

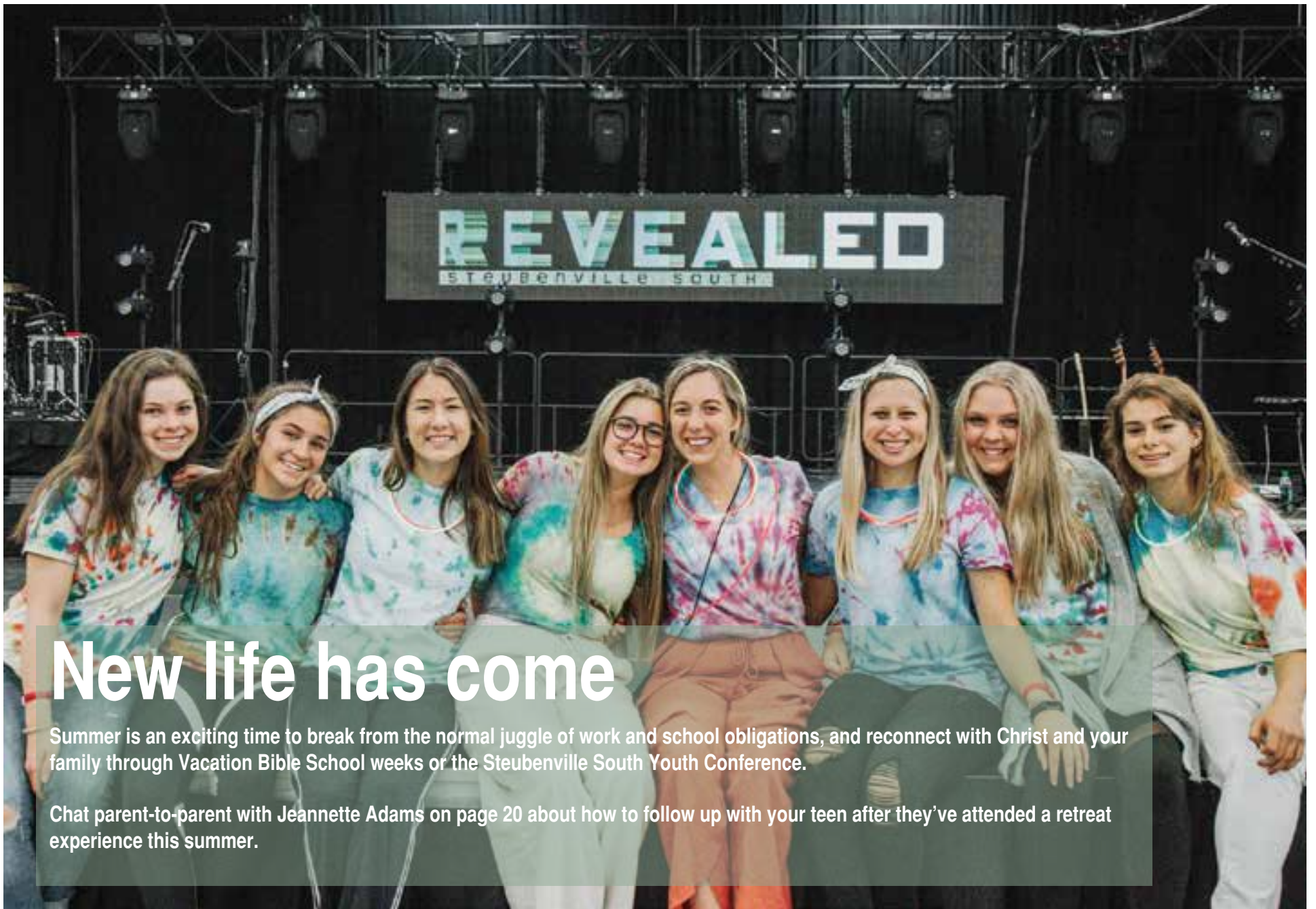
# CHURCH TODAY

Volume L, No. 6

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

June 24, 2019



## New life has come

Summer is an exciting time to break from the normal juggle of work and school obligations, and reconnect with Christ and your family through Vacation Bible School weeks or the Steubenville South Youth Conference.

Chat parent-to-parent with Jeannette Adams on page 20 about how to follow up with your teen after they've attended a retreat experience this summer.

### INSIDE

#### **Pope Francis on Pentecost: 'Christian life unravels without the Holy Spirit'**

Pope Francis celebrated Pentecost Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican June 9. The Holy Father spoke of the third person of the Trinity, stating "the Spirit is peace in the midst of restlessness." See page 3 for more.

#### **Voters have chance to 'Love Life'**

On the 2020 presidential ballot, Louisiana citizens will have the opportunity to vote on the "Love Life" constitutional amendment, a one-sentence amendment to ensure that the Louisiana Constitution is protected from state judges taking the abortion issue away from the people. See page 7 for more on this important issue.

#### **The kids are home for the summer**

School is out and the kids are home for the summer! How do you keep the kids busy and engaged without getting overwhelmed yourself? See page 18 for great ideas on how to nurture your kids' faith this summer.

## INDEX

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| National / World News ..... | 3  |
| Embracing the Liturgy.....  | 4  |
| Diocesan News.....          | 5  |
| Feature .....               | 6  |
| Social Justice.....         | 8  |
| Vocations / Clergy .....    | 9  |
| Parish News .....           | 10 |
| Picture Spread.....         | 12 |
| Feature .....               | 14 |
| Parish News .....           | 14 |
| News and Events.....        | 15 |
| Multicultural .....         | 16 |
| Marriage and Family.....    | 18 |
| Schools / Youth .....       | 20 |
| Diocesan Briefs .....       | 22 |
| Calendar .....              | 23 |

## Looking back



### June 2015:

#### Left: Bishop Herzog ordains four to the priesthood at the Cathedral May 23.

For the first time since 1985, four men were ordained in the Diocese of Alexandria at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral May 23 by Bishop Ronald Herzog. In addition, John Wiltse, a diocesan seminarian, was ordained a deacon on June 6.

### Today:

Archbishop Gregory Aymond presented the papal diploma bestowing the title of "Monsignor" on Reverend Bruce Miller, the first man declared "Monsignor" for the Diocese of Alexandria in over thirty years.

Also, the Diocese welcomes Father Taylor Reynolds back home from studies upon his completing the Licentiate in Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Rome.

Congratulations to Monsignor Miller and Father Reynolds! See page 5 for more information.

## CHURCH TODAY



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churchtoday@diocesealex.org  
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Publisher: Diocese of Alexandria  
Publication Manager / Editor:  
Cari Terracina, ext. 255,  
cterracina@diocesealex.org  
Multimedia Manager / Advertising:  
Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;  
joanferguson@diocesealex.org  
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starver@diocesealex.org

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## Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

By Emily Ann McCullough  
Guest Contributor

Young Pier Giorgio, never thinking of himself, living for Christ alone, was formed by God into a Saint whose life influenced John Paul II the Great! Pope St. John Paul II said in 1989, while visiting Pier's tomb, "I wanted to pay homage to a young man who was able to witness to Christ with singular effectiveness in this century of ours. When I was a young man, I, too, felt the beneficial influence of his example and, as a student, I was impressed by the force of his testimony."

Pier Giorgio Frassati was born in Turin, Italy on April 6, 1901. His mother was a painter and his father was a politician and journalist. So Pier was both romantic and influential. He came to love Jesus and Mary very much at a young age. He frequently spent time in adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He received special permission to receive his Lord daily in the Holy Eucharist (which wasn't common at the time). He most especially loved serving Jesus in the poor, and this was the hallmark of his short life.

Many persons dream of heroic acts, but they were a daily way of life for Pier Giorgio. He would give his bus fare to the poor and then run all the way home in order to be there for dinner. He considered himself a joyful slave of the poor, even skipping vacations for fear no



one would be there to take care of those who desperately needed his help.

He was an athlete. He loved theater, opera, museums, and poetry (he could quote Dante at length from memory). He was very funny. All of this drew large numbers of masculine followers who looked up to him in such a way that allowed him to lead them all closer to his beloved Lord and Lady. Every gift he had was at the disposal of his King in Heaven. He loved mountain climbing, so he would tell his friends that they could go skiing with him if they prayed the Rosary on their way up the mountain.

He was so enthusiastic about his faith that he had been known to defend it with his fists against the anticlerical Communists and

later the Fascists. This only made him all the more heroic in the eyes of his friends.

He entered the university to become a mining engineer, so he could "serve Christ better among the miners, he said." He had nearly finished his degree when he contracted polio from the poor he served so closely. He suffered terribly for six days and then died. While dying, he painfully wrote a note directing that some medicine be taken to a poor sick man he knew needed it.

Pier Giorgio died on the 4th of July, 1925, at only 24 years old. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 20, 1990. Let's pray daily to love as Jesus loved and so approach the joy that filled Blessed Pier Giorgio's heart.

### To the heights!

It is very common to see the expression "Verso l'alto" on information about Blessed Pier Giorgio. Very often, the words can be found on the bottom of a very well-known photo of Pier Giorgio climbing a mountain and gazing upward. Literally, the translation is "toward the top."

Pier Giorgio wrote these words himself on the back of the photo, which was taken by a fellow climber on June 7, 1925. Because of Pier Giorgio's sudden death one month later, it turned out to be his last climb. So, although it was never his personal motto, "Verso l'alto" has become representative of Pier Giorgio's earthly life - a constant striving to reach the summit of eternal life. It has become the motto of many people who have a devotion to him.

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**Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati's  
Feast Day:  
Thursday, July 4**

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*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.*

## Pope Francis on Pentecost: 'Christian life unravels' without the Holy Spirit

By Hannah Brockhaus  
Catholic News Agency

Vatican City (CNA) - Without the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Christians lack that which animates them and gives them internal life and harmony, Pope Francis said on Pentecost.

"Without the Spirit, our Christian life unravels, lacking the love that brings everything together," Pope Francis said at Mass in St. Peter's Square June 9.

