiday, most serving multiple roles within the parish they serve.

Just last month, priest assignments for the Diocese of Alexandria were announced here and on the Diocese website. (To see those assignments, please visit www.diocesealex.org/latest-news/clergy-assignments-effective-july-1-2019/.) Most priests will move and settle into their new assignments this month.

Perhaps this summer brought a new pastor or priest to your church parish. Kind of like moving to a new city or beginning a new job, entering a new parish is a big life change for priests. Or, perhaps your parish priest will be sticking around for another year or two, and you simply feel the need to reconnect with him to show your support. As parishioners, we can reach out in small ways to make our spiritual fathers feel welcomed and valued.

1. Introduce yourself

This may seem obvious, but this first simple extension of hospitality can often be overlooked. Take time out to greet your priest before Mass, and don't be afraid to be the first to say hello when you see him at



PRIEST CONVOCATION. Priests of the Diocese of Alexandria participate in a week set aside for education and continued formation.

youth nights or parish events.

2. Help him remember you

Father might be meeting a lot of new people right now, or be extremely busy planning for the fall season. When you do introduce yourself to him, expect to need to do so again. Help him by repeating your and your family's names the first handful of times you connect with him.

3. Invite him to dinner.

A great way to get to know your new priest is by inviting him over for dinner. Provide a home-cooked meal or even a take-out

dinner to simply and genuinely get to know his background, hobbies, ministerial interests, and where he might need support. Offer him encouragement with nothing requested in return.

4. Or bring the meal to him.

In the midst of moving to a new parish or simply living life as a parish priest, Father's schedule might be packed. So, while he might be excited to join you and your family or friends for dinner, it could be a few weeks before his schedule allows it. In the

meantime, consider dropping off a meal to the rectory for all of the priests of the parish.

5. Celebrate their special days.

Find out the date of your new priest's birthday or ordination, and send him a card or simply wish him a happy birthday or ordination day. Consider celebrating him on Father's Day.

6. Offer to help

Don't wait to be asked. Volunteer your time to the parish as a sign of support and service. Offer to work on the

parish website, walk through the rectory to make repairs or updates, show him around town if he's new to the area, or help make introductions to local small business owners to help him get settled in.

7. Go to Mass and Confession

Few things make a priest happier than seeing their parishioners work to grow in holiness.

8. Are you of a gift giver?

Gift cards to bookstores, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, and Amazon are great ways to show our priests that they are appreciated and valued.

9. Affirm him

Finally, we can let our new (or current) parish priests know how excited and thankful we are that they're here. Being the new priest in the parish can be intimidating (no matter how long they've been ordained or how many times they've done this). Let him know if you liked his homily, or if he's inspired one of your kids to be an altar server. A thoughtful word of affirmation can go a long way!

10. Finally, pray for him.

The most important thing a parishioner can do for his or her priest is pray for them. If you're at a loss for what to pray, consider cutting out the "Prayer for Priests" found on this page, and taping it up on your refrigerator or putting it in your Bible as a reminder to pray for your parish priests often.

*Lord, send out Your Spirit,
and renew the face of the earth.*

Psalm 104:30
Responsorial Psalm
for June 9

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.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

Diocese of Alexandria • Catholic Schools Office

Principal Job Opening

2019-2020 School Year

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria, Louisiana

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School seeks an enthusiastic, dedicated and qualified principal to minister in leadership for a school community of more than 420 students in Grades Pre-K – 6.

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- Minimum of 5 years' experience in education (preferably Catholic education)
- Credentials meeting Non-Public School Certification for State of Louisiana
- Demonstrated Leadership Ability in Education
- Availability on or before July 1, 2019

For Application Packets, please contact:

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

Or the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Alexandria. (318) 445-2401

Inquiries and applications may be sent to:

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School

Principal Search Committee

401 21st Street Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

The schools of the Diocese of Alexandria admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.



SEMINARIANS GRADUATE FROM NOTRE DAME. Notre Dame Seminary Graduate School of Theology, founded in 1923, held its 69th Commencement Exercises on May 9, 2019 at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, LA. Archbishop Gregory Aymond, D.D., Chancellor, and the Very Reverend James A. Wehner, S.T.D., Rector-President, conferred the degrees. Graduating with a Bachelor of Philosophy (Philosophy for Theological Studies) from the Diocese of Alexandria were Brennan Chase Masters (right), and Derrick Gavin Rials (center), Magna Cum Laude, pictured above with Father Jeffrey Montz (left), Director of Spiritual Theology at Notre Dame Seminary.

Sister Hannah Marie O'Brien, MSC dies

Sister Hannah O'Brien, MSC, passed from this life at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home in Opelousas, LA on May 10, 2019.

Born October 30, 1931 at Baharoon, Kilbrittain, County Cork, Ireland, daughter of Daniel and Mary Hurley, O'Brien was one of twelve children. After traveling from County Cook, Ireland, Sr. Hannah Marie entered the Congregation of the Marianites of Holy Cross on Nov. 6, 1947, and pronounced her perpetual vows on Aug. 12, 1953. She received her degree in education from Holy Angels Academy in New Orleans and a Masters in Library Science from Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio, TX.

Sr. Hannah served faithfully as a Marianite of Holy Cross in a variety of roles over the years, including principal and teacher at Immaculate Conception School in Plaquemine, as well as librarian at Holy Angels Academy. O'Brien was also engaged in parish ministry and developed social outreach programs at St. Mary of the Angels in New Orleans and St. Rita Parish in Alexandria, from where she retired to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Center in Opelousas in 2015.

A wake service was held Tuesday, May 14 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home, followed by the Mass of the Resurrection, and burial at St. Landry Cemetery in Opelousas.

The Marianites of Holy Cross request that memorial donations be made to the Marianites of Holy Cross at 21388 Smith Road, Covington, LA 70435. Words of comfort to the family may be expressed at www.sibillefuneralhomes.com.

Sister Nell Murray retires



Sister Nell Murray, MSC, will retire effective July 1, 2019.

Sr. Nell's ministry and presence have greatly affected the life and ministry of St. Rita Church parish. After much prayer and discernment, Sr. Nell has decided to move to the Marianite Convent in Opelousas, where she will be in community with other Marianite Sisters, and close to her blood sister, Sr. Mary Murray, MSC, who resides at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Center.

Sr. Nell has served as Director of Religious Education, and in many other roles, at St. Rita church since 1991 (28 years). Please join the St. Rita Church family in wishing her well as she enters a new phase of life and ministry. A catered luncheon will be held in the Holy Family Center at St. Rita on Sunday, June 30 following the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Mrs. Courtney Brinkman, who has served as Assistant Director of Religious Education at St. Rita for the last seven years, will become the Director of Religious Education effective July 1. Courtney has worked closely with Sr. Nell these years, and will be responsible for, among other things, Pre-K through 6th grade Religious Education (CCD), Vacation Bible School, Children's Church, and Altar Server, Lector and Eucharistic Minister training and scheduling.

