

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LI, No. 5

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 25, 2020



May Crowning

On Saturday, May 2, the 6th grade class of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria honored our Blessed Mother with their annual May Crowning.

The school thanks all of the parents that helped to coordinate this year's May Crowning ceremony. The crowning was traditionally held outdoors in the evening, with the entire parish community processing the block and ending at this outdoor statue of Our Lady. All of the students from the school would also participate.

Congratulations to those students selected as the Court for this special occasion! And, a special thanks to Mrs. Laura Koury and Mr. Grae McCullough for the beautiful music they provided.

INSIDE

COVID-19 Response Team update

The COVID-19 Response Team recently established by Archbishop Gregory Aymond offers an update as well as resources for the reopening of our churches and parish offices. See page 2 for their most recent report.

Clergy assignments

The Diocese of Alexandria has announced new priest and deacon assignments. See pages 5, 8, and 9 for the lists of updated assignments.

Manna House celebrates 30 years of service

In all of the years since Manna House opened, it has been closed without serving meals only four days. See page 11 to read how Manna House got started and more on its ministry in the Central Louisiana community.

COVID-19 Response Team Report #3

INDEX

National / World News3
 Question Corner4
 Diocesan News.....5
 Feature Stories.....6
 Burses / Vocations8
 Parish Spotlight10
 Parish News11
 Picture Spread.....12
 Feature Story14
 Parish Events15
 Multicultural16
 Marriage and Family.....18
 Schools / Youth20
 Diocesan Briefs22
 Calendar23

CHURCH TODAY



Volume LI, No. 5
 May 25, 2020

P. O. Box 7417
 Alexandria, LA 71303
 churchtoday@diocesealex.org
 318-445-6424

Publisher: Diocese of Alexandria
 Publication Manager / Editor:
 Cari Terracina, ext. 255,
 ctterracina@diocesealex.org
 Multimedia Manager / Advertising:
 Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;
 joanferguson@diocesealex.org
 Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209;
 starver@diocesealex.org

The CHURCH TODAY (USPS 393-240) is published by the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, once a month, free of charge to members of the parishes in the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. Out of diocese subscriptions are \$20 a year.

The office is located at
 4400 Coliseum Blvd.,
 Alexandria, LA 71303.

Periodicals postage paid at
 Alexandria, LA.

Postmaster:

Send address changes to
 The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box
 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306

Website: www.diocesealex.org
 To receive a free subscription,
 call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or
 e-mail starver@diocesealex.org

TO: Priests, Deacons, Religious, Lay Staff, Volunteers, and all faithful of the Diocese of Alexandria

FROM: Fr. Craig Scott, Chair, COVID-19 Response Team

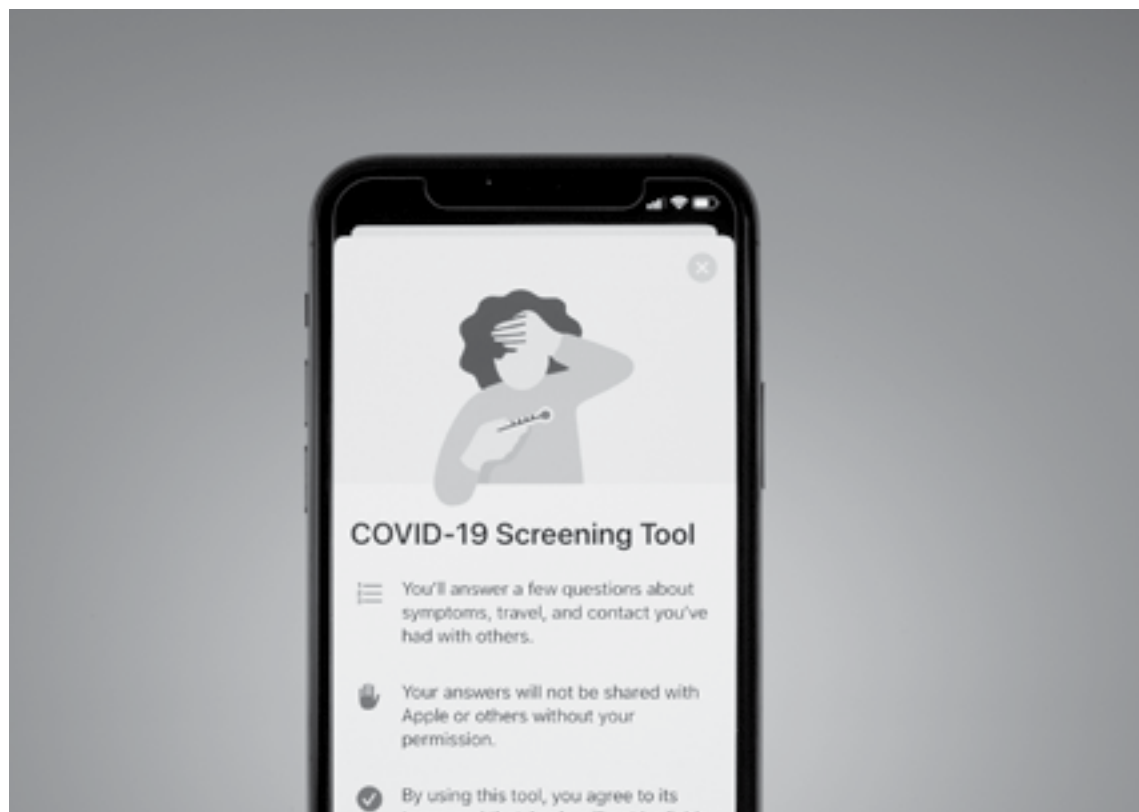
All,
 The COVID-19 Response Team met on Wednesday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m. Present were myself, Fr. Scott Chemino, JD JCL, Fr. Peter Faulk, JCL JC, Fr. Rick Gremillion, and Mr. David Brook, CFO. Bishop-elect Robert Marshall joined us via phone.

Our discussion centered around the guidelines that were recently published regarding the possible “re-opening” of Places of Worship for Phase 1 (tentatively scheduled to begin May 15, 2020, but subject to change) provided throughout the Office of the Governor and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. These guidelines were sent to all priests previously, but for your convenience, the guidelines are attached.

Based on these guidelines, the Committee makes the following statements and suggestions:

1. The dispensation from Sunday Mass continues for the faithful of the Diocese of Alexandria. Each pastor should assess his own parish/mission and make appropriate decisions based on building capacity, demographics, available resources (both human and otherwise) and the interior layout of the church.

2. Strict adherence to these guidelines must be followed. Each pastor might consider gathering a team of lay persons to assist in discerning if these guidelines can be met, and develop a specific plan on how they will be met. Some



pastors have consulted with their pre-established “Safety Committees,” others with Pastoral Councils and/or key Lay Volunteers. Some pastors have reported the reticence of many to volunteer for the positions of “Crowd Manager” or “Sanitizing Team.” Others have reported that they feel confident these guidelines can be met.

3. Ultimately, each pastor/administrator will make his own decision on how to proceed with opening, or not. These guidelines from the State are not meant to be interpreted as a “mandate” to hold public Masses. The Committee encourages pastors in close proximity to one another to communicate and work together.

4. If a pastor chooses to offer public Masses (even outdoors) failure to meet the guidelines could result in a fine from the State and/or a shut-down of the facility by the State Fire Marshal, and expose the parish and pastor to liability.

Please be aware of this.

For guidance on outdoor services, visit <https://www.kalb.com/content/news/State-Fire-Marshall-issues-outdoor-seating-guidelines-for-religious-services-570116741.html>.

5. Please note that the guidelines require a temperature and symptomatic check of the presider immediately prior to the scheduled service. There are a variety of “No Contact” infrared/thermal thermometers available online or in some pharmacies. It is suggested that you seek the assistance of a medical professional or first-responder in your parish to assist with this requirement. In addition, there are many products available for expedient sanitizing (which is required after each service); we suggest you contact your preferred vendor to see what is available.

Bishop-elect Marshall shared that he was in the process of meeting with his deacons and

other parish staff to map out a plan for his own church, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Memphis. Bishop-elect Marshall pointed out that the regulations and guidelines of the State of Tennessee, City of Memphis and Shelby County were less stringent than those in Louisiana, and that they have permission for 50% occupancy.

Fr. Scott Chemino, JD JCL, shared some points from a recently released summary on re-opening from the FDLC. Fr. Rick Gremillion reported that through the FDLC list-serve that many issues were being discussed: choirs, congregational singing, communion on the tongue or hand, et cetera. I have also attached the FDLC summary for your perusal.

Please know that any member of this Committee is available to you should you need clarification or further guidance.

Be safe, and God bless!

MCS

- Fr. Craig Scott

Latest updates

Our Diocesan COVID-19 Response Team, with the guidance of Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Bishop-elect Robert Marshall, are working with all of our pastors regarding beginning to celebrate Mass publicly.

Please continue to check the diocesan website at www.diocesealex.org for more details as they become known.

Vatican official, panelists urge looking beyond U.S. during pandemic

By Bronwent Dachs
Catholic News Service

The coronavirus pandemic invites Catholics to listen with courage to the cry of the poor and to act in solidarity, said Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The cardinal and two other panelists at an online forum May 12 discussed global dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis.

Pope Francis describes hope and solidarity as “a new contagion,” beyond the darkness of this pandemic that has “caused a lot of sorrow, broken up families, taken away dear ones,” Cardinal Turkson said.

It is difficult to “feel for other people” beyond one’s own family, community, and country in this time of crisis, yet Pope Francis’ challenge is to see that “humanity is a family that stands together,” he said.

