

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume L, No. 9

[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

September 23, 2019



## *Life in the Spirit!*

Students from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches practiced the virtue of charity this past month. Elementary students in Mrs. Hogg's religion class sold lemonade at Grandparent's Day. All proceeds go to the Northwestern Louisiana Cancer Center in Natchitoches.

See pages 12 and 13 for more pictures of students and parishioners in the Diocese living in the Spirit this fall!

### INSIDE

#### Maryhill Legacy Bricks now available!

Maryhill Renewal Center began in the 1940's as a vision of Bishop Charles P. Greco. See page 5 to learn how you can help to continue this vision by purchasing a beautiful, personalized, and engraved commemorative Maryhill Legacy Brick.

#### It's time for Catholics to embrace Halloween

See pages 6 and 7 for a special Q&A on the origins of Halloween, and how we as Catholics can fill the darkness with Christ's light, inviting everyone we encounter to prepare for the festival of the saints.

#### "A world at prayer is a world at peace." - Father Patrick Peyton

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. See page 15 for ways to honor Mary and celebrate this special month.

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## Looking back



### September 2011:

**Left: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN DEVILLE** dedicated their new Rosary Walk in memory of two parishioners - Alvy Jean Smith and Vivian Morace, who had the idea of transforming the area adjacent to the church where one could meditate and pray the rosary and have quiet time with our Creator. Father John O'Brien, then pastor, blessed and dedicated the walk on September 25, 2011.

### Today:

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. See page 15 for five ways to honor Mary and celebrate this special month.

## Saint of the Month: St. Bartolo Longo

By *Emily Ann McCullough*  
Guest Contributor

### From Satanist Priest to Beatified Dominican – No One is a Hopeless Case

Young Bartolo Longo (1841-1926) was born into a well-to-do family. He was extremely intelligent, quite skilled, and mischievous. But his mother died when he was ten, and his life took a downward turn. Italy, his native land, was going through turbulent times. Much of the elite rejected and attacked the Christian faith. Bartolo entered the University of Naples law school. His professors, many of whom were ex-priests and hated the Church, pressed their views upon the young impressionable Bartolo, who wrote: "I, too, grew to hate monks, priests and the Pope,"... "and in particular [I detested] the Dominicans, the most formidable, furious opponents of those great modern professors." To make things worse, his desire for the supernatural led him to the mediums and occult community of Naples, and eventually, to satanism.

Fr. Roger J. Landry (Diocese of Fall River) wrote of this time in Bartolo's life: "...after a period of intense study and such rigorous fasting that he was reduced to skin and bones, he was consecrated a satanic priest and promised his soul to a demon. For the next year, he began to preside over satanic services and to preach more boldly and blasphemously against God and the Church."

But his family and those who loved him never gave up on him. They prayed fervently, and a



devout Catholic professor began to insist that Bartolo examine himself and what he had become. After a type of "deprogramming," he was given absolution and reentered the Church on the feast of the Sacred Heart in 1865.

#### And yet.....

Bartolo wrote, "One day in the fields around Pompeii, I recalled my former condition as a priest of Satan... I thought that perhaps as the priesthood of Christ is for eternity, so also the priesthood of Satan is for eternity. So, despite my repentance, I thought: I am still consecrated to Satan, and I am still his slave and property as he awaits me in Hell. As I pondered over my condition, I experienced a deep sense of despair and almost committed suicide. Then I heard an echo in my ear of the voice of Friar

Alberto repeating the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 'One who propagates my Rosary shall be saved.' Falling to my knees, I exclaimed: 'If your words are true that he who propagates your Rosary will be saved, I shall reach salvation because I shall not leave this earth without propagating your Rosary.'"

Fr. Landry wrote: "He spent the whole rest of his life, beginning in Pompeii, propagating the Rosary ...

- he built Pompeii's famous Basilica of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary,
- inaugurated a print shop and school to give the children of criminals the chance of a better life,
- wrote books on the Rosary,
- composed novenas and

prayer manuals,

- became a friend of Pope Leo XIII,
- began the popular movement that led to the solemn dogmatic proclamation of the Assumption,
- contributed the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary.

It was from Blessed Bartolo's writings that Pope John Paul II found the individual mysteries... and what all five as a whole should be called. When he proposed the new Mysteries of Light in his 2002 encyclical 'The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary,' Pope John Paul II didn't hesitate to show his admiration for this holy man whose conversion and subsequent holy life demonstrate that no matter how far away from the faith one is, there's always hope."

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**JPII beatified him in 1980, calling him the "Apostle of the Rosary." His feast day is October 5.**

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Credit for the quotations by Fr. Roger J. Landry: <http://catholicpreaching.com/from-satanist-to-saint-the-anchor-october-31-2008/>

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

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# Response to 9/11 was 'rescue, rebuild, and renew,' says Cardinal Dolan

By Catholic News Service



**SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL.** Norma Margiotta holds her granddaughter, 14-month-old Evelyn Adams, as they visit the Sept. 11 Memorial in the Staten Island borough of New York Sept. 10, 2019, the eve of the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Margiotta's husband, Lt. Charles Margiotta, was one of the 343 New York City firefighters who died in the line of duty while responding to the attacks on the World Trade Center. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

NEW YORK (CNS) -- In preparing to mark the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said part of his message came from the pastor of St. Peter's Church in Lower Manhattan.

The church became a staging ground for first responders after two hijacked planes crashed in to the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

"(That priest) said something that really sticks with me," the cardinal remarked in a Sept. 9 interview. "He said, 'Here in New York, we just don't remember 9/11 -- we celebrate 9/12,' and what he meant is that the nation was not locked into a paralysis of fear, depression, discouragement, somberness."

"This community did not become frantic in (an) unhealthy way," Cardinal Dolan said. "This community did not dwell on revenge and anger. This community immediately began to rescue and rebuild and renew and that's what Sept. 12 stands for."

Cardinal Dolan made the comments in an interview with a television station in Milwaukee, where he was archbishop before being named to head the New York Archdiocese.

In New York City, at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia,

In an early morning tweet, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington said: "On the anniversary of this tragic day in our nation's history, we pray for all those who died and for ongoing strength and consolation for their loved ones. Pray that God will protect us and our country and fill all the world with the peace that only he can give."

In the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, a midday solemn march and Mass was scheduled to pay tribute to members of the Fire Department of New York and all those who lost their lives in the terror attacks.

When the attacks occurred, Cardinal Dolan was an auxiliary bishop of St. Louis. That morning, he recalled, he had just begun celebrating Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church for a group of schoolchildren when he got word of what had happened.

"I began to see that that parish had a lot of firemen and policemen, and all of a sudden I kind of saw them come in (to the church) kind of frantic," he told Milwaukee's WISN-TV. "In retrospect it was because of the panic" about the nation being under attack.

"One of them came up to me on the altar while one of the little kids was doing the reading to tell me what was happening ... that there was some tragedy in New York, that the twin towers

had been struck by airplanes," the cardinal said, so he called the children to prayer.

"There is nothing more powerful than the prayers of children," he added.

He admitted that when he first heard the news, he felt "some fear," wondering like many Americans if the nation was in for a more "extended attack." There was "some anger" and "an immediate spontaneous desire for revenge," he added, but there also was "obviously solicitude for those who were hurt and their families and how the nation was going to recover."

"Those were all sentiments that I can remember being there at the surface," Cardinal Dolan said, "but I wanted to turn those into prayer and take those to the Lord, and I was inspired by the people around me who were doing that."

He added that when there's time of crisis -- when there's time of famine, depression, war, plague, whatever it might be, there (are) two ways you can go" in response.

You can go away from God and "curse him," he said. "You can give in to depression, feeling sorry for yourself, responding with whining, cynicism, sarcasm."

Or "you can go closer to God, trusting in him and serving his people," Cardinal Dolan said, and in response to 9/11, "the great majority chose" this option.

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

**Do you know someone who wants to receive the Church Today FREE of charge?**

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# Will you pray with me?

Dear fellow disciple,

The last time I wrote to you, I wrote about the person I was five years ago - a woman who seems so very different from the woman I am today. But, lately I've also been thinking about all the ways that I am exactly the same.

I'm still the woman so thoroughly dedicated to personal ministry and community in hopes that in all of the ways that I need revival, maybe others do, too.

I'm still the woman striving to love and serve her family, and now filled with gratitude when I look at my baby boy.

I'm still the woman desiring unity in our Church, no matter one's age or liturgical preference.

I'm still the woman who trusts in the Father and seeks simplicity even when all around me seems chaotic.

I'm not a completely different person than I was five years ago, and I'm not exactly the same either. I realize, I'm simply



## Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina

Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

becoming. Becoming more and myself myself. Becoming more and more whole.

Even through struggle, I'm learning and stretching, and becoming. And I know that He's helping you to become free as well.

He's making each of us whole. He's picking up the pieces, and putting us back together. He's bringing you and me to life.

In 2018, to support his vision of evangelization and faith formation, Bishop David Talley transformed what was the "Church Today Office"

into the "Communications and Evangelization Office." By doing this, he restructured the two existing positions to carry out the office's new mission and vision of evangelization; continuing Christian formation and carrying out a cohesive plan for communicating the activities of the diocese through various media. Since that time, I have served as Publications Manager, while Joan Ferguson became the Multimedia Manager.

**As of September 9 of this year, Archbishop Aymond, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese, appointed me**

**Assistant Director of the Office that supervises the Steubenville South and Beyond the Limits conferences, serving under the guidance of Father José Robles-Sanchez through June 30, 2020.** This is in addition to my current role as Publications Manager. As of July 1, 2020, I am appointed Director of the Steubenville South and Beyond the Limits conferences for the Diocese. Father Derek Ducote will remain Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria.

I previously worked in the Steubenville South Office for

over ten years, and am humbled, honored, and excited to begin this new chapter years later. To walk with each of you in a new way as we grow as a diocese.

So, today I ask for a renewed desire to read God's word, to attend the Sacraments, to continue becoming the woman God asks me to be.

To help Him set the world ablaze with His great love.

Would you join me in this prayer?

He desires the best for us. He desires healing for our weary hearts. He desires our hearts to soften and become docile. He desires for us to become whole.

**"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." - St. Catherine of Siena**

To all that we're becoming,  
Cari

Follow Cari on  
Instagram at @cariterracina

## Go!

In writing this monthly column, it is my hope you are realizing the significance and beauty found in the liturgy of the Mass. From the moment we step into the church and bless ourselves with holy water, through the readings and reception of Holy Communion, we receive many gifts to strengthen our relationship with God and one another. It would be wonderful if we could just stay in the cocoon of the church, but that is not what we are called to do.