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Deacon candidates continue formation

The eighteen deacons in active ministry are making a significant impact throughout the Diocese of Alexandria. In working side-by-side with the pastor, deacons desire to minister to the people of God through their acts of service. As an ordained minister and member of the "Clergy", you have likely seen a deacon read the Gospel at Mass, occasionally preach, and distribute communion. However, their service goes well beyond what we see at Mass. Deacons are called to care for the hungry, homeless, and underserved. They preside at baptisms, weddings, and funerals. They visit the sick, pray for those in need in the community, and spread the Gospel through prayer services, teaching catechism, and bible studies.

Many have experienced the deacons' love of serving the Church and have shown their support through generous donations to the deacon program. The financial support has come from personal donations, Knights of Columbus councils throughout the diocese hosting fundraisers, and anonymous gifts. "I am absolutely blown away by the generosity of the people in our Diocese and the support this program has in our parishes. Words cannot



DEACONS PARTICIPATE IN THE RITE OF CANDIDACY FOR HOLY ORDERS. The annual Deacon Mass of Renewal was held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Saturday, May 11. During the Mass, the Rite of Candidacy was also held and 15 new deacon candidates were accepted to continue their formation.

adequately express my appreciation. In return for this support, I am committed to praying for our supporters and their intentions, AND ensure we offer the best formation program to prepare our men to be the best deacons and are prepared to live a life of service to our Lord and His people" says

Deacon Richard Mitchell who is the director of the diaconate program. This support of the program allowed the diocese to grow the ministry by offering a new forma-

tion program which began in 2018 (in collaboration with Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans) to men interested in becoming deacons. On May 11, 2019, the fif-

teen men who are enrolled in the program, and who are pictured to the left, participated in the Rite of Candidacy for Holy Orders. This is an important step in their formation and when they publically proclaimed their commitment to study and discern their call to ministry in the Church. These men meet one weekend per month for class and spend many hours per week studying for approximately four years in preparation for this ministry.

Please pray for the deacon program, our deacons and those in formation. If you are interested in supporting this program with a donation or if you may feel a call to this ministry and have questions about applying to the next formation program, please contact:

Deacon Richard Mitchell
Office of the Diaconate
P.O. Box 7417
Alexandria, Louisiana
71306-0417

Email:
dcnr Mitchell@diocesealex.org

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA OFFICE OF LIFE AND JUSTICE

The Diocese of Alexandria Office of Life and Justice now lists a Social Service Directory on the Diocese website!

The Office of Life and Justice lists this directory as a public service. It does not recommend, support, or guarantee any of the mentioned services. Each consumer should be vigilant and ask questions of each provider, including costs (if any), confidentiality of medical or personal information, and to whom they can address complaints if necessary.

Please visit www.diocesalex.org/office-of-life-justice for a directory of utilities assistance, mental health, legal, and other services.



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*O Lord, our God, how wonderful
Your name in all the earth!*

Psalm 8: 2
Responsorial Psalm
for June 16

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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To all the corners of the World: Trip to Peru



FATHER TAYLOR REYNOLDS MISSION TO PERU. Father Taylor Reynolds sets out on a 2-hour hike over mountain, rocks and river to a village to minister. He poses for a selfie with his 73-year old guide, a native woman of the area.

By Father Taylor Reynolds

“If I then your Lord and Teacher has washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” These words were not only read on Holy Thursday, but what I literally lived out on Holy Thursday night in the small mission church of San Bartolomeo in Tupe, Peru.

Tupe is an isolated village 4 hours south of Lima in the mountains. It is located almost 2 miles up the mountain. I also visited and ministered in the adjacent town of Aiza.

As I removed the village men’s ragged shoes, revealing their very dark, dirty unappealing feet, I was reminded that really, this is why I came on this trip. Not just to serve, but to be an example of Jesus’ love.

This Holy Week I chose to spend in Peru with the Missionaries of Jesus Word and Victim, a community of nuns who work in poor, rural, isolated regions of Peru where priests rarely visit. I was the first priest they had seen in several months. I was greeted with so much joy and excitement you would have thought a celebrity had shown up! They were so hungry for Jesus!

The Sisters had done a great

job with the preparation and with the work done in the meantime, but now they said it was time to do what only a priest could do. The people were ready for ‘Padrecito’ or the little priest as they called me. Over the course of Holy Week I performed ten baptisms, two marriages, celebrated Mass every day, observed all the Triduum Celebrations, performed about eighty house blessings, provided close to fifty anointings of the sick, heard many confessions, taught catechism lessons and delivered several preachings.

One of the issues here is cohabitation: there just is no one there to witness their marriages. The Sisters have delegation to witness, but it takes time to get the people catechized. I was able to witness two marriages.

One day, the sisters asked me to go visit the community in Colcca, a small community that had never had a priest visit. I was excited but the sisters told me I would have to go alone. I accepted the challenge. Christ wanted to visit them, so I was going to bring Him to them.

My guide was a native woman of 73(!) and we set out on the 2-hour hike which involved crossing a fast moving river, hiking up a mountain, walking

along the precipices over rocks and streams.

The children came out to watch me as I approached. I must have been a sight: a white man in a black cassock with a backpack and a Mass kit. When I got near them, they ran away, very timid seeing this strange visitor. I did my best to greet the shy kids and offered them candy—the universal language of sweets! Once they realized I wasn’t as scary as they thought, I was finally able to talk with them about Jesus and Mary and gave them holy medals to keep.

So remote was this location, of those who were to be baptized here, there were three whose parents and godparents needed a crash course in Christianity!

After the Mass and Baptism, they offered me a simple lunch of (guinea pig) soup which I gratefully accepted.

Though I wanted to stay and visit, I could not linger as the trip back was long and it was imperative we make it back down the mountain before darkness set in.

The rest of my time in Peru was so amazing, seeing the power of the sacraments and the hunger of people to have their homes blessed, their cemetery blessed, and their cows blessed. For the simplicity, they really brought everything to the Lord for the celebrations. My preaching was simple yet firm: come to church even if there is no Mass; what is the Mass?; the definition of sin and the importance of avoiding it.

One of the most personally touching things I experienced was when one of the little girls I was able to baptize did not have a godfather so the parents asked if I could be her godfather. After she was baptized, during dinner with them, the little girl (my goddaughter!), called me ‘Diosito’ or ‘little God’. I was so touched!

As I left on Easter Sunday morning to travel back to Lima, the people greeted me with flowers, gave me gifts of native clothing of the type they have worn for thousands of generations and a native hat.

I truly see the power of one priest. One simple “Padrecito” like me, can go to a remote area and suddenly bring the entirety of the Christian mystery to these

people! It was humbling but amazing. Coming here straight from Rome, I was able to also witness that wonderful universal—yet Catholic dimension—in which we are all connected, all members of the same family. My little god daughter in south Peru is as much a Catholic now as the Pope in Rome or anyone back in America.