The forum looked at how the pandemic is affecting the world beyond the U.S. borders, and what the U.S. responsibilities are to other countries. The forum was sponsored by Georgetown University’s Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life and by Catholic Relief Services.

Cardinal Turkson leads a new commission created by Pope Francis, which will confront the challenges the world is facing in battling the coronavirus pandemic and what it will inevitably face in its aftermath.

“Pandemics do not have to break us up,” Cardinal Turkson said, noting that it is time to “put together our resources” to find solutions.

Another panelist, Haydee



COVID-19 PANDEMIC DISCUSSIONS. A combination screen grab shows participants in an online dialogue on the COVID-19 pandemic May 12, 2020. Clockwise from top right: Haydee Diaz of Catholic Relief Services; Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development; David Beckmann of Bread for the World; and John Carr of Georgetown University’s Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life. (CNS photo/courtesy Georgetown University)

Diaz, head of programming for Catholic Relief Services in Uganda, said “American Catholics are making an incredible difference” in the lives of the poor in Uganda and other countries in Africa and around the world.

Through donors’ generosity, CRS gave \$500 to a Franciscan sister in Uganda’s capital, Kampala, and encouraged her to sew face masks as the virus entered Uganda, Diaz said. The sister, who started an organization for people with disabilities and helps other vulnerable people, has distributed thousands of face masks and employs 28 people to help make them, she said.

“The poor are counting on us,” said Diaz, noting that “they

don’t know where their next meal is coming from.”

CRS is “an extension of the Catholic Church’s solidarity,” and the work is evidence of U.S. Catholics’ compassion and love, she said.

Noting that “there is fear” and a tendency “to turn inward” as the United States battles the pandemic at home, Diaz said Catholics “are called to serve the most vulnerable.”

In countries that have not safety nets, people who were already hungry are now even closer to destitution, she said.

A sugar cane grower told Diaz that children have been lining up outside his house in Kampala asking for sugar cane, she said. He realized that for many

families in his neighborhood, this sugar cane is now their only food, she said.

Cardinal Turkson said the idea for a COVID-19 commission came when the church was already distributing ventilators and other equipment to health care institutions in Italy. The Vatican was trying to address “how we can be of help to the whole world.”

The commission has five working groups. The first is dedicated to listening to and supporting local churches. The second is focused on research and the study of the pandemic and reflecting on society and the world after the coronavirus. Other working groups focus on communication, relations with

other countries to assist and share valuable research information, and financing the commission’s relief efforts.

The “temptation to exploit the situation of need to make it paternalistic has always been there,” Cardinal Turkson said. But “what moves us away” from this “is to recognize the human family as broader;” where when one part suffers, the whole suffers, he said.

The Rev. David Beckmann, president of the Christian anti-hunger lobby Bread for the World, urged U.S. Catholics to call their congress members to provide more international aid.

“They aren’t getting many calls about international aid,” he said, noting that “we need to get the U.S. government to provide leadership.”

People in the United States can “reach out to people in our own communities who are hungry as well as the rest of the world,” said Rev. Beckmann, an ordained Lutheran minister.

“We can walk and chew gum at the same time,” he said, noting that “it’s in our long-term interests” to be helping internationally.

Catholics make up about half the membership of Bread for the World.

John Carr, director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life and moderator of the discussion, asked Cardinal Turkson to tell Pope Francis that “he does not stand alone.”

“We stand with him,” Carr said, noting that the “powerful image” of the pope standing in an empty St. Peter’s Square around Easter.

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

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

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

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

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

Visit the sign-up form at www.diocesealex.org, or email cari.terracina@diocesealex.org with their name and mailing address.

Giving our lives to Jesus: Lessons from St. Joseph

Dear friend,

A poor, but noble man was once betrothed to a beautiful, virtuous young woman. Before the wedding, his fiancée became pregnant. But she was - and would remain - a virgin the entirety of her life. This man honored his commitment and married her anyway. The neighbors, no doubt, whispered. The baby arrived far from home in cold and danger, no friends or family present to celebrate the birth. He fled with his family to safety in a foreign land, protecting his wife and caring for his adopted Son the rest of his days.

This man said "yes" to one simple, beautiful thing: life lived alongside a good woman. And that commitment made before God turned his life upside down. He reaffirmed his "yes" every step of the way, and today the entire church honors him for it.

St. Joseph, patron saint of our families and our Church,



Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina

Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

pray for us.

Lessons from St. Joseph

We recently celebrated the feast of St. Joseph the worker. Pope Pius XII established this feast day in 1955 to honor St. Joseph and to celebrate the Catholic Church's commitment to the dignity of labor. And, we remember him as we look forward to celebrating our earthly fathers on June 21 - Father's Day.

Like St. Joseph, we can commit to one thing and suddenly discover that one thing has become more than we anticipated.

How many of us are currently living with anxiety, stress over daily decisions, loneliness from being isolated from friends and loved ones, or overwhelmed with taking care of our families and other responsibilities?

When suffering accompanies these amendments to our lives, it is natural to question where God is in the decision making process, or where our misstep has occurred.

And, like St. Joseph, we may not see the end of the story this side of heaven. We may never have tangible proof that our suffering during this time,

or other times of suffering and doubt in our lives, has not been in vain. St. Joseph's life, however, consoles us, and provides several examples for us of ways in which to overcome the temptation to doubt and despair.

Humility in prayer

When faced with difficult decisions that did not have a singularly moral answer, St. Joseph was able to hear and respond to the voice of God by maintaining a humble and receptive relationship with Him. When we have set our minds on

one course of action, however seemingly "good" it may be, it can be difficult for the Lord to lead us elsewhere. A truly docile heart affords God the opportunity to direct us anywhere He may lead, to fashion us into modern-day saints, and to set the world on fire for Him.

From the love of my own comfort, and from the fear of death or trial, deliver me, o God.

Humility in name

St. Joseph allowed his good name to be misunderstood, misrepresented, and possibly ridiculed by a community he loved. Delivered from the need to be understood and accepted by men, the boundaries we place on our decisions and actions disappear - giving God the freedom to direct our lives as He wills.

See ST. JOSEPH, page 22

History of confession / Does televised Mass fulfill obligation?

Q. When I was a Protestant, I never went to confession, and no such practice existed in any of the churches to which I belonged over the years. Now, as a Catholic, I've been told that confession is based on a passage in the Letter of James (5:16) that says, "Confess your sins to one another."

But that verse to me seems more like a general instruction to admit it when we've done a person some wrong and ask each other's forgiveness than it does a mandate to have a confessional in every church. Can you explain? (New Middleton, Indiana)

A. I have always learned that the church's power to forgive sins was based primarily on a different scriptural text from the one you cite. This passage comes from the Gospel of John (20: 22-23); on the night of the resurrection, when the risen Jesus appeared to the apostles who were huddled in fear, he said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

The exact form in which that forgiveness is dispensed has varied considerably over



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

the years, as detailed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1447). In the early centuries, reconciliation for particularly grave sins consisted of a one-time-only public profession of guilt and a course of manifest penance, sometimes for a number of years, before readmission into the eucharistic community of the church.

During the seventh century, Irish missionaries brought to the European continent that practice of the private confession of sins to a priest, opening the way to the regular use of the sacrament for both mortal and venial sins - and this has continued as the basic structure of the sacrament up to the present day.

Q. Due to COVID-19 and restrictions to prevent its spread,

public Masses are currently suspended in our diocese. If I "attend" a livestreamed Mass on television during this time, have I fulfilled my Sunday obligation (By not participating at all, I feel as I am falling away - and it is becoming much too easy to enjoy this "time off.") (Richmond, Virginia)

A. No, you have not fulfilled your Sunday obligation by watching Mass on television. But not to worry - in your case, you have no obligation! During the coronavirus pandemic, Richmond - like many dioceses - has simply lifted the responsibility of Catholics to attend Mass. (The Archdiocese of Washington says on its website, "The right thing to do is to stay home for your safety and the safety of others.")

Whenever circumstances make it impossible or unwise to go to church - illness, caring for a sick child, a non-negotiable work assignment, etc. - your Sunday obligation is simply lifted. But what you should still do is to try to make Sunday special.

The bishop of the Diocese of Spokane, Washington, for example, wrote that during the coronavirus, "Those members of the faithful who do not attend Sunday Mass should devote some time to prayer on the Lord's Day, either alone or as a family."

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



Diocese of Alexandria Website
www.diocesealex.org



Diocese of Alexandria
Facebook
facebook.com/DiocesefofAlexandria



Diocese of Alexandria
Instagram
@diocesefofalexandria



Diocese of Alexandria
on Spotify

Priest Assignments

Effective July 1, 2020



Fr. Silverino Kwebuza, AJ
assigned by his religious superior
for ministry outside of the
Diocese of Alexandria



Fr. Jacob Thomas
appointed Pastoral Administrator
of St. Margaret Church, Boyce
and St. Joseph Church, Colfax
and their missions



Fr. Joseph Xavier
reappointed Pastor of
Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
Vidalia



Fr. Adam Travis
reappointed Pastor of St. Martin
Church, Lecompte and Our Lady
of Guadalupe Mission, Forest Hill



Fr. Abraham Varghese
reappointed Pastor of Holy Ghost
Church, Marksville and St. Richar
Chapel, Hickory Hill

Effective August 4, 2020



Fr. Daniel O'Connor
appointed Pastor of St. Joseph
Church, Marksville



Fr. Rusty Rabalais
appointed Pastor of Our Lady
of Prompt Succor Church,
Alexandria



Fr. M. Craig Scott
appointed Pastor of
St. James Memorial Church,
Alexandria



Fr. Anthony Dhamaraj, MSFS
appointed Pastor of St. Rita
Church, Alexandria



Fr. Walter Ajaero
appointed Pastoral Administrator
of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church,
Pineville



Fr. Albi Mulloth
appointed Pastoral Administrator
of St. John the Baptist Church,
Deville



Fr. Louis Sklar
appointed Pastor of St. Peter
Church, Bordelonville and St.
Michael Church, Rexmere



Fr. Ramji Shoury
appointed Pastor of
Church of the Little Flower,
Evergreen



Fr. Luke LaFleur
appointed Director of Vocations
and Seminarians with
Sacramental Assistance at St.
Rita Church, Alexandria



Msgr. Bruce Miller, JCL
approved for retirement

Answering the internet's most asked questions about priests

Father Louis Sklar joined the Communications Office to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about priests and the priesthood. See his answers below.