There is a word that is spoken at the end of Mass that many hear, but may not realize the significance of it. After the final blessing, the priest (or deacon if one is present) says one of the following dismissals: "Go in Peace"; "Go forth, the Mass is ended"; "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord"; or "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life". Did you catch the common word in each of the options above? It is the instruction to "GO!" But go and do what?? We are to leave the church, nourished with the gifts of the word of the Lord and the Eucharist and give those gifts to the people we encounter each day. We are to "go" and mimic the goodness of the Lord and serve those around us. We are to



## Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard W. Mitchell

"go" and live our lives in a way that reflects the love and mercy of Jesus.

I recently had a profound experience regarding this call to be a reflection of Jesus to those around us. While visiting someone in the emergency room late one Friday evening, I heard people yelling in the room right next to us. I stepped out of the room just in time to see the nurse running to the nurses' station saying she needed help with an unruly patient. Apparently this sort of thing happens pretty regularly in emergency rooms on Friday and Saturday nights, because about ten seconds after calling for help, there were four or five of the biggest security guards I have ever seen and two or three nurses that came to the rescue. I saw in their faces and body language that they meant

business. The patient was yelling, cussing, and thrashing around as the group began to surround his bedside. I knew that whatever was about to happen was not going to be pleasant on anyone's part.

Suddenly, in the midst of all the commotion and through the group of people, the patient and my eyes met. It is hard to describe, but in an instant I knew I was looking at the face of Jesus. When he saw me, he pointed to me and made the sign of the cross. However, the security guards and other nurses did not notice the encounter so they continued to approach him which caused him to begin to resist again.

I quickly walked into the room and began talking to him hoping to deescalate the situation so no one would get hurt. Once he saw me again, he made the

sign of the cross. I explained that we were all there to help him and to trust the nurses and doctors. He immediately calmed down and allowed the nurse to give him medicine to calm him down. Thankfully the security team left with no incident.

This experience made me ask myself, "How many times have I walked right past Jesus without recognizing him?" It is easy to have an encounter with Jesus in the sacraments within the walls of the church, but it is not so easy to see Him in those who are struggling right next to us. In the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew's gospel we are given the model of the Corporal Works of Mercy and are called to: feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; visit the prisoners; bury the dead; and give alms to the poor. That is precisely what we are called to "go" and do.

So the next time you attend Mass and hear the instruction at the end to "Go..." Take it to heart and bring the gifts you received at Mass to those you encounter on a daily basis. If you do, you will bring the Lord to those who need Him most and will find another reason to Love the Liturgy!

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



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Diocese of Alexandria  
on Spotify

# Maryhill Legacy Bricks

Maryhill Renewal Center began in the 1940's as a vision of Bishop Charles P. Greco. Property was purchased in Pineville with plans of a retreat house and summer camp for children as well as a seminary. A man-made lake was built within the pine tree-covered property. The first retreat at Maryhill was held on Feb. 7, 1949.

Over the course of years, the retreat center was used extensively for annual Knights of Columbus summer camps and those who attended still have many fond childhood memories. Many may remember the landmark of the summer camp: the "Star of the Sea," a replica of a modern ocean liner docked in the lake.

Today, thousands of people attend retreats and functions held at Maryhill throughout the year and it continues to serve as the spiritual heart of the Diocese of Alexandria.

Now, you have an opportunity to help continue Bishop Greco's vision by purchasing a beautiful, personalized and engraved commemorative Maryhill Legacy Brick. Personalization can be either for yourself, your family or for someone else to commemorate a special memory or to honor or remember a special loved one.

These commemorative paver bricks will be installed and displayed at the entrance of the main chapel at Maryhill so that in the years to come, you will be

able to bring your children and grandchildren to see your name and theirs, or the names of loved ones, as a permanent legacy at Maryhill Renewal Center.

And with your support, important improvements and maintenance can be performed such as:

- Construct a handicap ramp in front of the chapel.
- Construct a north side Stations of the Cross walk.
- Renovate the Rosary Walk, making it larger.

...and many other proposed projects.

To order your commemorative brick, please visit [www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/](http://www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/).




# Bishop's

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

benefiting Seminarian Education



**Monday, Oct. 14, 2019**  
**Oakwing Golf Course**  
**Lunch 11:00 a.m. • Tee-off time 12 noon**

**4-person scramble: green fees, cart, mulligans, range balls, lunch, dinner and refreshments included.**

**Team sponsor: \$540**

Other sponsorship levels available.  
 For more information, call Sandi Tarver at (318) 445-6424, ext. 209 or [starver@diocesealex.org](mailto:starver@diocesealex.org)



 DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA  
 Bishop's sponsor:  
 CHRISTUS ST. FRANCES CABRINI  
 Health System

### How do you share your compassion?

"The Lord goes out to meet the needs of men and women, and wants to make each one of us concretely share in His compassion." - Pope Francis

We can't wait to be a part of the fifth annual #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. Join us, Tuesday, December 3!

More information will be in the next issue of The Church Today.

## ProximoTravel

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

Psalm 95: 8 | Responsorial Psalm for October 6

### HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for October

A Missionary "Spring" in the Church: That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the Church.

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

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

### Fr. Theodore Lelieveld

- An allegation of sexual misconduct and abuse of male minors dating back to the mid-1960's was reported to the Diocese of Alexandria in August 2019.

- Fr. Lelieveld died on October 21, 1976 at the age of 50.

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

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

The individual added to the list has been deceased 43 years, and the allegations were brought to our attention only recently. The entire list, including any updates will always be available on the diocesan website here: <https://www.diocesealex.org/ongoing-clergy-sexual-abuse-page/diocese-releases-names-of-clergy/>

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

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

For additional information on the policies that govern the matters discussed above, please visit [www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing) or the following websites:

For the Policy of the Diocese of Alexandria for the Protection of Minors: <https://www.diocesealex.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Diocesan-Policy-Concerning-Sexual-Abuse-of-Minors1-2.pdf>

For the Diocese of Alexandria's Code of Pastoral Conduct for Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff and Volunteers: <https://www.diocesealex.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Code-of-Pastoral-Conduct.pdf>

For the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/charter.cfm>

## It's Time for Catholics to Embrace Halloween



*By Fr. Steve Grunow  
Word on Fire Ministries*

*Originally published at  
[www.WordOnFire.org](http://www.WordOnFire.org).*

**QUESTION: What is the relation of Halloween to All Saints/All Souls? Which came first?**

**Fr. Steve:** All Saints Day appears to have a more ancient genealogy than All Souls Day.

The practice of a festival day to honor the whole communion of saints, rather than that just a single saint, seems to happen for the first time in the Catholic Church with the consecration of the Pantheon as a public place for the Church's worship. This happened in the year 609 (or 610) on May 13. The Pantheon had been originally dedicated for the use of Roman religion as a place where all the gods would be honored. Boniface displaced the images of the gods from their shrines and gave the building over to the saints of the Church, particularly the martyrs. This was a kind of "in your face" to pagan culture. Boniface was saying that the old gods had been defeated and were defeated by the faith of the Church's martyrs.

Also, May 13th was a day associated in Roman religion with what was called the festival of the Lemurs or ancestral spirits. It is likely that Boniface's choice of this day to claim the Pantheon for Christian worship was intentional and it was a way of saying that the martyrs are the great ancestors of all the baptized and it is their memory and witness that is rightly honored on the day that Romans recalled their ancestors.

How we get from May 13 to November 1 is interesting. The festival of All Saints seems to emerge from the dedication of another Roman church that was consecrated by Pope Gregory III. The church is named St. Peter and all the Saints. It was a subsequent pope, Gregory IV, who extended the annual festival that commemorates this church dedication to the whole Church as All Saints Day. The extension of festivals specific to the Church of Rome is a part and parcel of how the Catholic faith becomes the underlying cultural matrix from which a new kind of European civilization would emerge.

All Souls Day (celebrated November 2) seems to emerge with the growth and spread of

monastic communities and the practice of commemorating deceased members of monasteries. This practice gained broad cultural traction and in time was extended to the whole Church.

Halloween is the precursor to All Saints Day and as such is kind of like what December 24 is to Christmas Day. Remember, the calendar of the Church is filled with festival days, all of which were once associated with great, public celebrations. A holy day of obligation has not always meant spending 45 minutes in church for Mass and then going back to work. Holy days were times for a party, and if you look at the Church's calendar, past and present, with this ethos in mind you will discover that the reasons for a party happened with great frequency.

**QUESTION: What do you think of the trend of parents boycotting Halloween on account of it being evil? What would you say to them if they told you such? Not safety or health concerns keeping kids indoors, but abject opposition to something believed to be satanic or terrorizing?**

**Fr. Steve:** There is a lot that is unsavory about the

## 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.

*The Lord has revealed to the  
nations his saving power.*

Psalm 98: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for October 13

contemporary celebration of Halloween. What does the singular focus on violence, horror, and death have to say about our culture? The traditional, Catholic Halloween placed these realities within the context of Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil. The current secularized version of the festival has no salvific content and has been loosed from its theological moorings. It looks very much like a festival of death for a culture of death, and for that reason I can see why parents might be concerned.

But what is the proper response to a culture of death? To lock the Church behind closed doors or to let her out into the world? I think it is time for Catholics to accept the religious liberties that this culture claims to afford them and go public with their own festivals—and to do so dramatically and with a great deal of public fervor. What is holding us back? What are we afraid will happen? The reticence and fear that characterizes Catholics is costing the Church its unique culture and it is allowing the culture of death to flourish. Halloween should not be a day when our churches go dark and Christians retreat into the shadows, but when we fill the

darkness with Christ's light and go out into the culture, inviting everyone to prepare for the festival of the saints with all the joy we can muster.

**QUESTION: What does the Catechism have to say about Halloween?**

**Fr. Steve:** The Catechism has a lot to say about the characteristics of heroic virtue and holiness of life that create the Church's saints. It also has a lot to say about Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil. These are the kinds of things that the festivities of Catholic Halloween should be celebrating with great gusto and panache.

**QUESTION: One of the appealing elements of celebrating Halloween as a child, aside from the candy and costume stuff, is the spookiness factor—the thrill of being scared without any real risk. From a Catholic perspective, is that important? Is the experience of being fearful or having an awareness of evil an essential element for a Catholic kid to learn?**

**Fr. Steve:** I think that all cultures employ cautionary tales that are replete with supernatural imagery, and use this imagery as a means of teaching boundaries and

inculcating a sense that there are dangerous people and situations that they could encounter and should be wary of. Further, I think that stories told to a group will have the ability to evoke a shared emotional experience and as such bond the community together. It is not only Christian cultures that will employ a narrative, even a frightening one, to communicate their worldview and impart values.