"Without the Spirit, Jesus remains a personage from the past; with the Spirit, he is a person alive in our own time. Without the Spirit, Scripture is a dead letter; with the Spirit it is a word of life," he continued. "A Christianity without the Spirit is joyless moralism; with the Spirit, it is life."

At Mass for Pentecost, one of the most important feast days of the year, Pope Francis spoke about the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, which he said is "far from being an abstract reality," but is the "most concrete and close, the, the one who changes our lives."

Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus, who were gathered together in the Upper Room. Pentecost marks the conclusion of the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church.

How does the Holy Spirit change people's lives? the pope asked. "Let us look at the Apostles. The Holy Spirit did not make things easier for them,



**PENTECOST MASS.** Pope Francis walks as he celebrates the Pentecost Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican June 9. (CNS Photo/Yara Nardi, Reuters)

he didn't work spectacular miracles, he didn't take away their difficulties and their opponents."

Pope Francis said what the Holy Spirit brought was harmony: something deeply needed also in "today's frenzied pace of life." - "Pulled in a thousand directions, we run the risk of nervous exhaustion," so we look for quick fixes like pills and thrill-seeking "to feel alive."

"But more than anything else, we need the Spirit: he brings order to our frenzy. The Spirit is peace in the midst of restlessness, confidence in the midst of discouragement, joy in sadness, youth in aging, courage in the hour of trial. Amid the stormy currents of life, he

lowers the anchor of hope," he stated.

According to the pope, a lack of harmony is what has caused the many stark divisions seen in today's world: People with too much and people with nothing, people striving after longevity and those who "cannot even be born."

More social media use, he said, has made people less social. "We need the Spirit of unity to regenerate us as Church, as God's People and as a human family."

"Let us daily implore the gift of the Spirit," Pope Francis urged, explaining that it is easy to stay at surface levels; that "rather than seeking the Spirit,

we try to keep afloat, thinking that everything will improve once this or that problem is over, once I no longer see that person, once things get better."

He said this is superficial because there will always be more problems, and "resolving momentary problems will not bring peace. What makes a difference is the peace of Jesus, the harmony of the Spirit."

"Peace is about receiving the Holy Spirit. The peace bestowed on the apostles, the peace that does not bring freedom from problems but in problems, is offered to each of us," he said, explaining that: "Filled with his peace, our hearts are like a deep sea, which remains

peaceful, even when its surface is swept by waves."

Francis also criticized the tendency to "hurl adjectives" and insults at others, stating that it is harmful not only to those insulted but also to those who insult.

Those who live by the Spirit, by contrast, "bring peace where there is discord, concord where there is conflict. Those who are spiritual repay evil with good. They respond to arrogance with meekness, to malice with goodness, to shouting with silence, to gossip with prayer, to defeatism with encouragement."

It is important to recognize, he said, that just like for the Apostles, seeing the Risen Lord is not enough, "unless we welcome him into our hearts." Quoting St. Bonaventure, the pope said the Holy Spirit "comes where he is loved, where he is invited, where he is expected."

"Holy Spirit, harmony of God, you who turn fear into trust and self-centeredness into self-gift, come to us," Pope Francis prayed. "Grant us the joy of the resurrection and perennially young hearts."

"Holy Spirit, our harmony, you who make of us one body, pour forth your peace upon the Church and our world. Make us artisans of concord, sowers of goodness, apostles of hope."

After Mass, Pope Francis led Catholics in praying the Regina Coeli, the traditional Marian prayer for Eastertide. He asked for prayers for the people of Sudan, "so that the violence ceases and the common good is sought in dialogue."

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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](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing) (visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://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."

# Confirmation for developmentally disabled

**Q.** Our son, age 24, has severe cognitive delays. Would he be able to be confirmed? What level of understanding is required? (New Philadelphia, Ohio)

**A.** Your son would certainly be able to be confirmed, and should be. Canon 889 of the church's Code of Canon Law states that the reception of this sacrament requires that "a person who has the use of reason be suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew the baptismal promises."

But with regard to the developmentally disabled, the U.S. bishops' "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities" are even more expansive. Those guidelines, revised most recently in 2017, say that "persons who because of intellectual or developmental disabilities may never attain the use of reason can receive the sacrament of confirmation and should be



## Question Corner

Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

encouraged either directly or, if necessary, through their parents, to receive it."

This would be consistent with the thinking of Pope Francis, who has spoken strongly about the need to make the sacraments available to the disabled. In June 2016, he celebrated a Mass in St. Peter's Square to mark the church's Year of Mercy. Persons with disabilities proclaimed the first two Scripture readings, including by using Braille, and several altar servers with Down syndrome assisted the

pope.

The day before, the pontiff had held an audience for those whose work involves catechesis for the disabled; with regard to holy Communion for the developmentally disabled, the pontiff noted that some might object on the basis that recipients might not understand what they were doing. Opposing that view, Pope Francis explained, "We all have the same possibility of growing, moving forward, loving the Lord, doing good things."

Referencing Pope Pius X, who ruled in 1910 that children as young as 7 years old could receive Communion, Pope Francis noted that "each one of us has a different way of understanding things. One understands one way and another in a different manner, but we can all know God."

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

*Let all the  
earth cry  
out to God  
with joy.*

Psalm 66: 1  
Responsorial Psalm  
for July 7

# Proper Attire for Mass

The topic of proper attire for Mass (and other liturgical celebrations) can get a bit controversial. We all have different taste in clothing and opinions on what is "proper." Some are of the belief that women should wear long dresses with a veil on their head and men should wear a coat and tie. Others are on the opposite end of the spectrum and think that the most important thing is that the person is at Mass, no matter what they are wearing.

So what does the Church have to say about this topic?

The Catholic Church is universal and exists in nearly every part of the world, it would be impossible for there to be one set of rules for all to follow that would adequately incorporate the various cultures. In this Diocese, we are a bit more relaxed regarding "Church Dress," and a lot is influenced by seasonal heat and/or involvement with "Sportsman's Paradise" activities.

Though there are no specific rules, the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1387 does give some insight for us to consider before leaving the house to go to Mass. It states: "Bodily demeanor (gestures,



## Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard W. Mitchell

clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest." In other words, we should not dress or act in a way that draws attention to ourselves, but instead in a respectful and solemn way. Or what may bring a new perspective is to think about dressing in a way that would be pleasing to our Lord if we were to welcome Him as our honored guest.

Now don't get me wrong, there will be occasions when you may be forced with the decision to either go to Mass a bit underdressed or to not go at all. My church parish is the Cathedral and we get many visitors on the weekends. Many times we have families attend who are in town for a tournament and are dressed in their sporting gear. One of the kids has his/her uniform on and

the parents are obviously dressed to be at the ballpark after Mass. I can certainly appreciate their dedication and faithfulness to ensure they fulfill their Sunday obligation. Or if there is a church parish fair on the weekend and there will be outdoor games and activities after Mass, I could see where shorts and a t-shirt may be convenient. But on a regular basis, I do not think either of these would get a consensus vote as being considered "respectful and solemn" attire.

Proper attire goes for other liturgies as well, such as weddings, confirmations and the like. I have been the wedding coordinator for the Cathedral for about 25 years and have worked with over 400 wedding parties. I used to say that I have "seen it all" when it comes to people dressing for weddings, but I

stopped saying that because I think the Lord took that as a challenge. I do understand and appreciate people wanting to look their best, but the reason we attend church should be to worship, pray, and receive the sacraments. Since we celebrate the liturgies in a community setting, we should also have the best interest in mind for those around us. So before walking out the door to go to the church, look in the mirror and ask yourself: "Is what I am wearing flashy (or fleshy) to the point that I will draw attention away from the liturgy?" If so, you may want to reconsider your attire, for we should be present in a way that allows ALL focus to solely be on receiving the Lord through His Word and the sacraments.

Being in prayer while in the church, moving and singing with reverence, and being dressed appropriately all have an impact on the liturgical experience. If we do these things well, there will be less distractions which will allow us to focus on the celebration at hand and ultimately increase our Love for the Liturgy.

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



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Diocese of Alexandria  
on Spotify

## Fr. Taylor Reynolds serves as Ecclesiastical Judge in the Diocesan Tribunal



Fr. Taylor Reynolds, JCL, EJ

The Diocese welcomes Father Taylor Reynolds back home from studies upon his completing the Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.) at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross located in Rome, Italy. Fr. Reynolds will be assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Church in Alexandria, as well as serving in the capacity of Ecclesiastical Judge in the Diocesan Tribunal.

The Holy See mandates that all Dioceses have numerous priests who have degrees in Canon Law so that the life and ministry of the Church can operate according to the system of laws and internal governance which traces its origins back to Apostolic times. According to Church teaching, the historic system of Canon Law is not an external reality imposed upon the spiritual life of the Church. Canon Law is actually a mechanism that is “sacramental” in

that the faithful experience Christ Himself through the relationships of justice and equality shared among all the faithful who belong to the Body of Christ. The Church’s law ensures the elevation of the common good and serves the life, mission, and ministry of the Church.

Fr. Reynolds holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohop. He holds an S.T.B. Degree in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, Italy. We welcome Fr. Reynolds back to the Diocese of Alexandria. Fr. Taylor Reynolds is the son of William and Agnes Reynolds from Bunkie, Louisiana.



**AYMOND VISITS DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA.** Archbishop Gregory Aymond fielded questions from the chancery staff of the Diocese of Alexandria during a staff meeting on Wednesday, May 29. He was here for a visit as Apostolic Administrator. During the meeting, he thanked the staff for their work and reminded us that we share a ministry: to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Archbishop encouraged us to continue collaborating with each other in our work as we wait for a new bishop.

## Miller becomes first Monsignor for the Diocese of Alexandria in over 30 years



**MONSIGNOR BRUCE MILLER.** On June 20, Archbishop Gregory Aymond presented the papal diploma bestowing the title of ‘Monsignor’ on Reverend Bruce Miller, JCL, after recommendations were made to the Holy See by Bishop David Talley.