Q. What do priests do on a daily basis?

A. Daily, priests make a promise during Diaconate Ordination to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Many priests begin their day with this. Daily Mass is most often offered in the morning but in some places, the evening for the benefit of the Faithful. Visiting the dying, the sick and the homebound is sometimes on a set day of the week. Parishioners who are hospitalized are often visited by their pastor. On the personal side, exercise, personal prayer, a Holy Hour, reading that is spiritual or relaxing, and personal hobbies can make up a weekday in the life of a priest.

Q. Do priests get paid?

A. In the Diocese of Alexandria, the parish priests are paid by the parish that they are assigned to. If they are in special ministries, they could be paid by the ministry they serve or from the Diocese itself.

Q. Do priests pay taxes?

A. Yes.

Q. Do priests still bless houses?

A. Yes! Often, when one is built or bought, and a family is moving in. There is a beautiful Blessing of Homes during Epiphany, too!

Q. How do priests normally feel about moving to a new parish?

A. Excited and nervous



at the same time. For a newly ordained priest or a first time pastor, it can be intimidating. For an experienced pastor, there is excitement and the desire to meet the people you will serve. No priest enjoys the packing that goes with the move. Saying goodbye to parishioners who have become family is perhaps the most difficult part of moving.

Q. How can parishioners welcome a new priest to a parish?

A. The single greatest gift I've received when moving is patience. The struggle to remember names and faces is awkward at first. Invariably, we are going to call someone by the wrong name, but eventually we get the names and faces down.

Q. What do priests bring with them when they move to a new parish?

A. This will depend on the priest. The most obvious will be books and clothes. Some priests own furniture, kitchen supplies, and home decorations. Sometimes we have to transfer our checking accounts, we have to change our Driver's License and where we vote. Sometimes, if we have a hobby, whatever makes this up is most often brought to the new parish. Some priests bring their own vestments and Liturgical books for Masses.

Q. Where do priests go when they retire?

A. This is up to the individual priest. Some retire and live in family homes they have, others go to retirement communities. Some priests retire and continue to live and serve in a parish if still needed, and with consultation with the bishop.

Q. Where do priests live?

A. A parish priest lives in the rectory, the house provided by the parish. Priests in Diocesan ministries can live in a rectory or in one of the houses that the Diocese owns.

Q. Do priests get bored or lonely?

A. No! Most of my priest friends are desiring some quiet

and solitude at the end of the day! This is also up to the individual priest, and his assignment, but our parishes provide us with plenty to do between our times of prayer during the day. Many of our priests are visiting with multiple people each day, and often we have meetings or events in the evening.

Q. What do priests do for fun?

A. Believe it or not, our everyday life as a parish priest is fun! Many of us have hobbies that most people would. We read, write, enjoy hiking, visiting with family and friends. Gathering with other priests for a meal at a rectory or going out. It will be different for each priest just as it would be for each parishioner, but I believe you will find your priest may share some of the same interests as his parishioners.

Q. What do priests all enjoy doing in our diocese?

A. Our Retreat, Convocation, Chrism and Jubilee Mass (combined this year) are events that we all look forward to. In the Diocese of Alexandria, our priests can live up to three hours away from each other, and there is always an excitement shared by our Priests when we are together for a Mass and a meal.

Welcoming a new Priest to your church parish?

Visit www.diocesealex.org to read
10 ways to welcome and connect with your parish priest
in the May 2019 issue of the Church Today.

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.

Meet our new Transitional Deacons

The Diocese of Alexandria is proud to announce that we have had two seminarians ordained as transitional deacons. The Ordination took place on May 16, 2020 at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans. To view the Ordination Mass, please visit <https://thedailymass.com> or <https://bit.ly/2yfh5kE>.

Being ordained to the diaconate is one of the final steps in priesthood formation. If all goes as expected, Kennedy and Johnson will be ordained to the

priesthood next summer.

The diocese currently has ten men in priestly formation, and with the support of their home parishes, they will continue their formation to priesthood. Thank you to everyone for your support for these men through the Annual Bishop's Golf Tournament as well as the Suppers with the Seminarians fundraisers.

Congratulations to our newly ordained transitional deacons, Thomas Kennedy and Robert Johnson!



Thomas Kennedy
from Minor Basilica of the
Immaculate Conception,
Natchitoches

1. Tell us briefly, a little about your story of discernment.

As a convert to Catholicism, priesthood was not on my radar for most of my early life. As I began the journey of conversion to the Catholic faith, the desire to discern priesthood came hand-and-hand with my conversion. Looking back, I can see the Lord's hand guiding me since my childhood. Ultimately, I know my mission in life is to help others.

2. What is something that has kept you moving forward in your time of discernment?

There has never been a day

in seminary formation where I didn't want to be a priest. Some days have been hard - really hard - but I have never lost the confidence that the Lord wants me to be a priest. My patron saint, Thomas Becket, is a source of inspiration for me, as well as the Blessed Virgin Mary and other saints I have devotion for. Also, in studying my genealogy, I have learned of bishops, abbots, priests, and saints in my family line, and this has given me a sense that I have a responsibility to be a good deacon/priest.

3. What do you most look forward to after becoming a transitional deacon?

Look for our Q&A with Transitional Deacon Robert Johnson in last month's issue of the Church Today, and on the diocesan website. Both Transitional Deacons will be part of Notre Dame Seminary's Five Month Diaconate Internship

I look forward to preaching. I look forward to doing my first baptism. I look forward to teaching the Catholic faith among the people. I look forward to evangelizing people.

4. What do you hope people take away from your life and work?

The motto that I have chosen for my ministry as a deacon and as a priest is *Dolere Pro Nomine Domini*, which means, Suffer for the Name of the Lord. It comes from the story of the Conversion of Saint Paul in Acts: 9:6. We all have to suffer in this life, and redemptive suffering is part of the calling of the priesthood. I

Program, which will run June - October, 2020.

hope that when I close my eyes on this world that people will know that I led them closer to Jesus. I am a sinner. I hope that despite my sins and failures that I will lead others to Jesus and not away.

5. How can we, the people of the Diocese of Alexandria, pray for you?

Pray for me to be a holy deacon, eventually a holy priest, and to become a saint! Pray for my health, and pray for me to offer my suffering in a redemptive way.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A prayer card with this prayer can be downloaded and printed from foryourvocation.org

Continue to support your church parish

Though you are not obligated to attend Mass during this time, please consider continuing to support your church parish with your tithing and donations. Church parishes rely on these funds to continue to operate and provide programs and services to the faithful in our communities. The address to each church parish can be found on the diocese website at www.diocesealex.org.

Your pastor will appreciate your continued support.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Download the Spotify app and search for "Diocese of Alexandria" to listen to #SongsfortheSabbath --- songs to center our hearts, minds, and homes on Christ.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for June

The Way of the Heart

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

Prayer in thanksgiving for our Bishop-Elect

Heavenly Father, eternal shepherd, you tend your church in many ways. Help your chosen servant, Bishop-Elect Robert Marshall, that he may watch over your flock. Help him to be a faithful teacher and pastor, a wise administrator, and a holy priest. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

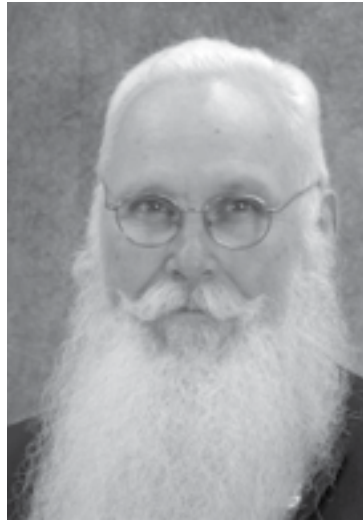
Deacon Assignments effective July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2022



Deacon William Aldridge
reassigned: Christus
St. Frances Cabrini Hospital,
Alexandria



Deacon E.J. Barre
reappointed: St. Joseph Church,
Colfax and St. Patrick Mission,
Montgomery



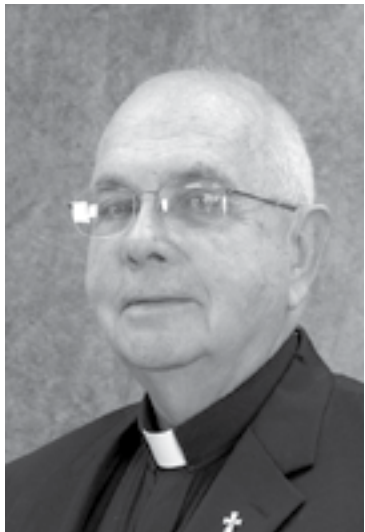
Deacon L G Deloach
reappointed: Immaculate Heart of
Mary Church, Tioga