I do think that Catholics need to learn from an early age to look at the world realistically and without the blurring lenses of sentimentality. The world is fallen and finite. People will hurt one another. We are sinners. But this darkness is illuminated by the light of God's revelation in Christ that makes the deepest truth of what it means to be human available to us in the Incarnation and Paschal Mystery of the Lord Jesus. Yes, look honestly at sin and death. Know about the lure and deceptions of fallen, spiritual powers. Realize that greater than all the fallen powers of heaven and earth is the power of God in Christ, which is a love that is stronger than sin, death, and the devil. It is this divine power that is given to the believer in a personal way through Jesus Christ. He

is victorious over everything that we are afraid of. His love is stronger than death. The power of his divine life dispels evil. Even as we gaze into the shadows we see his light.

**QUESTION: I read somewhere that Halloween is seen as the day when the veil between heaven and earth and purgatory is thinnest, hence the presence of souls. That seems like some seriously "new agey" stuff. Is this a Catholic thing or is that where Wiccans and imaginative Hollywood types step in?**

**Fr. Steve:** I don't know precisely the metaphysical precedents that one would use to justify the belief that there are on specific days thicker and thinner veils between the natural and supernatural realms. It seems esoteric and speculative.

I do think that the reality that such a perspective represents has great power as a narrative that explains for some folks how they think that the natural and the supernatural interact with one another. Is it true? I don't know how one would adjudicate such a claim definitively. As such, it remains a supposition or a possibility.

The Catholic faith describes natural and

supernatural realities existing in a relationship of communion or coinherence that is called sacramental. This means that because of the Incarnation of God in Christ, natural realities can express supernatural realities. Physical realities can truly be bearers of divine grace.

The divine grace that is revealed in the Church's commemoration of Halloween should be our participation in what is called the communion of saints. This communion of saints means that this world is not all that there is, and that those who have passed through the experience of death continue to love us, care for us, and even through God's permissive will, can interact with us. It also means that that the Christian can hope that God's power in Christ to save and redeem extends beyond this world to the next and as such we can hope that few of us will be lost causes. The festivities of Halloween should affirm that these beliefs about the communion of saints are real and are also the deepest reality of what this world has become because of the revelation of God in Christ.



**HALLOWEEN.** Bishop Charles Greco hands out candy to trick-or-treaters.

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Martha Neil Anthony



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## A Very Different Mission

*Family Missions Company is an apostolate of lay Catholic missionaries. Committed to the Great Commission of Jesus, we proclaim the Gospel and serve the poor throughout the world. We serve under the blessing of our bishop in the Diocese of Lafayette, and at the invitation of the bishops in all areas we serve. We train and send out families and singles as full-time missionaries who evangelize and provide medical care, food, clothing, and the construction of homes in some of the poorest communities around the world.*



be a missionary I had my own set of ideas and dreams of what that may look like. I pictured the whimsical side of bringing Christ to the nations and setting sail to distant isles where I would be able to preach to hundreds and cause conversions in the masses. Like many of my missionary brothers and sisters, we all seem to prepare for a life that we expect and the Lord just smiles and laughs at our naivety and gives us a reality far different and more beautiful than what was expected.

In the city we're serving in, our preaching style takes on a different form as we share Christ's saving message and proposal of a life with meaning and purpose. Since we cannot openly preach to the masses due to potential hostility to Christians, we rely on the Holy Spirit to reveal the souls in which He has already been working or ones that are open to His promptings.

In the first month of our arrival, I met Honey, a 27 year old Chinese national. She was

beautiful, loving, and magnetic. She immediately clung to me, stayed in my room attempting to teach me Mandarin until my eyes were heavy, gave gifts welcoming us to China, and showed us many pictures of her family and friends. As time continued, we witnessed many sufferings and trials that Honey was enduring and sat on the sidelines in constant prayer for her perseverance. Honey did not know the Lord, grew up in a small village that only had Muslim mosques, and was thirsting for love and truth.

It wasn't until the Focus Missionaries came to China and gave a talk to a community nearby, that I finally listened to the whisper of God begging me to direct attention to discipling Honey and bringing her to His mercy. I finally recognized that Christ called me to China to serve her and help her begin this process of conversion and healing. The very next day, I became more intentional in the planning of my week, setting aside time to see her at work, inviting her over for meals, and asking her to join our weekly prayer meetings.

For the first time in four months, Honey came to our prayer meeting and sat in for my talk on Mary. Since I had prepared my teaching for Catholics who knew at least the basics of our faith, I

had to throw out my preparations and start from scratch, introducing God the Father, the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ the Son, and Mary the Mother of God. It was a nerve-racking, yet blessed meeting, and I thanked God for her attendance and the opportunity to share His message.

The very next day when I stopped in to see Honey at work, she called me aside, thanked me for the talk, and said that she had something to show me. She began to reach for her purse, pulled out her wallet, and revealed an aged image of Mary and baby Jesus within one of the inserts. She said that when she had felt alone or had no one to speak with, that she would pull out this image and talk to this woman. I was in awe!! Tears flooded my eyes as I saw how our Mother had already claimed Honey as Her own and had begun work on her prior to my arrival in China. Mary had brought Honey to the talk the night prior and had given her to me so that I may, in turn, bring her to Jesus Christ, Her Son.

It has been about three months since Honey came to that first prayer meeting and God has only continued a marvelous work in her. She now attends every Tuesday meeting, shares during the time of reflection, and asks clarifying questions when given a

scriptural text. In Chinese culture where many do not share feelings or personal experiences with friends, Honey told me that from the very first time we met, she trusted me and desired to open up about herself and her experiences. This is only a credit to the Lord and His works through me.

Josemaria Escriva in *The Way*, said something that characterized the mission here in China, "Among those around you - apostolic soul - you are the stone fallen into the lake. With your word and your example you produce a first circle... and it another... and another, and another... wider each time. Now do you understand the greatness of your mission?"

After seven months of prayer, trials, and deep reflection, I believe that I finally do understand! The greatness has been, and always will be, spreading the Good News of Christ to the nations. But, I am now even more content starting with just one soul at a time. Please pray for Honey and her desire to become a Christian, for her son, Leo, and that she may continue to grow in her relationship with the Lord. There are many others here that we are actively discipling that need your prayers, and we ask that Christ may reveal others who are thirsting for truth.

**Pope Francis announced October 2019 to be Extraordinary Missionary Month, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic letter *Maximum Illud*. This article is shared by E.C., telling of her time serving as part of Family Missions Company in China.**

**By E.C. | China**

*"But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ."* Romans 10:14-15, 17

When the Lord called me to

### 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.

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

### 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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The Diocese of Alexandria is partnering with the Shreveport Diocese and Central Louisiana Interfaith to put on the **FAITH IN ACTION** leadership training, Thursday Oct. 17 - Friday, Oct. 18.

Visit [www.CENLAIinterfaith.org](http://www.CENLAIinterfaith.org) for more information or to register.



# Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara

Starting life as a Catholic sister is a big change; for the newly professed and her family too! It was no different for Angelique Joy Marcantel when she entered into the Servidoras community (Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara) in 2012.

Originally from Jennings, LA, Mother Marie Protectrice de la Foi was active in her faith, attending youth group and the Steubenville South youth conference from 2001 - 2005. After high school, she attended LSU in Baton Rouge, graduating with her undergraduate degree in accounting, planning to join her father's practice. It was there, through the ministry of Christ the King campus ministry that she began to discern her vocation, and

happened upon the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara, a religious community founded in Argentina. As women religious, the sisters of the "SSVM" believe that their primary vocation is to be the "Spouse of Christ." Aware of the Father's call and the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the now 1,300 sisters, each with a Marian name in different languages, serve in 50 different countries devoting themselves to formation and evangelization.

Mother Marie Protectrice recently visited the Diocese of Alexandria, spreading awareness of her order and the work being accomplished in Tanzania.

Beginning their work there in 2010, the sisters in Tanzania work in a poor rural village, improving

the quality of education and health, as well as teaching catechism in order to fulfill the charism of their institute - the evangelization of the culture. A few of the ways they fulfill this charism include the "Saint Bernard" Medical Clinic, the "Stella Matutina" School, the "Saint Josephine Bakhita" Novitiate house of formation, and "Our Lady of Lourdes" parish pastoral center.

"Without your prayers and sacrifices, our mission simply couldn't continue to bear the fruit we've seen over the past three years," says Mother Protectrice.

To learn more about the Servants of the Lord and their work around the world, please visit [www.ssvmusa.org](http://www.ssvmusa.org).



**SERVANTS OF THE LORD AND THE VIRGIN OF MATARA.** Mother Marie Protectrice de la Foi (RIGHT) recently visited her home state, including the Diocese of Alexandria, for a family visit as well as to spread awareness of her order and the work being accomplished in Tanzania and around the world. To contribute to the mission in Tanzania, please mail your donations to: Mother Incarnation at: 632 W. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19140. Checks should be made out to SSVM Missions, with "Tanzania" in the memo line.



**FINAL PROFESSIONS.** Father Taylor Reynolds shares this photo of his trip to New York City to attend the final professions of a religious sister from Baton Rouge who was professing in the religious community of The Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara. The community is growing and has about ten vocations from Louisiana!

## Prayer for Priests

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

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people.  
Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.  
Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.  
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

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

## Seminararian Burses

### August 2019 Donations

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| Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity         | \$25.00           |
| Father Rickey Gremillion Burse         |                   |
| Knights of Columbus Council #9217      | \$50.00           |
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| Mr. and Mrs. John M. Dyer              | \$100.00          |
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| Leo P. Dobard Burse                    |                   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Dan F. Vanderlick         | \$100.00          |
| Richard Kelly Burse                    |                   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller          | \$200.00          |
| Father Daniel Corkery Burse            |                   |
| Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard                  | \$500.00          |
| Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse |                   |
| Ms. Elizabeth S. Arthur                | \$1,000.00        |
| Sadie Stroud Burse                     |                   |
| Father Derek Ducote                    | \$2,500.00        |
| Our Lady of Prompt Succor Burse        |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>\$4,575.00</b> |

## Parish Spotlight: Holy Ghost Church and St. Richard's Chapel Established 1919

In 1916, Fr. Nicholas Judermann, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Marksville, invited the Daughters of the Cross to establish a school for the black children of his parish. Land was donated by the sisters and with funds received from Mother Katherine Drexel a new school was built and furnished in Marksville.

The first classes met in the fall of 1917 with almost 100 students enrolled in that first year. On seeing the positive response to the school, Bishop Van de Ven obtained the services of the Holy Ghost Fathers from France to establish a church (Holy Ghost Catholic) in Marksville. Their order served this church parish from 1919-2001 starting with Fr. T. J. Nolan, CSSP of Ireland and ended sixteen pastors later with Fr. Charles Coffey, CSSP.