Let us continue in these days of Easter to pray for all the members of the Church family throughout the world. We are many, we are united, we are Catholic.

This article is part of our Get to Know You series, designed to help us get to know more about the lives, experiences, and cultures of our diocesan priests, deacons, religious, and seminarians.

Check back here each month for a Q&A or short testimonial.

Seminarian Burses

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Ms. Marjorie V. Johnson, in memory of Esther J. Lawderback	\$200.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Brockner	\$1,000.00
Daryl “Pat” Mauterer Burse	
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Arthur	\$1,000.00
Sadie Stroud Burse	
Total	\$3,310.00

Parish Spotlight: St. Joseph Church, Marksville Established 1869

Pierre L'Eglise offered a tract of land for the building of a chapel on his property to Father Jean Emile Martin. A small chapel was built and dedicated to St. Joseph around 1828. Priests assigned to St. Paul's regularly served this chapel through the antebellum period offering Mass and teaching catechism.

After the Civil War, Bishop Martin decided to erect a new parish in the Marksville community, Fr. Jules Januea, the pastor of St. Paul's, was assigned to begin the work of forming the new parish in 1867. Funds were collected for a new church and land was eventually purchased in 1868.

Leon Drouin and Victor Bize were contracted for the construction work on the new church which was finished in time for Christmas, 1868, with a bell donated for the tower, and the blessing of the church and its official establishment with Fr. Janeau as the first resident pastor, serving until his death in 1878 at the age of 49.

The church was renovated around the year 1900 when improvements were made to Presentation Academy, a school of the Daughters of the Cross. In 1918, Father Judermans built a chapel and dedicated it in honor of the Holy Ghost. In 1920, Father Henry Van der Putten was assigned as pastor. Father 'Van' served as pastor for 47 years, and was instrumental in erecting the magnificent Dutch Romanesque brick church that stands today.

Construction on the new church, the plans for which were drawn up by William T. Nolan, began 1924 with R. J. Peterman as contractor. Construction was completed in 1925 and on March 15, 1926 Bishop Van de Ven consecrated the church together with over 20 priests from throughout the diocese.

From his service to the Church as a pastor of St. Joseph's and as vicar-general of the diocese, Father Van der Putten was named a monsignor by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. After his retirement in 1967, Msgr.



SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH. St. Joseph Catholic Church, as designed by W. T. Nolan.

Van der Putten remained in Marksville until his death. He is buried in the mausoleum at St. Joseph's Cemetery #1. Father Allen Chenevert became the first American born Avoyelles native to serve the parish as pastor from 1967 - 1977. Under Father Chenevert, the church was renovated, with a parish council

later being formed and a new church hall being built under Father Norman Buvens. A major renovation was completed in 1994 under Father James Ferguson during the celebration of the church's 125th anniversary, and the church was rededicated by Bishop Emeritus Sam Jacobs on June 5, 1994.

A perpetual adoration chapel was set up behind the rectory by Father Ferguson, and a prayer garden later added behind it. The prayer garden and its features were blessed by Father Rusty Rabalais in 2009. In the same year, the town of Marksville celebrated its 200th anniversary with a year-long calendar of events including a special prayer rally featuring a large lighted rosary billboard constructed by the Knights of Columbus.

Saint Joseph Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Saturday, June 1.

Please join Father Rusty Rabalais, Father Scott Chemino, and the Saint Joseph Church family to celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m., which will also include Confirmation. A display of historical photos and memorabilia will be available for viewing during a delicious dinner in the church hall following Mass.

Contact the church for more information at 318-253-7561.

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LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. St. James Memorial Catholic Church member Lady Millie Carter Price received the Leadership Achievement Award: 2019 Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary's Grand Lady of the Year at the 75th Knights of Peter Claver Louisiana State Conference, held April 26 - 28 in Marksville, LA. The Ladies Auxiliary Court 91 are extremely grateful for Lady Millie's service to the Noble order as their Grand Lady over the past six years!



KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE. Monsignor Henry A. Thompson Knights of Peter Claver Meritorious Fourth Degree Gracious Ladies of Chapter #27 attended the 75th Louisiana State Conference Mass on Saturday, April 27 at the Paragon Mari Center in Marksville, LA.



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CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS' OF AMERICA PRESENTS CHECK TO ARCHBISHOP AYMOND. (Left) Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas' Court Notre Dame #1452 of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria present a check to Archbishop Gregory Aymond for the seminarian education fund. Pictured left to right are Ms. Cathy Lacour, Mrs. Suzanne Evans (Vice Regent), Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Ms. Susan Singleton (Treasurer), and Mrs. Elise Campbell (Past Regent).

You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek.
Psalm 110:4 | Responsorial Psalm for June 23

Helping our kids rise up



HOLY GHOST CHURCH AND ST. RICHARD'S CHAPEL, MARKSVILLE. First Holy Communion was held at St. Richard's Chapel on Sunday, May 5. Pictured above are students, Aleyce [redacted], Ariyenne [redacted], Noah [redacted], and Elijah [redacted], with Father Abraham Varghese (Pastor), Deacon Ted Moulard, and Patricia Lavalais (CCD Teacher).



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, ALEXANDRIA. Pictured above are Father James Ferguson (Rector) with the First Holy Communicants of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.



STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN. Pictured above are Father Bino Jacob (Pastor) with Deacon Greg LeBlanc, Kim Smith (CCD teacher), Lindsay Philpot, and First Holy Communicants Abby [redacted] and Alyse [redacted].



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH, CAMPTI. Making his First Communion on May 12 was Nicholas [redacted].



ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE, MANSURA. First Holy Communion was held at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura on Sunday, May 5. Pictured above are students, Dylan [redacted], Dylan [redacted], Parker [redacted], Carmel [redacted], Kylee [redacted], and Dorian [redacted] with Susan Lemoine (CCD Teacher), Amie Smith (Director of Religious Education), Father Irion St. Romain (Pastor), and Merrill Breaux (CCD Teacher).



ST. GENEVIEVE CHURCH, BROUILLETTE. First Holy Communion was held at St. Genevieve Church in Brouillette on Sunday, April 28. First communicants Annie [redacted], Ean [redacted], and Brayden [redacted] are pictured above with pastor Father Abraham Palakkattuchira, Janice Brevelle (Director of Religious Education), and Judy Decuir (CCD Teacher).



ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH. First Holy Communion was held at St. Augustine Church. Pictured above are students Kobe [redacted], Jude [redacted], Adam [redacted], Madden [redacted] and Kayden [redacted], with pastor, Father Charles Ray, and CCD teachers Nichol Delphin and April Matt.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO. Pictured above are Father Dwight De Jesus (Pastor) with the First Holy Communicants of St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo, accompanied by their parents.