### What does it mean to be a “Monsignor?”

“Monsignor” is the form of address for priests who receive from the pope certain ecclesiastical honorific titles. The pope personally decides to bestow this title, and then a diploma is issued from the Vatican Secretary of State. Monsignors have rendered valuable service to the Church, and provide some special function in church governance. Congratulations Monsignor Miller!

### *Prayer for the Appointment of a New Bishop*

**Please begin praying publicly and privately in anticipation of the appointment of a new Bishop for our Diocese.**

Praise to you, Lord our God, our eternal shepherd and guide. In your faithfulness, grant to the Diocese of Alexandria a new bishop whose watchful care will serve to continue the good work of his predecessors. In Your love, give us a shepherd who will lead us in being Christ’s heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice. Help him to fill our minds and hearts with the truth of the Gospel, the power of the sacraments, and the desire to build up your holy Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS for July

The Integrity of Justice -  
That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

## Catholic fiction for your summer

By Sarah Damm  
Guest Contributor

Before the kids head back to school, we often desire to soak up the sun and savor the last days of summer. Even if we don't have school-aged children, we can still have a back-to-school mindset as fall approaches. For autumn seems to be the season when we return to a more organized routine, while summer permits more leisurely activities and lingering moments. So, before we get back to "normal," we jump at the chance to enjoy these last weeks of summer refreshment with one last getaway.

If you find yourself packing your bags for an August adventure, may I suggest including a good book to enjoy? And instead of just grabbing the latest best-seller, why not consider reading a book that is not only captivating but also nourishing of our Catholic Faith?

Over the last several years, I have had the pleasure of connecting with a variety of authors who are committed to creating quality Catholic fiction. These authors are smart, innovative, and passionate about storytelling. And in turn, they have published some of the best and brightest novels around. These authors offer something for everyone, no matter what your favorite genre. And I just know you will be pleasantly surprised with their creativity and imagination, while staying true to the Catholic Faith.

### 5 Catholic Novels to Read This Summer

So, along with your swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen, pack one of these Catholic novels for your end-of-summer getaway.

#### Fairytales Revisited

When you were a little girl, did you enjoy Snow White and other princess fairytales? If so, you will appreciate *The Shadow of the Bear* by Regina Doman, the first in a series of retold fairytales. It is set in modern-day New York City. Blanche and Rose are sisters in high school, and they meet a young man named Bear, who rescues their mom from a swerving car. He looks to be poor and even a bit shady, but they soon discover there is goodness hidden beneath his dirty clothes and matted dreadlocks. He continues to visit them frequently, and friend-



ship blossoms.

As the story progresses, mystery unfolds. This fast-paced novel includes action, adventure, a sweet romance, and honest portrayals of good versus evil.

#### Biblical Fiction

Have you wanted to dig deeper into the New Testament stories but haven't known quite how to do it? May I suggest reading *The Well*, the debut novel by Stephanie Landsem? Set in the small Samaritan village of Sychar, *The Well* is about a young girl named Mara who is shunned from the community. This is because of the sinful past of her mother, Nava, who is the woman at the well found in John 4:1-42.

Life begins to change in Sychar when two men arrive. The first man, Shem, is wealthy, worldly, and drawn to Mara's beauty. Then, there is Jesus, who miraculously cures Nava of her depressive state and forgives her of her sins. Nava's encounter with Jesus causes quite the uprising in the small Samaritan town, and the people still want to stone her for her past actions. Mara thinks the best way to prevent the stoning is to ask Jesus to return. So, she sets out to find Jesus, with the help of Shem, and their journey brings them more adventure, love, heartache, and sacrifice than either of

them could imagine.

While this story is fictional, the Biblical narrative remains intact. Landsem's creativity allows us to enter the Biblical scene and draws us closer to Jesus' authentic love.

#### Tasteful Romance

If you enjoy a good romance, you will love *Stay With Me* by Carolyn Astfalk. You will love it even more, because it begins in a grocery store. Rebecca is shopping with her niece and nephew, and Chris is stocking shelves. Their encounter leads to a first date and a delightful courtship.

As they get to know one another, they realize they come from vastly different backgrounds. Chris is a convert to Catholicism

and comes from an intact, loving family. Rebecca is an innocent young woman who is on her own for the first time, away from her overbearing father. While they clearly care for one another, can they come together on matters of trust and faith? Can their true love for each other sustain them through mistakes and misgivings?

*Stay With Me* is a fun, enjoyable read that has you rooting for Chris and Rebecca all the way until the very last page. It also is an honest look at dating, courtship, human sexuality, and marriage. It puts names, faces, and emotions to the Catholic Church's teaching on human sexuality that St. John Paul II coined as "Theology of the Body".

#### Mystery and Suspense

If you are looking for a page-turner that keeps you on the edge of your beach chair, then look no further than *Anyone But Him* by Theresa Linden. What would it feel like to wake up one day and not remember marrying your husband? And what if all you recalled were negative feelings you had for him? This is what happens to Caitlyn Summer who wakes up one morning and only remembers her disdain for Jarrett West. How could she possibly have married him?

As the story progresses, we discover why these two are together in the first place, how they rekindle their love, and how nothing is impossible for God. *Anyone But Him* is brimming with suspense and mystery. This is the type of novel that you can't help but read "just one more page," even late into the night!

In addition, Linden weaves the Catholic Faith into the storyline beautifully, and moral topics,

including abortion, are carefully and thoughtfully articulated.

#### Recreated Classic

If you grew up loving classic novels, you will be pleasantly surprised by *Unclaimed: The Memoirs of Jane E, Friendless Orphan* by Erin McCole Cupp. It is the first of three installments in a trilogy that takes the timeless classic, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, on a futuristic spin.

When we first meet Jane E, she is an unclaimed embryo in an unloving foster home setting. Upon seeking emancipation, she is taken halfway around the world where conditions are grueling. Jane E, then, settles into yet another world—a hidden residence underneath the desert—where an absentee employer hires her to tutor a child he has taken in.

Even if you haven't read *Jane Eyre*, you will appreciate *Unclaimed*, for Jane E is heroic and persevering. She faces the challenges that come her way with acceptance, grace, and determination.

#### Time to Rest and Read!

While there are many more Catholic novels to enjoy, this is a great place to start. Stories with Catholic themes are a wonderful way to weave our faith into the everyday, ordinary parts of our day...and our vacation. They inspire us in our own faith journey and are also an easy way to share our faith with others.

*Sarah Damm is a Catholic wife and mother of six children, living in Minnesota. She spends her days running errands, helping with homework, and keeping up with laundry and the family schedule. Sarah loves her faith, coffee, and good books.*

### 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.

## Voters have chance to 'love life'

By Dorinda Bordlee  
Clarion Herald



On the 2020 presidential ballot, Louisiana citizens will have the opportunity to vote on the "Love Life" constitutional amendment, following the overwhelming bipartisan passage of a bill sponsored by two female legislators, Rep. Katrina Jackson (D-Monroe) and Rep. Beth Mizell (R-Franklinton).

What exactly is the "Love Life" Amendment? It's a one-sentence amendment to ensure that the Louisiana Constitution is protected from state judges taking the abortion issue away from the people.

As a companion to the 2006 pro-life trigger law, the "Love Life" amendment is "the final piece of the puzzle to ensure that Louisiana protects unborn babies from abortion the minute Roe v. Wade is reversed" (LoveLife-VoteYes.com).

How does that work? First, it's important to realize that many scholars on both sides of the debate view the 1973 Roe decision as illegitimate because the U.S. Supreme Court "discovered" a right to abortion with no text in the U.S. Constitution to support it. This so-called "right" has wildly distorted our nation's federalist framework by completely robbing the right of the people, through their state representatives, to protect the unique and unrepeatable lives of human beings in the womb.

It further robs the people of their right to pass measures that protect vulnerable classes of women and girls from the coercion and trauma of abortion, the kind of trauma that leads to a tripled risk of attempted suicide and a five-fold increase in reported drug abuse.

But the people are rising up in anticipation of the reversal of Roe given the recent and, perhaps, future appointments of new justices to the U.S. Supreme Court. States such as New York are passing measures to codify abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy, while states such as Alabama are passing measures to end the violence of abortion.

And that's exactly what a reversal of Roe means; it means that the people in the various

states will decide rather than having five unelected justices act as our nation's abortion control board.

So, how does the Louisiana "Love Life" Amendment fit in? Let's begin with the language that you will see in the voting booth. It reads: "Do you support an amendment declaring that, to protect human life, a right to abortion and the funding of abortion shall not be found in the Louisiana Constitution?"

You see, Louisiana is ahead of the game. In 2006, the Legislature passed what I referred to then as the "Post-Roe Activation Clause." It's a "trigger law" stating that as soon as the U.S. Supreme Court abortion cases are reversed, a Louisiana law prohibiting abortion would immediately go into effect.

So, what would you do if you were an abortion industry lawyer and you anticipated that Roe's days were numbered? Well, you'd go to Louisiana state court and try to get the Louisiana Supreme Court to "discover" a right to abortion in our state Constitution, thereby gutting the Louisiana abortion ban. Such a ruling would also be used to strike down common-sense, pro-life protections, such as our public funding ban or ultrasound requirements.

And that's exactly what abortion industry lawyers have

already successfully done in 13 states – with only one, Tennessee, having passed an amendment to reverse that court decision. Mini-Roe state court decisions have been issued in obvious states such as California, Vermont and New York, but also in largely pro-life states such as Mississippi and even Kansas, whose supreme court found a "natural right" to abortion in their state constitution just last month.

The "Love Life" Amendment would place language in the Louisiana constitution that would prevent that from ever happening here. Similar pro-life constitutional amendments were passed by voters in Alabama and West Virginia last year, bringing the current total to five states (along with Arkansas, Rhode Island and Tennessee) that have clarified that their state constitutions don't protect abortion.

