

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LI, No. 6

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

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

June 29, 2020



## Congratulations, graduates!

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield, LA held Senior Sunday on May 31, 2020. Manny Kelly and Daniel Sierra were honored as members of the 2020 graduating class. Reverend Brian Seiler gave a special blessing to the high school graduates. Each were presented with a beautiful crucifix.

Congratulations to all graduating seniors!

### INSIDE

#### COVID-19 latest update

The Diocese of Alexandria 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. See page 2 for the latest update.

#### Congratulations to our new transitional deacons

Seminarians Robert Johnson and Thomas Kennedy were ordained as Transitional Deacons on May 16 at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. See page 5 for their summer assignments and pictures from the ordination.

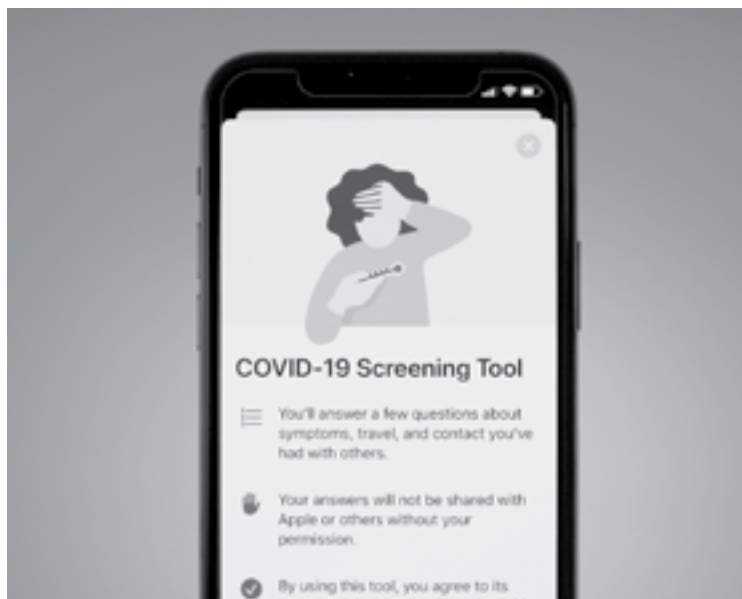
#### Steubenville Live!

It pains us that we can't personally support you and all the people who normally come to encounter the life-changing love of Christ at Steubenville South. But, we're excited to offer a new experience this summer: *Steubenville Live!* Join us July 17-18 for this new offering. See page 20 for details.

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# COVID-19 latest updates



**Latest Update:**  
 Governor Edwards announced June 22 that Louisiana will not be moving to Phase 3 given the continued spread of COVID-19 cases across the state. His latest order was issued on Thursday, June 25, and will extend for 28 days. He indicated that there will not be any additional restrictions added, but said instead that we need to be diligent in following current restrictions under Phase 2 guidelines.

**PHASE TWO**  
 Our COVID-19 Response Team, with the guidance of Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Bishop-Elect Robert Marshall are working with all of our pastors regarding the celebration of Mass publicly.

COVID-19 is a highly contagious and deadly disease. The fundamental concept of this phased opening plan is to slowly open businesses at reduced occupant capacities that will allow for social distancing and circulation to keep employees and patrons safe. **Everyone's cooperation is critical to the success towards defeating this disease and revitalizing our economy.**

The virus spreads primarily through person-to-person contact, from droplets that are expelled by coughing or sneezing as well as simply speaking loudly or forcefully and even singing, or by touching infected surfaces and then touching one's eyes, nose or mouth. Individuals can carry the virus and be contagious for up to 14 days prior to having any symptoms. The guidelines outlined below for social distancing, face coverings, and sanitation are proven methods of mitigating these modes of

transmission. **THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT** to remember is that COVID-19 is still very prevalent across the state. We must all continue to do our part to help slow the spread, protect the most vulnerable, and continue to remain vigilant until a cure or vaccine is widely available to provide general immunity.

While not required, below are a few public health recommendations for businesses looking for ways to protect employees and staff:

- Strongly encouraged to wear masks or face coverings;
- Screen customers for symptoms before entry;
- Move to reservation systems to discourage congregating in groups while waiting for service;
- Adopt sick leave policies that reduce the disincentive for employees to try to come to work sick; and
- Allow employees in high-risk groups or who directly live with/care for a high-risk individual to work in areas without direct public contact.