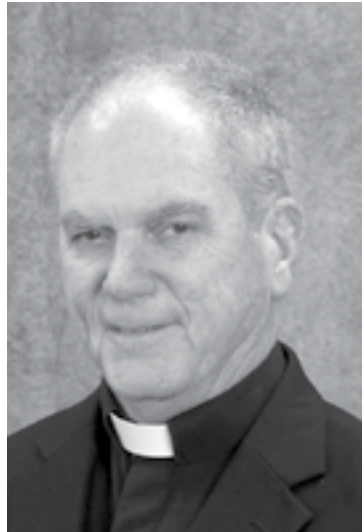
Darrell Dubroc
reappointed: Our Lady of
Lourdes Church, Fifth Ward
St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau



Deacon William Endris
reappointed: St. Michael the
Archangel Church, Leesville



Deacon Larry Feldkamp
reappointed: St. Frances Cabrini
Church, Alexandria



Deacon Stephen Gramigna
reappointed: St. Michael the
Archangel Church, Leesville



Deacon Greg LeBlanc
reappointed: St. Francis and
Anne Church, Kolin



Deacon Richard Mitchell
reappointed St. Francis Xavier
Cathedral, Alexandria
Remains: Vice-Chancellor and
Director, Office of the Diaconate



Deacon Ted Moulard
reappointed: Holy Ghost Church,
Marksville

Glory and praise for ever!

Daniel 3: 52 | Responsorial Psalm for June 7

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA OFFICE OF LIFE AND JUSTICE

The Diocese of Alexandria Office of Life and Justice now provides a list of social services available while the Corona Virus measures are in effect.

The Office of Life and Justice lists this directory as a public service. It does not recommend, support, or guarantee any of the mentioned services.

Each consumer should be vigilant and ask questions of each provider, including costs (if any), confidentiality of medical or personal information, and to whom they can address complaints if necessary.

Please visit www.diocesalex.org/latest-news/social-services-information/ for a directory of local 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.



Deacon Steven Newbury
reappointed:
St. Anthony of Padua Church,
Natchitoches



Deacon Tommy Robichaux
reappointed: Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, Campti
(and its mission)



Deacon Gary Schupbach
reappointed: St. Joseph Church,
Marksville



Deacon Paul Sunderhaus
reappointed: Mary, Mother of
Jesus Church, Woodworth



Deacon William Travis
reappointed: St. Martin Church,
Lecompte and Our Lady of
Guadalupe Mission, Forest Hill



Deacon Luke White
reappointed: St. Francis Xavier
Cathedral and
Facility Manager of Maryhill
Retreat Center



Deacon John Whitehead
reappointed: Minor Basilica of
the Immaculate Conception,
Natchitoches



Deacon Michael Young
reassigned: Sacred Heart of
Jesus Church, Pineville

Catholic Trivia
???

True or False:
Deacons are
ordained clergy.

Answer on page 20.

B.K. ROOFING, LLC

Call the Pros!
Residential Roofing Experts

www.bkroofingllc.com

Brian Maddox, Owner
13 years experience
Licensed & insured • References available

"It doesn't cost any more to get it done right!"

Free estimates!
Most estimates in 2 days

Experienced in dealing with Insurance Companies
Let us handle the details!

318-201-9065
17 Glade St. • Pineville, LA 71460

Emergency service available

Parish Spotlight: St. James Memorial Church, Alexandria Established 1911

The history of St. James parish began in 1894 when Sr. Mary Xavier, a Sister of Divine Providence, opened a school for black children in a one-room building on Watkins Avenue.

The school was dedicated by Fr. Menard in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Sr. Mary Xavier walked eight blocks twice a day to teach the children committed to her care. A new school was built on property purchased by Fr. Menard between Fisk and Beauregard Streets. in 1902. The new school opened with 80 students. In May of 1911, Fr. Marcos received permission from Bishop Van de Ven to establish a separate black church in Alexandria.

The new church was dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Fr. Marcos had to resign because of poor health and Bishop Van de Ven invited the Holy Ghost Fathers to take charge of the new parish. Fr. Anthony Schmodry, C.S.Sp. took charge of the parish in November 1911. This assignment marked the first Holy Ghost mission in Louisiana and the fathers would serve the parish faithfully for 75 years until 1986.

In April, 1914, Fr. Joseph Cornenberger replaced Fr. Schmodry as pastor. New lots were secured on Winn St. between 7th and 8th Streets. Ground was broken for a new church in May of 1915. Money for the construction costs had been donated by Fr.



ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA

Joseph Smith of Cleveland, Ohio in memory of his brother, James, with the condition that the church would be dedicated in honor of his brother's patron saint. The new church, built at a cost of \$7,500 by the LeGras Brothers Construction Company, was dedicated by Bishop Van de Ven in December, 1917.

A new two-story rectory was completed in March, 1916 at a cost of \$2,600. In that same year a new St. James' school was built on Winn and 7th Streets. The new school included a high school curriculum and more sisters came to augment the faculty. A small convent was built on the grounds

and a larger convent was built two years later. The first high school graduation was celebrated in 1919. A larger convent was added to the school grounds in

1938. It was later demolished in 1971.


The school remained in operation until it was forced to close in 1967.

In October, 1956, Bishop Greco blessed a new mission church dedicated in honor of the Holy family in South Alexandria. This mission was served by St. James parish until it was transferred to St. Juliana in 1979. Renovations to the church and

rectory were completed in 1971. The Knights of St. Peter Claver formed a 4th degree assembly in the parish in 1983. In 1986, the Holy Ghost Fathers retired from the parish and a diocesan priest, Fr. Bruce Miller, was appointed pastor. Diocesan priests have continued to serve this vibrant parish which celebrated its centennial in 2011. The present pastor is Fr. Craig Scott.



ST. JAMES SCHOOL, Winn Street, Alexandria, circa 1940s.

 **LIFE SOLUTIONS INC.**
OF ALEXANDRIA
COUNSELING + PSYCHOTHERAPY

KEVIN BOUDREAUX, M.A., LPC
INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY COUNSELING FOR ADOLESCENTS/ADULTS

3818 -A Bayou Rapides • Alexandria, LA 71303
Ph. 318.794-2543 • Fax 318.449-8506

COTTONPORT
CORNER DRUG
and gift boutique

Flu Shots & Vaccinations

Many gifts including large selection of religious items:

- My Saint My Hero religious jewelry
- Holy Medals
- *Jesus Calling* & other inspirational books
- Rosaries
- ACTS bracelets
- First Communion, Confirmation & Baptism gifts

Follow us on Facebook @ Cottonportcornerdrug.giftboutique

(318) 876-3665

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

206 Choupique Lane • Cottonport, LA 71327

Kim & Stewart Wixson, Owners

BAKER
LAND & TIMBER MANAGEMENT, INC

P.O. Box 5624
Alexandria, LA 71307

3306 Giamanco Street

Phone: (318) 473-8751
Fax: (318) 473-4045
EMail: DonaldJBaker@aol.com

Donald J. Baker, ACF/RF/CF
CONSULTING FORESTER
Licensed Urban Tree Consultant

LUMBER **Jeansonne's Millworks**
& Cabinet Shop
* Architectural Millwork
* Custom Cabinets & Moulding

Phone 445-5665 * FAX 445-5276

GUY JEANSONNE
Owner

1843 Sterkx Road
Alexandria, LA 71301

*Praise the
Lord,
Jerusalem*

Psalm 147: 12
Responsorial Psalm
for June 14

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

Manna House celebrates 30 years of service to the community

Father Gerard Foley wrote a letter to his congregation in January, 1990:

“How often have you and I heard the words from scripture, ‘When I was hungry, you gave me food, and when I was thirsty, you gave me drink,’ and wondered how we could adequately perform this work of mercy?”

I believe the Lord is calling us as His people to look into the feasibility of establishing a place where hungry people can come, and with dignity, receive a meal to fill their empty stomachs and love to warm their weary hearts.

I have had moments of doubt and fear: maybe this is too big a thing for us to undertake; maybe there really aren’t that many hungry and lonely people in our community; there aren’t other organizations doing this, why am I getting involved? I don’t have enough time or money to contribute.

In those quiet, lonely moments the Lord says, ‘But who will do it if you don’t?’ ... and MY response has to be, ‘Here I am, Lord.’”



With Fr. Foley leading the way, Manna House opened its

doors on Tuesday, May 1, 1990. Nineteen people came to eat that first day. By the end of May, 1990, 4,512 meals had been served.

We are so very grateful for the leadership of Fr. Foley and those who played a key role in bringing his vision to fruition.

The work continues.

Last year, Manna House served approximately 65,600 meals to people of all ages and walks of life. Three hundred and sixty-five days a year, men, women, and children are served a hot, nutritious meal in a clean, welcoming environment. We have an amazing staff who works incredibly hard every day to continue the mission to banish hunger in Central Louisiana. Along with our incredible volunteers and those who support Manna House with contributions.

In all of the years since Manna House opened, it has been closed without serving meals only four days - three days after a hurricane left the building with no electricity, and one day in early 2006, the day of Fr. Foley’s funeral.

taking precautions for the safety of the community, staff, and volunteers which also include following CDC guidance.

On Saturday, March 14, Manna House began serving “to-go” lunches outside, and will continue to do so for the next several weeks. As the situation continues to evolve, Manna House will communicate adjustments to its operation via its Facebook page.