ST. EDWARD CHURCH, TALLULAH. Pictured above are Father Ryan Humphries (Pastor) with the First Holy Communicants of St. Edward Church in Tallulah.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, DEVILLE. Pictured above are Father Anthony Dharmaraj (Pastor) with Sherry Schayot, and First Holy Communicants Silas [redacted], Braxton [redacted], AnneMarie [redacted], Kamdyn [redacted], Addison [redacted], and Madeline [redacted].



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, TIOGA. Pictured above are Luke [redacted], Michael [redacted], Amaia [redacted], Jude [redacted], Father Rick Gremillion (Pastor), and Deacon LG Deloach.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, DUPONT. Pictured above are Father Peter Faulk (Sacramental Minister) with First Holy Communicants Gage [redacted], Isabella [redacted], Charli [redacted], Maci [redacted], Owen [redacted], Kiley [redacted], Hope [redacted], Sophia [redacted], and Anna [redacted].

After the long journey of Lent, He is finally risen!
 It is a blessed duty to walk alongside the children in our lives, and help them encounter Christ. Join us here and at www.diocesealex.org to continue observing the Easter season through the celebration of the sacraments and passing on of the faith.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI, ALEXANDRIA. Four students were confirmed on Sunday, April 28 at St. Frances Cabrini Church. Pictured above are the confirmandi, Anita Jenkins, Elise [redacted], Kelsey [redacted], and Deston [redacted], with pastor Father Chad Partain.



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE. Pictured above are Father Scott Chemino (Pastor) with the First Holy Communicants of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie.



FIRST COMMUNION, ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, LEESVILLE. Pictured above are Father Kenneth Michiels (Pastor), Elizabeth Rindahl and Tammy Cecil (CCD teachers) with First Holy Communicants Kollin [redacted], Braylen [redacted], Gunner [redacted], Kaiden [redacted], Matthew [redacted], Esme [redacted], Sarie [redacted], McKenzie [redacted], Isabella [redacted], Amelia [redacted], Gitzel [redacted], Kinley [redacted], Janie [redacted], Kirby [redacted], Iris [redacted], and Antoinette [redacted].



ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE, MANSURA. Five students were confirmed at St. Paul the Apostle in Mansura on May 8. Pictured from left to right are Lori Scallan (CCD Teacher), Marshall [redacted], Kaleb [redacted], Brenner [redacted], Father Irion St. Romain (Pastor), Sophie [redacted], Cameron [redacted], and Amie Smith (Director of Religious Education).



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, ALEXANDRIA. First Communion was held at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church on Saturday, May 4. Pictured above with this year's First Holy Communion class is Father Daniel O'Connor (Pastor).



OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD. Making his First Communion on Sunday, May 5 was Alan [redacted], pictured above with Father Brian Seiler.



SACRED HEART, MOREAUVILLE. First Holy Communion was held at Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville on Saturday, May 4. Pictured above are Ashton [redacted] (altar server), Mrs. Barbara Veard (2nd grade teacher), Payton [redacted] (altar server), Father Jose Pallipurath (Pastor), Mrs. Michelle Daigrepoint (2nd grade teacher), Ms. Justine Del Castillo (Religion teacher) Mrs. Jennifer Kimball (2nd grade CCD teacher), Mrs. Andre' Spruill (Director of Religious Education), Sr. Lizbeth Gutierrez Vazquez, Sr. Sandra Norsworthy (Principal), Morgan [redacted] (altar server), and Sebastian [redacted] (altar server), with the First Holy Communicants of Sacred Heart Church.



ST. GENEVIEVE CHURCH, BROUILLETTE. Three students were recently confirmed at St. Genevieve Church in Brouillette. Pictured from left to right are Bonnie Walker, CCD teacher, Beau [redacted], Jordan [redacted], Father Abraham Palakkattuchira, Zachary [redacted], and Janice Brevelle, Director of Religious Education.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS, MOREAUVILLE. Pictured above are Father Jose Pallipurath with altar server Jalond [redacted], and First Holy Communicants Zyon [redacted], Parrise [redacted], and Zavier [redacted].

May Crowning



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH, MANSURA. May Crowning was held May 12 at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Mansura by the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of Peter Claver of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Mansura.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR MAY CROWNING. May Crowning was held at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church on Friday, May 3. Pictured above is the 6th grade class of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, VIDALIA. Pictured to the right are Father Joseph Xavier (Pastor) with the participants of the church's May Crowning ceremony.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO. May Crowning at St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo.



MAY CROWNING AT CATHEDRAL. Representatives from the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral CCD program participated with Father Bill Gearheard in the procession and crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mother's Statue on Sunday, May 6.



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CAMPTI. Andrew [redacted], Archer [redacted], and Nicholas [redacted] present flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary's statue.



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Vacation Bible School, Moreauville • June 9 - 13

Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville will hold their Vacation Bible School from Sunday, June 9 through Thursday, June 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Roar: Life is Wild; God is Good!" For ages PK3-6th grade with 7th grade and up needed as teen helpers. Supper will be served every night. For more information, contact Andre' Spruill at 318-359-7542. Cost: \$15 donation appreciated which helps to cover crafts, food, and t-shirts.

Vacation Bible School, Leesville • June 9-13

St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville will hold their Vacation Bible School from Sunday, June 9 through Thursday, June 13. Dinner each evening will be served at 5:30 p.m., VBS begins at 6:00 p.m until 8:00 p.m. Register after Mass on the weekends or stop by/call the church office at (337) 239-2656. For K-6th Grade and 6th grade and up can volunteer as helpers!

Vacation Bible School, Marksville • July 8-12

"Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good!" Vacation Bible School will be held July 8-12, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in the parish Hall at St. Joseph Church in Marksville. All children Ages 5-10 years are invited. The week will include scripture, prayer, music, games, arts, crafts, learning & fun! Snacks will be provided. Registration is free! Registration forms will be available soon.

Vacation Bible School, Pineville • July 15-19

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville will hold Vacation Bible School July 15 - 19, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. for ages Pre-K to 6th grade. For more information about email leiagraham@yahoo.com. "VBS X" will also be held for 7th-12th grade youth; for more information email angelicdawnparker@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School, Alexandria • July 15-19

St. Rita Church will hold VBS: "Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good!" from July 15-19, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for children entering PreK through 6th Grade. Free for registered parishioners, \$25 for everyone else. For more information, contact Courtney Brinkman at (318) 445-7141, ext. 217 or cbrinkman@strita.org.

Supper with the Seminarians • June/July

The Diocese of Alexandria invites you to Supper with the Seminarians this summer! Father Louis Sklar, Director of Vocations, and the seminarians of our diocese will prepare and serve dinner. This all-you-can-eat event is free, but donations are welcome, and benefit the Seminarian Education Fund.

Supper with the Seminarians is a great way to meet the seminarians in formation for priesthood! Contact Sandi Tarver at starver@diocesealex.org or visit the Diocese of Alexandria website at www.diocesealex.org for more information.