**Guidance:**

Places of Worship must adhere to moderate mitigation standards and social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Six feet of separation from other individuals not within the same household is recommended. In addition, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced. Individuals 65 years or older, people of all ages with poor control of medical issues like high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or a weakened immune system are at a higher risk for getting very sick or dying from COVID-19 and should strictly adhere to all CDC guidelines, and are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible. The specific requirements and guidelines for operation during this phase are listed below. These requirements and guidelines supplement and do not replace any directives or guidance provided by other state agencies, boards and commissions, or other authorities having jurisdiction. Where

conflicts occur, the stricter of the requirements will apply.

**Occupant Capacity and Building Safety Rules:**

The maximum building capacity during the Phase 2 period is limited to 50% of the normal established capacity and is subject to the social distancing requirements as outlined below. Please note that capacity restrictions should be applied down to the individual room or space, not just overall facilities.

- Do not exceed the maximum building capacity of 50%;
- Seating shall be arranged such that a minimum of 6 feet of distance between persons and small household groups is maintained.
- Limit group seating to persons who are members of the same household.
- Eliminate physical contact as part of services.
- Eliminate gatherings in the building while entering, exiting, or moving about.

Current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces, as well as high-touch surfaces, followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings.

- Refer to OSFM Interpretive Memorandum 2020-24 for guidelines addressing Outdoor Services.

**The entire guideline provided by the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Department of Health can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/37iSrwl>**

## CHURCH TODAY



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### A statement from Archbishop Aymond on the Death of George Floyd

*By Archbishop Gregory Aymond*

The death of George Floyd is indeed a very sad tragedy. We pray for his eternal rest in God's kingdom and consolation for his family and friends.

Mr. Floyd's death reminds us that we are called to believe

in the dignity of each person because each person is created by God. This belief leads to respecting every individual, regardless of race, religion, political affiliation or any other difference.

In the Gospel, there is no room for racism, violence, or hatred. What makes this tragedy even more unconscionable is that a law enforcement officer,

who has pledged to protect and to serve, is the person accused of taking Mr. Floyd's life. No matter who we are or what power we have, Jesus calls us to a deep, abiding respect of every person.

If there are protests, we plead for peaceful nonviolent protests. In several cities, some have protested against violence

but used violence to do so. That does not show respect for the dignity of other people or their property. Revenge should never be a part of our lives; yet, at the same time, we are necessarily angered and saddened by what has taken place in Minneapolis.

Protests should be peaceful and nonviolent.

# Bishops 'sickened' by Floyd's death, say racism 'real and present danger'

By Julie Asher  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The U.S. Catholic bishops said May 29 they "are broken-hearted, sickened and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our very eyes."

"What's more astounding is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion," they said in a statement about the May 25 death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis.

In recent weeks, Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed 25-year-old African American man in Georgia, was fatally shot, and three white men were arrested and are facing murder charges in his death. In March, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old African American woman, died at the hands of white police officers when they entered her apartment in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient," the bishops said. "It is a real and present danger that must be met head on."

"As members of the church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference," they said. "We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human



**PROTESTORS IN MINNEAPOLIS** gather at the scene May 27, 2020, where George Floyd, an unarmed black man, was pinned down by a police officer kneeling on his back before later dying in the hospital May 25. (CNS photo/Eric Miller, Reuters)

life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice."

"Indifference is not an option," they emphasized and stated "unequivocally" that "racism is a life issue."

The statement was issued by the chairmen of seven committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, including Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism.

Floyd, 46, was arrested by police on suspicion of forgery. Once he was handcuffed, a white officer pinned him down on the street, putting his knee on Floyd's neck for eight minutes.

A now widely circulated video shows Floyd repeatedly saying, "I can't breathe." He appears to lose consciousness or die and was later declared dead at the hospital.

The next day, hundreds of people protested at the intersection where police officers subdued Floyd, demanding justice for him and the arrest of the four officers involved. The officers were fired May 26, and as of midday May 29, local prosecutors filed criminal charges against at least one of the now former officers: the one seen putting his knee on Floyd's neck, identified as Derek Chauvin, was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

The federal Justice Department promised a "robust" investigation into the circumstances surrounding Floyd's death.

Protests in Minneapolis have turned to violent demonstrations and lasted several days, prompting Gov. Tim Walz to bring in the National Guard May 29. The protests sparked similar rioting in at least a dozen U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver, New York, Louisville, and Columbus, Ohio.