The parish's first sanctuary was the stage of the school auditorium. The first Sunday Mass saw 150 in attendance with 60 communicants. The collection totaled \$8. Masses were held in the hall until a new church was built in 1923.

Transportation was poor – at its best – during the mid to late 1920's. Black Catholics in the outline area of Marksville in the Hickory Hill community had difficulties to attend Mass in town so they were encouraged to build a chapel in the Hickory Hill



**HOLY GHOST CHURCH CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY.** Holy Ghost Church in Marksville is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. (RIGHT) St. Richard's Chapel, Hickory Hill.



community.

A used church was found and dedicated in honor of St. Richard. This chapel was served once a month by the Holy Ghost Fathers until better roads made it possible for a priest to reach the outlying community every Sunday. In the 1950's, a new chapel was built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Hopsin Williams, Sr. Though the Holy Ghost Fathers served the parish throughout the twentieth century, it was in 1945 that the Sisters of the Holy Family took over the administration of Holy

Ghost School.

The school struggled through integration and consolidation and was forced to close in 2000 due to rising costs and low enrollment. Diocesan priests took over when the Holy Ghost Fathers were forced to retire. Both churches continue to open their doors to all who wish to worship.

Today, the parish communities of both Holy Ghost and St. Richard's enjoy a loving and participatory atmosphere where there is a place for everyone. Come and worship with us!

**LEFT:** Sisters of the Holy Family from New Orleans, circa 1945.



For updated contact information and Mass times for our diocesan churches and missions, please visit [www.diocesealex.org/](http://www.diocesealex.org/)

*Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121: 2  
Responsorial Psalm  
for October 20

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# Saint John Henry Newman

*By Thomas Kennedy  
Diocese of Alexandria  
Seminarian*

On February 12, 2019, Pope Francis promulgated a decree through the Congregation for the Cause for the Saints, authorizing the forthcoming canonization of Blessed John Henry Newman. Newman will be declared a saint on Sunday, October 13, 2019, following the miraculous healing of a woman in Chicago. She was suffering from serious bleeding during her pregnancy. She prayed for Blessed Newman's intercession, the bleeding stopped, the child was safely delivered, and Rome has confirmed this as a miracle. The previous miracle which led to his becoming a Blessed was also of an American, a deacon from Boston. This deacon had suffered from a lumbar disc disease that caused severe pain and he was no longer able to walk. Who was Cardinal John Henry Newman, and why is he important for us here in the Diocese of Alexandria?

John Henry Newman was a vitally important figure in 19th century church history for both Anglicans and Catholics. He was born on February 21, 1801 in London, England, and died August 11, 1890 in Birmingham, England. Educated at Trinity College, Oxford, he went on to become a Tutor of Oriel College, Oxford, and the Anglican vicar of the renowned Saint Mary's University Church, Oxford. He,



along with other Anglican clergy, began a spiritual and theological revival in the Church of England which would be known by various names including the Oxford Movement, and Tractarianism (because of theological essays or tracts written) or Anglo-Catholicism. This movement was the result of Newman and others discovering the rich theological treasures of the ancient Church Fathers, love for Sacred Scripture, an appreciation for high church liturgy, sacred music, the lives of the saints, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This led many in the Church of England to call them "Papists" for the appearance they were drifting toward Roman Catholicism. Newman and his companions did not see themselves, initially, as on the road to Rome, but rather sought to understand the Church of England as a branch of the Catholic Church, and not distinct from it. This led to the writing of many essays, tracts, and preaching of many sermons in an effort to defend this viewpoint. However, after studying the heresies of the first six hundred years of the church, Newman began to see that his attempt to view Anglicanism as being truly Catholic, was a hopeless cause.

It took Newman six years

of study and prayer to finally leave the Church of England and become a Catholic. On October 9, 1845, Blessed Father Dominic Barberi heard Newman's confession at Littlemore, near Oxford, and received him into the Church. Newman was 43 years old. He would eventually be ordained a Catholic priest, and establish a religious community, an Oratory of Saint Philip Neri, in Birmingham, England. Newman, who was dedicated to education, established a university in Dublin, Ireland, published many books, including his own autobiography, and worked tirelessly among the poor. Pope Leo XIII made him a cardinal in 1879. After his death, he was declared a Venerable by Saint John Paul II, Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI, and soon a Saint by Pope Francis.

For us in the diocese, his legacy has an important impact for us today. For those, like myself, who converted from Anglicanism to Catholicism, he serves as a role model, but especially through his teaching, he can inspire anyone who is committed to seeking the truth. He has made important contributions to the church through apologetics (defending the faith), theology, and our understanding of the nature of the church. Newman believed in and

defended the notion that faith and reason are compatible and should not be seen as contradictory as seen in his work, *Idea of a University*. This is one reason why Catholic student organizations are commonly called "Newman Centers." In another work, *Essay on Development of Christian Doctrine*, Newman shows how our understanding of theology develops over time and what we believe today can never contradict what has been held to be true in previous ages of the church. To all Catholics, in his sermons, Newman advocated that we all should pursue a life of virtue, and that we are all called to grow in holiness and become saints.

Blessed John Henry Newman, through his legacy, played an important part in shaping the Second Vatican Council. Vatican II sought to return to the sources of Catholicism, and this was something which Newman certainly brought to the church in his conversion. One source rightly says that Newman, "... was neither a traditionalist, who thought the Church's self-understanding frozen in amber, nor a progressive, who believed that nothing is finally settled in the rule of faith. Rather, Newman was a reformer devoted to history, who worked for reform-in-continuity with the Great Tradition." Newman himself said, "I have resisted to the best of my powers the spirit of Liberalism in religion... Liberalism in religion is the doctrine that there is no positive truth in religion, but that one creed is as good as another..." In other words, Newman believed in the power of the Holy Spirit to both protect the tradition of the church and also the ability of

the Holy Spirit to lead the church into renewal in her contemporary circumstances.

Additionally, Newman sought to have the laity more involved in the affairs of the church. He said, "As far as I can see there are ecclesiastics all over Europe, whose policy is to keep the laity at arm's length... you will be doing the greatest possible benefit to the Catholic cause all over the world, if you succeed in making ... a middle station at which clergy and laity can meet, so as to learn to understand, and to yield to each other—and from which, as from a common ground, they may act in union upon an age which is running into infidelity." He did not mean by this to erase the distinction between the faithful and the priest, but rather, envisioned a renewal in the Church where the laity and clergy collaborated in ministry where possible, for the sake of our common mission. This is certainly a fruit of Vatican II.

When Blessed John Henry Newman becomes Saint John Henry Newman, we may all rejoice at his being raised to the altar. I encourage you all, in your own way, to learn about him through Google, YouTube, the local library, our Catholic book stores, and in other ways. Pray for his intercession. Pray that we may be like him in our unyielding search for truth, our love for the tradition of the church, Sacred Scripture, liturgy, music, the poor, the laity, holiness of life, and so much more. I would not be surprised if he is declared a "Doctor of the Church" someday for his great contributions to the faith.

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Psalm 34: 7 | Responsorial Psalm for October 27

# Life in the Spirit!



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 5K.** On May 18, the Hessmer Knights of Columbus Council 3088 held their 4th annual 5K Run/ 1 Mile Walk in Hessmer at St. Alphonsus Church. We had a total of 66 sponsorships, and 180 participants for the race. The event raised \$14,838 for the needs of the new Avoyelles Pregnancy Center, including an ultrasound machine. The funds donated from our council and many others KC councils throughout Avoyelles Parish allowed the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative to provide 50% of the cost of the machine and our Supreme Council Office matched the remaining funds needed to purchase the machine for the pregnancy center. **This effort presented by Council 3088 is one of the greatest humanitarian projects in the history of the Knights of Columbus!! A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event successful!**

**RADIO MARIA.** On Aug. 27, Knights of Columbus Council 8029, at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria presented a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Radio Maria. Pictured from left to right, are: Huey Campbell, Recruitment Committee, Council 8029 and Radio Maria volunteer, Fr. David Braquet, Chaplain of Radio Maria, Alexandria, Louisiana, and Mike Sawrie, Financial Secretary, Council 8029.



**ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGE.** Father Taylor Reynolds, JCL was sworn in as an Ecclesiastical Judge in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Alexandria on Sept. 12. Per the decree of Archbishop Gregory Aymond, the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Alexandria, Fr. Taylor was appointed as a judge for the Diocese. In this capacity, Fr. Taylor will preside over trials dealing with nullity of marriage cases, as well as serving in various other capacities dealing with Church governance and administration.. Visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) for a more thorough explanation of the ceremony and Fr. Taylor's new role.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.** The Heart of St. Kateri Circle and the Associates of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word at Cabrini Hospital joined together for the "2019 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" promoted by Pope Francis on Saturday, Sept. 7 at the Cabrini Hospital Chapel. Participants were Father Joy Antony, hospital chaplain; William Hammond; Mike and Scotty Durio; TJ and Renee Bennett; Sherrie Griffith; Layne G.; Patrick Braquet; Angela Baudin; and Thelma Duke.

**CHURCH RENOVATIONS.** St. Joseph Church, Colfax, built in 1893, is over 100 years old. Recently, a renovation project was completed by parishioners and included new paint, flooring, pew cushion upholstery, and light fixtures.



**ROSARY. (ABOVE)** A mother-daughter Soulcore Rosary was held at St. Anthony School for all schools in Avoyelles parish, led by Kim Roberts.

**FIRST COMMUNION.** Pictured (RIGHT) are Father Dwight De Jesus (Pastor) with [redacted] who made her First Communion at St. Joseph Church in Cheneyville.

**GOD ON THE MOVE.** St. Francis de Sales, Echo, hosted the monthly men's "God on the Move" event in August.

**“If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness.” - St. Therese of Lisieux**  
**See below or visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) to see how the Diocese is living in the Spirit this fall!**



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL GRANDCHILDREN.** The first day of school at St. Joseph School in Plaquemine was a special event for Mark and Karen Gremillion of Plaquemine. They have eleven of their thirteen grandchildren attending St. Joseph this year. The two remaining younger ones will soon be joining their cousins. Their grandchildren are the fourth generation who have attended St. Joseph School.



**CONFIRMATION RETREAT.** Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Vidalia hosted a confirmation retreat for the church’s confirmation students on Aug. 17. The day was led by Father Xavier Amirtham, along with CCD teachers Pat Stein and Katharine Calhoun.

**GYMNASIUM REDEDICATION. (BELOW)** On Aug. 23, Sacred Heart School in Moreauville rededicated and blessed their newly renovated gymnasium. This summer, Sacred Heart School contracted Skip Converse from Alexandria to completely renovate the interior of the gymnasium. The project included a new ceiling, new flooring including the painting of the basketball court, repainting the interior walls, and installing new bleachers.