• June 20

5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Seatings
St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria

• June 27

5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Seatings
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campti

• July 26

5:00 p.m Seating
Christ the King Church, Simmesport

• July 27

5:00 p.m. Seating
St. Mary Church, Winnsboro

Religious Photography Exhibit • June

Artist, James Guess, grew up in Alexandria and graduated from Alexandria Senior High. He currently lives part time in Clearwater, FL and part time in Forest Hill. He has spent much time in recent years photographing spiritual symbols around the world. A selection of his photographs will be on exhibit at CHRISTUS Cabrini Hospital and span many denominations including Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Christian. Many of the photographs were taken in Alexandria – Emmanuel Baptist Church, at the old First Methodist Church, Jewish Temple, Presbyterian Church. This exhibit of vibrant spiritual photography will be on display throughout the month of June.



MAY CROWNING. A statue of Our Lady is crowned during the May Crowning ceremony at St. Peter Church in Bordelonville.



DA PARISH CRAWFISH BOILING CHAMPIONSHIP. Over 1600 attended the annual Da Parish Crawfish Boiling Championship held at St. Joseph Church, Marksville on April 27.

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- **June 12**, 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul Church
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To register, go to www.virtus.org

Atrevete a comer con una persona extranjera, arriesgate a ver el rostro de Jesús

By Hosffman Ospino
Catholic News Service

Durante la época de la Pascua la liturgia dominical nos ofrece una serie de textos bíblicos fascinantes. Con frecuencia nos encontramos a los primeros discípulos tratando de hallarle sentido a la Resurrección. ¡Al menos sabemos que no somos los únicos haciendo esto!

A medida que los discípulos discernen la realidad del Señor resucitado, nos encontramos con historias de alegría, temor, ánimo, duda, claridad, confusión, etc. Es un sube y baja de emociones. No se podría esperar menos, ciertamente.

De entre estas muchas historias, este año estoy reflexionando de manera más atenta sobre aquellas en las que Jesús resucitado aparece como una persona extranjera, comparte el pan, y a medida que hace esto otros lo reconocen.

Vemos esto cuando Jesús se aparece a sus amigos más cercanos cerca del Lago de Galilea y les prepara el desayuno. También lo vemos en la historia bastante conocida del encuentro con los discípulos que iban de camino a Emaús.

Hay algo revelador en el acto de comer juntos. En estos pasajes, quienes comparten el pan con el extranjero de un momento a otro descubren que están, literalmente, ante la presencia del Señor resucitado. Reconocen a Jesús y al mismo tiempo se reconocen



ORGANIZACIÓN CATÓLICA DE ESTUDIANTES. Los estudiantes de la universidad católica almuerzan durante la mesa redonda interreligiosa.

como creyentes.

Cuando compartimos el pan con las personas a quienes amamos, tanto familiares como amigos, nos abrimos al poder revelador y transformador de su presencia.

Escuchamos sus historias. Queremos saber más sobre ellas, aun cuando estemos en desacuerdo. Mientras más compartimos el pan con otras personas, se hace más fácil amarlas y afirmar su humanidad. Cuando compartimos el pan con otras personas, es más factible que veamos el rostro de Cristo en ellas.

Algo similar ocurre cuando

decidimos comer con aquellas personas a quienes llamamos extranjeras. En el proceso de compartir el pan, descubrimos algo. Como cristianos, nos arriesgamos a ver el rostro de Cristo en ellas.

Nuestra sociedad contemporánea parece sentirse a gusto ante la decisión de haber reducido al mínimo los momentos en los cuales compartimos el pan con otras personas para así aumentar la productividad, mantenernos al ritmo de un mundo que se mueve rápido o simplemente trabajar más para poder sobrevivir.

¿Cuántas veces comemos solos durante la semana? Incluso

cuando nos sentamos a comer con otras personas, la presencia inoportuna de los teléfonos celulares y la tecnología nos roba la oportunidad de hacernos realmente presentes unos a los otros.

¿Cómo podemos reconocer el rostro de Jesús en las demás personas si comemos solos o cuando estamos distraídos constantemente gracias al último tuit, imagen o mensaje que nos llega?

Desde una perspectiva médica y social, son muchos los beneficios de comer con otras personas: alimentos más saludables, menos propensión a usar drogas o alcohol o a asumir conductas

peligrosas, mayor eficiencia en el trabajo y en la escuela, un sentido de pertenencia más fuerte, compasión hacia los demás, etc. Desde una perspectiva de fe, como lo hemos indicado, ¿nos arriesgamos a encontrar a Jesús en la otra persona!

Mi parroquia, San Patricio, ubicada en Lawrence, Massachusetts, tiene un comedor público llamado Cor Unum, el cual sirve cerca de 500 comidas cada día. El hambre es real en la ciudad en esta ciudad. Quienes vienen a comer a Cor Unum se sientan alrededor de mesas redondas y un grupo de voluntarios les sirven la comida.

En Cor Unum muchas veces veo voluntarios que se sientan a compartir el pan con las personas que llegan a comer: inmigrantes, personas pobres, personas desempleadas, personas que se recuperan de una adicción, personas que están solas, familias con niños, etc.

Casi todos aquellos que han hecho esto, y me incluyo entre ellos, hemos dado testimonio de ver el rostro de Cristo. ¿Cómo? No sé describirlo exactamente, pero sé que hay algo revelador y transformador en la acción de compartir el pan con otra persona. Al hacer esto también nos descubrimos como creyentes.

Ya sea que lo hagas con tus familiares, amigos o con alguien a quien no conozcas, atrevete a comer con alguien más, arriesgate a ver el rostro de Jesús.

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You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Psalm 16:5 | Responsorial Psalm for June 30

?? Catholic Trivia ??

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, those confirmed are sent forth to spread the Gospel, just as the original Twelve Apostles were called to do.

What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, given to help us accomplish this mission?

Answer on page 19.

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VOICE AND VISION NATIONAL DIALOGUE. The National Dialogue is a collaborative effort, realizing that unity, engagement, and mobilization must be done in concert between young people and Church leadership. What distinguishes the National Dialogue from past efforts or individual apostolates is that this process is being done in collaboration with the bishops and many organizations and diocesan leaders dedicated to youth and young adult ministries.

Pope Francis and the bishops of the United States have pointed the way towards a deeper, more authentic accompaniment of young people at this time in the Church's history - in particular with Encuentro and the Synod of Catholic Bishops - and the National Dialogue is a key response to this incredible moment in the life of the Church.