The bishops in their statement pointed to their "Open Wide Our Hearts" pastoral against racism approved by the body of bishops

in 2018. In it, they said, "For people of color, some interactions with police can be fraught with fear and even danger. People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives."

In their May 29 statement, the committee chairmen called for an end to the violence taking place in the wake of tragedy in Minneapolis but also said they "stand in passionate support of communities that are understandably outraged."

They joined with Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis in praying for the repose of the soul of Floyd "and all others who have lost their lives in a similar manner."

In anticipation of the feast of Pentecost, May 31, they called on all Catholics "to pray and work toward a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit" and pray "to rid ourselves of the harm that bias and prejudice cause."

"We call upon Catholics to pray to the Holy Spirit for the spirit of truth to touch the hearts of all in the United States and to come down upon our criminal justice and law enforcement systems," the bishops said, urging every Catholic, regardless of ethnicity, to "beg God to heal our deeply broken view of each other, as well as our deeply broken society."

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The full text of the bishops' 2018 pastoral against racism, "Open Wide Our Hearts," can be found online at <https://bit.ly/2XLbpYv>.

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

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

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

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

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

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## Reporting beyond the good news

It's true that when it comes to Catholic communications, there is a lot of emphasis placed on spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through the evangelization of our faith.

It's equally true, however, that sometimes the news we need to share isn't always good. It isn't uplifting or inspiring, and it can even be outright devastating and painful to those who have silently carried its burdens for far too long. That is why this type of news, no matter how difficult it may be for us to acknowledge, must still be shared in the spirit of fostering open and transparent communications, so that we may also foster the hope that help and change will guide the wounded along the path of healing that they need.

Friends, the time we are living in is unprecedented. Events and happenings can



### Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina  
Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

leave us feeling lost, confused, misunderstood, or worse yet, hopeless.

But, enter Acts chapter 2.

*Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

*Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each*

*one heard them speaking in the native language of each.*

These people in the crowd heard each other, despite being from different lands, backgrounds, nations. They understood each other, bewildered at the Truth they heard.

If you and I ever wonder how to speak to each other to hear Truth, if we ever wonder how to minister to each other about the goodness of God, about injustice, about mercy, about love, it can only be accomplished through the Holy Spirit. He is our shared

language.

We have to make space for Him to come into each of our lives, to transform us, to change us from the inside out to live the mission of speaking to each other and the world about His redemption, His faithfulness, His presence.

Make space with me. Let's make space for Him to come and change every single aspect of our lives and purify our Church and our world from the inside of our hearts out.

We need to be purified. Each

one, all together, with our seats at the table as we walk into Ordinary Time from Pentecost Sunday. Let's let the Holy Spirit into our lives to captivate us, convert us, cleanse us so that we can finally have the language to speak to each other, to hear each other, to witness to the Gospel alongside each other.

The apostles felt alone, scared, and unsure, just like many of us do in the midst of sin, death, and confusion.

But Jesus does not let them down. And, He does not let us down. His promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled, right there, in the Upper Room, on that day of Pentecost, and the world was changed forever.

Do it again, Lord. On this day, change the world through us.

Let it be done according to Your word.

## Limit on number of Masses / Who created COVID-19?

**Q.** During the current pandemic, given the limitation on attendance imposed by civil authorities, we are planning to hold simultaneous Masses in our church and parish hall. We anticipate having to hold a total of 11 weekend Masses, but there are only 2 priests assigned to our parish, with another one coming to help on a regular basis.

So, my question is this: Can a bishop dispense from the limitation by which a priest may celebrate only two Masses on a particular Sunday? (San Jose, California)

**A.** The governing statute in this regard is Canon 905 in the church's Code of Canon Law. It provides that, in normal circumstances, a priest is permitted to celebrate Mass only once a day. However, directly to your question, that same canon also says, "If there is a shortage of priests, the local ordinary can allow priests to celebrate twice a day for a just cause, or if pastoral necessity requires it, even three times on Sundays or holy days of obligation."

Also, of course, a Saturday afternoon or evening vigil Mass can be celebrated, which fulfills the Sunday obligation. And note, by the way, that many



### Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

dioceses have now extended the dispensation from required attendance while the coronavirus pandemic persists.

So, in regard to your own parish, with three priests, and the bishop's permission, you should be able to cover the 11 weekend Masses. I will say, from my own experience, that such a schedule will be wearing on the priests involved, so I would hope it won't need to endure for very long.

