
CHURCH TODAY

Volume L, No. 7

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

July 29, 2019



Sweet summertime!

Students waited in line for the zipline and other outdoor activities during Vacation Bible School at St. Frances Cabrini Church in July.

See pages 12 and 13 for more pictures from summer activities around the Diocese.

INSIDE

Creating a rule of life for summer

New adventures and increased family time are so much fun, but can honestly be a bit taxing at times. See page 6 for creating a rule of life that brings freedom, peace, and balance to the remainder of your family's summer days.

Setting mid-year goals

How are your goals for this year going? Are you setting new goals with the start of the new school year? On page 14, we offer smart tips for setting mid-year goals, and making them count!

Back-to-school season

The start of the new school year brings a whirlwind of new activity. Back to school events in August are listed on page 15, and helpful pointers to prepare your kids to head back to the classroom can be found on page 18.

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Looking back



August 2004:

Left: DIOCESE GETS 4 NEW PRINCIPALS. New Catholic school principals are Mark Shamburger, St. Mary's, Natchitoches; Jackie DeWorth, assistant principal, OLPS, Alexandria; Christine Bruyninckx, St. Rita; Jo Tassin, OLPS, Alexandria; and Keith Morrow, St. Mary's, Cottonport.

Today:

The Diocese looks forward to a new school year with trainings for school faculty and staff, awards for excellence, and the hiring of a new interim principal at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria. See page 21 for more information.

Thank you to our Catholic educators, and good luck with the new school year!

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Feast of the Month: Our Lady of the Snows



By Emily Ann McCullough
Guest Contributor

I was amazed when snow fell in April, in Texas, when our daughter was born, but in the fourth century, an “impossible” snow blanketed the Esquiline Hill in Rome, Italy, in August!

Here is the wonderful story of that snow:

In the year 352, there was a man named John, and his wife, who lived in Rome. They were

a holy couple, who remained childless. They were greatly blessed with many of the world's goods and after prayer, decided to leave their fortune lovingly to the Church. They asked the Blessed Virgin Mary for advice on how to carry out their desire. She appeared to John and his wife on the night of August 4-5, telling them that she desired a church to be built on the Esquiline Hill in her honor and that snow would fall on the exact location where it

should be constructed.

Astonishingly, Pope Liberius received the very same message that same night from the Blessed Virgin and went in haste to the Esquiline Hill. John and his wife arrived at the hill, along with the entourage of the Pope and many other curious people, to see that snow had indeed fallen and it was in the shape of the outline of the church that Mary wanted to be built. The people hurriedly marked off the outline before the snow melted. Pope Liberius immediately ordered that the church be built there. It was finished two years later.

The church, now called St. Mary Major Basilica, is the most important church in the city of Rome dedicated to Our Lady, and one of the four great Basilicas of Rome which pilgrims visit regularly, often to obtain indulgences.

Interestingly, the Basilica also contains a painting of the Virgin and Christ Child known as “Salus populi Romani”, or “Protectress of the People of Rome”, which is said to have been painted by Saint Luke. (It had been brought to Rome from the Holy Land by St. Helena, mother of the Holy Roman Emperor Constantine. It was she who discovered the location of the true cross of Christ, the crib, and other important relics (an equally miraculous story that the reader may want to look up.) The painting was in possession of Pope Liberius, and he ordered that it be hung in the new Basilica so that all the faithful would be able to venerate it. The relic of the

Manger in Bethlehem in which our Savior lay is also kept there and exposed upon the high altar of the Basilica for veneration every Christmas Eve.

In America, there is the National Shrine of our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois (near St. Louis, Missouri) which has 200 landscaped acres filled with various shrines, including Our Lady of the Snows.

Our Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches, LA is officially a “daughter” parish of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome. The Minor Basilica has a Mass honoring Our Lady of the Snows every year on August 5. When it falls on a weekday, it is at 6:30 a.m., on a Saturday at 8:00 a.m.. A pilgrimage to Natchitoches for that Mass is a beautiful way to honor Mary, our Mother. The blessing of a plenary indulgence is gained for attending that Mass under the usual conditions.

Our Lady of the Snows feast day is celebrated on August 5.

Emily Ann and her husband Leland, a former Protestant minister, became Catholic in 1998. She has worked in Religious Education ever since, and at present teaches Religion full-time at St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria.

Catholic education is 'most important thing' church needs, speaker says

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service



THE IMPORTANCE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION. Mary Rice, Hasson, author and fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, is pictured in an undated photo. (CNS photo/James O'Gara, courtesy Ethics and Public Policy Center.)

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The keynote address at an annual conference for Catholic educators embracing classical Catholic education reinforced that what they are doing is important.

"If we don't get Catholic education right, we don't have a future," Mary Rice Hasson, author and fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, told about 200 participants at the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education's national conference July 22 at The Catholic University of America in Washington. The July 22-25 conference offered keynote addresses, workshops on teaching methods and topics for superintendents, school leaders, teachers and pastors.

The institute currently provides resources for more than 125 Catholic school members.

Although Hasson didn't speak directly to the type of education these educators have taken up, she did address the overall goal of these schools, which is students' spiritual formation. She also stressed the urgent need for spiritually-rooted Catholic education to combat what she described as the growing influence of secular culture in

today's public or government schools.

Essentially speaking to the choir, Hasson said: "Catholic education is the single most important thing our church needs

right now." Citing statistics about young people leaving the church, she said these numbers point to "a long failure to impart the faith to the next generation," which she stressed makes the "task before us

all the more important."

She said the number of Catholics leaving the church, particularly millennials, is sobering. "The future of the church looks bleak," she said, but quickly added: "From a faith perspective, it is never bleak."

As she sees it, the trend of young people leaving the church is directly related to the pull of secular culture prevalent in today's public schools attended by nine out of 10 children in the United States and 88% of Catholic schoolchildren. She said that even though many Catholics send their children to parish religious education programs, she wondered about the influence one hour a week provides for the "onslaught" these students receive every day.

Hasson, who last year co-wrote, with her sister, Theresa Farnan, a book with this same theme: "Get Out Now: Why You Should Pull Your Child From Public School Before It's Too Late," told the conference attendees that there has been a "decades-long failure to impart the faith to the next generation, which makes the task before us all the more important."

"We are at a turning point because of where the culture is," she said, specifically emphasizing

the impact of gender ideology -- or the claim that one's gender is fluid and detached from one's sex -- and adding: "Our kids are absorbing a vision that is radically at odds with our teaching."

Hasson, a mother of seven who also directs the Catholic Women's Forum with the Ethics and Public Policy Center, told the group of educators looking at new ways to teach Catholic school students and revive Catholic schools, that Catholics have "outsourced the education of our children to a secular system" and that the "secular culture is having its way with our kids, pulling them out."

One positive aspect of the current societal trends, particularly with an emphasis on gender ideology, she said, is that it provides a chance for people to speak the truth. For example, she said the conference participants were bringing "not a new program, but a new way of education" to Catholics which could have a big impact.

"That's your task; I'm thankful you're here. Keep it up," she encouraged them, saying their efforts would eventually bring about an "uptick in numbers" of young people staying in the church.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

As the 2019 Election draws nearer, pastors and principals are reminded that any parish, school, or other Church-owned facility is not to be used for any activity related to the support of or opposition to any candidate for political office, nor as places for partisan debate. The pulpit, especially, is never to be used by candidates or incumbents to advance their political views or their positions. Moreover, the pulpit is not to be used as a forum by any individual -- even a priest or deacon -- to support or oppose a candidate, public official, or political position.

For a full explanation of diocesan policy regarding political activity, please refer to Article 1400 on page 15 of the Diocesan Policy Manual, located at www.diocesealex.org, under "The Diocese - Policies and Structures." If you have any further questions, please contact David Brook at 318-445-6424, ext 215.

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

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

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

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

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What story will you tell?

Dear fellow disciple,

I can't believe we've passed the mid-point of this year! I started thinking about the person I was at the beginning of this year. One year ago. Five years ago. And, I continue to shift, make adjustments, and work towards a more cultivated life for me and my tribe of family and friends.

Life looks different for me, as I'm sure it does for you, five years ago to today.

I think it's important to remember. To think about the people we used to be, and the people we're becoming. Even more so, I think it's important to remember that although we may feel incredibly different (or maybe we don't feel different enough at all), one thing remains true: our God has never changed.

Our God has never been far, no matter how far away we've run.

Our God has never left us, no



Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina

Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

matter how abandoned we may have felt.

Our God has never NOT loved us.

Our God was there five years ago in whatever our circumstances were, He is here now, and He will always be.

I find such consolation in that truth, knowing that He is and will always be here.

So, wherever you are right now, whatever your past five years have looked like, in all the hills and valleys you've experienced,

in all the sorrows and joys, in all the pain and consolation, let His words soak into your heart:

I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)

Let's accept this truth spoken to us by Jesus. Let's find consolation in His words spoken with clarity and love. Let's believe it for ourselves today.

To cultivate what matters to us over the next few months, we must think big picture and take small intentional steps forward. The stories of our lives are made

up of little decisions we make each day, and so much can happen in a few months of small decision making adding up! The things we do today have a ripple effect - changing our story, our children's, and potentially countless others.

So, tell me: what story do you want to tell come December 31?