**POPSICLES WITH THE PRINCIPAL.** Students from St. Mary’s School in Natchitoches had popsicles with the principal as a special treat.



**ASSUMPTION OF MARY.** Mrs. Laura Hogg’s 5th grade class at St. Mary’s in Natchitoches celebrated the Assumption of Mary.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL. (ABOVE)** Father Jose Pallipurath (Pastor), Skip Converse, Karen Moreau (Director of Development), and Sr. Sandra Norsworthy (Principal).



**HOLY SAVIOR MENARD.** Holy Savior Menard Varsity Cheerleaders are off to a busy school year with cheering at the Meet the Eagles Open House (**BOTTOM LEFT**), hosting a cheer clinic for elementary children (**TOP LEFT**), and volunteering at the Manna House (**ABOVE**). They are excited about the upcoming school year and continuing to serve their community.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. (RIGHT)** Flag bearers and Student of the Year



# Being Little in a World that Wants You to Think Bigger

By Becca Fattes  
Guest Contributor

When I was in high school, I loved the idea of going back to visit once I graduated. It was a dream, really. I would be able to see all my old teachers again and have this “cool college student” persona about me. Even as I came to love the Catholic Student Center and its campus ministry program at my college, I spent a good amount of that time daydreaming about what it would be like to go back and visit my high school.

As I continued to think about it, I started to realize that it would be the most effective within the first few years of leaving said place. Eventually, all those people you made memories with will graduate themselves. New groups of people will come in with no clue of who you are and what you did for that place. They’ll be busy making memories of their own.

## Leaving a Legacy

Our culture teaches us that it’s good to leave a legacy so that you will be remembered for years to come. That’s why I found myself wanting to be the next Taylor Swift when I was younger. It’s also why it seems so appealing to come back to places where you hope you will be recognized among the many people.

In my experience, when this happens, God likes to gently (sometimes forcefully) remind me of the importance of humility. He shows me that there is a real beauty in being a little person in God’s kingdom. It can be cause



for frustration. But ultimately, it is the purification I need.

## The Little Flower

St. Therese is a perfect example of this. Through her writings, we have been able to learn that, even in her life as a Carmelite nun in France, she loved even when it was difficult. One of my favorite examples is the way she dealt with the Sisters in the convent who she found it hardest to get along with. Yet, she always responded in the most loving way possible. She is a great example of having a spirituality of being little as do a lot of other saints.

## Being Little in a Think-Bigger World

Recently, I realized that God is calling me to be little in this current season of life. Maybe He is trying to do that for you, too. No matter where you are or what life is bringing you, this is a really important lesson in the spiritual life. It’s so easy to want to do big things for the Kingdom of God. We often desire to start a ministry, lead a retreat, or do other “big things” for the Lord because it’s a good thing and gives God glory. But the little things are just as important, and those might be what you are called to at this time.

Since this place of littleness is where the Lord has called me recently, I wanted to share some things about what it means to be little in a world that wants you to think bigger.

1. *It is a ‘we’ before ‘me’ attitude.* The world wants us to put ourselves first. But when we are called to be little, we actually have to put others first. It could be doing something out of the way for your roommates, giving a compliment to someone at work, or showing extra kindness to the cashier at the grocery store.

We have to start by asking one question: What is something I can do today that isn’t about me?

2. *It is a way to prepare your heart for the bigger things.* I think we sometimes get this notion that just because we are doing the little things, it means that we won’t get to ever do the big things. The Lord will call us to those big things that our hearts desire if it is in His will. But we can also start by preparing our hearts to be ready for those things.

For example, as a single college student who feels called to the Sacrament of Marriage, I clearly cannot jump into married life tomorrow. But instead, I can work on my heart to be ready for that time to come. In this littleness it is about lessening ourselves so that when the time comes we can have more. No matter what the state it is, we will have opportunities to face this.

Working on the little things now will give us the grounds to move forward when the big things come.

3. *Being little is not bad.* There’s a distinction that needs to be made when we talk about being little. You don’t want to mistake being little for complacency. Because whatever it is that God is calling you to right now, it needs to be done with excellence. When you do that well, it brings

a lot of joy even when it is a task as simple as sending a card to someone who recently lost a loved one. Even though you may not find yourself in the spotlight in front of hundreds of people, in that moment you are in the spotlight of just that one person. And God finds so much delight in that similar to the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7).

4. *Prayer, prayer, prayer.* Whether or not you want to be in this season of littleness, prayer will always help you through it. It helps move your heart, as discussed above. But it also reminds you that you are not alone. Pray to St. Therese to help you with this. Ask for prayers from those around you to help lift you up.

The important thing is that you are not alone. Due to our humanness, we have a tendency to be bigger than we are. But it is through prayer that our hearts will be able to see the beauty behind being little.

## Littleness in Every Stage

In all actuality, this littleness is going to look different depending on your stage of life. If you are at home for the weekend or for the summer from college, find a way to help out around the house. Do something special for your spouse, your children, or even a neighbor. It is whatever will work for you. It may even go unnoticed by those around you. But the impact it will have in Heaven will be so rewarding.

Do you feel like you’re being asked to be little right now?

*Becca Fattes is a Chicago suburbanite turned Iowa child. She’s an engineering student who recently found her gift of writing. When she isn’t freaking out about her college classes, you will probably find her talking about something Disney related, singing Hamilton lyrics, or hoping for a Cubs win.*



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*“I ought to seek the company of those Sisters who according to nature please me least I ought to fulfill in their regard the office of the Good Samaritan. A word, a kindly smile, will often suffice to gladden a wounded and sorrowful heart.”*

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

**Celebrate St. Thérèse of Lisieux’s feast day on  
Tuesday, October 1**

# 5 Ways to celebrate October, the month of the Holy Rosary

October is the month of the Holy Rosary, with the feast day of the Holy Rosary being celebrated on October 7, in memory of the glorious and triumphant victory at the battle of Lepanto. The Rosary is a powerful instrument for conversion, and a great way to honor Mary.

Ways to celebrate the month of the Holy Rosary include:

- **Consecrate our day to Jesus through Mary:** The first gesture we should do every morning is prayer - a prayer of consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Start the day off right through Mary! Saint Mother Teresa, moved by great love for Mary, said: "Mary, give me your heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate; your heart so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him, and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor." Or pray the Angelus. Traditionally prayed at noon, this short prayer can be prayed at any time of the day.

- **Consecrate the home and family to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:** Prepare for the consecration by praying a nine-day novena or nine days of rosaries, and have a priest bless an image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as well as your home and family members.

- **Imitate Mary and ask for her help.** If we truly love someone, then we want to get to know them better, follow them more closely, and finally to imitate their good qualities. St. Louis de Montfort teaches us, "The greatest saints, those richest in grace and virtue will be the most assiduous in praying to the most Blessed Virgin, looking up to her as the perfect model to imitate and as a powerful helper to assist them."

- **Read up on Mary.** Take the month of October to read the Apostolic Letter of Saint John Paul II Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary. This spiritual gem combines both solid catholic doctrine with a tender love and devotion to Mary. The saintly Pope exhorts the entire world to contemplate the face of Jesus through the eyes and heart of Mary, reminding us that Mary is the quickest, shortest, easiest, and most efficacious path to Jesus.

- **Pray the Rosary (or even a decade!) daily.** In Fatima, Our Lady appeared six times to the Shepherd children, each time insisting upon the praying of the most Holy Rosary. Start by praying a single decade each day, or by simply carrying a rosary in your pocket or placing a rosary on a door knob, reminding you to pray throughout the day.



## Fall Fairs and Festivals

- **Sept. 27 - Sept. 29: St. Francis de Sales, Echo**

St. Francis de Sales in Echo will have their annual Church Fair from Sept. 27-29. It begins with their annual dance on Friday night. Game booths will be set up for the children. Fair activities begin at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday with our famous Chicken and Sausage Gumbo supper. Game booths, a live auction with great prizes and bingo. Sunday is our Chicken or Pork dinner, serving from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bingo will be held on Sunday as well.

- **Sept. 28: Our Lady of Prompt Succor Fall Festival, Alexandria**

Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria will have their annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28, on the school grounds. The fair, "God's love is powerful!" will be held 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., ending with an outdoor Mass at 4:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

- **Oct. 11-13: St. Augustine Creole Festival 2019**

St. Augustine Church will hold their parish fair, beginning Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. with a fish fry and live music by DJ "Butchie Wutchie." Festivities will continue Saturday and Sunday with Creole cuisine, games, and touring of the church and cemetery which are on the National Registry of Historic Places. Weekend Masses will be held Saturday at 5:00 p.m., and Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

- **Oct. 12-13: St. Joseph School Fair, Plaquemine**

Join us for the St. Joseph School Fair, Oct. 12-13! The fair starts after the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine. Tons of good food will be available to enjoy including, fried catfish dinner cooked by the Knights of Columbus Council 2142. The dinners will include fried catfish, white beans, coleslaw and a roll for \$8.00. Multiple other food booths will include: hamburgers and fries, Carlos's famous eggrolls, funnel cakes, cake booth, boudin and cracklins and much more. Tons of games for the kids to play and bingo for the adults. Everyone will have the opportunity to stop by the large silent auction to bid on some amazing items. The live band Dirty Blonde will hit the bandstand at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday. On Sunday, plate lunches will begin being served in the cafeteria at 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.. The dinners consist of cochon-de-lait pork, BBQ chicken, rice dressing, coleslaw, yams and roll for \$9.00. An authentic Cajun band will be playing on the bandstand for everyone to enjoy on Sunday.

- **Oct. 25-26: St. Rita Fall Festival**

Join us for the St. Rita Fall Festival Oct. 25-26. Friday night we'll have a dance at the Holy Family Center with music by DJ Foxx--\$5 cover charge, BYOB and your own snacks. On Saturday: White Elephant begins at 10:00 a.m.; Kids ages 0-10 Costume Contest at 5:00 p.m.; Games; Trick or Treating in the Courtyard; Bingo and Carnival at 5:30 p.m.; St. Rita Chicken & Sausage Gumbo at 6:00 p.m.; meatpies, nachos, frito pie, popcorn and sweet shoppe also available. Raffle tickets available for \$1 each. Prizes: 1st \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$200. The drawing will be held Sunday, Oct. 27 after 11:00 a.m. Mass.

- **Nov. 1-2: Cabrini Fest**

Cabrini Fest will be held Nov. 1-2 at St. Frances Cabrini Church and School. The fun starts at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1 with a night Glow Run and Bike Ride, live music, food, games, train rides, face painting and zip Line until 9:00 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 2, join us beginning at 10:00 a.m. for the Talent Show, more food, games, train rides, face painting, zip lining and more! Contact Ashley at 445-4588 for more details.