**Q.** In a recent letter to our archdiocesan paper -- *The Catholic Sentinel* -- someone wrote that: "In regard to COVID-19, there is no evidence that God had anything to do either with its development or with its dispersal." There's an obvious problem with theology here. Was COVID-19 self-existent? Or did God create it? (Tigard, Oregon)

**A.** The human origin of the coronavirus is disputed; among

the theories are that it originated in bats and was subsequently passed to humans, that it came from a seafood market in China or that it was engineered in a biolab and accidentally released. Whatever account one ascribes to, we are still left with this question: Why would a loving God let this happen?

That is the age-old "problem of evil," which theologians have grappled with for centuries, and the most honest answer is: "We just don't know." In March, a large sign in Dallas asked: "Is the coronavirus a judgment from God?" My answer would be "No," and I would call both Jesus and Pope Francis as my witnesses.

Remember in the Gospel of John (9:1-7) when Jesus was asked about the blind man, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Christ's response was: "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." In a meditation that he offered recently, Pope Francis said of the coronavirus that this is not a time of God's judgment but of our judgment, "a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not."

The pontiff lauded health care workers and all those who are praying for victims of the coronavirus; in the midst of this crisis, the pope noted, God is calling people to faith -- not just believing that God exists, but turning to him and trusting him.

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



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Diocese of Alexandria  
on Spotify

# Congratulations to our new transitional deacons

Seminarians Robert Johnson and Thomas Kennedy were ordained as Transitional Deacons on May 16 at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

Johnson and Kennedy were ordained with 10 other men, ordained to serve the people of New Orleans, Memphis, Tororo, and Yendi.

Though the ordination was closed to the public due to coronavirus concerns, the ordination Mass can still be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2AO1Y2O>.

Please join us in praying for and offering our thanks and gratitude to these men who have chosen this very special vocation of service to the people of our Diocese.



## Clergy Appointments



**Rev. Mr. Robert Alexander Johnson**

appointed Deacon for diaconal ministry in St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Cottonport

**Effective June 1, 2020  
- October 11, 2020**



**Rev. Mr. Bobby Jackson "Thomas" Kennedy**

appointed Deacon for diaconal ministry in St. Mary Parish, Winnsboro

**Effective June 1, 2020  
- October 11, 2020**



**Rev. John Brocato**

appointed Chaplain to the Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. This appointment is in addition to his present assignment as Chaplain to the Louisiana Air Force National Guard.

**Effective August 4, 2020**



*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 July**

**Our Families**  
We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect, and guidance.

*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.

# The Church Today celebrates 50 years of evangelization

On Dec. 3, 1954, the first issue of the *North-Central Louisiana Register* arrived in mail boxes throughout the Diocese of Alexandria as the first Catholic newspaper for the diocese. This first issue marked the beginning of the Catholic Press in central Louisiana.

Its predecessor, the *Catholic Action of the South*, covered news and events from the Diocese of New Orleans, but was available to people in the diocese.

## The Register's Early Days

Father Marvin Bordelon was the first editor and managing director of the *Register*, a position he held until 1958 when he was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Shreveport. The late Monsignor A. Olinger, pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, served as business manager. As bishop of the

Diocese of Alexandria, Charles P. Greco was named president of the *Register*.

"Getting out this first issue has been most exciting," wrote Father Bordelon in his first column titled, *Week by Week*. "Three weeks ago, we looked at three empty offices in the Chancery Building on East Texas Avenue. Three days before our first deadline, Msgr. Olinger asked me how our first issue was coming... well, I'm glad it did come out."

And, it's a wonder how that first issue was published! There were two sections of the North-Central Louisiana Register - four pages of diocesan stories and pictures, and ten pages of national news. The local edition was written in Alexandria (typed on one borrowed manual typewriter), and sent via air mail, special



**FIRST CHURCH TODAY.** The very first issue of the Church Today newspaper, published January 26, 1970

delivery on a 7:50 a.m. flight out of Alexandria on Monday morning, arriving in Denver, CO. at 10:00 a.m. that same morning.

The layouts (designed pages of copy, headlines, pictures, and ads) were created by the Denver staff, under the supervision of Frank Morris, and then printed, packaged, and loaded onto a train on Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. The printed papers arrived at the Alexandria Post Office on Thursday night, ready for mailing on Friday.

## The local Register takes shape

Although only four-pages in length, the first issue was filled with local diocesan news, features, and advertisements.