The story I want to tell is: We stepped out in faith. We loved God with all of our hearts and souls, and strength. In just a few months from now, I want to look back and see a family rooted in the

Word. In community. A family in love with the Lord, and deeply connected to each other.

What about you? What story do you want to tell? What decisions do you need to make today to move boldly in that direction?

It's time. Time to do the things that have been burning on your heart. Time to dig in, right where you are with what you have. August 1 could be your January 1.

Join me on page 14 to set mid-year and back to school goals for yourself and your family. For today is the only one of its kind, my friend. And we can give it all to Him.

To where we've come, and where we'll go.

Follow Cari on

Instagram at @cariterracina

Adoration and Benediction

This month's article will focus on Eucharistic adoration and benediction, and a beautiful experience I recently witnessed during one such liturgy at the Diocese's Steubenville South Youth Conference held in Alexandria.

First you may ask: "What is adoration and benediction?" As Catholics, it is important for us to know that we believe in the True Presence of Jesus in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. In other words, that is not just a simple piece of bread that we receive during Mass, but it **is** the body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. This belief is based on the words of Jesus that we read in sacred scripture. In the 22nd chapter of Luke's Gospel, verse 19, we find: "Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." There are many other passages that refer to the true presence of Jesus, but to understand the importance and beauty of adoration and benediction, one must first understand that Jesus is indeed present in the Eucharist.

With this understanding of His true presence, our church encourages us to participate in Eucharistic Adoration. For adoration, the minister will place



Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard W. Mitchell

a consecrated host into an ornate vessel called a "monstrance." The word "monstrance" comes from the Latin word "monstrare," meaning "to expose." During this solemn exposition, we are encouraged to spend time in prayer in the presence of our Lord. Eucharistic Adoration can be done in many forms and settings. Some of the popular terms you will hear are:

"A Holy Hour" where you spend one hour in adoration;

"Perpetual Adoration" during which time volunteers are assigned times to be in adoration around the clock;

"Eucharistic Procession" where a priest or deacon processes with the monstrance, allowing the faithful to be near the Eucharist;

"An Adoration Chapel" is typically a small chapel that is designed to allow the faithful to enter and be in the prayerful presence of our Lord.

There is also a liturgical service called Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. During this service, the minister exposes Jesus, allowing time for adoration. There may be a reflection or songs sung to help guide those present into deeper prayer and contemplation. The service is concluded by the minister putting on a "humeral veil," which is a vestment worn over the shoulders and covers the hands as he lifts the monstrance which contains Jesus and blesses those present.

It was during the Eucharistic Adoration and Procession during the Steubenville South Youth Conference in June that I witnessed a beautiful moment and the power of this liturgy. After the monstrance was placed on the altar for a few minutes, the priest announced we would be processing with Jesus and he invited the young people, if they

felt called to do so, to reach out and touch the tassel of the humeral veil (referencing the woman who was afflicted with hemorrhages that reached out and touched Jesus' garment and was healed). As the master of ceremonies for this event, I was walking next to the priest and helped guide him along the route through the crowd of about 1,800 young people. I glanced ahead and noticed one young man in a wheelchair. I quietly told the priest to ensure he made his way to the young man. As we got closer, I saw this young man doing everything he could to reach out to touch the humeral veil. He wasn't quite able to reach so I gently pushed the priest closer. As the young man was finally able to touch the humeral veil, he began to weep. His faithfulness deeply touched me for there was no doubt of his belief that the Lord was present and that he felt the love Christ had for him.

The Lord is present to us in many ways, but none more so than in the Eucharist. I challenge you to spend time in adoration and receive the blessings during benediction. May we all have the desire to reach out and touch the hem of Jesus, to be in his presence, and receive his blessings through our participation in adoration and benediction. The more often we spend time in this form of prayer

and devotion, the more we will come to Love the Liturgy.

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



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Knights of Columbus Awards

Faithful Navigator, Richard Murray, presented the 2019 Business Person of the Year Award to Claire Lemoine, Director of the Cenla Pregnancy Center, and the 2019 Knight of the Year Award to Sir Knight John Morovich. The awards were presented during the annual Installation of Officers and Recognition Banquet for Msgr. Piegay Assembly 328, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Alexandria, held July 14.



DIOCESE CREST PLAQUE. Mr. Rick Vereen holds a plaque that he carved and embossed to display in the St. Joseph Catholic Center Conference Room.



KNIGHTS DONATE TO MARYHILL PROJECTS. St. Martin Knights of Columbus Council #12103 in Lecompte present a \$1,000 check to Archbishop Gregory Aymond for the next phase of renovations beginning at Maryhill Renewal Center. The St. Martin KC's would like to take this opportunity to challenge the other councils to make a donation as well. Many people still remember their KC Summer Camp days at Maryhill. Pictured left to right are: Deacon Luke White, director of Maryhill; Kurt Vanderlick, Council #12103 treasurer; Archbishop Aymond; and James Monroe, Grand Knight.

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 August

Families, Schools of Human Growth - That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."



ECHO KC FAMILY OF THE YEAR. St. Francis de Sales, Echo Knights of Columbus Council #9294 presented their Family of the Year award to Steve and Dora Bernard. They also presented their Knight of the Year award to Randy Guillory (not pictured).

Creating a Rule of Life for the Summer

By Claire Couche
Guest Contributor



A Rule of Life is a traditional Christian tool for ordering one's vocation. Found most often in religious community life, a Rule can also be used by laypeople – whose state in life is no less a calling from God. It consists primarily in the examination of one's vocation and the duties it entails, and the development of a schedule for fulfilling these responsibilities in a consistent and orderly way. "A Rule is an organization of everything that has to do with your vocation, based on a hierarchy of the priorities that define the vocation and done with the intent to please God." - Holly Pierlot, *A Mother's Rule of Life*

The Freedom of A Rule of Life

Since my childhood, I have flourished when I am faithful to a routine. A routine gives life and meaning to our everyday tasks, while keeping us faithful to the goals we set. Routines, daily rhythms, or a Rule of Life creates structure and space for our duties and tasks and at the same time allows room for the freedom to create, be spontaneous and flexible, flourish, and thrive.

Needing Guidance and Help

I remember Googling "daily routine with a newborn" when my son Peter was born. I felt frustrated when I couldn't find something that fit my life. I knew in my heart that I had duties—to God, to myself, to Mike, and to Pete—that could not be ignored. Yet I felt like I was neglecting to spend time with God, and neglecting proper

care and time for myself. I often felt guilty, tired, and not enough. Shortly after this time the book, *A Mother's Rule of Life* was introduced to me. This book completely transformed our family's life.

A Rule of Life

In *A Mother's Rule of Life*, the author was overwhelmed with the state her family was in and the volume of her daily tasks. After reflecting on Saint Mother Teresa's Rule for her order, the Missionaries of Charity, the author decided to create her own rule of life for her family.

She reflected upon the duties of her vocation and decided to create a routine for her family based on the "Five P's":

1. Prayer (God)
2. Person (herself)
3. Partner (spouse)

4. Parent
5. Provider

Very quickly, she and her family flourished. There were times designated for every aspect of her life. Instead of being overwhelmed, peace abounded.

A Rule of Life For Every Vocation

No matter what vocation you are living, a daily routine, a rhythm for your day, is essential. Creating a rule of life brings order, which in turn brings freedom, peace, and balance. Instead of thinking about your to-do lists or being thrown into your day with no roadmap, you know each task has a designated time and you are able to live fully and freely in the present moment.

The spiritual benefits are incredible. By following your rule of life, you are doing what

you ought, that is, you are striving towards fulfilling your duties towards God, yourself, and others.

A Summer Rule of Life

Our routine and rhythms often change. They can evolve as we grow into a new vocation, start a new job, or experience something new. They may need to be tweaked and changed each season, or even each month. A rule of life should be freeing, not enslaving. It is different for each person based on their state of life, vocation, needs, goals, habits, and desires.

The start of a new season is the perfect time to create a rule of life if you don't have one, or to reflect and make changes to your rule if you do have one established.

Summer often brings with it the end of a semester or the start of a new vocation or job. Or, it could be a time of rest and rejuvenation.

Focus on what God is calling you to do and pray about who He is asking you to become this summer. What changes do you want to make in your life? Set goals for the summer, prioritize those goals, and begin to schedule your day around accomplishing them.

A Few Tips

Here are a few tips I have found helpful in creating my summer rule of life.

Reflect on your vocation.

"A Rule is an organization of everything that has to do with your vocation, based on a hierarchy of the priorities that define the vocation and done with the intent to please God."

A rule of life is not just a schedule, it is a response to God. It is a means of sanctification. Define your vocation, write down your duties, and set time aside for each of your daily tasks.

Put your rule up in your house where you will see it.

Have an extra copy on hand and utilize and reference it when you plan your week's schedule. *Be flexible and leave room for spontaneity.*

I have changed and tweaked (and will continue to!) my routine several times and will continue to. My son will be three years old this May, and each month brings with it different developmental changes and needs.