If the amendment passes in 2020, Louisiana would become the sixth state whose state constitution is protected from state judges taking the abortion issue away from the people. The "Love Life" Amendment gives Louisiana citizens their own choice. Will we continue to allow judges to govern us or will we let the people decide?

*Dorinda C. Bordlee is legal counsel for Bioethics Defense Fund, BDFund.org.*

## Diocese Releases Additional Names of Clergy with Credible Allegations of Sexual Abuse

The Diocese of Alexandria today released the names of three additional clergy against whom there have been credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

### Fr. Adrian Molenschot

- Allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the 1960s were reported to the Diocese of Alexandria in February 2019.

- Fr. Molenschot died in December 1994

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

### Fr. Nino Viviano

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a female minor dating back to the early 1960s was reported to the Diocese of Alexandria in February 2019.

- Fr. Viviano is currently 91 years of age and living in a nursing home in Florida. He retired in 1998 and his facilities for ministry were not extended to him since that time. Fr. Viviano is currently suffering from the advanced stages of dementia and was not capable of participating in the review of this most recent allegation.

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

### Fr. Yves Robitaille

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of a male minor dating back to

the mid-1950s was reported to the Diocese of Alexandria in March 2019.

- Fr. Robitaille retired in May 1990 and died on July 27, 1998.

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

The Diocese of Alexandria pledges to provide updates to the list of credibly accused clergy as new information becomes available and as reported by authorities. We hope these updates provide healing and closure and show our commitment to transparency and accountability.

The individuals added to the list are not currently in active ministry and have not been for many years and the allegations were brought to our attention only recently. The entire list, including any updates will always be available on the diocesan website here: <https://www.diocesealex.org/ongoing-clergy-sexual-abuse-page/diocese-releases-names-of-clergy/>

**If you suspect sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric or church worker or volunteer:**

**FIRST, call the Louisiana Child Abuse Hotline, 855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) and/or your local law enforcement agency. THEN, call the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist, (318) 542-9805.**

*Turn to the Lord in your need,  
and you will live.*

Psalm 69: 33 Responsorial Psalm for July 14

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of the Mass on**

**KLIL 92.1 KZLG 95.9**

**8 a.m. Sunday Mass**

**7 a.m. Sunday Mass**

## Manna House announces “Summer of Love” campaign

Alexandria’s Manna House recently announced its “Summer of Love” campaign. While people normally seek to volunteer in November and December, it is the summer months of May through August that the ministry sees an increase in adult clients as well as children who are out of school for the summer, all in need of hot, healthy meals.

“Before you go on vacation or send the kids to summer camp, please consider giving to feed the hungry in our area,” says Jessica Viator, Manna House director. “No donation is too small or too large.”

Located at 2655 Lee Street in Alexandria, Manna House serves on average 265 people daily, with a total of 6,500 people served each month. One person is served by a donation of only \$3.12, while an \$800.00 donation feeds over 200 people for a day. People are encouraged to donate on the website when possible, so that Manna House organizers can purchase the supplies needed in bulk.

Help Manna House continue to banish hunger in Central Louisiana by making a donation today, large or small. Visit [www.givetomannahouse.com](http://www.givetomannahouse.com) for more information, or to set up a monthly, quarterly, or annual donation.

#feedjustone

[www.givetomannahouse.com](http://www.givetomannahouse.com) | 318-445-9053  
<https://www.facebook.com/MannaHouseAlex/>

### 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.

### 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](http://www.diocesalex.org/office-of-life-justice) for a directory of utilities assistance, mental health, legal, and other services.

## NFP Awareness Week: July 21 - 27, 2019



“Love, Naturally!” is the theme of this year’s Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, a national educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to celebrate God’s vision for marriage and promote the methods of Natural Family Planning.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is a general title for ethical, natural, safe and effective methods for both achieving and avoiding pregnancy in marriage. NFP methods teach couples how to observe and interpret the wife’s signs of fertility and infertility. In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, NFP methods “respect the bodies of the spouses,

encourage tenderness between them and favor the education of an authentic freedom.” (CCC, no. 2370)

The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week are: July 21–27, 2019. These dates highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

Want to learn more about the methods of NFP offered in our diocese? See <https://www.diocesalex.org/our-faith/lay-organizations/>, or visit the NFP section of the USCCB website at <http://www.usccb.org/nfp/what-is-nfp/>

[index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/nfp/nfp-distance-learning.cfm).

Don’t have time to attend an in-person class? Learn NFP in the comfort of your own home by contacting one of the NFP providers listed at <http://www.usccb.org/nfp/nfp-distance-learning.cfm>.

The Catholic Church invites all the faithful to embrace God’s plan for married love. Learn more about these beautiful teachings which support the use of NFP in marriage at <http://www.usccb.org/nfp/catholic-teaching>.

Please join us in spreading the word about God’s design for married love and the gift of life as well as the methods of NFP.

*He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.*

Psalm 15: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for July 21

## Make more than a decision - make an informed choice in funeral homes

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**SEMINARIAN SUMMER SESSIONS.** Seminarians Chase Masters, Derek Rials, and Thomas Kennedy are pictured above at Mission San Jose in San Antonio, Texas. Chase and Derek are in San Antonio this summer studying Spanish, and Thomas is participating in a hospital chaplain internship (CPE).



**DEACON FORMATION, NEW ORLEANS.** The Deacon candidates spent the weekend of June 14-16 at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for summer formation class. Pictured, left to right, front row: Alex Mangini, Fidel Andrade, Father Jim Wehner, rector of Notre Dame Seminary, Deacon Richard Mitchell, director of the Diaconate Program, Chad Thibodeaux, Jason Lavergne. Second row: Reggie Ducote, Jody Byrd, Roger Christopher, Ken Primeaux. Third row: Sam Jones, Marc Barrett, Doug Moreau, Kenny Sayes, Lee Moreau, Mark Guidry, Les Glankler.



**SUPPER WITH THE SEMINARIANS.** Seminarians David Keran and John Mohn prepare for the meal in the Central Deanery at St. Rita's on June 20. Supper with the Seminarians will also be held June 27 at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campti; July 26 at Christ the King, Simmesport; and July 28 at St. Mary's, Winnsboro.

## Seminarian Burses

### May 2019 Donations

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> ..... | <b>\$25.00</b>  |
| Father Adrian L. Molenschot Burse              |                 |
| <b>Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Labbe</b> .....         | <b>\$50.00</b>  |
| Father Daniel Hart                             |                 |
| <b>Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard</b> .....             | <b>\$50.00</b>  |
| Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse              |                 |
| <b>Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard</b> .....             | <b>\$100.00</b> |
| Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse         |                 |
| <b>Mrs. Barbara Rigby</b> .....                | <b>\$100.00</b> |
| Leo P. Dobard Burse                            |                 |
| <b>Bayou Chateau Nursing Center</b> .....      | <b>\$100.00</b> |
| Floyd LaCour Burse                             |                 |
| <b>Father Derek Ducote</b> .....               | <b>\$100.00</b> |
| Our Lady of Prompt Succor Burse                |                 |
| <b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller</b> .....        | <b>\$200.00</b> |
| Father Dan Corkery Burse                       |                 |
| <b>Mr. Dwight E. Beridon</b> .....             | <b>\$250.00</b> |
| Monsignor John Timmermans Burse                |                 |
| <b>Mr. Dwight E. Beridon</b> .....             | <b>\$250.00</b> |
| Harold and Lillie Beridon Burse                |                 |

**Total** ..... **\$1,225.00**



**2019 PRIEST ANNIVERSARY MASS.** The 2019 Jubilee Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral honoring priests celebrating a significant anniversary of their ordination to priesthood. Principal celebrant was Archbishop Gregory Aymond with homilist, Msgr. Steve Testa.

## Parish Spotlight: Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville

### Established 1860

Sacred Heart Parish is located along Bayou des Glaises in the small country village of Moreauville. Being the second oldest church parish in Avoyelles, it dates back to 1858 and maintains and cherishes many traditions of its rich heritage. Many of the parishioners are of French ancestry and still speak the language.

The story goes that in 1857, William Voorhies headed a group of concerned Catholics who wanted to see a new church built south of Mansura in the community of Moreauville. Heavy rains and periodic flooding made it almost impossible for Catholics in the southern part of the parish to reach the church at certain times of the year.

Land was donated by Mrs. Jean Hyacinth Boyer and funds were acquired for the project. With the blessing of Bishop Auguste Martin, a new chapel dedicated in honor of St. Hyacinth was erected in Moreauville and blessed in 1858. In 1860, Fr. Thomas Rebours was appointed the first pastor of the parish.

The church building survived the ravages of the Civil War intact but the Moreauville people suffered tremendously and poverty was supreme during the dark days of Reconstruction.

In 1878, plans were made to replace the existing church. Construction began on the second church in 1879 and the building was finally completed under Fr. Paul E. Simon. The new church was dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1882, in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It's been noted too, on that day, a great flood covered Moreauville and ironically, people had to arrive at the front steps by boat.

On Easter Sunday, 1897, the church burned and was completely destroyed. Construction on a new church was begun under Fr.



**SACRED HEART CHURCH** located on Bayou de Glaises, Moreauville, LA.

Constantine Brahic in that same year.

In 1900, the Daughters of the Cross established a parochial school, St. Francis de Sales Academy, which remained in operation until 1920 until it had to close down due to insufficient funding.

On Christmas Day, 1908, fire once again destroyed the church, rectory, school and convent. A decision was made to rebuild the church in brick under the guidance of the new pastor, Fr. Regis Gimbert. Plans for the church were drawn up by Theodore Brune. The original plans called for two towers balancing the front facade. The church could not be fully finished at the time due to the expense and by 1910, only the brick shell of the nave had been completed and roofed so that Mass could be celebrated in the new building.

In 1916, Bishop Van de Ven assigned as "temporary pastor," a French refugee who had fled the political chaos of Mexico. This political refugee was Fr. Henri Jacquemain, the 10th pastor of Sacred Heart parish, who served until his retirement in

1942. A graduate of the College of Sorbonne, Fr. Jacquemain was well versed in music, law, philosophy and theology. A fine craftsman and carpenter, Fr. Jacquemain built the main altar and side shrines in the church out of scrap lumber he collected around town. In the early 1930's, work was finally finished on the front facade and tower. Bishop Daniel Desmond dedicated the finished church on May 22, 1934.