Manna House is asking for financial donations at this time to help with operating expenses incurred by this “to-go” model. If you feel called to share your gifts with Manna House to help continue to feed those in our community who are in need and banish hunger in Central Louisiana, please make a monetary donation by visiting the website at givetomannahouse.com or by check, mailed to:

Fr. Foley’s vision still lives.

Manna House’s commitment to our community is priority. We understand the concern and uncertainty all may be experiencing surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, and are

**Manna House
P.O. Box 6011
Alexandria, LA 71307**

All donations are tax deductible.

genesis of eve
ENCOUNTER · EMPOWER · EVANGELIZE

FATHER JOHN BURNS **SARAH SWAFFORD** **SR. MIRIAM JAMES HEIDLAND**

MICHELLE BENZINGER **HEATHER KHYM**

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
DOWNTOWN ALEXANDRIA, LA

FRI, OCT 16TH, 2020, 6:00 PM - SUN, OCT 18TH, 2020, 12:00 PM

PURCHASE TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE: genesisofeve.org/eventbrite

Facebook.com/GENESISOFEVELA

CONTACT AT: Info@genesisofeve.org

MANNA HOUSE IS HONORED. The Alexandria Human Relations Commission honored Manna House in 2012 for the ministry’s dedicated efforts in promoting better understanding and quality of life in the Central Louisiana community.



The Diocese Chancery Office is now using only one post office box.

The only current Post Office Box is 7417.

P.O. Box 8714 is no longer in use.

Celebration of Life



WE LOVE OUR 6TH GRADERS. On Tuesday, May 5, Casie Wilkins, Principal; Jessica Lemoine, Assistant Principal; and Meredith Rhoads, Curriculum Coordinator, delivered signs to Our Lady of Prompt Succor School 6th grade students to let them know how important they are! Over 120+ miles, 10 hours, 57 students, some bathroom breaks, chance encounters at convenience stores, some tears, and a lot of goodbyes, the administration of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria delivered signs to every one of their 6th grade students. They told the students how proud of them the teachers and staff are, and how much the students mean to them. They did not get to see every student, but the ones they were able to see made their day! OLPS would like to thank Jennifer Nichols with Visual Concept Designs for her speedy help with the school signs.



Youth of the Diocese continue to learn, support each other, and celebrate their communities!
See below or visit www.diocesealex.org to see more pictures of life in the Diocese.



QUIZ BOWL CHAMPS. Our Lady of Lourdes, Winfield won both first and second place out of 13 teams competing in the Annual Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl on Saturday, March 14 at Maryhill. The team has competed every year, winning for the first time this year! Competing on the first place team was (TOP LEFT), left to right, Daniel [redacted], Angel L [redacted], Daniel Luke P [redacted], and Elizabeth F [redacted]. Competing in the second place team (TOP RIGHT), left to right, Breanna P [redacted], Gustavo V [redacted], Aron G [redacted], and Daisy C [redacted]. The teams' coach was Tracy Kelley, assisted by Maria Guerrero, Christin Page, and Laure Derr (BOTTOM LEFT), and the entire team is pictured below, including substitutes, cheerleaders, and scorekeepers for practices.. A special thanks to all parents and adults who helped to drive the students and practice!



MAY CROWNING THEN AND NOW. (BELOW) On Saturday, May 2, the 6th grade class of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria honored our Blessed Mother with their annual May Crowning. The two pictures below show how the May Crowning was conducted in the past and how the ceremony was conducted this year in light of the COVID-19 restrictions.



'Thank you' is not enough

By Carolyn Wood
Catholic News Service

One of my routines in the early pandemic lockdown was the shop at a big box retailer at 6:00 a.m. Along with food, a key purchase was fabric and supplies that allowed me to make face masks with my very rudimentary sewing skills.

Over the weeks, I struck up rapport with the fabric lady, Lilly (not her real name), and probed a bit about her situation and concerns. Hesitantly, she opened up.

Lilly did not yet have a mask then and customers did not always respect social distancing guidelines. She volunteers for extra hours as her husband could no longer work because he suffered a stroke. Lilly was quite concerned about bringing the virus home.

Going to work was a daily worry. Exhausted, Lilly contemplated using vacation days but did not want to deplete precious days off if disaster would hit later.

Lilly's employment placed her in a slightly better protected position than many essential workers. She at least has a full-time position that comes with benefits including vacation and insurance. Many essential workers, particularly those in the lower wage brackets, are not so well protected.

Of the 30-plus million workers in "front-line industries" (grocery, convenience and drugstores, public transit, trucking, warehouse and postal service, building cleaning services, health care, child care



NEW YORK NURSE BLESSING. Nursing assistant Sanja Cook has her hands blessed by Ursuline Sister Edit Menegus, director of pastoral care at St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson, N.Y., May 11, 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The blessing was part of the hospital's observance of National Nurses Week, May 6-12, which celebrates the nursing profession and affirms the vital role nurses play in health care. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

and social services), one out of four holds only part-time status.

Compensation of 30% of all front-line workers falls into the near-poor (less than twice poverty level wages) and poverty categories. Eleven percent do not receive health insurance. Of these industries, building and cleaning services scored the lowest with 37% in part-time employment,

58% earning near-poor and poverty wages and 29% without insurance. These individuals carry the responsibility of decontaminating our facilities.

COVID-19 presents a whole different set and level of risks and hardships to these workers; their own infection, increased exposure of family members, insufficient and subpar protective equipment,

need for child care as schools are no longer physically open.

Policy recommendations for protection and fairness have called for proper safety standards relating to infectious diseases, additional or hazard pay, paid medical leave, access to free health care and testing, child care subsidies, accountability for implementation and access to unions to have a voice toward

the design and enactment of these provisions.

I am sure all of us have made extra efforts to thank our front-line workers. But it is not enough to just say thank you. In gratitude, fairness, and obligation to these workers who take the risks to protect us and enable us to do what we do, our response must be vocal and active.

We must express our outrage when workers are terminated for speaking out on hazardous working conditions and making demands for their well-being. We can call our elected representatives to highlight the priority and necessity of these policies and their rightful claim on the almost \$3 trillion rescue package. We can support groups that advocate for the workers. The placards we hold can say "protect our workers" in addition to "thank you."

Without such action, we are accountable to James as he questions, "If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?" (James 2: 15-16)

Woo is distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University and served as the CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services from 2012 to 2016.

NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

561-2500 • NBALawFirm.com

Richard J. Arsenault

2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria

Lord, in your
great love,
answer me.

Psalm 69: 14
Responsorial Psalm for June 21

Mass is being offered online and on radio

Mass will be offered online on Facebook, YouTube, or on the radio at the following churches. Please visit the links listed below.

Our diocesan church parishes have been working hard to provide spiritual resources to the people of our diocese. Please continue to visit your church parish's Facebook page (you do not need a Facebook account, just click "not now" and view the content) or the diocesan website for updates, and pray for our diocesan priests and parish staff as they continue their ministry.

Please inquire directly to your church parish concerning their requirements and guidelines for attending Mass in-person.

Thank you, parish secretaries and staff members for your hard work and dedication to continue to bring the message of Christ to all homes in our diocese!

Sunday

- 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. (time varies) Radio Maria | www.radiomaria.us (click the play button) or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 9:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Facebook
Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:15 a.m. St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook
- 10:00 a.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen on Facebook
St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle on Facebook
St. Patrick Church, Ferriday on Facebook
- 10:30 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
- 11:00 a.m. Mass from St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans on Facebook
- 11:30 a.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville on Facebook or YouTube

View recorded Mass: St. Frances Cabrini Church on YouTube

Radio broadcast of Mass will be available on your radio on these stations:

- 7:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville KZLG-FM 95.5
- 8:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville - KLIL-FM 92.1

Monday - Friday

- 7:00 a.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth on Facebook or YouTube
- 8:00 a.m. Radio Maria | www.radiomaria.us (click the play button) or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 8:30 a.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:00 a.m. Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville on Facebook
- 9:15 a.m. (Latin) St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook
- 12:05 p.m. Mass from St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans on Facebook
- 5:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube

Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:15 a.m. St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook
- 4:00 p.m. Radio Maria | www.radiomaria.us (click the play button) or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 5:00 p.m. St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville on Facebook

St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches on YouTube



CALL IN YOUR ORDER. WE WILL HAVE IT READY IN 30 MINUTES

Drive thru pickup available!

WE DELIVER EVERYTHING FROM CHEESE TO "FULL HOUSE"
WITHIN LIMITED AREA CHECK ACCEPTABLE SUN-THUR 11 AM-10:30 PM
FRI & SAT 11 AM-11 PM

#1 ALEXANDRIA 902 VERSAILLES BLVD. 448-4104	#2 BALL 6301 MONROE HWY. 640-2983	#3 PINEVILLE CORNER HWY. 28 EAST & STILLEY RD. 445-9249
--	--	--

VALUABLE COUPON

Two Medium Pizzas \$17.99 Coupon Expires 6/29/20

Single Topping - Additional Toppings Extra
Not valid with any other coupon

All prices subject to change


Please continue to visit www.diocesealex.org for updated livestream Mass times, as well as additional updates from the Diocese of Alexandria.

Other online Mass and service times are listed on the USCCB website.

Upcoming **VIRTUS sessions**

All VIRTUS sessions have been cancelled until further notice.

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



Upcoming Retreats

All ACTS Retreats have been cancelled until further notice.

Please contact individual retreat organizers for more information about rescheduling.

Information will be updated periodically on the Diocese of Alexandria website as well.

A list of ACTS Retreat dates can be found at www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/.