### Upcoming Retreats

The following ACTS retreats will be offered:

- **November 7 - 10**  
**ACTS Retreat for Men (Spanish)**  
Contact Javier Molinary at actschapteralexandria@gmail.com

- **November 7 - 10**  
**Sacred Heart ACTS for Women**  
Contact Cheryl Paul at 318-308-5026 or www.jesuspineville.com

### Upcoming VIRTUS sessions

- **September 25, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Michael Church  
LEESVILLE

- **September 26, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Joseph Catholic Center  
ALEXANDRIA

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

For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

### CORRECTION

In last month's Church Today, we incorrectly listed the home parishes of several seminarians. The correct home parishes are:

Robert Johnson is from St. Mary's Church in Winnsboro  
Joshua Burch is from the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.  
Sean Grappe is from the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.  
Blaine Phillips is from St. Frances Cabrini in Alexandria.

We apologize for any confusion.

## In Service to Our Native Neighbors

*Order launches a new initiative to support indigenous communities in the United States and Canada*

*By Columbia Staff*

Ground was broken last month on a new national shrine dedicated to St. Kateri Tekakwitha in Gallup, N.M., one of several projects to support Native American and First Nation communities announced by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the 137th Supreme Convention in Minneapolis.

"As many as one in four Native Americans are Catholic," Supreme Knight Anderson said in his annual report to the convention Aug. 6. "And yet, in many ways, these brothers and sisters in the faith have been forgotten."

Invoking the Knights' mission of unity, he called on the Order to take a lead in showing respect for Native Americans in the United States and First Nations peoples in Canada.

The shrine to the first Native American saint will be built in partnership with the Diocese of Gallup and the Southwest Indian Foundation. In addition, the Supreme Council is identifying new ways to collaborate with the Black and Indian Mission Office in Washington, D.C., and encouraging local councils to become more involved with Catholics living on reservations and tribal lands.

Bishop James S. Wall



**NATIVE AMERICANS DANCE AT TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE.** Native Americans in full regalia dance at a powwow July 24, 2015 during the 76th annual Tekakwitha Conference in Alexandria, LA. (CNS photo/Lawrence Chatagnier, Bayou Catholic).

of Gallup joined the supreme knight and Native American representatives at the blessing and groundbreaking ceremony for the shrine's rosary walk Aug. 11.

"It is our hope that in the years to come this St. Kateri Shrine will become a national spiritual home for Native Americans and for all Catholics in North America," the

supreme knight said.

Designed by architect Erik Bootsma, a member of Father William J. Nolte Council 11533 in Richmond, Va., the shrine complex will feature a 200-foot-tall crucifix, a chapel, and a museum dedicated to St. Kateri, other Native American Catholics and saints who evangelized the Native people.

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### ?? Catholic Trivia ??

St. Louis de Montfort teaches us, "The greatest saints, those richest in grace and virtue will be the most assiduous in praying to the most Blessed Virgin, looking up to her as the perfect model to imitate and as a powerful helper to assist them."

In his classic work *True Devotion to Mary*, what does de Montfort list as the ten principal virtues of Mary?

*Answer on page 19.*

Please join us for the annual St. Kateri Tekakwitha Memorial and Native American Mass  
 Thursday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Martin Church, Lecompte.

Mass will begin with a special procession of attendees in traditional regalia, St. Kateri vestments and banners. This is not a typical English/Latin Mass, but a Native American Indian Mass, and all are welcome to experience this celebration with us!

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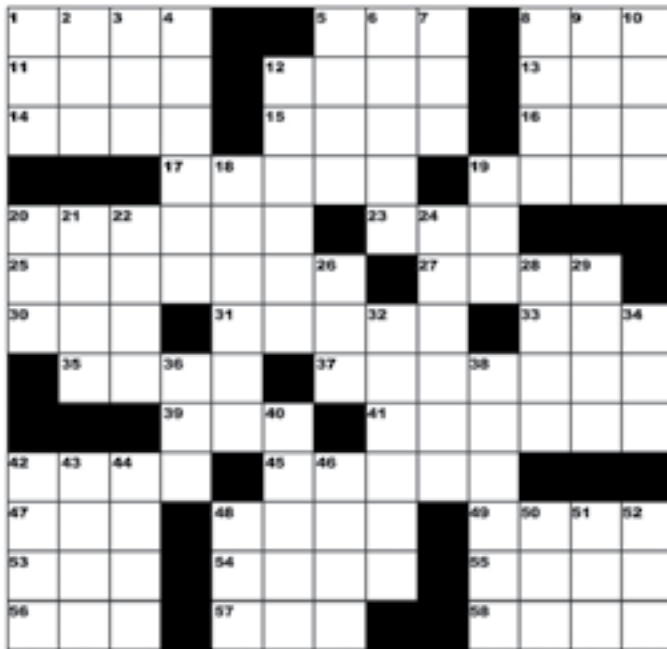
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# The CROSSWORD

October 6  
and 13, 2019



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**Sunday readings:** 1:2-3, 2:2-4; 2Tm 1:6-8; 13-14;  
Lk 17: 5-10 and 2Tm 2: 8-13; Lk 17:11-19

### ACROSS

- 1 Intervene in violence
- 5 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- 8 Gone by
- 11 Input into a computer
- 12 What the devil is
- 13 Taxi
- 14 Volcano
- 15 To be faithless
- 16 Falsehood
- 17 Jesus healed the \_\_\_ & the lame
- 19 Obligated to do
- 20 Village in Samaria

- 23 Unidentified flying object
- 25 Grantor
- 27 Eastern Orthodox religious image
- 30 # of lepers
- 31 Play
- 33 Michigan locks
- 35 Eye infection
- 37 "Clamorous \_\_\_"
- 39 Epoch
- 41 Plot
- 42 Soybean
- 45 Loathe
- 47 Compass point
- 48 Opera solo

- 49 Sicknesses
- 53 Cause of sickness
- 54 Corporation (abbr.)
- 55 Oceans
- 56 High-school club
- 57 To the \_\_\_ of the age"
- 58 Writings

### DOWN

- 1 Compass point
- 2 Feign
- 3 Truck
- 4 Endue
- 5 Nice and smooth
- 6 Large India religion
- 7 Winged pest
- 8 Civil liberties group
- 9 Horse's walk
- 10 Follow commands
- 12 Reviser
- 18 Bankers
- 19 Physician
- 20 Beret
- 21 Beers
- 22 Money vault
- 24 Absolute failure
- 26 Radiation dose
- 28 Double-reed instrument
- 29 "Take as your \_\_\_"
- 32 Accident
- 34 Poem
- 36 Affirmative
- 38 Jesus \_\_\_
- 40 Moses' brother
- 42 Take a picture
- 43 Off-Broadway award
- 44 Bark in pain
- 46 Holy Spirit image
- 48 Expert
- 50 Downwind
- 51 Nonchalant
- 52 Concord e.g.

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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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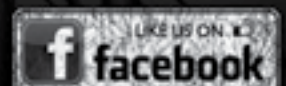
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# Fall in Love with Catholic Books this Autumn (Plus Ideas for Kids!)

By Sarah Damm  
Guest Contributor

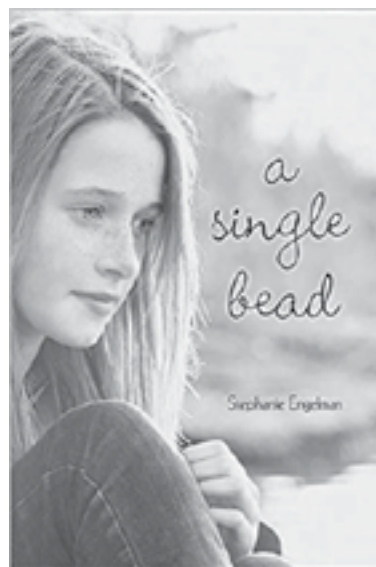
Autumn is one of my favorite seasons. I welcome its familiar comforts: rustic colors, crunching leaves, savory soups, and cozy layers. The season of autumn also signals a fresh start, with the beginning of a new academic year.

The new season of fall and the new school year bring promise of new growth, new opportunity, and new discovery. And as this newness swirls among the falling leaves and blows freely in the fresh autumn air, I am reenergized to continue the lifelong pursuit of learning and growing, especially when it comes to my faith.

## Reading that Inspires Faith

The beauty of the Catholic Faith is that as we continue to grow, God invites us to go deeper. He reveals new truths and invites us to explore new mysteries. We will never exhaust the depths and heights of our Faith, and we will never get to the bottom of the stack of books we could read to help us fall more and more in love with the Lord and His Church.

So, whether we are still in school or it has been years since we stepped foot into a classroom, God encourages us



to continuously learn, grow, and discover. He inspires us to dive deep into the areas of prayer, Scripture study, Church teaching, and authentic Christian living.

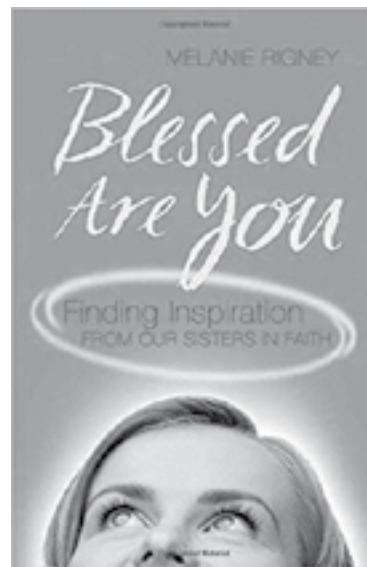
While there are many excellent Catholic books out there, I highlight four to consider this autumn: two fiction and two non-fiction—all filled with truth, goodness, and beauty.

This fall, let's dive into good books that draw us closer to God and teach us something new about our Faith at the same time.

## 4 Catholic Books to Fall in Love With This Autumn

### Chick Lit

Many women have been



burned by fiction, especially "chick lit." So, I was overjoyed to discover *Catholic Philosopher Chick Makes Her Debut* by Rebecca Bratten Weiss and Regina Doman. It follows former fashion writer Catelyn Frank as she travels to Texas to start her doctorate program. This clean, fun novel will accompany your favorite pumpkin drink quite perfectly. But that is not to say this book is mindless reading. On the contrary, *Catholic Philosopher Chick* is intelligent and witty.