If something is not working in your routine, change it! The best thing to do is begin and try, and make changes as you go. *Ask God to send you a Saint to help you accomplish your daily duties and tasks.*

Pray to your guardian angel. Say a little prayer before starting your tasks, offering all you do to Mother Mary, asking her to purify your work and rest. *Create a binder for your summer.*

continued on next page

HURRICANE PRAYER OF PROTECTION

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

*If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

Psalm 90: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for August 4

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Place a copy of your rule in it, any goals you would like to accomplish, summer activities, prayer and study projects, faith life for you and your children, virtues you are working on, contact information of spiritual directors, Mass times, Confession times, any liturgical traditions or practices you wish to incorporate into your life, household chores, pantry checklists, seasonal chores, clothing needs, birthday gifts, and hobby ideas. *Know that your rhythm, routine, or Rule, is different than your neighbor's.*

It is easy to compare our lives to the lives of others, yet we all have unique gifts,

situations, and needs. A rule of life helps me realize my distinctive gifts and needs and at the same time encourages me to grow and cultivate who I am as a person.

Claire Couche is a wife, mother, and blogger. She graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville where she studied history and theology. She later received her B.S.N. and worked as an oncology nurse. Combining her love of the faith, the medical field, and ethical fashion, Claire is the creator of Moscati Scrubs, an ethical medical scrubs company inspired by the life and miracles of Saint Giuseppe Moscati.



AVOYELLES DEANERY SUPPER. The Avoyelles deanery supper for priests was held on Thursday, June 27 at St. Richard's Hall in Hickory Hill. Pictured left to right: Fr. Martin Laird, Fr. Joy Antony, Fr. Abraham Palakkattuchira, Msgr. Steve Testa, Fr. Abraham Varghese, Fr. Walter Ajaero, Fr. Rusty Rabalais, Fr. Dutch Voltz, Deacon Darrell Dubroc, Fr. Dwight DeJesus, Fr. Charles Morgan, Fr. Paul Kunnumpuram, Fr. Jose Pallipurath.

“It was home”: Young Alexandria woman to join convent

Allison Harrison of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, pictured to the right with Father Taylor Reynolds, will soon join the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, a Catholic female religious institute in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“It was home,” Harrison stated regarding her choice to join this particular order. The convent is a branch of the Dominican Order, following the Rule of St. Augustine. The average age of girls entering the order is 23, and the average age of those within the convent is 32.

Harrison encourages any young woman considering a vocation to the religious life to ask questions, find a priest you can talk to, and to research orders with specific charisms. The Dominican order can be reached at www.sistersofmary.org or by contacting Sr. Joseph Andrew at 734-994-7437.

Beginning her application process in November of 2018, Harrison will depart Alexandria to begin her eight year journey to professing her final vows on the 22nd of August, joining twelve other women in beginning the postulant phase of formation.



All are invited to a farewell reception for Harrison on Sunday, Aug. 11, 6:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria.

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

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*Blessed the people the Lord has
chosen to be his own.*

Psalm 33: 12
Responsorial Psalm
for August 11



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What can I accomplish if I go on retreat

By *Gabriel Rodriguez, Ph.D.*
Guest Contributor,
Office of Life and Justice



For years I have known about retreats, but had never been to one. My work had kept me busy, and included lots of stress and conflicts. I had been to Medjugorje three times in between 1989 and 1990. Those pilgrimages had awoken my faith as nothing had before. I began to pray the Rosary daily, and attend the charismatic Catholic conferences annually in New Orleans, and then in Lafayette when I moved to CENLA. Eventually, my fervor began to wane as time passed. I continued to attend Mass every Sunday, prayed before meals, and said a few prayers daily, but I stopped praying the Rosary on a daily basis. In 2016, my approaching retirement consumed my energy. I decided that I would spend my first retired year doing “nothing” and that is what I did. Sleeping late, lunches with friends, reading, searching for knowledge on my computer, and daily trips to somewhere were my daily activities.

As year two approached I found myself needing to do

something spiritual and spoke with Fr. Craig Scott, my Pastor, about volunteering. After some time, he asked if I would Co-chair the Office of Life & Justice for the Diocese of Alexandria. I felt honored because I would be doing something to help the poor.

However, there was still this lingering hunger for God and holiness. I knew my prayer life was not sufficient and I felt that I was not progressing in my quest to satisfy this hunger for wanting something more, something that would bring me closer to God and holiness. Somehow the thought of a retreat came up and I decided to explore the options available

to me. I discovered that there are different types of retreats, some in groups, some individually, some active and some in relative silence. The Charismatic Conferences I attended in the past provided great group experiences, lots of joy, praising the Holy Spirit, feeling deeply blessed. However, I struggled with being able to meditate successfully or spend quiet time (except for fishing trips).

Through prayer and discernment, I realized that I needed an experience based on silence and registered for a retreat at the Mother of the Redeemer Monastery in Opelousas. It is located in a bucolic area, surrounded by farms and cattle. The accommodations were Spartan, but comfortable. There are few distractions because there are no TV's, Internet, and other sources of noise. Though the Brothers and Fr. James were welcoming, I was left on my own when not attending daily mass, the Rosary, Adoration, or morning, afternoon, and evening prayers in the chapel. The first day was an awakening as I participated in the prayer life and then silence of the Monastery. The entire day was devoted to prayer, work, and the contemplation of God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Blessed Mother.

As I participated in the monastery's prayer life, I began to realize that it was the path to what I had been searching for. The Rosary was a way of praying to and communicating with The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit, and the Blessed Mother. Daily Mass was a way of taking Jesus into my body, heart, and spirit, fortifying my resolve to live a holier life and providing me with the grace to accomplish it. I realized that if I wanted to pray regularly, I had to schedule times during the day or I would not stick to the regimen. Since the first day of the retreat, I have continued attending daily Mass, praying two Rosaries per day, and follow the Missal morning and evening prayers. All of which take about three hours per day. Each person has to decide what is best for them. Any increase in prayer is a blessing. Jesus waits for us to knock, seek, and ask. A retreat allows time to focus on our personal spiritual needs, away from the day-to-day bustle and demands. I have found a sense of peace and a way to satisfy my hunger for Jesus. Taking time to focus on your spiritual needs through a retreat enhances discernment and experiencing prayer in a very personal and fulfilling way, drawing you closer to the Lord and His love.

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA OFFICE OF LIFE AND JUSTICE

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

The Office of Life and Justice lists this directory as a public service.

It does not recommend, support, or guarantee any of the mentioned services. Each consumer should be vigilant and ask questions of each provider, including costs (if any), confidentiality of medical or personal information, and to whom they can address complaints if necessary.

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

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

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

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

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-- Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino, Chairman

Completed burses at \$15,000.00 each:

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

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

Saint Damien de Veuster	175.00
Bishop William Friend	100.00
Bishop Lawrence P. Graves	5,805.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco	1,450.00
Bishop Ronald P. Herzog	450.00
Bishop Sam G. Jacobs	1,100.00
Bishop David P. Talley	525.00
Monsignor Marcel J. Anderson	100.00
Monsignor Leon R. Aycock	1,535.00
Monsignor Henry F. Beckers	13,657.50
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway	825.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer	650.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote	560.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe	950.00
Monsignor James E. Howard	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd	1,500.00
Monsignor William Kwaitaal	850.00
Monsignor Warren T. Larroque	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon	125.00
Monsignor George W. Martinez	500.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy	2,304.00
Monsignor William C. O'Hanlon	5,000.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger	865.00
Monsignor Mozart Pelletier	100.00
Monsignor John V. Plauche	400.00
Monsignor F. Joseph Rateau	570.00
Monsignor Russell J. Richie	616.14
Monsignor B. A. Scallan	10,085.90
Monsignor Matthew J. Scanlon	310.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi	9,906.00
Monsignor Steve J. Testa	9,305.00
Monsignor Henry A. Thompson	360.00
Monsignor John M. Timmermans	8,070.00
Monsignor Martin J. Tyrrell	4,250.00
Monsignor Henry Van der Putten	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle	2,170.00
Father William G. Allison	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar	50.00
Father Lawrence Bonin	70.00
Father H. Gerald Bordelon	13,885.00
Father Vernon Bordelon	445.00
Father Gilles Boyer	85.00
Father Basil Burns	100.00
Father Scott Chemino	350.00
Father Jules L. Claes, CICM	4,761.00
Father Wilbur G. Cloutier	3,690.50