The Cross Word

June 2 and 9, 2019



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Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Heb 9:24-28; 10: 19-23; Lk 24:46-53 and Acts 2:1-11; Rom 8:8-17; Jn 14: 15-16, 23-26

ACROSS

- 1 Stinging insect
- 5 Beginning of Lent (Wed.)
- 8 Brake system
- 11 Good-bye (French)
- 13 That girl
- 14 Pod vegetable
- 15 The two men wore white ones
- 16 Throw
- 17 Sacrificial animal
- 18 Pastor (abbr.)
- 20 Weasel
- 22 "See you" (Brit.)
- 26 Snaky fish

DOWN

- 27 Spirit came like a ___
- 28 Produce eggs
- 30 Unusual
- 31 Sulks
- 32 Label
- 35 Jeweled headdress
- 36 Move through water
- 37 Messy
- 39 La Guardia
- 41 Paul's eyes were
- 43 Thai
- 44 ___ Dolorosa
- 45 Wipe
- 47 Hunts
- 51 Air Cushion Vehicle
- 52 Peter's mother-in-law was

- 53 "Not for you to know the ___ or seasons
- 54 Downwind
- 55 Alternative (abbr.)
- 56 Theme

DOWN

- 1 Struggle
- 2 Hubbub
- 3 Sibling
- 4 Looked searchingly
- 5 American sign language
- 6 Footwear
- 7 The Letter to the ___
- 8 Easter month
- 9 Legumes
- 10 Jesus will "return in the ___ way"
- 12 He takes advantage
- 19 View
- 21 "___ of Galilee"
- 22 Chief Warrant Officer
- 23 Adam and Eve did after sinning
- 24 "The ___ of the ages"
- 25 Musical production
- 29 "For those who eagerly ___ him"
- 31 Frozen Russian area
- 32 # of angels at the Ascension
- 33 Atmosphere
- 34 Greenwich Time
- 35 2,000 pounds
- 36 The Holy ___
- 37 Seasoning
- 38 "To (depart from) Jerusalem"
- 40 Absorbed
- 41 Egg-shaped
- 42 Matte
- 46 Deli order
- 48 Flightless bird
- 49 Japanese money
- 50 Compass point

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Social Security Disability Law

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 Adjunct Professor (1994-1997), Northwestern State University

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The Father's Love

By Beth Williby
Guest Contributor

Every year on Father's Day I get a little sentimental. I can't help it. You see, I am a daddy's girl, through and through.

I know what it is to feel a father's unconditional love. My own daddy taught my siblings and me all about that. I know what it is, as a mother, to watch a man grow into a father. My husband has shown me that.

And, most likely without even realizing it, these great men have witnessed to me just a glimmer of what our Father God's love truly is.

Not Just Going Fishing

When I was about 9 years old, my daddy took me on my very own fishing trip. Just the two of us.

Daddy got home from work on a Friday night and we loaded up the back of his 1984 Chevy Blazer with sleeping bags, fishing gear, lawn chairs, and the snacks and soda that I got to pick out special. We drove the couple hours down to Meramec Springs and "camped" in the back of that Blazer. My poor, 6'4" dad! Then, in the morning, he took me out to breakfast and I got to order whatever I wanted from the campground diner.

After breakfast, we grabbed our poles and bait and hit the water. Daddy taught me how to bait my hook by myself and reminded me how to cast my line. I'm sure I chatted the poor man's ear off about all manner of terribly important nine-year-old things. I'm also sure that I scared away the fish with my nonsense!

But Daddy listened. He kidded me and let me talk the day away. And somehow, through



some sort of fatherly magic, I managed to catch more fish than he did.

Being Known and Loved By a Father

Now, at the time, of course, I just thought it was really cool that I got to do something that my siblings didn't. As the oldest, that was always fun!

Looking back, though, I see that it was so much more. It was a chance that a very hard-working man had to relax and spend some one-on-one time with his daughter. To pass on to her an interest that he had that they could possibly share. This man worked tirelessly to provide for his family, pray with us, play with us, and discipline us. And he loved us more than we could understand.

He knew how important it was to treat his daughter in a way that proved to her how special she

was. And to this day, I love to see his cell number pop up unexpectedly on my phone. I love when I'm talking to my mom and I hear him yell from the other room, "Tell my Bebbie I said hi and I love her."

The gentle ways this giant of a man has showered his family with love have helped me believe in a good and loving God from my earliest days.

Our Father Loves Us

Sisters, I know that not all of us have witnessed this kind of love in our lives. And for that, I am deeply sorry.

Because, you see, it's pre-

cisely through experiencing this paternal love from my own dad (and now, as a mother, seeing the same in my husband) that I can know, feel, and believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that our God is a loving and good Father.

He isn't just some white-bearded old man in the sky who is waiting to judge us and watching us as we goof up while we grow. No! Jesus Himself told us that God is our Father. He guards us, guides us, and loves us through all of our successes and our failures. He loves us with a love beyond all telling and wants us to know that we are His. *We find our true home in the Father.*

Pray for All Fathers

So let us pray for all of our fathers this Father's Day. Let's join our prayers together for the daddies, dads, pops, grandpas, uncles, godfathers, and yes, all of the priests and deacons in our lives. All of those men who have blessed our lives with love and those who have perhaps not given us what we needed.

With one voice, let us ask our Heavenly Father to especially bless these men with everything they need to fulfill their vocation here on earth. With strength, dignity, and an abundance of love, may they lead our families home to Christ.

What dads in your life are you celebrating this Father's Day?

Beth Williby is a mom of four pretty amazing humans and has been married to her college sweetheart for almost twenty years. She does her best praying through singing and feeding the people she loves. Having grown up in the Midwest, she now calls Northeast Florida home. You can find out more about her at www.awelcomegrace.com.

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Try to keep up with modern technology, says CGA founder

By Susan Gately
Catholic Ireland

Grandparents need to communicate faith by combining life experience with the technology that is intrinsic to their grandchildren's lives, according to Catherine Wiley.

Grandparents need to be catechised and taught how to keep up with modern methods of technology, the leader of an international Catholic association has said.

They see their grandchildren with their heads always stuck in screens, Catherine Wiley, founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) told CatholicIreland.net.

"The children have a myopic view and the way they learn is on things like iPads. They learn with immediate gratification – if you get a question right, it's right there telling them 'good job' and there's an icon telling them that."

So we need to understand that when they're looking at religion or relationships, that's the basis for their learning, she continued. They learn through "immediate gratification."

The grandmother of 10 whose organisation is now registered in 27 countries around the world said it was important for grandparents to "learn the technology that is teaching our grandchildren and to apply that same technology to what they want to teach them".

Ms. Wiley recommended combining "life experience" with technology and using both mediums to teach grandchildren what they believe about faith.

"Grandparents have a lot to offer. They have got the family background, the historical background of the faith and they represent what a good life is and what happens when we apply religion to our lives." However, she added that above all, the main means to transmit faith was through love. "If you love, you can do everything."

She expressed concern about the manners of children today. Her own grandchildren are constantly asking questions of Siri (Apple's voice-controlled personal assistant which works on their phones and computers). "When I'm with them, every time I ask Siri something I say 'please' when I begin and 'thank you' afterwards, but what application is teaching them manners? Where are they being taught what's right and what's wrong?" she asked.