"Our diocesan **Register** will carry important religious news of home and of the world, actual Church history enacted by clergy and laity, pronouncements by our Holy Father and other church leaders, leading articles of live interest, editorials by competent writers, religious instruction, Bible lessons, stories from the Old and New Testaments in pictures, a woman's corner, household hints, a page of good comics - all this and more," wrote Bishop Greco in the first issue. "Your new weekly [paper] will be as good a Catholic newspaper

as any in the land."

There were no paid staff members, but volunteers like Mrs. Jack Hubley, Miss Johnnie Fletcher, and Mrs. Jewel Casteix, assisted Fr. Bordelon in writing articles.

"[They] have been a tremendous help these past few weeks," wrote Fr. Bordelon. "Had it not been for them, I assure you, we would not have appeared in print this week."

Advertisements, representing businesses in Avoyelles, Rapides, and Natchitoches, were sold by the first advertising salesman, Noah Chatelain. Most of the businesses in the first issue are no longer in business, except Kramer Funeral Home in Alexandria, and Hixson (now Hixson Ducote) Funeral Home in Bunkie, which advertised in that first issue and are still loyal advertisers today.

## A new editor

On June 27, 1958, Reverend Murray Clayton was appointed the new editor and Reverend Joseph Kidd (chancellor), the new business manager. Fr. Bordelon was assigned to St. Joseph parish in Shreveport, and Fr. Clayton was a young priest ordained only a year earlier.

"It was a sad day for me," joked Fr. Clayton, "the day I found out I was going to be the new editor. Why me? I didn't know a thing about journalism or what 'putting the paper to bed' meant. My dream was to be a missionary in Mexico, but Bishop Greco told me that 'Alexandria needed me more than Mexico.'"

As it turned out, he received a lot of guidance and instruction from Fr. Bordelon before he left. And, from the first issue, written four years earlier, the paper had grown to a staff of two priests and five full-time employees.

An 18-year-old Judy Michiels began working after school to help out with filing and



**FIRST STAFF OF THE CHURCH TODAY.** A page out of the January 26, 1970 issue of the new Church Today newspaper featuring the staff of Fr. Murray Clayton, editor; Al Nassif, assistant editor, Jeannette Ashley, advertising and Judy Michiels, secretary.

## 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.

**Petrus**  
**FEED & SEED**

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442-2325

typing articles. Jeannette Ashley helped out by selling advertising and keeping up with circulation. Miss Betty Ponthieux served as editorial secretary, and Octave DesForges, Jr. as advertising representative.

Mary Lou Suhor, a seasoned journalist who taught journalism at Loyola in New Orleans quickly became his right hand man.

“She was the ‘assistant editor,’ but in reality, she taught me everything,” said Fr. Clayton. “I wrote a column, but spent much of my time learning how to be an editor. It was a lot harder than I ever imagined.”

Fr. Clayton quickly learned the ropes and served as editor of the paper for the next 17 years.

**The Church Today is born**

Big changes came to the Catholic newspaper in Jan. 1970, when the paper changed its name from the *North-Central Register* to the *Church Today*. On Jan. 26, 1970, the very first issue of the *Church Today* newspaper

was published and mailed to subscribers in the Diocese of Alexandria.

The new undertaking, to be published monthly, was comprised of 10-12 pages, full newspaper size, and contained mostly feature and picture stories, and articles centering on activities and persons within the Diocese.

Increases in printing costs were cited as the principal factor for the change, with a growing number of dioceses in the United States having either ceased printing diocesan papers altogether or having reduced the number of issues per year that they published.

Fr. Murray Clayton, editor of the paper for the previous 11 years, continued as editor and business manager, but Al Nassif, a seasoned sports writer from the *Town Talk*, joined the staff as associate editor.

Nassif was a journalist by profession and had more than 20 years experience as a sports and



**MOVING FORWARD.** Today, the Communications Office has an active presence online at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org), as well as a growing community on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DioceseOfAlexandria](http://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfAlexandria)). We continue to learn how to best communicate with the people of our diocese, and hope to better be able to serve each member of our community through print and online media.

news writer for the *Alexandria Daily Town Talk*. His experience, coupled with his many contacts in the community and his deep Catholic faith, made him a perfect asset to the staff.

By January 1975, Bishop Greco released Fr. Clayton from his duties as editor and appointed him to St. Joseph Church in Shreveport. Nassif moved up and assumed the role of editor. By this time, the three-year old *Church Today* newspaper had a staff of five people - Nassif, Judy Michiels Moreau as secretary, Jeannette Ashley as advertising representative, and two writers.