Seminary Burses

Father Daniel Cook	2,500.00
Father Daniel Corkery	1,700.00
Father Anthony N. Cumella	1,250.00
Father John H. Cunningham	1,475.00
Father Dennis A. Curren	650.00
Father Leonard Curtis, OP	1,050.00
Father Ferreolus D'Cruz	875.00
Father Edward Deasy	625.00
Father Blake Deshautelle	50.00
Father Derek Ducote	350.00
Father Rudolph J. Engelen	550.00
Father Richard Fale	5,700.00
Father James Ferguson	700.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier	1,475.00
Father Joseph Alfred Fortin	200.00
Father James Foster	280.00
Father Louis Gagnard	50.00
Father John M. Gayer	870.00
Father William Gearheard	50.00
Father Serafin Glasnovic	150.00
Father Rickey Gremillion	10,465.00
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Father Bartholomew Ibe	200.00
Father Tom Jezak	400.45
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Father W. John Kiley	625.00
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Father Jack Michalchuk	150.00
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Father Peter T. Norek	400.00
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Father Thomas O'Connors	10.00
Father Chad Partain	100.00
Father Martin L. Plauche	50.00
Father Samuel J. Polizzi	1,000.00
Father George Pookkattu	50.00
Father William B. Provosty	105.00
Father Rusty Rabalais	25.00
Father Charles Ray	350.00
Father Frederick Taylor Reynolds	1,085.00
Father Yves J. Robitaille	1,900.00
Father José Robles-Sanchez	450.00
Father James Roy	100.00
Father Kenneth J. Roy	3,505.00
Father Sheldon Roy	225.00
Father Lloyd M. Samson	50.00
Father Craig Scott	2,000.00
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Father Paul B. Smith	250.00
Father Ker Texada	200.00
Father August Thompson	1,240.00
Father Antonio E. Villaverde	1,300.00
Father Nino G. Viviano	200.00
Father Gus Voltz	25.00
Father Silvan A. Waterkotte, OFM	160.00
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Father Joseph Xavier	100.00
Father Bernard L. Zagst	1,275.00
Reverend H. Biggers	158.50
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Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard	3,200.00
Deacon L. G. DeLoach	500.00
Deacon Darrell Dubroc	200.00
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Tracy P. Wiltse	1,825.00
Mary Virginia Young	100.00
Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence	100.00
Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Regina Pacis #1372, Natchitoches	775.00
In Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959	1,450.00
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria	760.00
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Tallulah	100.00
St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Cottonport	700.00
General Fund	2,000.00
TOTAL	593,852.17

Parish Spotlight: St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle

Established 1856

By Dr. Mark Guidry
President,

St. Augustine Historical Society

St. Augustine Catholic Church on Isle Brevelle is nationally recognized for its significance to a Creole heritage dating back to colonial Louisiana and to the founding of Natchitoches - the oldest settlement of the Louisiana Territory.

Most parishioners are descendants of the 10 siblings of Frenchman, Claude Thomas Metoyer, and a formerly enslaved woman, Marie Thereze, born and raised in the household of another Frenchman, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, who founded Natchitoches in 1714.

Against all odds and modern comprehension, their love and their Catholic faith produced a lasting alliance, ten (10) children, and a solid foundation for a faith-based, multicultural Creole community and heritage.

By family tradition, their oldest son, Augustin Metoyer, acquired a vision when in 1801 he accompanied his father to his motherland home in France. There, he was struck by the presence of a church in every French village. He returned to French Louisiana determined to establish a church for the people of Isle Brevelle. With the assistance of his younger brother, Louis (who established the still existent Melrose plantation), the first chapel was built on Augustin's plantation in 1803.



Widely known as "Grandpere" ("Grandfather," in English), Augustin wrote this sentence in a letter to a friend: "in one way or another, I am sure that having a house of the good God in our midst, our people will live a better life, will love one another, and will live in harmony."

The early plantation chapel was used by travelling priests to perform Mass and sacraments for Grandpere's family and relatives. In 1829, it became a mission church to St. Francis of Natchitoches (now, Immaculate

Conception), blessed by Father John Baptist Blanc who noted it was built "to propagate the principles of our holy religion." In 1836, Grandpere outlined his intention to donate the land, church, and cemetery "to serve both his family and others who professed the holy, Catholic, apostolic, and Roman religion."

In March 1856, at the age of 88 years, Grandpere Augustin's final wish came true. Bishop Auguste Martin decreed St. Augustine a parish church and commended Grandpere for his faithful determination. He

then appointed his brother, Father François Martin, the first resident priest. Dream fulfilled, Augustin Metoyer died a few months later in December 1856.

Over the years, the descendants of the Frenchman and former slave worked together to sustain its church and their creole culture. Together, they acquired over 18,000 acres of plantation land. Isolated and self-sufficient, they survived many tests of time - the dramatic change from French to American society; a devastating civil war; complexities of being caught in the middle of American racial issues; world wars; family migrations; and much more.

By the grace of God, St. Augustine's parish community and its unique Creole heritage has been preserved. Spiritually advised by Father Frances Smith, a group of parishioners formed the St. Augustine Historical Society (SAHS) in 1979. It's first task was to acquire the Badin-Roque House which was the first convent for French Daughters of the Cross nuns who came in 1856 to educate the parish children. Architecturally, this 1770's house is one-of-a-kind in Louisiana and a GoFundMe page has been established to address current restoration needs. In 2016, the church achieved the distinction of being nationally registered as

a traditional cultural center - a first in the state of Louisiana.

Church history outlines many significant milestones... Holy Ghost Fathers served the parish and missions from 1916 until 1990 when the first diocesan priest, Father James Ferguson, was named as pastor. On February 24, 2001, Bishop Sam G. Jacobs rededicated St. Augustine Church after renovations. Since then, the parish began to install stained-glass windows which were completed in 2017 with a subsequent blessing by Bishop David Talley.

Today, the church boasts a large choir, active youth group, vacation bible school, various scriptural studies, and a very popular church fair which attracts descendants from across the country who take an annual pilgrimage to their 'cultural home.' The Holy Name Society and Christian Mothers remain prayerfully active and supportive of parish life. The Providence Mission, founded by the late Sisters Ida Marie and Marcella Marie Frazier, continues its mission of helping the poor throughout the year.

The history of St. Augustine parish is a remarkable journey of faith and leadership. With vision and fortitude, a legacy of faith has transcended over 200 years, welcoming and calling the faithful to worship.

For updated contact information and Mass times for our diocesan churches and missions, please visit www.diocesealex.org

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*Lord, come
to my aid!*

Psalm 40: 14
Responsorial Psalm
for August 18

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Radio Maria organizes Medjugorje pilgrimage

Medjugorje has become the international melting pot of the world, unifying our faith. Radio Maria U.S. pilgrimage was a part of this movement in June, with pilgrims from all parts of the United States experiencing the grace of the Cross of Mt. Krizevac in Herzegovina.



From the 1980's the drive around the narrow hair-raising mountain passes and the beautiful seacoast dotted with red-tiled Churches and homes has been replaced by a recently built modern highway. Along with the former hamlet of Medjugorje, the rocks and vineyards of former Yugoslavia are now covered with shops and very large hotels called pansions. The outside confessionals of chairs in the Church yard of St. James, called by St. John Paul II the "confessional of the world," is now covered with about 30 confessionals and long lines of penitents waiting for their confession to be heard in every language imaginable. Rosaries, statues, sacramentals of incredible size, and artistic rendition fill the shops for viewing by pilgrims.

The recent news that "Pope Francis has given the green light to Catholics to organize pilgrimages to Medjugorje" (*Catholic News Agency*), was another step to honor the Queen of Peace, promoting her messages of conversion of hearts. Papal spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said in a May 12 statement that this was made as an acknowledgment of the "abundant fruits of grace" that have come from Medjugorje. It is also part of the "particular pastoral attention of Pope Francis to the place."

Fr. Livio Gonzaga, co-founder of World Family of Radio Maria, is good friends with seer Jakov Colo who gave his permission to print his picture and write about his talk. Slavica Marincic, tour guide and interpreter for Jakov, the youngest of the seers, told us about the messages that the Queen of Peace has been giving for the past 37 years.

"Dear children, give me your heart and I will do the rest," has been a frequent quote of Our Lady that Jakov repeated. "Six years ago was a very hard time in my life. God gave me the cross for a long time. I prayed a lot and spoke to Fr. Marinko. Three days later, Fr. took me to a very old abandoned house and said I want you to turn this into a place for poor people. I have a family and responsibilities, but God gave me new grace in helping brothers and sisters in need. People began to call me, and my wife and mom helped them. I visited homes, and lonely people, and began *Mary's Hands* which takes care of 500 families. Volunteers began to come and clean homes, take the sick to hospitals and provide food and help for those in need. Youth today sit at table, four or five looking at gadget. We must help them. Pray for *Mary's Hands*."



NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED. At the July 2, 2019 meeting of the St. Anthony of Padua Knights of Columbus, Council #2395 installed new Officers.



"A NEW LOOK." Holy Ghost Church and St. Richard's Chapel ushers got a new look for their attire in 2018. They recently received a jacket monogrammed with the word "Usher" and praying hands. This uniformed look allows the group to substitute between the two churches as needed, and will be worn for all funerals, special occasions, holidays, and weekend Masses as desired. Featured in the photo above, taken Saturday, May 25, from left to right (Bottom row) are August Guillot; Sam Williams; Marjorie Greenhouse, proud to serve as the group's only female member; May Lavalais, and Roger McGlory; (Top Row) Jules James; Weldon Ford; Peter Lewis; Fr. Abraham Varghese, Pastor; John Augustine; Shelton McGlory; and Brian Barton.

Prayer for Students

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom!
 Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself.
 Guide in the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion.
 This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

*Go out to all the world,
 and tell the Good News.*

Mark 16:15 | Responsorial Psalm for August 25

Sweet summertime!



ST. PETER CHURCH, BORDELONVILLE. Confirmation was held on May 11. Pictured above are the Confirmandi with Pastor, Father Ramji Shoury.



HOLY GHOST CHURCH AND ST. RICHARD'S CHAPEL. Confirmation was held on June 30. Pictured above with the confirmandi are Pastor, Father Abraham Varghese; Father Abraham Palakkattuchira; Deacon Ted Moulard; Director of Religious Education, Francine Darby; and, teacher, Patricia Jacob.