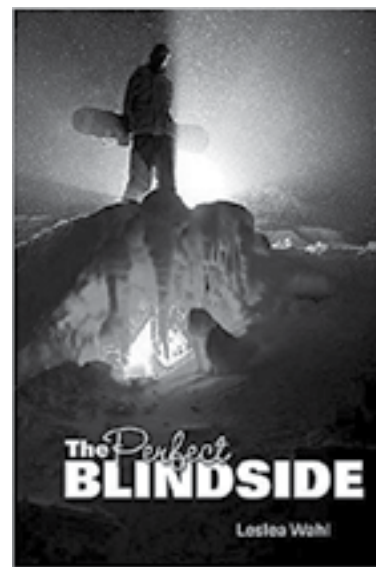
The transcendentals of truth, beauty, and goodness as well as gentle lessons on the feminine genius are woven throughout the storyline. College-age and young-adult women will identify with protagonist Catelyn's struggles, but women of all ages will appreciate the imperfect ways she strives for holiness.

### Deep and Poignant

As leaves turn from green to gold to brown, and as darkness fills the air, fall gives us more time indoors for deeper reflection and quiet contemplation. A good book for "such a time as this" is *Rachel's Contrition* by Michelle Buckman. It is a fast-paced novel filled with loss, grief, mystery, love, healing, and hope.

It begins at a very dark time in Rachel Winter's life. In the first few chapters, we learn about her broken childhood that leads to destruction and despair. But as the story progresses, Rachel's life begins to be restored through the unlikely help of a teenager named Lily and the powerful presence of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

This novel includes difficult and mature scenarios and raw emotions, but it also portrays the



truth that redemption is open to everyone.

### Fall Into Organizing

More often, we associate organizing and cleaning with the season of spring. But autumn is also a wonderful time to declutter, as we shift our wardrobes and prepare our homes for the upcoming holidays.

One book that can guide us through this effort is *Making Room for God: Decluttering and the Spiritual Life* by Mary Sperry. This organization book explores the relationship between our stuff and our Catholic beliefs. Each chapter includes details on the author's own journey (and struggle) with decluttering, to encourage us along the way.

While Sperry draws wisdom from the Bible, liturgy, Fathers of the Church, lives of the saints, and Church teachings, she also offers practical elements to help us declutter our homes once and for all.

### 'Tis the Season for Saints

Autumn ushers in the Catholic tradition of honoring the Saints in Heaven with the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1). We also remember those who have gone before us on All Souls Day (November 2).

Because of these special holy days, autumn is a wonderful time to learn more about the saints. *Blessed Are You: Finding Inspiration From Our Sisters in Faith* by Melanie Rigney explores the eight Beatitudes Jesus taught by introducing us to women saints who exemplified specific Beatitudes during their lives. Readers quickly discover that there are multiple ways to approach spiritual

poverty, meekness, mercy, and peacemaking. And the diversity of the saints in this book allows readers to connect with one or another in very personal ways.

*Blessed Are You* gives a hopeful, encouraging message to follow the Lord right where you are at this moment. And to lean on your sisters in faith to inspire you along the way.

### Back to School Bonuses

For those who are searching for quality Catholic fiction for children, here are three bonus suggestions for Catholic kids of all ages.

### Grade School

*Sisters of the Last Straw* is a four-book series by Karen Boyce about a group of misfit nuns with bad habits. In each book, they try to overcome their faults, bear with each other, and work on virtue. At the same time, they find themselves in the middle of a mystery to solve. This series is fun and funny, demonstrating that sisters are real people, too! These books also teach young readers to see one another with greater compassion.

### Middle School

*A Single Bead* by Stephanie Engelman is a beautiful story about the power of prayer through the eyes of 16-year-old Katelyn. It begins on the anniversary of her grandmother's death, which caused her mother to enter a deep depression. Katelyn discovers a single bead from her grandmother's Rosary. This begins a quest to find the other missing beads. *A Single Bead* is filled with themes of family, prayer, faith, and hope.

### High School

*The Perfect Blindside* by Leslea Wahl is about Jake Taylor, a young Olympic snowboarder, and Sophie Metcalf, a high school junior. They are new friends, who find themselves mixed up in a mystery that they must work together to solve. It is a wonderful tale of romance, mystery, faith, and fun.

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



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# Senior Citizens, You're Not Off the Hook

By Julie Filby  
Denver Catholic



When it comes to doing the Lord's work, all are called to do their part. There are several examples in the Bible of people being "advanced in years" (Luke 2: 36) when they were called to serve.

"It's pretty amazing when you look at the Scriptures, coming to the senior citizen age doesn't mean you're off the hook in doing things for the kingdom," explained Ben Akers, director of the Denver Catholic Biblical School.

Below are a few examples of biblical seniors who ministered well into their golden years.

### Abraham and Sarah

Abraham was 75 years old when he was called from his hometown, friends, family—his whole life in Ur of the Chaldeans to travel to the Holy Land (Gen 12:4).

"He's called by God to leave all that for a land he hadn't seen," Akers said.

Abraham trusted God and headed out with his wife Sarah, 65. "The couple is barren," Akers explained. "(And God said) I'm going to make you a father, and you, Sarah, a mother."

Twenty-five years later Isaac was born.

"It's a long time before he actually receives what God will bless him with," he said. Abraham was 100 when God's promise was fulfilled, and Sarah was 90 when she became a mother.

"God oftentimes makes us

wait," he said. "But God is never late; it's not always according to our method of reckoning time. In God's providence, he's always on time."

### Moses

Moses spent 40 years being raised in Egypt in the house of Pharaoh. After murdering an Egyptian, he spent 40 years in exile as a shepherd in the desert (Acts 7:23). He was 80 when he heard God speak to him through the bush at Sinai (Acts 7:30).

"Maybe he's thinking about retirement when God says: 'I want you to go back to Egypt and bring all the people out,'" Akers said. "Then think of all the things that happened: 10 plagues, parting of the Red Sea, the manna, wandering in the desert."

For 40 years, Moses had been educated in Egypt learning the language and the laws; then for another 40 years he received a different type of education.

"In Egypt he received the best education you could receive at the time, that's why he was able to write the first five books of the Old Testament," said Akers. "Then he spends 40 years in the desert where they'll end up wandering, so he knows all the water holes, all the places to go."

"After 80 years of preparation, God said: 'Now you're ready.'" Moses served till he was 120 (Deut 34: 7).

### Simeon and Anna

Simeon was first introduced when Jesus was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth (Luke 2: 22-28). According to Scripture he was "righteous and devout" and it had been revealed to him "that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ."

"It actually doesn't tell us how old he is, but tradition has always told us he was an elderly man," Akers said. "He's in the temple, he's praying, he's righteous, devout ... it was a beautiful gift that he would see the consolation of Israel."

Simeon immediately

recognized the Holy Family when they entered the temple.

"He recognizes Christ in this little baby, with this young couple," Akers said. "I mean, how many young couples were there? This was what the Jewish people did according to the law—and he recognized him as the promised Messiah."

A prophetess Anna was praying in the temple as well.

"Anna is old we know for sure," Akers said, quoting "she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four (Luke 2:36-38)."

There are different translations of her age, according to Akers.

"She's either 84 years old," he said. "Or she was a widow for 84 years; either way she's old."

Anna never departed from the temple "worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day."

"She dedicated her whole life after her marriage to prayer," he said. "It's a beautiful witness of an elderly couple witnessing to the

Christ child."

There are a lot of beautiful things the elderly can do to build their faith and share it with others, Akers said.

"No matter what age you are, there's always a chance to rededicate and reorient yourself to Christ in a deeper way," he said. "Ask God: What can I do now? What are you asking me to do? What from my past has prepared me to serve the Church in a particular way?"

### Ways to build the kingdom as a senior citizen

- Pray
- Read
- Teach in a parish
- Make rosaries
- Support missions financially
- Encourage young parents at Mass
- Teach life skills
- Model the commitment of married love
- Unite physical suffering with the cross
- Mentor young people
- Spend time with family and friends

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### Quiz Answer:

- and heavenly wisdom;
- angelic kindness;
- heroic patience;
- surpassing purity; ardent love;
- constant self-denial;
- unceasing prayer;
- lively faith; blind obedience;
- Mary's deep humility;

ANSWER:

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# Catholic Campus Ministry kicks off at the LSU-Alexandria Campus



**WELCOME DINNER AND ORIENTATION.** The LSUA Catholic Student Organization hosted a dinner at the CSO Center on the LSU-Alexandria Campus. Mrs. Lynn Ray (Director of Campus Ministry) and Father Daniel Hart (LSU-Alexandria Chaplain) greet students on Orientation Day.



**MEET AND GREET.** The LSU-Alexandria Catholic Student Organization offered free hot dogs, and breakfast to international students at the start of the new semester.



**GAMES AND FELLOWSHIP.** Students attend Games Nights and spend time in Mrs. Lynn Ray's office at the Catholic Student Center on the LSU-Alexandria campus.

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

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

See more photos from Catholic Schools please visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org).

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Registration for the Beyond the Limits Junior High Conference opens October 1! Visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) to register.

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American Gem Society

# Don't Miss the Best Thing

By *Katie Prejean McGrady*  
*Catholic News Service*



**WINDOW SEAT WISDOM.** Katie Prejean-McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and author. She is project manager of Ave Explores from Ave Maria Press, and logs over 100,000 travel miles a year speaking to audiences of all ages and sizes. She has her degree in theology from the University of Dallas, and lives with her husband and daughter in Lake Charles, LA.

My daughter has this T-shirt. I found it on the clearance rack at Target marked down 75%. Without hesitation, I tossed it in the cart, and ironically, that steal of a deal has become her favorite shirt, worn at least once a week.

Across the shirt is a line from Dr. Seuss' "Oh, The Places You'll Go," the popular book handed out as graduation gifts and read in commencement addresses.

"You'll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut!" the shirt reads.

Rose wears it with pride. I think she loves the shirt because it's soft. Simple pleasures keep her pretty content. But I love it because it reminds me to keep my eyes open rather than turned down at a screen.

It tells me to pay attention and to look for the wonder, especially in the quiet, mundane, ordinary moments that could pass by entirely unnoticed. It reminds me to take notice of what's around, and what could be, rather than wallow in what I perceive to be frustrating or annoying.

In some way, that gray T-shirt and its colorful wording has become a mission statement for my motherhood, my marriage, my job: to keep my eyes open, take it all in and never forget the goodness of the very best things happening right in front of me, big or small.

She only wears the shirt once a week, but every day, my 2-year-old greets the morning with an excited "Mama!" and proceeds to babble away, describing her dreams in toddler gibberish that I

so wish I could understand.

She runs through the house and yard with endless energy. She bounds into her classroom each morning with a joy that if bottled and sold would make us millions. She watches TV, reads books, eats meals, dances and plays games with a committed joy, the likes of which I've never seen.

Her eyes are wide open, and her desire to soak in life is unmatched. She has, in a very tangible way, an unalterable, unassailable, visible, obvious and even enviable spirit of hope because her eyes are open. She isn't missing the best things, but soaking them all in.

And that -- eyes open to

goodness all around us -- is a reason for hope.