In 1948, the Daughters of the Cross reopened Sacred Heart



**DEDICATED IN 1879**, the "new" Sacred Heart Church burned in 1897.

School and years later, the Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows took charge of the parochial school. The school is still operating today for students PreK-8th grade.

In 1959, Msgr. John Timmermans began a long pastorate that would last for 34 years. During his tenure, the church was completely renovated and a new marble altar replaced the old high altar built by Fr. Jacquemain. The church was rededicated by Bishop Greco in 1961. A new rectory was built and a funeral home was established on church property. Msgr. Timmermans was responsible for the construction of St. John's Village, a retirement complex in Moreauville.

In 1995, under Fr. Joseph Montalbano, a parish hall was established and dedicated in memory of Mays Lacour during the parish's 135th anniversary celebration.

In 2003, the church interior was renovated again under Fr. George Krosfield and plans were made for the establishment of a new cemetery.

For over 160 years, Sacred

Heart Church has remained as the center of Moreauville and a beacon of faith on Bayou de Glaises.

Five generations later, through times of war, fire and flood, Sacred Heart Church is a thriving, tightly knit community. Living out their faith in Knights of Columbus, Ladies Altar Society, adult and youth choirs, bible studies, youth groups and retreats, the parishioners wish to foster and inspire active participation in the total life of the church.

Weekly Saturday Vigil Mass is broadcast on the local radio station. A weekly Mass is celebrated at St. John's Village retirement home. Brunch on the Bayou is held every February. Blessing of the Fields is an annual ceremony in June for the area's farmers, gardeners and florists. The annual church fair in October is actually a school festival benefitting Sacred Heart School. Blessing of the Graves happens in November on the Sunday following All Saints and All Souls days and a Midnight Mass is celebrated at Christmas.



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**CDA PRESENTS CHECK.** Catholic Daughters Bishop Greco Court #2072 (Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville) present a check to Father Scott Chemino, VG for the Seminarian Education Fund. Pictured left to right: Melody McGee, Regent; Father Chemino; Edna Smith and Juanity St. Andria.



**EASTERN DEANERY ACTS MINISTRY.** Father John Pardue, Pastor of St. Patrick Church in Ferriday and the mission church of St. Gerard in Jonesville, recently signed the ACTS Parish Agreement beginning the process of bringing the ACTS Retreat ministry to the Eastern Deanery. The first retreat for the parish is projected to be in early 2020. Pictured left to right are: Robert Kinberger, Sue Welch, Chris Armstrong, Father Pardue, Deacon Richard Mitchell.

## St. Joseph Church celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary



**THE SESQUICENTENNIAL (150TH) ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN MARKSVILLE.** Vestments and other items that date back to Msgr. Van der Putten's time at St. Joseph Church.

The Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary of St. Joseph Church in Marksville was celebrated June 1, 2019 beginning with a 4:00 p.m. Mass, celebrated with Fr. Scott Chemino as the main celebrant. Confirmation was also celebrated at this Mass. Con-celebrants were Fr. Rusty Rabalais, Pastor, Fr. Dutch Voltz III, Parochial Vicar, Fr. Jim Ferguson (previous pastor), Deacon Gary Schupbach, and Deacon Ted Moulard. Music for the Mass was by St. Cecilia Chorale and St. Joseph Choir.

A reception/dinner was held following Mass at St. Joseph Church Hall, catered by Panorama Foods. A beautiful 5-tier cake was officially cut by Fr. Rusty. Commemorative ornaments were given to each family who attended the celebration.

St. Joseph Church began as a small chapel in 1828, built on the property given to Father Jean Emile Martin by Pierre L'Eglise but did not become an official church parish until 1869. In 1920, Msgr. Van der Putten was assigned to St. Joseph's and served 47 years, being instrumental in erecting the magnificent Dutch Romanesque brick church that stands today.

A detailed historical display was available for viewing by the guests. The display includes photos of The Daughters of the Cross, Fr. Julius Janeau and the early church, the renovated church by Msgr. Van der Putten, Presentation Academy, and several photos of the present day St. Joseph Church with its many ministries and community events. Also included in the display are the photos of St. Joseph pastors dating back to 1878.

The historical display was available for viewing in St. Joseph Church Hall from 6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday from June 4 - 21, 2019.

*Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.*

Psalm 138: 3 | Responsorial Psalm for July 28

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# New life has come



**MATER DOLOROSA, PLAUCHEVILLE.** First Holy Communion was held on May 5. Pictured left to right are [redacted]

“God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, gives us new life through the waters of Baptism and the Holy Spirit. Let us be witnesses of his love as we go forth into the world.”  
Congratulations to all those receiving the Sacraments this summer!  
Join us at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) to celebrate First Holy Communion and Confirmation dates.



**ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** First Holy Communion was held at St. Frances Cabrini Church on May 5. Pictured with the first communicants are First Communion teachers Leight Schneider and Sr. Elizabeth Holmes, Father Chad Partain (Pastor), and Clayton Cobb (Director of Religious Education).



**MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH.** First Holy Communion was held at Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth a on May 5. [redacted]



**ST. MARY'S CHURCH.** First Holy Communion was held at St. Mary's Church in Winnsboro on May 12. [redacted]



(Far left) **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Pineville).** First Holy Communion was held May 4 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville. Pictured with the first communicants is Father Bruce Miller, pastor and 2nd Grade CCD teachers, Cheryl Paul and Erica Ducote.

(Left) **ST. PATRICK MISSION.** First Holy Communion was held at St. Patrick Mission on May 26. Pictured is Leanne Brooklyn Brumley receiving her first Holy Communion at St. Patrick Mission in Montgomery on May 26.



**SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE.** Confirmation was held at Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville on May 19. Pictured above are the confirmandi with altar servers, André Spruill (Director of Religious Education), Mary Ducote and Reginald Ducote (CCD Confirmation teachers), and Father Jose Pallipurath (Pastor). Not pictured is Monique Mayeux (RCIA Director and Youth Minister).



**MATER DOLOROSA, PLAUCHEVILLE.** Confirmation was held at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaucheville on May 9. Pictured above are the confirmandi with Father Martin Laird (Pastor).



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, COLFAX.** Aydan J. received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Church in Colfax, on Saturday, May 25. Pictured from left to right are Donald Jackson (Sponsor), Brent [redacted] (Aydan's father), Kathy [redacted] (Aydan's mother), Father Silverino Kwebuzza (Pastor), and Jackson V. (Altar server).



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, PINEVILLE.** Pictured above are the confirmandi of Sacred Heart Church in Pineville.



**MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH, WOODWORTH.** Pictured above are the confirmandi with Father Paul LaPalme (Pastor).



**STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN.** Confirmation was held at Sts. Francis and Anne Church in Kolin on June 19.

## How to practice the works of mercy as a family

By Cari Terracina  
Publications Manager

Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic Faith (Lumen Gentium, 11). The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that one of the fruits of receiving Our Lord in communion is commitment to the poor (CCC 1397). So when we receive Communion in a state of grace with hearts opened to the Holy Spirit, our desire to serve one another grows. We begin to see, perhaps a new, the suffering and needs of our brothers and sisters in the world, and are inspired to act.

But what exactly does this type of action towards our fellow humans look like? How can we live out this fruit of Holy Communion?

**Offering the mercy we have received**

The mercy God offers us is one of the most beautiful and overwhelming aspects of our Faith, propelling Him to embrace His cross and conquer death. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus instructs us to show the same mercy toward our neighbor. If we are to be like Him, then we must show mercy to one another. But how do we do that?

Thankfully, the Church offers us a blueprint for exercising mercy towards others: the works of mercy. According to the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, the works of mercy are "charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs." They respond to the basic needs of humanity, and give



**FRIDAY WORKS OF MERCY.** VPope Francis holds a baby as he visits the neonatal unit at St. Giovanni Hospital in Rome as part of the pope's Friday works of mercy. (CNS Photo / L'Osservatore Romano)

us tangible ideas for aiding those in need.

In the context of the family, a major part of our duty as parents in handing on the Truth of the Gospel is to hand on the practice of serving others. We do this by teaching our children about the works of mercy, encouraging them to practice them, and most importantly, practicing these works ourselves.

### *The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy*

The Works of Mercy are divided into two categories: corporal and spiritual. All of them give us clear guidance as to how we can best serve our neighbor and respond to Christ's call to love one another as He loved us.

The Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew, chapter 25) address the physical concerns of our

neighbors, and are:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked.
- Visit the imprisoned.
- Give shelter to the homeless.
- Visit the sick.
- Bury the dead.

The Spiritual works of mercy

address how we might tend to the spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters. These needs of our neighbors might not be as visible as their physical needs, but are just as necessary. The spiritual works include:

- Admonish the sinner.
- Instruct the ignorant.
- Counsel the doubtful.
- Pray for the living and the dead.
- Comfort the sorrowful.
- Forgive injuries.
- Bear wrongs patiently.

### *Being merciful more intentionally as a family*

It's easy to sometimes feel like life as we know it is somehow not compatible with living out the works of mercy as we might think of them. However, we are called to live out these works in our homes and daily lives, even if our actions are not quite as heroic as we might envision.

Practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy is a good spiritual lesson for our children and is a worthy task for us to undertake together. We've created a free printable just for you and your family this summer! Visit the website at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) to print it out, and hang it up on your fridge, in your car, or keep in your purse as a great reminder for the entire family to live more charitably this summer season.

Have your own suggestions? Let us know at [www.facebook.com/DioceseOfAlexandria](http://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfAlexandria), and use the hashtag #mercyinmotion.