A time for the domestic church to flourish

By *Hosffman Ospino*
Catholic News Service

Catholics love the family. To be Catholic, one could say, is tantamount to affirming family life in its manifold expressions. We affirm the many good things that happen at the heart of the home as essential to nurture individual lives and to build society.

Family life holds a special place in the Catholic immigration. It is in the family where we learn to relate to others, love, share our feelings, argue, listen, forgive, negotiate and grow in the great adventure of being human.

At the heart of the family, we learn about what is true, good, and beautiful. The younger members of the family often rely on the guidance of the more experienced ones to discern values. We learn from one another as we face our mistakes and their consequences.

It is in the family where we first discover that God walks with us in history. Building upon the fragility of human love, one learns about God's merciful and infinite love in Jesus Christ. In the context of the family, we learn to be in conversation with God through prayer.

From antiquity, Christians have referred to the family as a domestic church. So did the Second Vatican Council in its Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, "Lumen Gentium" (No. 11).

The events affecting our lives



during this time of pandemic have led many Catholics to reencounter our families. Ironically, many of us do so while asking, what does it mean to be family today?

Everyone is part of a family, one way or another. In fact, as we marry, befriend, travel, and expand our horizons, we find ourselves belonging to many families. Still, we ask the same question.

In the midst of the progress, energy, and innovation that characterize our contemporary world, we seem increasingly aware that family life is not always a priority on our value scale.

The fact that at this time of crisis many seem to have rediscovered family as something novel, desirable, and fulfilling - all great things - should give us pause. Why did many not

experience this before? What were our priorities before the pandemic? At what point did we stop appreciating family as the domestic church?

The tone of lament among many Catholics grieving lack of access to our large churches these days is quite revealing. I also miss my church, I must say.

The present circumstances, though, serve as an invitation to revisit with renewed appreciation other ways of being church, especially the domestic church.

Let's not capitulate before the idea that only people outside our homes can share the faith. While the sacraments are central to our identity, Catholicism has

not ended because an ordained minister is not available day and night.

Let us remember that the early Christian communities were family-based and gathered mainly in homes where many family configurations celebrated their faith in the risen Lord.

In most parts of the world, Catholics live and practice their faith primarily in the context of the domestic church. For millions of Catholics, having access to a priest or a large church 24/7 is a rare privilege.

Every now and then, we need to revisit what sustains our Catholic imagination. Yes, let's hope for a return to our beautiful temples. Let's also affirm the value of the family as domestic church, and let it flourish!

This is a perfect time for catechists of all ages to arise in the context of the home; a time for Gospel-inspired rituals and practices that make God present in the daily life of the family; a time to recognize the face of Christ in every member of our household.

Ospino is professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Visit www.praymorenovenas.com
to join in praying the Coronavirus novena.

While we face the coronavirus pandemic, let us turn to the face of God in prayer and ask for His healing, His help, and His protection. Join in the Coronavirus novena at www.praymorenovenas.com, praying for all who are affected, all who are sick suffering, for all those who work in the medical profession, and for those who have died as well as for their grieving family members.

Budget Blinds
a style for every point of view™

Custom Window Coverings
Shutters • Draperies • Blinds

Huge selection of the best brands!

(318) 443-9730
FREE In-Home Consultation & Estimates

Professional Installation • Low Price Promise
Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated
www.budgetblinds.com

Signature Series • Lafayette Interior Fashions
Exterior Window Screens

Refueling & Refreshing Communities

www.ynotstop.com

Encuentro Prayer for Easter at a time of crisis

God of life and healing, you sent Your Risen Son to encounter the disciples on the way to Emmaus.

Grant us today a missionary spirit and send us forth to encounter our sisters and brothers by the ways that are within our reach; To walk with them in this time of crisis, to listen to their concerns with compassion, to respond to their fears with sensitivity, and to proclaim your Word with hope, so that they might feel your presence in flesh and blood in their homes.

Nourish us today as missionary disciples, and stay with us always, as we dedicate ourselves this Easter season to rediscover love, and share it in our families and with the whole human family.

We ask you this with burning hearts, filled with the Holy Spirit, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and under the loving protection of our Blessed Mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. Amen.

Lacombe Floor Finishing
310 N. Briarwood, Bunkie, LA 71322
 Specializing in installation

- Floor Finishing
- Ceramic Tile Floors
- Hardwood Floors
- Reseal Tile Floors

Ph: (318) 481-0950
Morgan Newton, Owner

NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

Need Social Security Disability Benefits?


561-2500

NBALawFirm.com

Richard J. Arsenault 2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria

The Cross Word

June 7 and 14, 2020



- 52 Regret
- 53 Soon (poet.)
- 54 Remind
- 55 American sign language
- 56 Scottish girl

DOWN

- 1 Horses' feet
- 2 Evangelist John's symbol
- 3 ___ persons in one God
- 4 Tints
- 5 Jesus cursed this tree
- 6 Assumed name
- 7 Atop (2 wds.)
- 8 Distress call
- 9 "___ Maria"
- 10 Pod vegetable
- 13 Dit's partner
- 18 Courage
- 20 Map collections
- 23 Rummy
- 24 Gave food
- 25 Long ___
- 26 Fox has one
- 27 Iced ___
- 29 Tax people
- 30 Consume
- 31 Edge
- 32 African antelope
- 33 Play on words
- 35 ___ *Christi*
- 38 Jeweled headdress
- 39 Bread in the desert
- 40 Singing parts
- 41 French city
- 42 Bard's "before"
- 44 Fuel
- 45 What a Mommy gives
- 46 Promissory note
- 47 First woman
- 49 Conger

Readings: Ex 34: 4b-9, 8-9; 2Cor 13: 11-13; Jn 3: 16-18 & Deut 8:2-3, 14b-16a; 1Cor 10: 16-17; Jn 6:51-58

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hebrew 8th letter
 - 5 Food and Agriculture Organization
 - 8 Drain
 - 11 Waikiki place
 - 12 No room here
 - 13 Holy Spirit symbol
 - 14 Giant
 - 15 Contracted
 - 16 At sea
 - 17 "Eat the ___" of Jesus
 - 19 Built ark
 - 21 Bishop's turf
 - 22 Place of slavery
 - 24 Passing trend
 - 27 Ornament
 - 28 Feudal superior
 - 30 Encourage (2 wds.)
 - 33 "___ our wickedness"
 - 34 Mount ___
 - 35 Swear
 - 36 Flightless bird
 - 37 ___ tablets
 - 39 Bad (prefix)
 - 42 Muslim ruler
 - 43 What a fish skin is
 - 45 Cake layer
 - 48 Primate
 - 50 "For ___ us a child is born"
 - 51 Christ's gift

SABINE STATE BANK
 & Trust Company



Member FDIC

Call your local branch for information.
 (318) 256-7000

 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

TIRE DESPINO'S SERVICE

visit us at **DESPINOTIRE.COM**

 LIKE US ON facebook

What your vocation is NOT

*By Rachel Penate
Guest Contributor*

The energy in the room was palpable, and I could feel it reverberating around the room capturing the attention of even the dullest and unexcited person in the gymnasium. I was 13 and at my very first night of worship and adoration, hosted by a local parish. From the moment I walked into that boisterous space, I knew I was in for something special. I was ready to be challenged and changed...

And then, I hit a nun.

Okay, that sounds dramatic. I didn't hurt her, I promise! But, the events that led up to and followed that innocent jab to the shoulder were totally and completely dramatic in my own feeble experience.

I had been minding my own business, dancing along (a little exuberantly) to a song that I didn't know when, BAM!, my first made contact with the shoulder of an unsuspecting nun. Embarrassingly I apologized, she smiled, and I moved on with my awkward pre-teen dance moves.

But then, a woman from our group said something that rocked me to my core.

From about three seats away, with an all-knowing grin, she said "You know... if you hit a



nun, that means you become one, right?"

You couldn't have peeled me from the floor at that moment if you tried. Those words were like a death wish. How did I cause this to myself? I didn't want to become a nun! I didn't even know what extracurricular

activities I wanted to be involved in next year, let alone my vocation!

I was devastated. I was anxious. And, I carried those words in my mind and heart for a long time thinking that they were true.

More than a guessing game

What I didn't realize until (unfortunately) much later is that the vocation God has in

store for us to discover is not a game He plays with us. It's not like the Sorting Hat from "Harry Potter," assigning us to our future community despite our input, or like some maze we have to navigate in order to arrive at an ending we are blind to along the way.

Discovering our vocation is found in an intentional, daily relationship with God. It is more

than just knowing the state of life He desires us to live in within the body of the Church (married, single, religious); it is ultimately about discovering ourselves each and every day found most perfectly in Him alone.

What your vocation is NOT

From that very first fateful run-in with that very dramatic misconception of vocation to today (after six years of marriage), I'm still trying to understand what it means to live out the vocation of life God has called me to. While I've learned a lot since I was 13, I think perhaps the easiest way to understand vocation is not necessarily to define it until we're blue in the face, but to call out the lies and recognize what it is not.

1. Vocation is NOT an urgent matter.

There is a popular misconception that we must figure out our vocation on a certain time-table. While we are not called to drag our feet when we hear God's call clearly in our lives, we also are not called to rush a decision that we do not hear Him calling us to. What is most important is that we listen to God's call, daily, we remain patient, and - above all - trust in His timing.

2. Vocation is NOT meant to be lonely.

The whole point of vocation is discovering your life within the community of the Church.

Martha Neil Anthony

Feline Canine Coach

- Behavior Modification
- Obedience and Therapy
- Pet Training
- 30-day Money Back Guarantee
- In home, Individual, and Group Sessions Available
- Phone Consultations and Phone Assessments

985.226.6458 • www.felinecaninecoach.com

PEST AID CO.