The CGA grew out of the first Grandparents Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine of Walsingham in Norfolk in 2002. The inspiration for the pilgrimage came to Catherine Wiley, who has made it her life's mission to promote the vocation of grandparents in passing on the faith.



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION. Catherine Wiley, founder of the Catholic Grandparents' Association.

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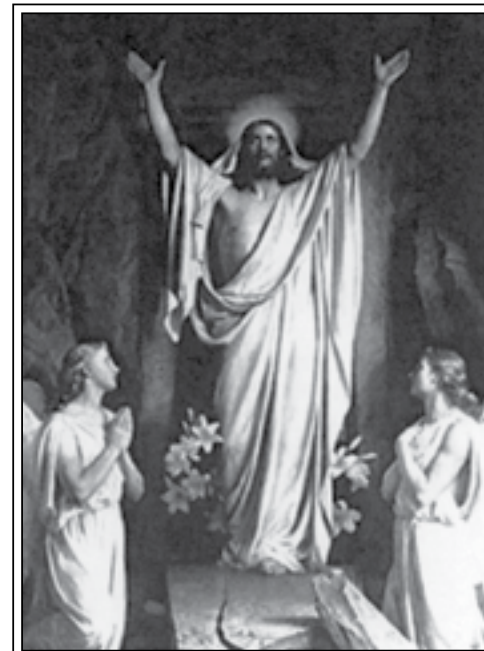
*We are the
Easter people,
and hallelujah
is our song.*

• Pope John Paul II •



Quiz Answer:

- Fear of the Lord
- Piety
- Fortitude
- Knowledge, Counsel,
- Understanding
- Wisdom
- ANSWER:**



The Resurrection

O Jesus, Our Savior, rose from the dead
Giving us grace to stay ahead.

He wants us all with Him above,
We can make it happen with His mercy and love.

His Father called Him from this life,
To free Him from all hate and strife.

He made a place for Him by His side,
A place where the Holy Spirit also resides.

Because of Christ's resurrection we have
been freed from sin,
Making our hearts and souls pure
and holy from within.

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Why your teens need a Steubenville conference

By Cari Terracina
Publications Manager

It's not easy to decide which summer events to offer your teens. It can be cumbersome having to pick and choose which summer events your teen can attend in addition to family time and just getting into the summer routine. It can be extremely difficult, time consuming, or even annoying to have to take time off of work to drive your kids to events during a workday, or giving up weekends spent with the family to volunteer for a youth event with your church parish.

As a former youth minister, Core Team member, and conference staff member, and now a mom myself, I understand how difficult it can be. But, I also know... it's all worth it.

What makes it worth it

Teens encounter Jesus personally, in Word and Sacrament.

At Steubenville youth conferences there are generally at least two Masses, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered, adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praise and worship, workshops, and ministry booths. Teens encounter God's grace through all of these avenues in ways they're often too distracted to while in their daily or weekly routines.

The teens are free to encounter Jesus, without the pressure of schoolwork, athletic commitments, or family pressures. Teens can be completely present to the message of God's word without thinking about assignments due the next week, the sports practice they'll be attending next, or the thought of having



a sibling or other family member watching how they respond.

It creates a summer buzz, and keeps teens interested in the Bible studies, daily Masses, youth nights, socials, and more that your parish or other local youth ministries offer to build upon the experience of the week-end conference.

It shows teens that God isn't meant to be contained within an academic calendar, but rather is meant to be experienced throughout our entire lives. How do you show newly confirmed that their

faith is continued after Confirmation programming? Continually offer them discipleship, and even leadership opportunities.

It provides incredible relational ministry memories, and can spur deep and lasting discipleship opportunities through the Franciscan LEAD and Service Crew programs. Summer youth ministry experiences, including the Steubenville South Conference, provide fun, safe, and creative ways for teens to socialize, connect with others, and build their own leadership skills.

It reinforces the Church's teachings through dynamic speakers. People of all ages learn and encounter through various temperaments and styles. The speakers they encounter through a Steubenville conference, Vacation Bible School, or other summer ministry experience are some of the best vessels of truth for today's teens.

Myths Debunked

"Franciscan Youth conferences are just for Franciscan graduates and their youth group teens."

As a church, it takes a Catholic village to raise a Catholic teenager. Steubenville conferences are just one of many opportunities for your teens to encounter Christ with the larger community.

"Our family already has vacations, sports camps, and more planned for the summer. I can't possibly schedule in another event."

Having a summer already planned out with so many activities can be such a blessing! You owe it to your teen and your family to schedule in a vacation bible school, family retreat, or even a

full Steubenville youth conference into the summer to prioritize making Christ the center of their lives.

"Our group doesn't have matching t-shirts, so we shouldn't go."

Your teen does not have to be a member of the largest church in town, or attend with the largest youth group. They just need to show up with an open heart - and having you waiting to help them when they get home.

Don't Wait

There is still time to register your teens for the Steubenville South Youth Conference, or any of the amazing ministry opportunities held throughout our diocese this summer. For more information or to register for the Steubenville South Conference, please contact your church parish or visit www.steubenvillesouth.com for more information. To register for other events held throughout the diocese this summer, please contact your church parish, or visit www.diocesealex.org.

Watch for an article on how to follow up with your teens in next month's issue.

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[/pages/Advance-Program](https://www.facebook.com/Advance-Program)

Several Faculty/Staff positions are available in our diocesan Catholic Schools for the 2019-2020 school year.

Visit the <https://www.diocesealex.org/latest-news/teacher-jobs-available-at-catholic-schools/> for more information or to apply.

See more photos from Catholic Schools please visit www.diocesealex.org.

Steubenville South Catholic Youth Conference

June 21-23, 2019

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OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR DARE GRADUATION. (Left) The fifth grades of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria completed the D.A.R.E. program and graduated on Wednesday, May 8.

BACCALAUREATE MASS AT ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH, MANSURA. A baccalaureate Mass was held on May 11, 2019 at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura to honor the graduating seniors of the church parish. Pictured above are Father Irion St. Romain (Pastor), Lily Breaux, Gavin Deshotel, Katlin Johnson, and Thomas Mayeux (Grand Knight of KC Council #4010, Mansura). These students were the recipients of scholarships awarded by St. Paul's Church and the Knights of Columbus Council #4010.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD. (Right) Jennifer [redacted] was honored as the outstanding high school graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield.



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD HIGH SCHOOL 2019 GRADUATION. The Holy Savior Menard High School 2019 Graduation ceremony was held May 14 at Gwinn Auditorium at Louisiana College, Pineville.

ST. MARY'S STUDENT WINS LA. CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ESSAY CONTEST. Ali [redacted], a student at St. Mary's Assumption School, places 1st in the La. Catholic Daughters essay contest in Division 1. Her essay, "Here I Am Lord, I Come to do Your Will," was published by the local Catholic Daughter Court Padre Pio #2141 in Cottonport. She is pictured above with Father John Wiltse, Regent Sue White and Educational Contest Chairman, Irma Andress.