## Corporal Works of Mercy

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Instruct the ignorant  
Admonish the sinner  
Comfort the afflicted  
Forgive offenses  
Bear wrongs patiently  
Pray for the living and the dead

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# Vacation Bible School

## 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.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DUPONT.** (Right) On Saturday, June 8, the women of Immaculate Conception Church in Dupont partnered with Everyday Missionaries to gather close to 90 women for a day of retreat, prayer, and fellowship. The theme of the day was “Walk Bravely: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go.” Psalm 32:8. For more information, please [www.everydaymissionaries.com](http://www.everydaymissionaries.com).



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Through the Holy Spirit by a virgin birth.

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His love for her was ever so dear.

She was placed on earth for a serious reason,  
To bring forth Jesus during the Christmas season.

Joseph was chosen to protect them here,  
Like a mighty warrior, they had no fear.

As Jesus grew in age, knowledge and grace,  
He knew for sure this was His place.

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## Supper with the Seminarians

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](mailto:starver@diocesealex.org) or visit the Diocese of Alexandria website at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) for more information.

If you missed it in June, there are two more opportunities in July! Please don't miss the chance to enjoy great food and spend time with your community. We would love to see you there!

• **June 27**

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

• **July 26**

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

• **July 27**

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



## Upcoming Retreats

The following ACTS retreats will be offered:

• **August 8 - 11**

**Sacred Heart ACTS for Men**

Contact Cheryl Paul  
at 318-308-5026

or [www.jesusinpineville.com](http://www.jesusinpineville.com)

• **August 8 - 11**

**Cenla Teen ACTS**

Contact Mark Vilar  
at 318-664-1366

or [www.cenlaacts.org](http://www.cenlaacts.org)

• **August 22 - 25**

**Cenla ACTS for Men**

Contact Mark Vilar  
at 318-664-1366

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**Sunday:**  
11 a.m.- 9 p.m.

## Upcoming VIRTUS sessions

• **July 10, 6:00 p.m.**

St. Joseph Catholic Center  
ALEXANDRIA

• **August 7 2:30 p.m.**

St. Joseph Catholic Center  
ALEXANDRIA

To register,  
go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

## Dear young, hispanic/Latino Catholics...

By *Stephanie Espinoza*  
*Life Teen, Inc.*

Hey you. ¡Si! YOU! The Church needs YOU.

Today, 60 percent of Catholics under the age of 18 are Hispanic/Latino.

That's a lot, right? Yeah, the Church thinks so, too.

There are tons of Hispanics/Latinos in the Church and we want to figure out how we can be welcomed in the Church but also serve the Church. Got it?

The Holy Spirit is making some amazing things happen in our communities, and more of the Church is getting to witness the gifts and talents that we possess as young, Hispanic/Latino Catholics. Our presence in parishes is essential to what the Church needs right now in order to go out and make more disciples who live in the love of Jesus Christ. Not sure what I mean yet? Read on:

### 1. There is strength in numbers

More and more Hispanic/Latinos are present in Catholic parishes around the country, so it is important we see it not just as a "fun fact" but as a real responsibility. No longer can we take a look at the work that needs to be done in the Church (and in the world) and say, "Someone else will get to it." If we are the majority, that means we have to roll up our sleeves and get to it. ¡A trabajar!

But rejoice — you don't have to go at it alone. There are a ton of us out there, already working in the field. The call to mission is



**V ENCUESTRO.** Delegates celebrate the closing session of the Fifth National Encuentro, or V Encuentro, in Grapevine, Texas, last year.

more easily lived out when there are a lot of us on the job, so join us and the many other Catholics of different backgrounds who are already at it. We can do better work for the Lord, together.

### 2. There is joy in belonging

C. S. Lewis defines friendship as the moment in which two people say, "What? You too? I thought I was the only one!" A similar end can be achieved in sharing our witness of how the Lord has worked in our hearts, especially through the unique reality of being a Hispanic/Latino-American. Others can come to know Christ and experience that sense of not feeling alone in their struggles, worries, challenges, or search for purpose when we take the time to share our stories.

The more we share the truth of how we came to know the love of God, the more we invite others into the family and create a place

where they feel welcome. But it starts with your story. Tell it and help others belong.

### 3. There is beauty in our rich heritage

The Catholic tradition in Latin America is vibrant and awesome. From la Virgen de Altagracia (Dominican Republic), to Blessed Oscar Romero (El Salvador), to Nuestra Señora del Cobre (Cuba), to St. Alberto Hurtado (Chile), to El Señor de los Milagros (Peru), and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico), we have no shortage of extraordinary men and women who give us plenty of help toward heaven. (And those are just a few of them!)

The countries of our parents or abuelitos have fostered a faith that basically runs through our veins. It's our inheritance and we shouldn't be ashamed of it. It is time we embrace it, live it, and keep the faith alive for the next

generation of Hispanic/Latino Catholics in the United States.

### 4. There is potential in our ability to bridge cultures

I know you've had to explain to your mom that the music you're "playing too loudly" happens to be by the greatest rapper alive, Kendrick Lamar (don't @ me). I also know you've had to explain to your friends that, no you weren't fighting with your tia, that's just your normal speaking voice. (I've had to do this. Too. Many. Times.) You're constantly serving as an ambassador for two very different worlds: the one you're in when you're at home or visiting your family and the one you're in when you're at school, watching TV, or listening to music. You've got a foot in both all the time.

Want to know something cool? So. Did. Jesus. He was truly God AND truly man. He was in the world but not of it. And you're called to do the same, to be a witness to the truth about God, the Church, the Bible, the sacraments, etc. in a society that doesn't always "get it." You are a bridge everywhere else in your

life, connecting worlds that don't always seem to fit together, so why not do the same and connect the world to Jesus as a missionary disciple?

The Church's mission is to make disciples, but the Church isn't just a building we file in and out of on Sundays. The Church is you and me; it's your primos and tias and abuelos and amigos, too. And that means the task to make disciples is ours. More than ever, the Catholic Church in the United States needs young Hispanics/Latinos like you to dive deeper into the heart of Jesus, a heart that longs for our souls.

It's going to take you and me loving Jesus so much that His longing becomes our longing, that all we want is to bring others into His love so they can experience the joy of a life lived with Him.

The Lord has placed you in this particular moment, with all of your gifts and talents, to be a light for others. Jesus is calling you to go into the world and proclaim Him by the way you live your life.

Let's do it. Live it. Be it. ¡Si se puede!

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?? Catholic Trivia ??

Who is called the patron saint of missions even though she never left her convent?

A. Saint Rita      B. Saint Isabella of Portugal  
C. Saint Therese of Lisieux      D. Saint Jane of Valois

*Answer on page 19.*

*Martha Neil Anthony*

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(Left) **ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL.** Pictured to the left are the confirmandi of St. Joseph's School in Plaucheville. Confirmation and May Crowning ceremonies were held on May 3.



(Right) **SACRED HEART AND OUR LADY OF SORROWS.** Pictured to the right are students from Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Sorrows churches in Moreauville at their baccalaureate Mass, with Father Jose Pallipurath and altar servers.

# The Cross Word

July 7 and 14, 2019



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**Readings:** Is 66:10-14; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10: 1-12, 17-20 and Dt 30: 10-14; Lk 10:25-37

**ACROSS**

- 1 Use up
- 4 Russian ruler
- 8 Covers a wound
- 12 French "yes"
- 13 Fury
- 14 Car
- 15 Cremains holder
- 16 On top
- 17 Flatten
- 18 From Latvia
- 20 Will bring full force
- 21 No room here
- 22 Pacific Standard Time
- 23 Swiss mountains
- 26 Breach
- 27 College football conference (abbr.)
- 30 Equipment
- 34 Ram's mate
- 35 Nickname for Henry
- 36 \_\_\_ Jesus
- 37 Bro.'s sibling
- 38 Her
- 40 Binary star
- 43 Speaks to Isaiah (2 wds)
- 47 Alcoholic beverage
- 48 Opera solo
- 49 "\_\_\_ Dolorosa"
- 50 Capital of Norway
- 51 Look at

- 52 Easter month
- 53 Plant trunk
- 54 Scholar wanted to do to Jesus
- 55 Permit

**DOWN**

- 1 With all heart & \_\_\_
- 2 Halo
- 3 Weighs a pound
- 4 Engine pulls
- 5 Fell like lightning
- 6 Ancient Greek for "struggle"
- 7 Representative
- 8 Holy person
- 9 Disciples did for sick
- 10 Basic unit of chemical
- 11 Gaunt
- 19 Permit to enter a foreign country
- 20 Sports channel
- 22 Golfer's goal
- 23 Gorilla
- 24 God's statutes
- 25 Before (prefix)
- 26 Harden
- 27 Wing
- 28 Lie
- 29 Coral reef
- 31 Philippians abbrev.
- 32 Owns
- 33 Cain's brother
- 37 Gomorrah's partner
- 38 Moves in fright
- 39 Yours shall rejoice
- 40 Sycamore prophet
- 41 To avoid risk
- 42 Wind
- 43 Another name for The Cross
- 44 Type of Office
- 45 Ready to harvest
- 46 Run quickly
- 48 Appropriate

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# How to have a spiritually fruitful summer when your kids are home

By Susana Starbuck  
*Blessed Is She*

School is out! You can say goodbye to packing lunches, long pick-up lines, homework, and early morning outfit battles. But now what? You have over two months without your kids in school. How do you keep them busy? There are so many options for keeping your kids engaged in over the summer it can be a bit overwhelming. Camps, swim team, story time, and VBS (just to name a few). What is the best way to nurture their faith life over the summer?

Within the next couple months, my family and I are gearing up for a big family wedding as well as preparing to welcome a new baby into our home. We are going to be very busy, to say the least. While I stared into the months of June and July (carefully color-coded to coordinate with life events), I felt like we were missing something.

I realized that in the chaos of life (even during the school year) it is easy to let our faith life within the family take a back seat.

## How to Have a Spiritually Fruitful Summer

Over the last month or so, I've been making a simple and realistic list of things I'd like to do with my children to help them grow in God's love over the summer. Below you will find ideas I've put together for my family. I also tried to include things for older children/teens as well (it's helpful to be married to a youth minister!).