We Sell Do-It-Yourself Pest Control Supplies

Termites • Ants
 Ticks • Roaches
 Mice • Fleas
 Mosquitoes

COMPLETE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL
 6 Month Service Agreements
 Home Owned & Operated • Raymond J. Constantino, Sr.

473-0228
1-800-256-0450

2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA



Telephone 318-445-1446
 Fax 318-445-1449

Certified Gemologists
 Registered Jewelers

Under the clocktower
Schnack's
 FINE JEWELRY
 Established 1865
 1438 Dorchester Drive
 Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-3408
 www.schnacks.com



**Listen to the Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass on**

KLIL 92.1 **KZLG 95.9**

8 a.m. Sunday Mass **7 a.m. Sunday Mass**

*For ever
I will sing
the
goodness of
the Lord.*

Psalm 89: 2
 Responsorial Psalm
 for June 28

If you actively discern religious life and visit an order only to find yourself incredibly lonely, it's likely that specific order is not for you. And, similarly, if you date someone only to find yourself even more lonely in their presence, they are probably not the person God is calling you to begin a family with. God does not call us to a life of boredom or unrest or loneliness, but rather one of joy and peace and belonging.

It's also important to remember that vocation is not a cure for loneliness. Even within the context of the vocation God has called you to, only He can satisfy your deepest need for communion.

3. Vocation is NOT a random decision.

Remember what I said about vocation not being a game with either a winning or losing outcome? God created you, so God knows you perfectly and most intimately, right? If that's true, then naturally it follows that He knows exactly what you need in this life to fulfill your desires. This alone should give us reason to trust Him in the plan He has in store for us.

4. Vocation is NOT earned or a problem to be solved.

Our vocation isn't a reward we earn for "good behavior." And, it is absolutely not the solution to a problem. Our vocation is a gift freely given by God and not contingent upon anything that we do or say. We must not view our vocation as a reward, but, rather, as an

invitation to remain open and receptive to His will.

5. Vocation is NOT something to be feared.

What frightened me the most that fateful day I hit a nun wasn't that I thought religious life wasn't a good and honorable vocation. It frightened me because I knew nothing about religious life and how it could draw me, personally, more deeply into a life holiness. God doesn't call us to a life of fear; if the thought of one particular vocation is causing you fear, ask God to bring it to the light and teach you more about how holiness can be found there.

6. Vocation is NOT necessary for holiness.

One of the holiest women I know has not entered into the Sacrament of Marriage or made permanent vows to the religious life. She is in her 40's, single, and living her absolute best life. She is open to God's call to marriage or religious life... if He calls. But, in the meantime, she gives of herself - in every present moment - exactly how God is calling her to. Our holiness is not contingent upon our vocation. Rather, our vocation is just a means to aid in our pursuit of holiness.

Stay Grounded

If you've gotten all the way to this point, and are still lost, allow me to offer you a few definitions:

Vocations: "a call from God to a distinctive state of life, in which the person can reach holiness."

You: "A person who has many different vocations."

The vocation I've been referring to throughout this entire article is your vocation to either marriage, the priesthood (men), or religious life (men and women). The reason why we speak about these vocations with gravity is because they are a lifelong commitment that one makes to a person or community.

However, you are also called to other vocations (some call them "the smaller vocations"), such as your job or occupation, your volunteer ministry, or service commitment. Another

definition I love for vocation is "the gift of being invited to sacrifice of one's self so that a person might grow in holiness." Think of the state of life you're in at this very moment. Do you see this state - perhaps as a student - as being one you can grow in holiness in? There is every opportunity at whatever point of your life to seek holiness. And, that opportunity begins now.

Ultimately, you are called to where you are right now for a reason, and God is going to gently lead you wherever you need to go next. Stay grounded in a life of the Sacraments and

an active relationship with the Lord and you will not be misled in your journey to each and every vocation in life. Trust in His plan and His tender tug. He's got you.

Rachel is a Wisconsin girl at heart who has a slight obsession with the band Switchfoot. Currently, she resides in Arizona, and when she's not at her desk, is spending time with her family, working out, or relaxing with her nose buried in book. Follow Rachel on Instagram at @bookmamareviews.

LEGLUE NISSAN INC.

**NEW & USED CARS •
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS**



**6400 COLISEUM BLVD.
WWW.LEGLUENISSAN.COM
318-767-3300**

"Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it."

• Pope John Paul II •

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

PETER J. LEMOINE

Social Security Disability Law

Offices in Alexandria, Baton Rouge,
Lafayette, Lake Charles, Cottonport

Adjunct Professor, Southern University Law Center

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

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited,"
"Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C,"
"Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of
Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at
Social Security Disability Hearings," "An Unsolved Mess:
Analyzing the Social Security Administration's Methodology
for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers."

318-717-1995

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

John Kramer & Son 2905 Masonic Dr. Alexandria, LA (318) 445-6311	Kramer of Colfax 128 Second Street Colfax, LA (318) 627-3511	Kramer of Fifth Ward 1924 Highway 1 Fifth Ward, LA (318) 240-8305
---	---	--

KRAMER
Funeral Home & Cremation Service
Est. 1875

 Find us on Facebook



Restored: Update on summer youth events

*“Restore, to us, o God;
let your face shine,
that we may be saved.”
Psalm 80: 3 RSV*

We hope this issue of the Church Today finds everyone well - safe and healthy with your families. These are unprecedented times, and information changes daily and rapidly.

The Steubenville South Conference office has been praying and listening to the Lord, while also keeping in mind civil guidelines to keep everyone safe. We are greatly saddened to announce that this summer's Steubenville South Conference has been cancelled, due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Our staff and volunteers are sad to say that we won't be able to gather in person this summer, but make this decision for safety's sake and with the protection of everyone in mind.

We have been working with

Franciscan University and the facilities that host our summer conference, and are so glad to plan to meet again next summer, June 25-27, 2021!

We are committed to helping you reach your teenagers, those in your church youth groups and those in your own homes. Please contact us at centraloffice@steubenvillesouth.com if we can point you to any resources or be of assistance as parishes slowly reopen for public gatherings.

We appreciate your long-standing support of this youth conference. These are difficult times for our parishes and ministries, and many more changes are sure to come throughout the next several months. But, know that we pray for you daily and truly believe that what we do in youth ministry and faith formation is more important now than it's ever been.

Please keep each other in prayer and we hope to see you in person soon!



**Steubenville South 2020
has been cancelled.**

Please mark your calendars for

Beyond the Limits: March 6 - 7, 2021 and

Steubenville South: June 25 - 27, 2021

Check www.steubenvillesouth.com for updates.

St. Frances Cabrini School has teacher openings for the 2020-2021 school year
- Upper Elementary (grades 5 and 6) Math, Science, and ELA.

Email resumes and inquiries to Sr. Nina Vincent at nvincent@cabrinischool.com.

Making your at-home prayer space

*By Nick Bernard
Life Teen Contributor*

The Church in the midst of this global pandemic looks different than it has ever before. Even in the midst of mass persecutions or empires that sought to destroy Christianity, the Christian life has never

before seen the sorts of isolation and social distance we're experiencing this year. Even so, God is still among us. God still desires to work in the hearts of His people and to make us new, even in this time where it might seem like every day is the same. So, how are we as Christians called to respond to God in this strange

world of COVID-19? Honestly, I'm not exactly sure. The details of a response likely look different for each of us, for each of us is experiencing this season in our own way. But, there is at least one thing we're all called to do together. We're called to pray. In the midst of doubt, uncertainty, and darkness, we're called to

reach out to God and to invite Him into our experience. We're called to pray even if we're not sure what to pray for.

As we do our best to respond to this call to prayer in the midst of a global pandemic, a practical and helpful thing each of us can do is to create an at-home prayer space. One of the gems

of Catholicism is our rich history of images, religious sites, relics, and church buildings. We as a Church know the importance of creating beautiful spaces in which to meet God. But, in this season, many of us are not able to worship in the spaces of our home parishes, and even praying privately in those spaces might

YOU GET IT ALL AT

WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM

Alexandria: 318.448.4225 • Ville Platte: 337.363.6322 • Toll Free: 800.766.4819

**OFFICE SUPPLIES • OFFICE FURNITURE • OFFICE MACHINES
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS • BREAKROOM & FOOD SERVICE SUPPLIES
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES • JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT • PRINTING**

?? Catholic Trivia Answer ??

There are three levels of holy orders in the Catholic Church. The diaconate is the first level; it functions as the service ministry of Christ. In other words, deacons are servants, called to embody the work of Christ in service of justice, the Word, and the altar. All deacons can baptize, witness marriages, bring the viaticum to the dying, and preside at funerals. They proclaim the gospel and may serve as the homilist at Mass. Like John the Baptist, they lead a prophetic life of service for the benefit of the Church.

TRUE.
Answer:

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

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

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

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



look rather different. Making a space to pray at home then becomes all the more important. Below, you'll find some easy tips and some inspiration for creating an at-home prayer space.

Make it quiet.

God speaks to us no matter what, but, sometimes, we can make it easier on ourselves to hear His voice if we find some quiet. Finding a quiet space in your house to pray might help you to focus a little deeper and to listen a little better. For me, that quiet space is my room - if I were to pray at the kitchen table, I'd meet the noise of cooking and TV's and my dogs barking at me. In the quiet of my room, however, I can read silently, pray out loud, or just sit and listen for the Lord's voice. As you create an at-home prayer space, try to find a quiet space in your home. Finding some quiet might also require you to pray at a certain time - if you share your room with someone else, could getting up earlier or choosing a time when others are away gain you some space for silence?