Between 1978 and 1988, the newspaper industry underwent a major technology transformation. Prior to 1978, newspapers required the services of several people to set type, manually layout ads and design pages using cutting and pasting, and pictures were still being developed with film. Being the traditional news editor that he was, Nassif continued to embrace his manual, and later electric typewriter to write all of the news stories, while the new computer technology of pagination (designing page

layouts on computer) was delegated to outside publishers. He eventually began using the computer in the 1990's.

Nassif served as editor of the *Church Today* for 30 years, covering a wide array of events including the death of Bishop Greco in 1987. His failing health caused him to go part-time in 1999, and sadly, Al Nassif died in 2000, after a long illness.

In the next five years, three people served as editor including Kay Yerby, Ann Vanderslice, and Mark Adams. Even though each editor did not serve long, major strides were made in the *Church Today* office, upgrading equipment, and ushering in the new computer technology that was now available.

When Jeannie Petrus was named the 7th editor of the *Church Today* in 2005, Judy Michiels Moreau McClaran was still working as secretary, and Jeannette Ashley was still selling ads for the paper - a career that both loyally worked for 50 years. Both Moreau and Ashley retired in 2008, with a combined 98 years of service to the Catholic Press in central Louisiana.

Today, the *Church Today* is published monthly and mailed, free of charge, to every Catholic household in the diocese, a decision made by Bishop Ronald Herzog in 2006.

**Moving forward**

In 2018, the *Church Today* office was restructured as the Office of Communications for the Diocese of Alexandria. Cari Terracina was named Publications Manager, and Joan Ferguson the Multi-media manager.

In spite of the new technology, the change in names, and the change in editors, the ultimate purpose is to advance the mission and vision of evangelization and continuing Christian formation along with communicating the activities of the diocese through the use of print and online media.

This year we have all had to embrace online technologies like no other time in the history of the Church. And in the future, we will continue to learn and strive to reach the people of the diocese and our communities, young and old, where they are, in the best way that we can.

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Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

## Route to reconciliation

By Father Taylor Reynolds  
Guest Contributor

St. Rose of Lima, the first saint of the New World, had a unique friend: St. Martin de Porres, who was called the "Apostle of Charity." Not only was he a man, but he was born of a white father and African American mother. He was a very holy, humble young man who was discriminated against greatly. He was unable to enter the Dominicans at first because at that time, blacks could not profess vows. Slavery was present in that time and society and the slaves were seen as property. However, he was able to volunteer at the Church and eventually he was allowed to make his vows.

St. Rose loved him immensely. They would spend long hours visiting together, praying together, and discussing the things of heaven together. Neither sexual attraction nor skin color factored into their friendship. Rather like a bee that takes pollen from different flowers of various color and variety is able to make a wonderful honey from their unique pollens, so too with them. The Holy Spirit, as he did at Pentecost, is the bee that makes the honey in the Church. We are called to be a unity of diversity. Each loving the other in their difference, yet being united in our oneness.

These days of racism have been distressing and they should make us all sad. No man, no person deserves to be treated



**ROUTE TO RECONCILIATION.** St. Rose of Lima and St. Martin des Porres are depicted above. Artwork by Elizabeth Michalski.

inhumanely. Human respect, as with all things that consist of the 'common good' of society, is a good that is increased when shared in and distributed - not decreased.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "Respect for the human person entails respect for the rights that flow from his dignity as a creature. These rights are prior to society and must be recognized by it. They are the basis of the moral legitimacy of every authority: by flouting them, or refusing to recognize them in its positive

legislation, a society undermines its own moral legitimacy. If it does not respect them, authority can rely only on force or violence to obtain obedience from its subjects. It is the Church's role to remind men of good will of these rights and to distinguish them from unwarranted or false claims" (CCC 1930).

Crimes of justice are wrong no matter who is affected. Racism is a sin against justice in that it leads us to hatred and undermining the good of another person due to their race or color. Anti-racism is a basic duty for every person, not

just the religious. Again, pointing back to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "every form of social or cultural discrimination must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design" (CCC 1935).

It is our duty to see every person as a brother or sister, and the only enemy is the devil.

However, we must remember also that the fundamental root of this hatred is a fruit of original sin which divided not only man with God, but also man from his community. Hence, if we try by our own philosophies and

projects to bring about justice and vindication, we can create greater wounds and more division.