I've broken it into three categories that I hope you will find helpful.

### Prayer

Start saying the Angelus everyday at 12. No matter where you are or what you're doing, everyone in the family drops what they're doing to say it together.

A family Rosary each evening is always a good idea. But I think summer time is a great period to form the habit. Set a time in the evening when everyone gathers together to pray the Rosary. When you have little ones, even a decade in the evening can make a huge impact. If you know you won't be home at that time on a given evening, see if it's possible to reschedule it for earlier or maybe say it in the car.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.** Kids did the River Rolling Rampage Vacation Bible School last year at Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth.

Get together as a family and talk about some prayer intentions that you have. Maybe you have a big move coming up or perhaps someone in your family is very ill. Pick a novena to pray as a family for that specific intention.

Summer is also a great time to make a family consecration to Mary. You can use the evenings to discuss the readings for the day and recite the prayers out loud together as a family.

### Study

Coloring pages! The kids and I have been loving the coloring pages put out by Catholic artists. They have been wonderful for our liturgical living! You can find some here and here.

A few years back I discovered *Catholic Icing* and *26 Letters to Heaven*. Both are great resources for early religious education as well encouraging creativity and curiosity.

Choose a Saint of the week. Have your older kids put their internet time to good use! Have your preteens/teens research a different Saint for each week of summer and have them share with the family. It doesn't have to be fancy at all! Encourage them to find 5-6 interesting facts about the Saint and then let them share at the dinner table.

Blow the dust off that Bible! Designate a morning with your teens to work on a short

Bible study. So let's say every Wednesday morning, you grab coffee or bagels (or take advantage of nap times from younger siblings) and work your way through one of the books of the Bible. It might feel a little forced at first, but keep going! Teens love being challenged and they also love some special time with you (even if they deny it vehemently).

### Action

Add in daily Mass to your summer routine. It does not need to be everyday! But picking one day of the week to roll out of bed a bit early and attend Mass together will be such a gift to your family. You can also start a tradition/add the incentive of doing something fun yet simple

afterwards, like grabbing breakfast, spending time at the park, or maybe taking a library trip.

Go to Adoration. Research the parishes around you to find out when and where Eucharistic Adoration is offered. Set a time during the week where you all go to Adoration together. Even if it's simply sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament for five minutes once a week, it's showing your children what's really important amidst the crazy summer schedule.

Let's not forget about good old Vacation Bible School! Find a VBS program at your parish (or one nearby) and see if it's something you want your kids involved in. VBS is usually half a day for an entire week. It's a great opportunity for your kids to jump in and have fun with their Faith! Also, the performances at the end of the week are always so stinkin' cute. VBS is also a great opportunity for your older children to volunteer.

Summer is an excellent time to go through clothes and toys. Let your kids help! Explain what they are donating and give them some ownership over it. Now, this could backfire (it has for me) if you have a child who suddenly decides that they do, in fact, play with every single toy they own. If that happens, still take the time to explain the importance of giving and then thin things out over nap time.

Service, service, service! Get your teens off their phones by setting them up with a service project. This will require a little research, but I'm sure your parish can also let you know of places looking for volunteers. Get those teenagers into soup kitch-

ens and shelters. Serving those in need can offer your kids some great perspective they wouldn't otherwise be exposed to.

Did someone say chastity talks, praise and worship, late night pizza deliveries, and ultimate frisbee?! Sign your teens up for youth programs this summer. Many parishes have various opportunities for your kids to attend really solid conferences or camps this coming summer. Spending time with their peers within a Catholic context is a great way for your teen to see that they're not alone on this journey to heaven.

## Stay Spiritually Sane and Spiritually Fruitful

Please, by no means feel that you have to do it all. This is simply a list of ideas. If one or two speaks to you, then go for it. I find that one of the most effective ways to enrich my children's faith is to simply spend time together as a family, something that is ridiculously difficult to do during the school year when everyone is running in five different directions.

If you end up doing any of these, let me know how it goes!

Here's wishing you all a blessed summer.

*Susana Starbuck is a regular contributor to the Blessed Is She blog. She is wife of a youth minister and mother to four littles five and under. She lives in Phoenix, AZ and enjoys reading a good book, posting her highlight reel on Instagram, and drinking wine. You can connect with her on Instagram @susana\_starbuck.*

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# A grandparent's responsibility to help pass on the Faith

By **Lindsey Kettner**  
Guest Contributor

Grandparents hold a very special role in the spiritual formation of their families and can have a great influence on their children and grandchildren's faith journeys. They have the responsibility to pass along the Faith, pray with and for their grandchildren, and be a role model of Christian life.

This can be a daunting task. The United States Catholic Grandparents Association exists "to support grandparents in our vocation to pass on our Faith and keep prayer at the heart of our family," says Marilyn Henry, grandmother of 11 and member of the Catholic Grandparents Association. "We believe that this is the most precious and the only lasting gift that we can leave for our children."

Sometimes it's difficult to help your grandkids have a strong foundation of Faith when their parents aren't practicing their Catholic Faith. What's a grandma or grandpa to do? "First of all, pray," says Henry. "Same as the parents do, the grandpar-

ents want the best for their children. We are not the parents; we have to abide by what the parents want. So just pray and be very gentle always, be very faithful and pray that they will receive the gift that we want to give."

Many grandparents carry the difficult cross of having their children or grandchildren stray from their Faith. "Never give up hope and faith," says Henry. "There's no way that we can force our Faith on them, but we just pray and pray that they will accept this beautiful gift." It's easy to become discouraged and feel alone in your struggle, but remember that St. Monica prayed ceaselessly for her son Augustine's conversion, and he became a saint!

Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Our Lord, pray for us!

*Lindsey serves as the Digital and Social Media Producer at Relevant Radio, a National Catholic Radio Network. At Relevant Radio she writes articles for the app and website, produces social media content, and is a copywriter for marketing materials. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she studied journalism and advertising, Spanish, and psychology.*

*Lindsey and her husband live in Wisconsin and are parishioners at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. She enjoys photography, interior design, writing, and travelling.*



**ATTENDING MASS TOGETHER.** (Right) Family members gather for Mass at St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle.

? ? ?

**Quiz Answer:**

C. Saint Therese of Lisieux

is co-patron of foreign missions, along with Saint Francis Xavier.

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# So your teen attended Steubenville South... now what?

By Jeannette Adams  
Guest Contributor

Summer is an exciting time to break from the normal juggle of work and school obligations. It is a time for families to prioritize rest, fun, and reconnection with one another. It also provides opportunity to reenergize your family's faith. Steubenville South, VBS, Faith Camp, Cove Crest, and gatherings in between present to the youth of our Church the opportunity to experience God. These programs are designed to engage and build up those who are the future of our Church. Exciting, right! Now, let's chat parent to parent about to how we can follow up with our children after they've had such a unique encounter with our beautiful faith.

Youth ministry can be a very grounding experience for teens. Among the water balloon races, glitter covered crafts and hand motions, your teen heard the most basic, fundamental message of all times, "I am loved by an amazing God." They heard teachings about serving others, not believing the lies of this world, and about finding the courage to embrace their faith. Wow! As parents, don't we won't all those messages to be sealed within our most precious gifts. "Of course, we do," you say, "but my teen doesn't want to me to preach at them, besides I'm not funny or entertaining like the ministry team." Maybe that's true, but you have been called to the most important ministry role your child will ever know, and our God always equips those He calls.

Simply start by asking your child about their experience. What did they like? What did they maybe not like so much? Listen for common points of interest between yourself and your teen. For example, did he/she re-



**YOUTH CONFERENCE.** AThis year's Steubenville South Conference was held June 21 - 23 at the Riverfront Convention Center. For more information, visit [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com).

cently discover a Saint, verse or teaching which really impacted them. Listen and maybe share about a Saint that has touched you. The goal here being to make a connection between the freshly energized teen and the daily faith practices they have often seen but possibly not fully understood or embraced. Maybe you could find an image of their new Saint friend or favorite verse and place it in their room to remind them of their summer God encounter.

Often teens will recall the time of Adoration at youth ministry events as very powerful. This is a good opportunity to invite them to join you at your next Holy Hour, or to seize the moment on a lazy summer afternoon visiting an Adoration Chapel and then out for ice cream. Teens love an experience, even simple ones. Did you just think "I don't keep a regular Holy Hour" or "I don't remember the last time I spent time in Adoration?" Fear not, my friend, many, many par-

ents have had a renewal of their faith through the faith of their children. If your teen needed help in school, you'd figure out a way to jump in until both of you were solving algebraic equations. Faith is no different in that here, too, you admit, "I haven't been to the Chapel in some time; maybe we could plan to go together once a week over the summer."

Another simple way to reinforce your teen's experience is to play Praise and Worship music during down times at home, like background music while everyone is cleaning up after dinner. You might start a weekly family date night of evening Mass and pizza. Be intentional but not overwhelming. A sincere relationship with Christ is what

makes Catholicism come alive for adults; the same is true for teens. As parents our job is to provide opportunity and an environment where faith can grow. Give your teens the time, space and means of experiencing God even after Church camp is over.

"What if my teen didn't like the conference or had a bad experience?" Remember that no experience is ever a loss before God. As parents we have been asked to love the unique children that He has entrusted to us. Use this as another opportunity to get

to know your young adult. Set aside any disappointments you may have and allow him/her to tell you why it wasn't a good experience for them. Were the housing arrangements uncomfortable? The music too loud for them? A personality clash within the group? Listen and learn about your teen. Again, relationships are a priority to teens, and this is an opportunity to connect. Maybe your teen would benefit from a smaller group next year or a quieter retreat setting. Maybe your teen would thrive in a service role at the next event. The goal is an encounter with the amazing love of God. Always keep the goal in mind and you can't go wrong.