ST. PETER CHURCH, BORDELONVILLE. First Holy Communion was held on May 11. Pictured above are the First Holy Communicants with Pastor, Father Ramji Shoury.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO. Confirmation was held on June 30. Pictured above are the Confirmandi with Pastor, Father Dwight De Jesus.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. Confirmation was held on June 1. The confirmandi hold relics of their confirmation saints (first class relics of St. Anthony and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, both borrowed from Mr. Marcus Descant, and a second class relic of St. Philomena, given by the St. Philomena sanctuary in Italy).



SUPPER WITH THE SEMINARIANS. Supper with the Seminarians was held for the Eastern Deanery at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Campti on Thursday, June 27. Thank you Father George Pookattu, pastor of the NBVM and the parishioners of the Natchitoches Deanery for making this event a huge success benefitting seminarian education.

“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 and jumping into a faith-filled life this summer! Join us at www.diocesealex.org to commemorate more summertime activities.



ST. RITA CHURCH. Vacation Bible School was held at St. Rita Church in Alexandria on July 15 - 19.



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Father Marc Noel and representatives from the Cenla Pregnancy Center volunteer their time.



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Youth from Natchitoches attend the Steubenville South Conference, June 21 - 23.



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Father Walter Ajaero and Deacon Bill Endris volunteer their time at the Steubenville South Conference.



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Members of the St. Anthony of Padua youth group from Bunkie.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH. Vacation Bible School was held at Sacred Heart Church in Pineville July 15-19.



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Father Scott Chemino prepares to celebrate the closing Mass on Sunday morning, June 23.



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Deacons Luke Whitehead and Paul Sunderhaus assist with the weekend's liturgies.



ST. PAUL CHURCH, MANSURA. Vacation Bible School was held at St. Paul Church in Mansura June 22.



MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH. Vacation Bible School was held at Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth June 17 - 21, with the theme “Miraculous Mission.”



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Members of the Our Lady of Prompt Succor youth group from Alexandria.



STEUBENVILLE SOUTH. Adult leaders chaperone the youth group from St. Juliana Church.

Cultivating the good life through setting mid-year goals

by Cari Terracina
Publications Manager

The small decisions we make today matter. What story do you want to tell? What decisions do you need to make today to move boldly in that direction?

Take a look around. How are you feeling at this point in the year?

Tired? - It's been a journey since January.

Excited? - New opportunities wait ahead in the last few months of the year.

Overwhelmed? - Not where you imagined you'd be by this point in 2019?

You may feel like you're too late to make progress on your goals for the year, but here's some truth: today can be your January 1. Often times, good change starts with just one tiny step forward. Good things grow little by little, and it's little-by-little that you can cultivate the good life for you and your family. **Want to finally move forward on**



your goals?

My hope is that you are entering this new academic year

energized in mind, body, and spirit for all that the coming months have to offer. Many of us exit the summer

season in a flurry that's equal parts chaos, excitement, sunburns, and sand, and it can take a moment (or a month) to feel grounded again. Here are some steps to help you refocus, and remember that all you do is ultimately for God's glory.

Start in prayer

Spend some time in quiet prayer, either in your home or in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Ask the Lord to fill you with His peace, and clarity as you sit down to work on your goal setting.

Clear your brain

Set a timer for ten minutes. Play some calming music, and sit down with a blank paper and pen. For the next ten minutes, write, draw, or doodle whatever comes to mind. Maybe it has to do with your goals and maybe it doesn't. Simply dump out everything on your mind: worries, hopes, fears, and even grocery lists.

Write out your goals and evaluate

Go back to when you last set goals. Rewrite each goal, leaving a little underneath each one. Write down what is or was working for that particular goal, and what was not.

Imagine December

Now, write a few sentences about where you see yourself in December in conjunction with your goals. What has changed? Are there any new goals? What in your life would be different if these goals came to fruition?

Tweak your goals

Now, rewrite your goals and your new game plan. Are there

goals that are no longer relevant? Are there goals that are still important but don't require as much time as you previously thought? Do you have a particular goal that you'd like to focus more on? Remembering where you would like to be in December, write down a new game plan for each goal. Include a few small steps you can take to help you get started.

Make it visual

Writing our goals down and keeping them insight makes them more tangible. To help you reach those goals, find a Bible verse or saint's quote to help keep you focused over the next few months. Put it on your nightstand, on the bathroom mirror, next to the coffee pot, or anywhere you'll see it daily. Or create a brand new Pinterest board, dedicated to your goals for the next few months, and include some quotes that inspire you and will keep you motivated.

Our ultimate goal

Whatever your goals may be, do not be defeated. Focus on what you can control and do not waste energy on the things you can't. Lay your goals at the foot of the cross and give it all over to the Lord.

We can dream and plan all we want. But, if we aren't trusting in Him, we will ultimately find ourselves disappointed.

How are your goals for this year going? Are you setting new goals with the start of the new school year? Share them with us on Facebook - we'll pray for you!

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EAGLE SCOUTS RECOGNIZED: Seven new Eagle Scouts were recognized at the Troop 6 Court of Honor held at St. Francis Cabrini Church on Sunday, July 14. Earning the Eagle Scout rank is quite rare, and in Louisiana, less than .034% of Scouts under 18 years old earned their Eagle Scout rank in 2018. Pictured with the new Eagle Scouts is Scoutmaster Emile Oestrieher. All of the Eagle Scouts are from the Alexandria area, attending Holy Savior Menard, Alexandria Senior High, and Tioga High School.

Anyone interested in learning more about Troop 6 can visit the website at www.Troop6.org, which lists the troop's calendar of events, photos of recent outings, and more. For information on how to join, please visit the website or contact Emile Oestrieher. Boys must have completed the 5th grade to join Boy Scouts.

OPENING PRAYER FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Father Dwight DeJesus, pastor of St. Francis de Sales in Echo, was invited to say the opening prayer on May 20 at the House of Representatives, Louisiana Capitol, Baton Rouge. Pictured with him is the speaker of the house and Mike Johnson, District 27 representative.



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

• **August 8 - 11**
Cenla Teen ACTS
 Contact Mark Vilar
 at 318-664-1366
 or www.cenlaacts.org

• **August 22 - 25**
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Back to School

Empowered: Back to School Bash!

Join St. Joseph Church in Marksville on Saturday, Aug. 3, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., for a final summer celebration with live Christian music by local artists, food, a variety of outside games/activities, an inspiring speaker, small groups, and concluding with 4:00 p.m. Mass. Parents are invited to the closing Mass. Cost is \$10 per child and includes a t-shirt. Contact Tammy Bernard at 318-305-1730 or tammy.bernard5@yahoo.com or Christy Reed at 318-305-8886 or cenlaoil@gmail.com. Sponsored by St. Joseph ACTS. Open to all youth entering grades 5 - 9.

St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport

Open House: Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria

New Parent Orientation for all parents new to OLPS

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. (Madonna Room)

Open House: Sunday, Aug. 11, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Students can bring their school supplies and meet their Home Room teacher.

St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

Open House: Thursday, Aug. 8, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Back to School Bash: Saturday, Aug. 17, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. with hot-dogs, hamburgers, and water slides.

2019 Bulldog Kids Triathlon

Register now to participate in the annual Bulldog Kids Triathlon, Saturday Aug. 17! The Bulldog Kids Tri is a community event open to ALL children between the ages of 3 - 14. It's not a competition, it's an experience for kids! Kids will participate in three events: swimming, biking, and running. It will take place on the beautiful campus of LSUA. Registration per kid athlete is \$50 until August 9, and \$55 until the day before the event. For more information or to register, visit www.bulldogkidstri.com.

SOAR! Menard High Schol Back-to-School Rally

Join Holy Savior Menard for a back-to-school rally on Sunday, Aug. 18 at 6:00 p.m., and meet the Eagle's faculty, staff, alumni, and students! Mass will be held, following a pep rally and blessing of the lighting of the Cross on the roof of the Chapel.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
is a day of obligation!

Thursday, August 15

Visit www.diocesealex.org or see your church parish bulletin for Mass times.

Upcoming VIRTUS sessions

• **August 5, 6:00 p.m.**
 Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church Hall,
 NATCHITOCHE

• **August 7, 2:30 p.m.**
 St. Joseph Catholic Center, ALEXANDRIA

• **August 8, 6:00 p.m.**
 St. Joseph Church Hall, MARKSVILLE

• **August 29, 6:00 p.m.**
 St. Joseph Catholic Center, ALEXANDRIA

To register, go to www.virtus.org

New documentary looks at immigrants' integration into U.S. heartland

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Filmmakers Matthew McGlenn and John Altman set out to, in McGlenn's words, "elevate the conversation" about immigration with their new documentary, "Immigrants in the Heartland: Who Are We Following?"

"I know that immigration, and things under that umbrella, is a very divisive, contentious issue for a lot of people today," McGlenn said. "I felt that John and I could make a film that serves as the backdrop of how we as Catholics should be dealing with any issue in our lives that might be divisive, contentious or confusing."

McGlenn and Altman, of Sistine Films, will know soon enough to what extent they've succeeded, as "Immigrants in the Heartland," funded in part by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign, is to make its debut online by early August.