Make it beautiful.

The Catholic Church in building her cathedrals and shrines knows that being in a beautiful space helps one to elevate his soul to heaven. You probably can't create a beautiful cathedral in your house - if you can, then lmk - but, maybe you have a favorite religious image in your home, an icon or small statue, or an illustrated quote or scripture verse. These things

are pretty simple, but adding them into your prayer space can help to set apart an area where you'll speak to God on purpose. Having some simple religious art can help you to turn your mind to heaven. I carry a small prayer card in the back of my journal that I sometimes take out in prayer just to look at because I think it's pretty. Do you have something similar? Or, if you don't have any religious art you'd like to add to a prayer space, could you create some of your own?

Make it yours.

When architects build a church sanctuary, they take into account the people that will worship there and the kind of community that will use the space. My home parish is called Christ the King, so a lot of our sanctuary's architecture involves different king motifs. Your at-home prayer space is for you, or maybe for you and some other members of your family. So, it's totally appropriate to make a kind of space that is helpful for you and your specific style of prayer. If you like to pray with reading, make sure your prayer space has enough light to read. If you like to pray by writing, make sure your prayer space has a good surface to write on. Or, if you like to pray by listening to music of recorded reflections, make sure you find a quiet space that allows you to hear well. I pray in the morning with a mug of coffee, so, in finding my own at-home prayer space, it was important for me to have a place to sit my coffee down so I don't

burn myself! Think of what will be most helpful to you and your particular prayer life, and bring that into your own prayer space.

Go easy on yourself.

We're called to pray during this time, just as we're called to pray in every other season. But, the circumstances we're living in right now are frustrating! I want to go out to dinner, and I was hoping to attend my college graduation ceremony this semester. I'm frustrated, and I get bored doing the same thing every day. Even so, I'm called to prayer. But, within that call, the Lord has realistic expectations. I don't pray the full Liturgy of the Hours every day - doing so wouldn't be realistic for my state in life and schedule. Instead, I've tried to find a rhythm of prayer that matches the kind of life I'm living right now. I'm staying at home and not doing very much at all, so my expectations for my prayer have met that situation. I don't need to have a massive spiritual revolution every day, and some days I don't feel like my prayer was very impressive at all. But, I'm called to prayer, not to perfection. As we all continue to navigate our current season, let's lean into God's invitation to prayer, trusting that, if we do our best to make a space for the Lord, He will meet us where we are.

If you'd like to follow along with Nick in his journey with Christ, you can find him on Instagram @n1ckb3rnard.

PANDEMIC-EBT AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

\$285 per child makes up for the cost of breakfast, lunch, and dinner that they would have received at school.

Amid the ongoing public health crisis, Louisiana has been approved for their new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. This program will provide extra help buying groceries for the families of the more than 600,000 children who normally receive free and reduced-price meals at school.

Eligible families who complete an online application will be issued a P-EBT debit card by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to access benefits. The P-EBT card will function like a standard EBT card, and the same guidelines will apply.

Families will receive \$285 in total P-EBT benefits per child. Unused benefits will roll over month to month and must be used within 365 days.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

As school facilities remain closed, households that meet the following criteria may now be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits to help them buy food for their children:

- Families with one or more children in their household;
- Children normally receive free and reduced price meals at school.

TO APPLY:

Families must complete the online application to receive benefits. Without the requested information, DCFS cannot issue the P-EBT card and provide benefits.

Applicants must provide the full names of the student and parent, date of birth, Social Security number, home address, school, and school district.

To access the application, visit the link below, then click on ACCESS THE P-EBT APPLICATION at the bottom of the flyer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Janet Burgess at 318-445-6424, ext. 234.

TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION, VISIT:
<https://bit.ly/3g7Jb2g> OR

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/covid-19-resources/louisiana-p-ebt-information-and-application.pdf>

This information will be updated periodically on the Diocese of Alexandria website at www.dioceealex.org.

Maryhill Renewal Center is closed until further notice. If you were to attend an event or retreat at Maryhill, please know that it has been cancelled. Contact your event organizer for more information about rescheduling.

Men's Nocturnal Adoration - June 4-5

Calling all men to adore the Lord! St. Frances Cabrini Church will host a nocturnal period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in reparation for sins committed by clergy, to pray for priests and victims, and for the Church. We ask all Catholic men of good will, Knights of Columbus, Knights of Peter Claver, ACTS Men, Members of the Holy Name Society, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers of all parishes and organizations to consider keeping watch with us on Thursday, June 4, from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. We are asking for two volunteers per hour. If interested, please contact Michelle at (318) 445-4588.

Taking Down Giants - June 4 - July 30

Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine presents "Taking Down Giants," a self-study at home program with weekly online Q&A discussions. We will teach you to move toward salvation in a safe and grounded method using prayer and the sacraments. Sessions are every Thursday, from June 4 - July 30 at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$40, and includes the online class fee and required companion guide. Couples pay one fee for a single login and share the companion guide. The deadline to register is May 29. To register, visit <https://www.liberchristo.org/online-freedom-through-christ-parish-class/>. Use password code: ftcopc

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

ST. JOSEPH

(continued from pg. 4)

When making decisions, do we seek to please God before all others? Do we seek God's approval in raising our kids, relating to our spouse, or even dressing and presenting ourselves to the world?

From the need to be understood, and from the need to be accepted, deliver me, o God.

Putting others first

Had St. Joseph approached Mary's pregnancy with his own good in mind, he probably would have left. When he fled his homeland, he was not personally in danger; he left to protect Jesus. The tough calls he made and the challenges he endured as a result were for the good of another. Today's cultural narrative leads us to believe that serving others in this costly manner diminishes our freedom and inhibits our potential. The example of the Foster Father of Jesus says otherwise.

When the good of another demands personal sacrifice, do we respond in charity?

From the fear of serving others, deliver me, o God.

St. Joseph teaches us to not be afraid

St. Joseph was uniquely blessed in life to rest at Jesus' feet. Through his example and intercession, we can lay our lives at Jesus' feet as he did. If each commitment and all it entails is made with Jesus' counsel and a humble heart that seeks to know, love, and serve Him, we can step forward in faith, trusting God to keep us and our decisions close to him and his good will for us.

Holy Mother Church has given St. Joseph the title "Terror of demons." A strong title for a strong man of God. Knowing that the enemy is terrified of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus can be a great help to us during times of temptation or spiritual warfare. As we move closer to celebrating Father's Day during these unprecedented times, let us keep close to St. Joseph, asking for his intercession often. We can lean on St. Joseph by imitating his humility; spending our days in the company of Jesus and Mary, bringing our hopes and cares to them; listening and responding to the prompting of our guardian angels; and invoking his intercession during times of temptation.

During these trying times and beyond, let us depend on St. Joseph's help in times of trouble. He's a good dad, and is ever-ready to pray for us.

Glorious St. Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

P.S. Ready to celebrate Father's Day in style? Visit the diocese website for our Father's Day gift guide.

Follow Cari on Instagram @cariterracina

Feast Days and Solemnities to observe in June:

Sunday, June 7: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Sunday, June 14: Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Friday, June 19: Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, June 20: Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, June 21: Father's Day

Wednesday, June 24: Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

A prayer to St. Rose of Lima

St. Rose of Lima saved her city from an attack by pirates in 1615.

Dear St. Rose of Lima, in your life you gave yourself generously in prayer and self-sacrifice and were loved by Jesus as the dearest rose of His heart.

When blood thirsty men threatened your city, you threw yourself in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Your burning love strengthened you to vow to not leave Jesus alone to be crucified again.

Your zeal compelled you to stand, ready to face the wicked foe.

By your loving prayer before God and heroic courage before the enemy, you saved your city.

Good St. Rose, plead for us today as we are threatened by a new enemy. May we be saved and spared, as our hearts burn with love for our God.

By your penance on earth and your prayers in heaven, may our Sweet Savior turn to us who humbly seek His protection.

Most of all, may the evils of sin never touch our hearts.

Be for us a loving sister and a heavenly aid that Jesus may again be praised and loved ever more. Amen.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: June 29
Deadline for news:
Thursday, June 18



Brigitte Kelso
Owner/Agent
2918 S. MacArthur Dr.
Alexandria, La. 71301

Phone: 318.448.2226
Fax: 318.448.2280
bkelso@kelsoinsurance.com

Auto, Home, Recreational Vehicles, Collector Cars, Commercial

Petrus
FEED & SEED

2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA

442-2325

June 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>JUNE 1</p> <p>PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP AYMOND</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Men's Nocturnal Adoration 7 pm-7 am St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ</p>	<p>5</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p>7</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY TRINITY PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</p>
<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</p>	<p>14</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI) PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>
<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSAH</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>MEMORIAL of the IMMACULATE HEART of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>21</p> <p>FATHER'S DAY PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>
<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP-ELECT R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>24</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the NATIVITY of SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>
<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>	<p>JULY 1</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP-ELECT R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p>4</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</p>

Get the care
you need.
Now.



**There's more to your
health than this virus.
That's why we're here.**

From working to protect against exposure to COVID-19 to offering more telemedicine appointments, we're keeping our hospital safe so that you can get the important care you need. In addition, we're leading the country with COVID-19 antibody testing to select hospital patients, so we'll know quickly how to treat you safely.

Get the care, and safety, you need at CHRISTUS.

 **CHRISTUS.**
ST. FRANCES CABRINI
Hospital