*Jeannette Adams, MSW, is co-founder of the women's ministry Everyday Missionaries. Wife and homeschool mom to 6, she lives with her family in Washington, Louisiana. You can connect with her at [www.everydaymissionaries.com](http://www.everydaymissionaries.com) or on Instagram.*

*To arrange for Everyday Missionaries to present at your next event, email [thegals@everydaymissionaries.com](mailto:thegals@everydaymissionaries.com).*

*Download the Spotify app and search for "Diocese of Alexandria" to listen to our top picks for your family's #Summer2019 playlist.*

Visit the Franciscan University conference website at [www.steubenvilleconferences.com/events/conf-south/](http://www.steubenvilleconferences.com/events/conf-south/) to view talks from past Steubenville South conferences.

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

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

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# Young adult leaders gather for post-synod discussion

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service



**VATICAN YOUTH FORUM.** Isabella McCafferty from the Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand, speaks during a Vatican news conference June 18, 2019. She was one of more than 280 young people from 109 countries joining a post-synod Youth Forum at the Vatican June 19-22. (CNS photo/Robert Duncan)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Catholic young adults felt the hierarchy started listening to them in preparation for the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, and they will do whatever they can to make sure their voices continue to be heard, said a youth minister from New Zealand.

"May we be bold," was the wish expressed by Isabella McCafferty from the Archdiocese of Wellington at a Vatican news conference June 18.

McCafferty was one of more than 280 young people from 109 countries set to take part in a post-synod Youth Forum June 19-22.

The Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life asked bishops' conferences around the world to identify two young adult leaders to participate in the forum, being held at a retreat center just south of Rome.

Schonstatt Father Alexandre Awi Mello, secretary of the dicastery, told reporters, "There is always a risk that after a big event people lose enthusiasm, move on to the next thing," but Pope Francis and the dicastery are serious about not letting that happen.

"The synod on young people is in its realization phase," he

said. "There is still much to be done," and the forum was designed to continue that conversation with young adults who are experienced in reaching out to their peers.

McCafferty told Catholic News Service: "Young people want the church to give them room to be involved. So, yes, they want their voice heard, but they

also want to be part of the things that happen after that," actually implementing changes.

Involving young people in sharing the Gospel message in ways that are relevant and makes sense to them and to their peers, for example, through the use of social media, is especially important, she said.

Young people also are deeply

committed to protecting the environment, she said, and they want to be involved in the efforts of the church to reduce its impact on the environment and to promote respect for God's creation.

Most of all, she said, young people are looking for "an authentic church."

"Authenticity is about transparency, it's about vulnerability at times, but it's also about ground level, about being community," McCafferty said. "Rather than always thinking of the church as this thing that happens in Rome, it's about what it means to be church in our local area," and it always involves "person-to-person contact."

When a young adult goes to a parish church regularly for months and only one person talks to him or her -- it happens, she said -- it tells that young adult that an authentic, caring community does not exist there.

"Young people don't feel particularly welcome" in many church communities, she said. "Young people are looking for an

encounter with each other, with the church and with the sacraments, but it needs to happen in relevant ways for them," which involves a willingness to "inter-link with each other more and holding each other up."

The U.S. bishops chose as their delegates to the meeting Brian Rhude, project coordinator for the Catholic Apostolate Center in Washington, D.C., and Brenda Noriega, coordinator of young adult ministry for the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, and member of the U.S. bishops' National Advisory Team on Young Adult Ministry.

Paul Jarzembowski, assistant director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and Lay Ecclesial Ministry for the U.S. bishops, was one of 15 national youth ministry staff members invited to attend the forum and make a presentation on how "Christus Vivit," the pope's document on young people, is impacting parishes, dioceses and national organizations in the United States.

*You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness.  
You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness.*

• Saint Augustine •  
Confessions, bk 10  
chapter 26, 27.37

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[lray@diocesealex.org](mailto:lray@diocesealex.org)

## 2019 Tekakwitha Conference, Sharonville, OH - July 17 - 21

Heart of St. Kateri meeting in July of 2019 will be cancelled due to the 2019 Tekakwitha Conference held in Sharonville, OH July 17-21. The week of our Kateri Circle meeting we will be boxing Gift Shop items, conference materials, and equipment so we will meet the next month which is August 14 at 5:30 p.m. located at 2225 N. Bolton Ave., Alexandria. Anyone interested in going to the Tekakwitha Conference, contact the Tekakwitha Conference Center at 318-483-3908. Embrace your Native American roots, and join us as we celebrate St. Kateri's dream this year in Ohio. See you there!

## ECHO Retreat - July 19 - 25

ECHO is a Theology of the Body Camp and Retreat. At ECHO, we dive into, unpack, and process the themes of prayer, our identity, and our mission to love. We are all created to be in personal relationship with God, and each of us are created as a unique, unrepeatable man or woman with a vocation to love like God. Join the Dumb Ox team for a week of dynamic speakers, outdoor games and activities, worship, daily Mass, Reconciliation, life-giving discussions, and new life-long friendships. ECHO retreats are open to juniors and seniors in high school. Visit [www.dumbboxministries.com](http://www.dumbboxministries.com) for more information.

## Natural Family Planning Awareness Week - July 21 - 27

"Love, Naturally!" is the theme of this year's Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, a national educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to celebrate God's vision for marriage and promote the methods of Natural Family Planning. These dates highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae vitae* (July 25), which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love, and responsible parenthood. Visit [www.usccb.org/nfp](http://www.usccb.org/nfp) for more information.

## OLPS Domestic Church (Marriage Ministry) - July - October 2019

Evangelization is the first step of any real faith journey. We must experience the reality of who Christ is, who we are, and what His love for us is capable of doing before we can make any real progress. And, since Domestic Church provides for this journey to be undertaken in union with our spouses, we must experience Christ anew, together, before we can begin to grow together toward sainthood. Come, receive the Good News, and stir up the grace of your Sacrament! Sacramentally married couples interested in joining Domestic Church typically do so by attending an Evangelization Retreat as an introduction to formation.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

- July 25-28 in Houma
- August 22-25 in Dry Creek
- September 12-15 in Woodworth
- October 17-20 in Ponchatoula.

Please pray about joining us, and If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Jenay at 337-258-4155 or Chris (504-666-2019). We'd love to have you.

## Women's Bible Study, Kolin - Thursdays

Sts. Francis & Anne Church in Kolin is having a Women's Bible Study on Thursday evenings at 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Youth House. The focus will be on women transformed by Christ in the Gospels. It is open to all ladies interested. Please contact Jo Mabou at [jomabou@suddenlink.net](mailto:jomabou@suddenlink.net) or Lynn Ray at 318-613-0634 for more information.

## First Day of School - August 12

## 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](mailto:jasonlavergne@aol.com)

## St. Mary's LAST Greco Bowl - August 27

Mark your calendars for St. Mary's Residential Training School's LAST Greco Bowl Celebration. For more than 10 years, Chef John Folse has hosted Greco Bowl to raise funding for the special children of St. Mary's. Event festivities include a gourmet meal prepared by Chef Folse and his team along with a LIVE cooking demonstration by Chef Folse. Guests will also enjoy a live and silent auction to benefit the residents of St. Mary's. Reserve your tickets for the final Greco Bowl celebration online at [www.stmarysalexandria.org](http://www.stmarysalexandria.org) or by contacting St. Mary's at 318-445-6443 ext. 2144. Tickets cost \$75 per person. Corporate, VIP tables are also available. The celebration will be held Aug. 27, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Convention Hall, downtown Alexandria. Seating is limited, so reserve your space today!

## Catholic Schools Positions Available:

### OLPS Principal

For Application Packets, please contact:  
Fr. Dan O'Connor, Pastor, at 318-445-3693 or Denese Carter in the Catholic Schools Office at (318) 445-6424, ext. 227.

### 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/](http://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.

**The next issue of the Church Today will include Back-to-School information!**

### Church Today News Deadlines

**Next issue: July 29**  
**Deadline for news:**  
**Friday, June 19**

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# July 2019

| Monday  | Tuesday                        | Wednesday  | Thursday                                       | Friday   | Saturday  | Sunday                          |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>                       | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b><br>Diocesan Offices Closed            | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                        |
| PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP AYMOND  | PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER        | PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA  | INDEPENDENCE DAY<br>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK | FIRST FRIDAY<br>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS   | FIRST SATURDAY<br>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER  | PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN          |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>                       | <b>10</b><br>VIRTUS Training<br>6:00 p.m.<br>St. Joseph Catholic Center,<br>Alexandria | <b>11</b>                                      | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b>                       |
| Vacation Bible School 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville |                                |  |  |  |   |                                 |
| PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK   | PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL           | PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE  | PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN                        | PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR   | PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA   | PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA |
| <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>                      | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>                                      | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b>                       |
|   |                                |  |  | ECHO Retreat -- Maryhill   |   |                                 |
| 2019 Tekakwitha Conference -- Sharonville, OH                               |                                |  |  |  |   |                                 |
| Vacation Bible School 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria   |                                |  |  |  |   |                                 |
| Vacation Bible School 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville |                                |  |  |  |   |                                 |
| PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH   | PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE         | PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN  | PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL                           | PRAY FOR FR. G. POOKKATTU  | PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS  | PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY             |
| <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>                      | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>                                      | <b>26</b><br>Supper with the<br>Seminarians<br>5:00 p.m.<br>Christ the King,<br>Simmesport | <b>27</b><br>Supper with the<br>Seminarians<br>5:00 p.m.<br>St. Mary's, Winnsboro | <b>28</b>                       |
| ECHO Retreat -- Maryhill  |                                |  |  | Domestic Church Meeting in Houma, LA   |   |                                 |
| Natural Family Planning Awareness Week                                      |                                |  |  |  |   |                                 |
| PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS  | PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ | PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ  | PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN                           | PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT  | PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER  | PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY          |
| <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>                      | <b>31</b>  | AUGUST <b>1</b>                                | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>                        |
| PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA   | PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR          | PRAY FOR FR. IRION ST. ROMAIN  | PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA                        | PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS   | PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON  | PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS    |



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