"I was intrigued by the subject," McGlenn told Catholic News Service in a phone interview from Kansas City, Missouri. "There were things I was sensing that it might be an interesting story." He cited initiatives taking place in his home Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, as well as in dioceses in neighboring Kansas.

"Immigrants in the Heartland" features more than a



dozen voices of native-born and immigrant Americans.

One, Greg Bole, an immigration legal assistance attorney for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, recalled helping close up at the Domino's Pizza where he worked in Anderson, Indiana, when he saw a truck drop off an undocumented woman from Mexico outside at 1 a.m. All the woman had was a sack with some belongings, a

IMMIGRATION FILM. The documentary "Immigrants in the Heartland: Who Are We Following?" by filmmakers Matthew McGlenn and John Altman is set to debut online by early August, and is funded in part by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign. (CNS illustration / Sistine Films)

pillow, and a slip of paper bearing the address where her husband lived.

"She was hungry. And I was at a pizza place," Bole said. While he had an inkling at the time that he wanted to be a lawyer, he added, "I realized I wanted to work with this group of people. Helping this woman find her husband and eat some pizza led me to believe I could help in a more substantial way."

"It takes a lot to become an American citizen. And I am blessed to be one," said Benedict Babaran, who was born in the Philippines. He added he especially likes the part in

taking the citizenship oath that "you swear your allegiance to the Constitution of the United States. Not to the government of the United States. Because the government may change."

Lucy Paw, a refugee from Myanmar, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, still recalls the terror in her home country faced by her and her three children: "Sometimes we cannot sleep. The gun and the weapon, deh-deh-deh-deh-deh," she said, imitating the sound of machine gun fire. "Before we came to the United States, I prayed the rosary."

Father Wesley Schawe, pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City, Kansas, remembered his baptism into advocacy: a 2005 immigrant rights rally downtown with 1,000 people on hand.

"I get into the bed of a pickup, and I'm handed a microphone," at which point he said a prayer for immigrant rights, Father Schawe said. "I know I lost friends that day. There were people who saw that on the news and were ticked off. ... Here I was, taking a side, so to speak. And people go, 'Look at that that little Wesley that has come back and is offering a prayer in a language I don't understand,'" he added.

"Some weeks later, we had this dialogue. I was at this table with some Spanish speakers. 'You remember that time when you got up there? Did you really mean that, or did you

just get up there?' So we have those people who feel I betrayed them, and those who thought I did it insincerely. I was getting it from both ends!"

Among others interviewed are Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas; Bishop John B. Brungardt of Dodge City, Kansas; and Bishop Carl A. Kemme of Wichita, Kansas; and Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. of Kansas City St. Joseph, Missouri.

"What we ended up discovering was way, way, way beyond what we were expecting," McGlenn said.

While some of the first-person accounts in "Immigrants in the Heartland" may be hard to hear, the filming process was surprisingly easy, McGlenn told CNS. "We submitted our (CCC grant) proposal Oct. 1 (2017), and we were in preproduction by December," he said.

In a bit of a flip, the documentary will be available for rental and sale online first through whoarewefollowing.org. Then, after a year, it will be made available for television. But McGlenn has another kind of availability in mind as well.

"We want to make the film available to stand in the margin of this conversation, which in many ways can guide people in some of the other things going on in our church -- rather the argument between modernity and traditionalism, the scandals that seem to morph into one thing after another," he said.

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You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Psalm 16:5 | Responsorial Psalm for June 30

?? Catholic Trivia ??

Which saint is credited with the *Prayer for Students*, found on page 11?

- A. St. Frances Cabrini B. St. Thomas Aquinas
C. St. Ambrose D. St. Charbel

Answer on page 19.

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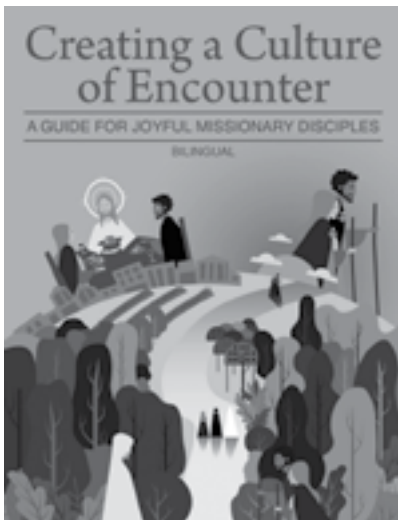
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This small-group guide, offered by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will help Catholics live out the call of Jesus to meet those on the peripheries with the Good News of the Gospel for their lives.

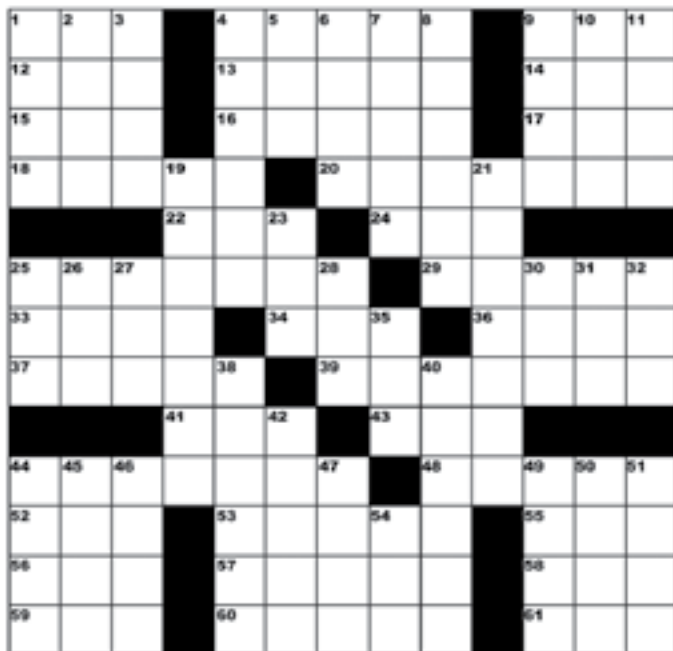
Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples offers an organized five-week parish encounter process to help small groups to dig deeper into the Church's evangelizing mission. In each session, participants take up a new aspect of Jesus' encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus and focus on a different element of the evangelical call to spread the Gospel, inspired by Pope Francis's *Evangelii Gaudium*. The five-week guide invites participants to *See, Judge, Act, Celebrate, and take Missionary Action* each week.

This new community resource finds its roots in the gathering of the *V Encuentro Nacional Hispano de Pastoral*. The Spanish/English guide will deepen missionary discipleship in parishes, lay ecclesial movements, Catholic schools, parish councils, religious groups, and faith formation teams. The encounter process will bear good fruit, as Catholics take up their missionary mandate in families, schools, workplaces, communities, parishes, and wherever they encounter those in need of God's love.

Pick up this guide now and step out to encounter those in need of the light of the Gospel! Order easily at store.usccb.org.

The Cross Word

August 18 and 25, 2019



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Readings: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53 and Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

ACROSS

- 1 __ Lanka
- 4 Anxiety
- 9 Not downs
- 12 Boy
- 13 " __ and south"
- 14 Foot extension
- 15 Frost
- 16 Town news giver
- 17 Alias (abbr.)
- 18 They wanted Jeremiah's
- 20 Jeremiah was one
- 22 "Father against"
- 24 Compass point

25 Christ __ the cross

- 29 Rub out
- 33 Person, place or thing
- 34 Pull
- 36 Horse prodder
- 37 Author Poe
- 39 Worth his wage
- 41 Cistern was filled with
- 43 "Every burden and"
- 44 Demanded
- 48 Hereditary class
- 52 Klutz
- 53 Small egg
- 55 Hovel

- 56 Southwestern Indian
- 57 Shred (2 wds.)
- 58 Sea eagle
- 59 Church bench
- 60 Children's sliding toys
- 61 Genetic code

DOWN

- 1 Skidded
- 2 "Running the __"
- 3 Thought
- 4 Hope symbol
- 5 Neither's partner
- 6 Grab tightly
- 7 Harsh
- 8 God's seat
- 9 Salt Lake state
- 10 Jab
- 11 Christ has taken his __
- 19 Giant wave
- 21 Public image
- 23 Gauze
- 25 East northeast
- 26 Affirmative gesture
- 27 Shoveled
- 28 Pain unit
- 30 Easter month
- 31 Take to court
- 32 Sin
- 35 Had been
- 38 Hearsay
- 40 Arm muscles
- 42 Satan
- 44 __ de grace
- 45 Deceased
- 46 "Will only __ people be saved?"
- 47 Fool
- 49 Martyrs __ blood
- 50 Spin around
- 51 Gas burner
- 54 Italy volcano

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Adjunct Professor (1994-1997), Northwestern State University

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives, Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State Bar Association).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited," "Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C," "Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Disability Hearings."

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The National Catholic Educational Association's motto is "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.," and we here at the St. Joseph Catholic Center could not agree more whole-heartedly.

What makes Catholic schools so great?

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Alexandria ministers to the religious and academic needs of the community by administering and supervising the Catholic School System as it fulfills its primary goal of teaching and modeling the Catholic faith.

Each and every year, the staff of the Catholic Schools Office strives to coordinate a vibrant schedule of meetings, in-service training sessions, and special events, all designed to foster and uphold the highest possible standards for Catholic education in the diocese, and this year is no different. Starting in August, the Catholic Schools Office will provide multiple trainings for educators in the diocese, focusing on data analysis.