**What can we do to respond to these issues? Here are a few steps:**

**1) Get reconciled with God.** In order to try to reconcile our world, we have to start with ourselves. God is the author of all peace and we have to get right with Him. If has been some time since you have gone to confession, go! Confess any discrimination or judgment. Become a person of prayer for peace. We have to remove our own sins, for as Jesus said, "Remove the beam from your own eye before you try to remove the splinter from someone else" (Matthew 7:5).

**2) Start small.** Mother Teresa said "If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family." Loving our families forms the 'first cell of society' and shows us how to love those in our community by first showing us how to love our closest relatives. The family is a natural school in which to teach about dignity and respect that comes from who you are, since parents love their kids as kids, not because of what they can do. Also, having healthy discussions in your family with your children about the differences in the world and the love and respect they should have for every human person.

See RECONCILIATION, page 20

*I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.*

Psalm 145: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for July 5

### 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/](http://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.



# Catholics urged to remember priests as 'spiritual fathers' on Father's Day

By Catholic News Service



OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) -- Stories of the Catholic priests' "creativity," sacrifice, and compassionate service" during this time of the coronavirus have inspired an effort led by the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha to recognize and celebrate "these spiritual fathers" on Father's Day, which is June 21.

These priests are among "the front-line workers, especially during the pandemic and social unrest, who continue to inspire us as we witness their selfless acts," said a June 8 news release.

The institute said it is calling on all people to remember their spiritual fathers by sending Father's Day wishes via a card, email, text or phone call "as an expression of gratitude for all they have and continue to do -- especially for reminding us of God's abundant graces as we navigate these challenging times."

"We have so many reasons to say thank you. The pandemic and social unrest have definitely underscored our need for happy, healthy, holy priests," Mary Buttell, president of the Institute for Priestly Formation, said in a statement. "Our priests are among the many selfless front-line responders. We thought Father's Day offered the perfect opportunity for people to express

their appreciation."

Over the past several weeks, she said, the institute has heard story after story of its alumni who have found creative ways to hear confessions in parking lots during the nation's lockdown because of COVID-19.

They have livestreamed Masses to their congregations as well as consoled "disappointed couples and grief-stricken families who were allowed only 10 people to attend their wedding or funeral services," she said.

Priests also have offered support to those who have lost their livelihood due to the shutdown and been on call to anoint COVID-19 patients "and then isolate so as not to put

anyone else's health at risk," Buttell added. Priests also are ministering at this time to victims of violence, she said.

"Everyone appreciates being appreciated," she said. "So, we hope many, many people will reach out to their priests and let them know they make a difference and that their work is appreciated."

The Institute for Priestly Formation, [www.priestlyformation.org](http://www.priestlyformation.org), offers spiritual resources to priests. It also runs an annual nine-week summer program on the campus of Jesuit-run Creighton University's campus in Omaha to enhance spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians from the

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U.S. and Canada.

When it was founded 25 years ago this year, the Institute said it had six seminarians for its program, and to date it has served

more than 3,000 seminarians and more than 1,000 priests from 165 U.S. dioceses and 55 international dioceses.



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### 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](http://foryourvocation.org)

## Parish Spotlight: St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie Established 1915

The story of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Bunkie reaches back into the last decades of the nineteenth century when Catholic families arrived in the newly established township located in the Tenth Ward of Avoyelles Parish. In 1882 the Texas and Pacific Railroad established a water station for locomotives running north to south from Shreveport to New Orleans. This stop was located in the geographic center of the state and a small township named Bunkie began to develop around the railroad station.

By 1888 the community had grown and Catholic residents were requesting services of priests from Cottonport, Hessmer, Mansura, and Plaquemine. The French speaking Catholics had moved to Bunkie from these communities and when a priest was needed, the families would often contact pastors from their “home” parishes with the request to come to Bunkie for Masses, weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

Throughout the 1890s, a large influx of Italian immigrants made Bunkie their home. These Catholic families quickly became recognized as farmers, merchants, grocers, shoe makers, and restaurateurs. So numerous

and active were the Italian Catholic ladies that two altar societies had to be established – one for the French and another for the Italians. Both groups of ladies made significant contributions to the progress of the Catholic community in the predominantly Protestant town.