I've always struggled with the idea of hope. What is it, exactly? And why does it matter so much? I know about faith: It's the belief in things unseen. And I'm fairly confident I can pinpoint love: It's the gift of self for the other because of their value and worth.

But hope: It's the desiring of heaven and eternal life, and that just seems so far off, something I have to worry about tomorrow. I have to believe today. I have to love people and God right now. But I don't need to hope for heaven yet ... that'll come in the future.

But that's where I'm wrong. It's where a lot of us go wrong as we ponder the idea of hope.

Because hope isn't just longing for heaven someday, it's the belief that we're made for heaven, meant for heaven, designed for heaven and life with God now, and that we are promised something by God (eternity with him) and he will deliver.

That's something we have to keep our eyes open to ... or we'll miss that very best thing.

It's so easy to close our eyes to it these days. The church hasn't been a source of much hope lately, at least not on the surface. Disaffiliation numbers are up -- people are leaving and not coming back. The misunderstanding about the Eucharist is prevalent -- people are either ignorant or disagree. The scandals seem to increase by the day, and it hurts every single time, a gut punch as we see corruption and dishonesty.

When Pope Francis released the apostolic exhortation "Christus Vivit" last spring, he set aside a chapter to focus on three

essential truths that young people (and all of us, really) need to know, articulating that our source of hope is not in men, is not in fellow believers and is not even in ourselves.

Our source of hope, and what our eyes should remain open to is that God loves us, that Christ saves us and that Christ is very much alive.

If our eyes are open to that and are searching for that reality in our daily lives, then our hope becomes rooted not in just visible trials and scary tribulations but is rooted in the understanding that we are priceless and God cares deeply for us.

If we know that, if we believe that and if we articulate that, then there's no reason to not have hope. If I know that God loves me, desires me, longs for me and has plans for me, then I can have hope for tomorrow, even hope in today.

If I know that Christ died on the cross for me and believe that he was thinking of me as he shed his blood, then I can rest assured my own sufferings and cross carrying has meaning.

If I know that Christ is alive and believe he is acting even right now, then I can order my steps and live my life for him. We can keep our eyes open to the very best thing: that our hope is in Christ, who is alive.

We don't necessarily need a cheap T-shirt from Target to remind us of that reality, but it sure does help.

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

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Catholic Student Organization  
Phone: 318-473-6494  
lray@diocesealex.org

Northwestern State University  
Catholic Student Organization  
Phone: 409-749-9971  
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• Saint Faustina •  
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**Elizabeth Butler Fundraiser BBQ - Sept. 26**

Elizabeth Butler and her family are beloved members of St. Frances Cabrini Church and School. Recently, Elizabeth (in Pre-k) was diagnosed with leukemia. Please pray for them and help support them as they journey through Elizabeth's chemotherapy treatment. To help offset their medical costs, BBQ plates will be sold from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26 at the St. Frances Cabrini School Activities Building, 2215 E. Texas Ave., Alexandria. Tickets may be purchased at the Cabrini Church or School offices for \$10/plate. Meals are 1/2 BBQ chicken, potato casserole, baked beans, and a roll. For large orders, please email [gashy@cabrinischool.com](mailto:gashy@cabrinischool.com) by Sept. 20. All proceeds go directly to Elizabeth and her family.

**Theology on Tap - Sept. 26**

Theology on Tap, a gathering for Young Adults, will be held at Rosie Jo's in Alexandria on Thursday, Sept. 26 beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend! Contact Ashley at 318-445-4588 for more details.

**Day of Reflection and Prayer for Women Experiencing Infertility - Oct. 5**

*It Is Well Community* is a ministry for women of faith who are experiencing infertility in all of its forms. Come spend the day listening to speakers, sharing with others, and praying as a community. Together, we will seek and embrace the peace that only Christ can give. This day of reflection and prayer will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at St. Thomas More High School in Lafayette. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Donations are welcome.

**Bishop's Golf Tournament - Oct. 14**

The Annual Bishop's Invitation Golf Tournament will be held Monday, Oct. 14 (Columbus Day) at Oak Wing Golf Course in Alexandria. This is a major fundraiser for the Seminarian Education Fund. **If your church parish would like to purchase a sponsorship or enter a team, please contact Sandi Tarver at 318-445-6424, ext. 209 or [starver@diocesealex.org](mailto:starver@diocesealex.org).**

**"The Eucharist: Source & Summit of Our Faith" Presentation - Oct. 15**

Come and hear the beautiful truth of the Church's teaching on the Holy Eucharist from the Old Testament to the New Testament along with an evening of spiritual music and personal testimony! Deacon Brian Soileau will serve as the presenter at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marksville, on Tuesday Oct. 15, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. All are welcome! Please bring your Bible.

**DIOCESAN BRIEFS****Covenant Day Mass for Schoenstatt Movement - Oct. 16**

There will be a Covenant Day Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport, to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Schoenstatt Movement. Mass will be on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 5:15 p.m., with renewal of the Covenant after Mass. There will be a light supper afterwards. All members AND THEIR FAMILIES are invited and encouraged to attend, if possible. Please bring your group MTA Image (small traveling Shrine).

**Faith In Action Leadership Training - Oct. 17-18**

The Diocese of Alexandria is partnering with the Shreveport Diocese and Central Louisiana Interfaith to put on the FAITH IN ACTION leadership training. Faith in action is a faith formation and leadership development training meant to strengthen the capacity of our churches to act on the Catholic social call to justice in practical ways in our local communities. It's a 2 day training, sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. There is no cost to attend, and the training will be held in English and Spanish. To register online, please visit [CENLAinterfaith.org](http://CENLAinterfaith.org) BEFORE Sept. 30. The training will take place at the Wesley Conference Center in Woodworth from Thursday, Oct. 17 from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. to Friday, Oct. 18, 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Broderick Bagert with Interfaith at 225-803-5876.

**White Mass - Oct. 18**

The White Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 18 at 12:05 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. This Mass honors those who serve in the healthcare field as doctors, nurses, caretakers, and other medical professionals and personnel. All priests are invited to concelebrate. Vesting will be held in the Cathedral rectory.

**St. Kateri Tekakwitha Memorial and Native American Mass - Nov. 14**

Please join us for the annual St. Kateri Tekakwitha Memorial and Native American Mass on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Martin Church, Lecompte. Mass will begin with a special procession of attendees in traditional regalia, St. Kateri vestments and banners. This is not a typical English/Latin Mass but a Native American Indian Mass and all are welcome to experience this celebration with us!

**One-day Women's Conference - Nov. 16**

CENLA Magnificat and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of CENLA will sponsor a one day Women's Conference: "I Am Enough!" which will be held at the Divine Providence Center at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria on Nov. 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (dismissing in time for the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass). Father Derek Ducote will be the main speaker. Registration fee is \$35, and includes continental breakfast and lunch. To register, please contact Diane Ardoin at [dianeardoin@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeardoin@yahoo.com) or at 318-419-1547. Pre-registration and pre-payment are necessary. Deadline to register is Nov. 12.

**Maryhill Legacy Bricks now available!**

Maryhill Renewal Center began in the 1940's as a vision of Bishop Charles Greco. Today, thousands of people attend retreats and functions held at Maryhill throughout the year and it continues to serve as the spiritual heart of the Diocese of Alexandria. You have an opportunity to help continue Bishop Greco's vision by purchasing a beautiful, personalized and engraved commemorative Maryhill Legacy Brick. **These commemorative paver bricks will be installed and displayed at the entrance of the main chapel as a permanent legacy at Maryhill Renewal Center.** To order your Maryhill Legacy Brick, contact Deacon Luke White or order online at [www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/](http://www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/).

**Positions Available: Development Director**

Holy Cross Church at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches is looking for a Development Director who will be responsible for leading and managing the fund development program, raising funds for the center and programs, and managing all committees involved in fund development activities. For more information on Holy Cross, this position, and how to apply, visit [www.petrusdevelopment.com](http://www.petrusdevelopment.com).

**Lunchroom Tech Substitute**

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

**October 13: Coast-to-Coast Rosary  
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# October 2019

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   | Sunday  |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>30</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY  | <b>1</b><br><br>FEAST of<br>ST. THERÈSE<br><br>PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP AYMOND   | <b>2</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS  | <b>3</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ                                   | <b>4</b><br><br>FIRST FRIDAY<br>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ  | <b>5</b><br><br>Women's Day of<br>Reflection, 9:00 a.m.,<br>St. Thomas More,<br>Lafayette<br><br>FEAST of<br>ST. BARTOLO LONGO<br><br>FIRST SATURDAY<br>PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN | <b>6</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT   |
| <b>7</b><br><br>FEAST of<br>OUR LADY of the<br>ROSARY<br><br>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER   | <b>8</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY  | <b>9</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA   | <b>10</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR   | <b>11</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN  | <b>12</b><br><br>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA   | <b>13</b><br><br>Coast to Coast Rosary<br>Canonization of St. John<br>Henry Newman<br><br>St. Augustine Creole Festival<br><br>St. Joseph School Fair, Plaquemine<br><br>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS |
| <b>14</b><br><br>Bishop's Golf Tournament<br>Oak Wing Golf Course<br><br>DIOCESAN OFFICES<br>CLOSED<br><br>COLUMBUS DAY<br>PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS | <b>15</b><br><br>"The Eucharist: Source<br>& Summit of our Faith"<br>Presentation, 7:00 p.m.,<br>St. Joseph Church,<br>Marksville<br><br>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS | <b>16</b><br><br>Covenant Day Mass for<br>Schoenstatt Movement<br>5:15 p.m.<br>St. Mary's Church,<br>Cottonport<br><br>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE | <b>17</b><br><br>Faith in Action Training, Wesley Center<br>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD | <b>18</b><br><br>White Mass, 12:05 p.m.<br>Cathedral<br><br>PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ  | <b>19</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE  | <b>20</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER   |
| <b>21</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH  | <b>22</b><br><br>FEAST of<br>ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II<br><br>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA  | <b>23</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO   | <b>24</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY  | <b>25</b><br><br>PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP G. AYMOND   | <b>26</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW   | <b>27</b><br><br>Holy Ghost Church<br>100th Anniversary,<br>Marksville<br><br>Diocese Priest Retreat at Maryhill<br><br>St. Rita Fall Festival, Alexandria<br><br>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET       |
| <b>28</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO  | <b>29</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO  | <b>30</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY  | <b>31</b><br><br>HALLOWEEN<br>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM                         | NOVEMBER <b>1</b><br><br>Cabrini Fest, Alexandria<br><br>ALL SAINTS DAY<br>a Holy Day of Obligation<br>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE | <b>2</b><br><br>ALL SOULS' DAY<br>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS  | <b>3</b><br><br>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE   |

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