"The focus for this upcoming academic year will be improving instruction," says Thomas Roque, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the diocese. "We will assist educators in discovering where their students are struggling, identify what their



learning styles are, and filling in any gaps in learning they may have."

Passing on the Catholic Education

Several educators will join the diocese or take on new roles with the Catholic School System. Changes include the hiring of Mrs. Casie Vanderlick Wilkins as Interim Principal at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria, as well as the additional duties of Vice Principal being added to Mr. Chris Gatlin of Holy Savior

Menard High School.

Catholic School Parents

Parents are encouraged to get to know their school administration, including all faculty and staff, and to ask questions concerning any resources available to help their children develop academically, spiritually, and emotionally. Parents are also invited to get to know the staff of the Catholic Schools Office, and to reinforce the teaching their child receives at school by developing healthy

practices at home. The following tips are offered to help prepare your little (and big) kids for the weeks ahead. Thank you to all of our Catholic educators!

Visit Edutopia for additional resources for parents and students to excel this coming school year.

Preparing your little ones for back-to-school

Know the school:

Familiarize yourself and your student with the school campus and staff. Attend Open House if possible, or schedule a tour.

Pick up the supply list early, and have all of your student's supplies ready for the first day of school, or earlier.

At-home routines:

Start early practicing morning and evening routines, including -

Evening: Have a wind-down period, powering down bright screens.

Pick out clothes for the next day, pack their book bag, and get everything ready to walk out the door the next morning.

Morning: Practice getting up and out of the house on time.

If necessary, do an early morning activity the week before school starts to practice.

Implement after-school routines, including having a designated study spot with needed school supplies ready. As a parent, sort through your student's book bags, look for any important messages, and have conversations with your student concerning their school day.

Travel to School and Home:

Escort your first-time bus riders to the bus, and be present at pick-up times. Discuss topics such as where to stand for bus pick-up, strangers, and traffic with your student.

Encourage a positive educational mindset:

Demonstrate a positive attitude toward school, schoolwork, and learning.

Discuss what topics will be covered during the school year.

Help your student set good academic goals.

Read with your student.



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In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following statement is published:

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA NON-DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL POLICY August, 2019

The Diocese of Alexandria School System re-affirms its non-discriminatory policy on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, activities and employment policies in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Sections 4.03(a) and 4.03 (c) Revenue Procedure 75-50.

All students, faculty members and staff, without exception, are admitted to all rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available at the schools which do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its employment policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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- Holy Savior Menard Central High, Alexandria
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria
- St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Alexandria

A Grand Love: Grandparents fill special role for children

By Dr. Kathie Amidei
Guest Contributor

At a conference many years ago, a speaker made an impression on me.

She said, "I always imagined God's love as that of a parent. That is until I became a grandparent. I now think God's love is more like a grandparent."

She went on to explain how it is a different kind of unconditional love, without the same expectations or burdens of responsibility as a parent.

It simply and purely delights in the other. It marvels at creation, wills good without the need to control, and sees the best in the other, even if the best is only the potential for greatness. I tucked this away and wondered how I could possibly love more deeply than I did as a parent.

Then my granddaughter, Maria, was born. Meeting her, I realized the love the speaker mentioned wasn't something I had to seek but a kind of love that settles on your heart, the way inspiration comes to your mind.

Maria has grown into a lovely child. She and all our grandchildren have delighted us beyond words. Indeed, we have found the quality of this grand love mystifying and unconditional in nature. Grandparents know something about God we didn't know before being grandparents.

A grandparent has powerful-related potential on the faith of grandchildren. This relationship offers a unique opportunity to impact the faith of a grandchild.

Recent research cites that grandparents are more important than we think in the role of faith and are much more influential in the 21st century. Grandparents live longer than ever before, are healthier and more active and so are more likely to play a significant role in the lives of their grandchildren. Researchers

conclude it is not surprising that a majority of grandchildren report being emotionally close to their grandparents, as well as share similar views and values with them. Grandparents can provide a stabilizing influence in emotional challenging situations.

Grandparents are in a perfect position to help parents in very tangible ways. Many grandparents care for grandchildren while parents work, attend to business or just to give parents a break. Grandparents have some positive characteristics that are beneficial. We work for free. We have a bias to like your kids. You can have faith in the quality of our care; look how well our own kids turned out.

I choose to go to the same Mass my son and daughter-in-law attend. When one or another grandson invariably needs to use the restroom, I take him. I figure I can pray anytime, but this may be their parents' only opportunity to pray. Grandparents can pass on faith by being of service. "Washing of feet" at this stage of life looks like lifting the burdens of parenting in mundane and profound ways. We can physically help, emotionally encourage and spiritually support our children as parents.

Grandparents can have a direct influence. We can offer to host Baptism or First Communion celebrations. We can give gifts for such occasions that nurture faith, a children's bible, a sacramental, like a crucifix or a rosary. When grandchildren are in our care, we can pray grace before meals or bedtime prayers. We can read bible stories or storybooks about different saints when they are visiting. Or we can have a subtle influence when we mention a Scripture passage or have religious objects in our home, like a picture of the Last Supper in the dining area or a religious statue in the bedroom.



Grandparents' influence isn't just for a young child. My friend Brian told me his high school son called his grandma when troubled about a spiritual matter. Brian was happy his son turned to a faithful person with his concern.

I suspect this teen boy talked to his grandmother because of her faith, understanding and compassion. It is a unique bond of trust between grandchildren and grandparents.

Grandparents can pray for grandchildren. When I was in college, my grandmother mentioned that she prayed the rosary for her grandchildren every day. I had no idea she had done this all my life. That was a spiritual gift she gave us. It is important that we tell our grandchildren we pray for them. That simple witness is an evangelizing force in a child's life. A grandpa I know lights a vigil candle at church each week for his grandchildren - a gesture of prayer any of us can do.

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*My strength returns to me
with my cup of coffee
and reading of the Psalms.*

• Dorothy Day •

???

Quiz Answer:

ANSWER:
B. St. Thomas Aquinas,
Patron of students
and all universities

Dear Freshmen

by **Laurie Medina**
Guest Contributor

Dear friend,

The start of the new school year brings a whirlwind of activity — cramming in the last hurrahs of the summer, finishing those last chapters of your summer reading book, adjusting to a normal sleep schedule (which is much harder than you think!), getting all of your school supplies and textbooks. But in addition to preparing your bookbag, it's time to prepare your heart for high school.

If you're anything like me, your mind is racing at a thousand miles a minute. Will you make good friends? Will you fit in? What clubs will you join? Is high school drama really as vicious as the TV shows portray it to be?

Beneath all our questions and fears is a deep desire to belong and make the most of your high school experience. Maybe you have really high expectations of what the next four years will be like and I can hardly blame you because I know the pressure of constant comparison to your peers and expectations of personal, academic, and social success.

Maybe you just want to survive and get by unscathed. I mean, anything has to be better than middle school, right? While I can't guarantee that high school will be all smooth sailing (no stage of life really is), I can reassure you that the feelings you have about this next big step in your life are valid and no matter how you feel, you can walk into high school courageously.

You Are Not Alone

Everyone — no matter how much confidence they exude — is scared in their own way. The people you see in your classes are fighting their own battles, have their own insecurities, and are just as worried about finding their place in the world as you are. Take comfort in the fact that



you're all going through a big transition together and use it as an opportunity for real connection!

Your family, youth minister, older friends, etc., want to support you in any way they can. If it seems like you have nobody to talk to, the Lord is there, waiting to take on your burdens and make them light. He has not abandoned you and He will never leave you, even if you feel that everyone else has. You are endlessly and relentlessly loved by a Father who desires your good.

You Will Find Friends

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit." John 15:2

It is completely and totally OK to be on your own for awhile at the start of high school, and it is OK if you drift apart from the friends you made in junior high. The Lord knows your desire for community and will fulfill that desire — but on His time, not yours. For now,

get to know the people around you. Start by introducing yourself to a classmate or joining a club. There will always be the chance that you'll be rejected by others, but even greater is the chance that you'll find someone you click with and maybe even become best friends with.

As the year goes on, cliques will naturally begin to form. While it may feel like you're constantly on the outside looking in, it's much better to be unapologetically and authentically yourself — even if that means you're on the outside — than to pretend to be someone you're not.

You Are His

Perhaps the most important thing I can say to you as you enter high school is this: Your identity lies in being completely loved by the Father. Yes, your grades matter. Yes, it is good to be involved in extracurricular activities. Yes, it is good to try out for the sports team or aspire for leadership positions. Yes, it is good to strive to do your

best in everything you do. Yes, it's good to build a community and find your niche.

But what really matters is the "why" behind everything you do. Are you only working hard for good grades because you want to be known as the best? Are you applying for this position just because it will look good on your college applications? Are you volunteering because you want to seem like a good person? Are you hanging with that crowd because they're "cool" and you want to be cool, too?

These things matter, but they should never become your identity. High school will end. The things of this world will pass away, but your identity as a beloved child of God endures forever. If you stay rooted in this identity and abide in His love, you will never be led astray.