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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
Phone: 318-473-6494
lray@diocesealex.org

Northwestern State University
Catholic Student Organization
Phone: 409-749-9971
dylan.browning@nsucatholic.org

Louisiana College Catholic
Student Organization
Phone: 318-613-0634
lray@diocesealex.org

Jubilee Anniversary Mass for Priests - May 29

The annual Jubilee Mass for Priests celebrating ordination anniversaries will be held Wednesday, May 29 at 12:05 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Archbishop Gregory Aymond will be the main celebrant and the homilist will be Msgr. Steve Testa. All priests of the diocese are invited to concelebrate.

Event 2019 - St. Martin - May 31-June 2

On Friday, May 31, The Event kicks off with a dance in the St. Martin Church Hall in Lecompte from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Cash bar and free hors d'oeuvres. \$15/ person or \$25/couple and may be purchased at the door. Saturday, June 1 is Family Night and begins with 5:00 p.m. Mass followed at 6:30 p.m. by BINGO in the Church Hall. Concessions and a Sweet Shop. Sunday, June 2: After 10:00 a.m. Mass BBQ Chicken Dinner (\$8 per plate) dine-in or carry-out until 1:00 p.m. Sweet Shop available also. Raffle/Live Auction beginning at approximately 12:30 p.m. Please come join us for a wonderful weekend of food, fun. For more information, contact the Church Office, 776-9480, or Brian Johnson 308-1234.

St. Joseph Church Sesquicentennial Celebration - June 1

Please join us on Saturday, June 1 as St. Joseph Church in Marksville celebrates its 150th Anniversary. Fr. Rusty Rabalais has invited Fr. Scott Chemino, our representative for our Apostolic Administrator Archbishop Aymond, to celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m., which will include Confirmation. A display of historical photos and memorabilia will be available for viewing during a delicious dinner in the church hall following Mass.

Catholic Communication Campaign Special Collection - June 2

The weekend of June 2, our special collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ in the United States and in developing countries around the world through the Internet, television, radio, and print media. Fully 50% of funds collected remain here in the Diocese of Alexandria to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

Sts. Francis & Anne Bingo Night - June 19

Sts. Francis and Anne Catholic Church Youth Ministry team will host a Family Fun Night Bingo fundraiser for their Steubenville South participants and other youth events. The bingo night will be held June 19, 6:00-9:00 p.m., with doors opening at 5:30 p.m., and the first bingo game beginning at 6:00 p.m. Game tickets, bingo cards, hamburgers, hot dogs, and snacks will be available at the

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

door. Bring your own dauber and play 10 games of bingo for prizes; daubers will also be available at the door for purchase. Family Combo packs will also be available. Cash and credit card donations will be accepted. Email sfaygroup@gmail.com for more information.

Supper with the Seminarians

Join us for Supper with the Seminarians and help support our men in priestly formation! Meet our seminarians and enjoy a delicious dinner prepared and served by them! Bring your friends and family ...everyone is invited! This event is free, but donations are welcome and will be used to assist in funding our Seminarians' education.

June 20: St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria
June 27: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campiti
July 26: Christ the King Church, Simmesport
July 27: St. Mary Church, Winnsboro

To reserve your seat, please contact Sandi Tarver at starver@diocesealex.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - June 21-23

Have a good marriage? Want to have a great, exciting & romantic one? Why settle for merely good when you can have the exciting and romantic relationship you both dreamed about just a few years ago? Now is the time to reach out for more and attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next weekend in Louisiana is scheduled on June 21-23 at the Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center in Baton Rouge, LA. You can register online today at www.LAMS-wwme.org or by calling Matt & Gail Quinn at 813-548-1655.

Steubenville South High School Youth Conference - June 21-23

Registration for Steubenville South Youth Conference, to be held June 21-23, is now open. Go to www.steubenvillesouth.com for more information.

Men's Silent Retreat - August 22-25

A men's silent retreat for the Diocese of Alexandria will be held at the Oaks Retreat House in Grand Coteau the weekend of August 22-25. Retreat silence supports our listening to God's gentle and loving voice within. For more information or to register, contact Jason Lavergne at 318-446-0217 or jasonlavergne@aol.com.

Positions Available:

OLPS Principal: see ad on page 6

Catholic Schools Teacher Job Openings for the 2019-2020 school year

Pre-K, Middle School Math:
St. Joseph School, Plaquemine
Middle School Science (Grades 5-8):
St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie
5th Grade/Middle School ELA:
St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport
Lower Elementary, Middle School Science:
Sacred Heart School, Moreauville
High School English, High School Counselor:
Holy Savior Menard High School, Alexandria

To apply, go to the Catholic School Job Center: <https://www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/job-applications/>

Director of Religious Education

St. Mary's School, Natchitoches, is seeking a Director of Religious Education/High School Religion teacher for 2019-2020. We are eager to welcome a faithfilled Catholic who is in good standing with the Church and willing to lead others to a spiritually healthy and dignified life of fulfillment. Applicants must have a sound knowledge of Catholic teaching, especially regarding the challenging social issues of today. Classroom experience, as well as adequate theological training and/or a college degree will be greatly valued and given extra consideration. Dedication to working with the Pastor and school administration is vital. Finally, we are eager for applicants who are willing to engage in active ministry outside of the classroom to achieve this goal. Please send resume to: Father Blake Deshautelle, 145 Church Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457 or call 318-352-3422.

Lunchroom Tech Substitutes

Now currently accepting applications for Lunchroom Technician Substitutes for each of our 8 schools. Applications are available from the Child Nutrition Office at the St. Joseph Catholic Center or online at www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/ For more information or to pick an application call Child Nutrition at (318) 445-6424, ext. 232 or 234.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: June 24
Deadline for news:
Friday, June 14

Louis Lowrey, M.A.

Licensed Professional Counselor

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June 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>MAY 27</p> <p>Memorial Day Service, Bunkie 12:05 p.m. St. Anthony, Bunkie</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Jubilee Anniversary Mass for Priests 12:05 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Confirmation Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>	<p>JUNE 1</p> <p>St. Joseph Church Sesquicentennial Celebration 4:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Catholic Communication Campaign Special Collection</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK</p>
Annual Event: St. Martin, Lecompte						
<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY</p>	<p>4</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</p>	<p>6</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p>	<p>7</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Vacation Bible Schools</p> <p>PENTECOST SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ</p>
<p>10</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE</p>	<p>11</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p>12</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>FATHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>
Vacation Bible Schools: Moreauville and Leesville						
<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Bingo Night 6:00-9:00 p.m. Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Supper with the Seminarians 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. St. Rita, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PRAY FOR H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</p>	<p>23</p> <p>FEAST OF CORPUS CHRIST PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>
Steubenville South Youth Conference						
<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Supper with the Seminarians 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campiti</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>



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