And just in case you're wondering what other people would have told their 14-year-old selves, check out what some of my friends had to say:

"Stay strong in your beliefs and always be kind. Don't just get good grades to benefit your future! Instead, why not do well now because it feels good to do well? Do well now because you want to be successful in life now. Don't worry so much about the future. Focus on the present. Focus on how it feels to show up to class

with your homework completed. Focus on how it feels good to get good grades on tests because you studied. Stay in the present and leave everything else up to God."

"Trust God completely."

"Try something new."

"If you ever find yourself clinging to something in high school that you don't recognize yourself without, you should take a step back because at some point you'll realize what things matter and what things you will have to let go of."

"Even if you don't believe in God, He believes in you."

"I wish I knew the beauty of growth and change — that what I thought was cool my freshman year is so different to what now brings me joy years later, and that is OK!"

"High school will be challenging, and the feelings you have are valid. But it's important to balance those struggles with the truth and to hold on to that."

"Please get involved in your parish, even if it's uncomfortable; always give grace to your youth minister and thank them for everything they do."

Laura Medina is a saint-in-progress with a missionary heart and a passion for merging Catholic ministry with mental health care. You can find her on Instagram @wrappedinhermantle.

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

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

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SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING. A seminar was held at the St. Joseph Catholic Center on June 26, featuring Monica Clemi from St. Pius School in Houston. Clemi presented information concerning Catholic School Development.



FARM TO TABLE AWARD. The Louisiana Farm to School Program offered its grand prize award to Betsy Jeansonne of St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport.

As a grower, technology coordinator, and Louisiana Harvest of the Month team leader, Jeansonne strives to create a connection between food, technology, and community. Pictured here with a student of St. Mary's Assumption School, she enjoys seeing the tangible effects of her efforts when students stop by her farm stand on Saturdays, and are able to educate their parents on the nutritional value of produce that they learned about in the classroom during Harvest of the Month taste tests.

Jeansonne says, "As the Technology Coordinator at St. Mary's Assumption School, I help to bring the latest and greatest digital resources to our classrooms. As the co-owner of a hometown market garden, I help to bring agriculture directly to our students. When we combine technology and agriculture, then our students get the best of both worlds!"

Through hands-on Louisiana Harvest of the Month activities, school gardening, and sustainable farming lessons, Jeansonne endeavors to help students understand the importance of local food systems and farming in a way that will leave a lasting impression on the community.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School hires interim principal

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and School is pleased to announce the hiring of Mrs. Casie Vanderlick Wilkins as the school's interim principal effective July 11, 2019.

Mrs. Wilkins, of Alexandria, holds an M.Ed. degree from Louisiana College in Pineville and an additional License in Educational Leadership. She holds a B.S. degree in International Business from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches.

A graduate of Our Lady of Prompt Succor and Holy Savior Menard High School, Mrs. Wilkins is a veteran teacher and administrator, working for the past 11 years for the Rapides Parish School Board.

For the past five years, she has been a "Turn-Around Specialist," working with administrators of low-performing schools to improve test scores through evaluating curriculum and instruction.

Before that she taught math, science and social studies to sixth graders and middle school students for a total of six years at Rosenthal Montessori Elementary in Alexandria and Northwood High School in Lena.

Mrs. Wilkins will serve for the 2019-2020 academic year, and be evaluated next spring as a candidate for the permanent principal position.

Mrs. Wilkins has a child



Mrs. Casie Wilkins

enrolled both at Our Lady of Prompt Succor and at Holy Savior Menard. "A Catholic education teaches our children to be faithful and gives them a strong set of morals to live by," she said.

"I feel building strong relationships between our students and teachers, our teachers and administration and the parents create a strong foundation for our students to learn and grow," Mrs. Wilkins said. "A top priority is to ensure high-quality instruction is occurring throughout our school by working closely with our teachers to meet each student's needs."

Mrs. Wilkins succeeds Mrs. Jo Tassin, who is retiring after having served on the OLPS faculty for 31 years and as principal for the last 15 years.

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lray@diocesealex.org

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

Louisiana College Catholic
Student Organization
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The first day of classes for all Catholic schools is
Monday, August 12

Contact your school's office for more information.



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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.

- 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.

Empowered Back to School Bash - August 3

St. Joseph Catholic Church will host "Empowered," a back to school bash on Aug. 3, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church Hall in Marksville for all youth entering 5 - 9th grades. The day costs \$10 per child, and will include live Christian music by local artists, food, a variety of outside games/activities, an inspiring speaker, small groups, and will conclude with 4:00 p.m. Mass. Parents are invited to the closing Mass. Contact Tammy Bernard at 318-305-1730 or tammy.bernard5@yahoo.com, or Christy Reed at 318-305-8886 for more information.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School Events - August 6, 11, 20, and 21

Orientation for all parents new to Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Madonna Room. Contact the school for more information.

Open House will be held on Sunday, Aug. 11, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Students can bring their school supplies and meet their Home Room teacher.

Classroom Orientation for Grades 1 - 3 will be held Tuesday, Aug. 20, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Classroom Orientation for Grades 4 - 6 will be held Wednesday, Aug. 21, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport Open House - August 7

Open House will be held at St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. Contact the school for more information.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria - August 8 and 17

Open House will be held at St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria on Thursday, Aug. 8, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. A Back-to-School Bash will also be held Saturday, Aug. 17, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. with hotdogs, hamburgers, and water slides. Please call 318-445-4588 for more information.

First Day of School - August 12

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - August 15

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation. Check with your church parish for Mass times.

Heart of St. Kateri Circle - August 15

Heart of St. Kateri Circle monthly meetings will resume on August 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. here at the National Center, 2225 North Bolton Avenue, Alexandria.

2019 Bulldog Kids Triathlon - August 17

Register now to participate in the annual Bulldog Kids Triathlon! The Bulldog Kids Tri is a community event open to ALL children between the ages of 3 - 14. It's not a competition, it's an experience for kids! Kids will participate in three events: swimming, biking, and running. It will take place on the beautiful campus of LSUA. Registration per kid athlete is \$50 until Aug. 9, and \$55 until the day before the event. For more information or to register, visit www.bulldogkidstri.com.

SOAR! Menard High Schol Back-to-School Rally - August 18

Join Holy Savior Menard for a back-to-school rally on Sunday, Aug. 18 at 6:00 p.m., and meet the Eagle's faculty, staff, alumni, and students! Mass will be held, following a pep rally and blessing of the lighting of the Cross on the roof of the Chapel.

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

FRESH FIRE 2019 - August 24

FRESH FIRE 2019, a day-long gathering for those desiring refreshment and empowerment in the Holy Spirit, will take place Saturday, Aug. 24, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at St. Benilde Cafeteria (1901 Division Street, Metairie). The event is sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans. The theme for the day is "Anointing, Fall On Us," and will focus on the call of the Lord to us now, as CCRNO celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. The day will include praise and worship, preaching and empowerment ministry. Music will be provided by Jamie Diliberto and Tongues of Fire. Registration is \$30 per person, and includes lunch. Special price of \$10 for youth ages 18-30. Register online at www.ccrno.org no later than Wednesday, Aug. 21, 12:00 p.m., to reserve your lunch. Onsite registration will be accepted but no lunch is guaranteed. Visit www.ccrno.org or call CCRNO at 504-828-1368 for more information.

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 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!

Scholarship Deadline - September 15

Catholic laymen and women pursuing a graduate degree in theology or religious studies to serve their church in a professional capacity may now apply for a \$2000 scholarship to help offset the cost of tuition. Catholics who are not ordained clergy or women religious, serve their parishes as Parish Coordinators or administrators as Pastoral Associates, Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Liturgists, etc. are eligible. This scholarship can help provide funds to earn an advanced educational degree in theology or religious studies that is often required for these positions. Details and eligibility requirements can be accessed at <https://www.cliu.com/giving-back/faith-based-scholarships/msgr-droll-scholarship-for-catholic-laity/>. Deadline to submit applications for the scholarship is Sept. 15, 2019.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue:
August 26
Deadline for news:
Friday, August 16

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August 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	31	AUGUST 1	2	3	4
					Empowered Back to School Bash 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., St. Joseph, Marksville	
Cenla Teen ACTS Retreat -- Maryhill						
PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP AYMOND	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE	PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica, Natchitoches	New Parent Orientation, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., Our Lady of Prompt Succor School	VIRTUS Training 2:30 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria Open House, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m., St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport	VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church Hall, Marksville			Open House, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Our Lady of Prompt Succor School
Sacred Heart ACTS Retreat -- Maryhill						
PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP AYMOND	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
FIRST DAY OF CLASSES, All Catholic Schools			Heart of Kateri Circle Meeting, 5:30 p.m. National Center, Alexandria SOLEMNITY of the ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY A Holy Day of Obligation PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM		2019 Bulldog Kids Triathlon, LSUA Campus	
PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY	PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Cenla ACTS Men's Retreat -- Maryhill						
PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ	PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE	PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON	PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE
26	27	28	29	30	31	SEPTEMBER 1
	St. Mary's LAST Greco Bowl, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Convention Hall, Downtown Alexandria		VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria			
Gootee's Inner Healing Retreat -- Maryhill						
PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	PRAY FOR FR. D. HART	PRAY FOR FR. J. HASEIBER	PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE	PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD

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