By 1901, Father Alphonse Blomme, pastor of Hessmer, was regularly travelling by horse to celebrate Mass in Bunkie. Since there was no chapel in the community, Masses were offered at the homes of Gervais Scallan and J.P.W.S. Aymond. So many of the faithful attended these liturgies that individuals and families would often find themselves standing on front porches and lawns of homes while Mass was being offered in the dining or living rooms with doors and windows open for all to hear.

With the growing number of Catholic families, the need for a chapel was apparent. Captain Alex M. Haas donated a large lot to the Catholic community for this purpose. By the end of 1901, the chapel was built and dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua. This name was chosen at the request of Mrs. Alex M. Haas because she attributed the conversion of her husband to the



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE. Established in 1915.

intercession of Saint Anthony. With their new chapel, Bunkie Catholics continued to progress in number and stature in the Bunkie community.

In 1916, Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven assigned Father Leopold Van Lint as the first resident pastor of Saint Anthony Parish. He was sent with the vision of building a formidable church in the community. For ten years this young priest worked and planned with the congregation for the building of their new church. One of his first acts was to purchase a large parcel of land at the corner of Holly and Saint John Streets for the location of the new church.

By 1925, plans by noted New Orleans architect William R. Burk were accepted for the construction of a large brick church in the Romanesque style. It was to feature a 100 foot bell tower and was to seat five hundred worshippers.

continued on next page

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

Luke 8:8 | Responsorial Psalm for July 12

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**Catholic Trivia**

???

**Which Servant of God stated the following:**

*“The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us?”*

**Answer on page 20.**

**St. Anthony, continued from page 10**

The impressive structure was completed by E.E. Rabalais Contracting, Inc. at the cost of \$50,000. The dedication of the new church was celebrated on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1926.

Sadly, Father Van Lint did not live to see the church completed. He died of a massive coronary on February 22, 1926. His death was noted by every resident of the town of Bunkie. He had been a pastor to all – Catholic and Protestant alike. Bishop Van de Ven gave permission for him to be buried below the location of the high altar in the sanctuary. At the time of the funeral, it was revealed that the magnificent altar that was to be placed in the church had been purchased by him as his donation to the building effort.

In 1931 Monsignor J.V. Plauche welcomed the Sisters of Divine Providence from San Antonio, Texas for the opening of a new Catholic school in Bunkie. It quickly became the pride of the parish as the students

established a Sodality of Our Lady, a Junior Holy Name Society, a band and mixed choir, a 4-H Club, The French Club, The National BETA Club and numerous sports teams that have remained successful through the decades. The school is nearing its 90th anniversary of operation and is currently served by Mrs. Aimee Hayes, Principal, and fourteen faculty members.

By 1957, Bishop Charles P. Greco established the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist for the Diocese of Alexandria. Their cause was to “do all good things in service of Christ.” The motherhouse for the order was located in Bunkie and four brothers joined the religious sisters at Saint Anthony School. The brothers and sisters remained at the school until the demise of religious in late 1970s. In its best years, the Brothers of the Holy Eucharist had forty men in formation. They served in multiple parishes in Monroe, Natchitoches, Bunkie, Marksville, Cottonport, Mansura, and Plaquemine.

Over the last seventy years, Saint Anthony Parish has raised numerous vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Sister Mary Bordelon, Sister Eileen Ducote and Sister June Ducote entered the Sisters of Divine Providence. Fathers Bobby Ducote, Gerald Bordelon, Joseph Montalbano, Scott Chemino, Taylor Reynolds, and Adam Lemoine, O.P. are all native sons of the parish.

Parish life remains vibrant in multiple ministries and services that assist the community. The Mother Bettini Thrift Center operates as a mission to the needy with clothing and household furnishings. The Saint Anthony Helping Hands Food Pantry provides grocery assistance to over thirty families each week, made possible through the continuous donations of food goods by the parishioners.

Saint Anthony Parish remains ever grateful to the presence and service of numerous parish organizations including: Saint Anthony Council #2395 Knights of Columbus, Father Ryan Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Court Saint Anthony #968 Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Saint Anthony Ladies Altar Society, Ladies Auxiliary of Saint Peter Claver, the Legion of Mary, a Perpetual Adoration Chapel, separate adult and children’s choirs, two Rosary leagues, and over forty faithful altarboys.

The parish pastoral and finance councils are currently working with Father Chemino for a major refurbishing of the interior of the church. This goal is set for the 2025-26 centennial celebration of the building of this beautiful structure. The parish is considering proposals from Conrad Schmidt Studios of New Berlin, Wisconsin, noted church interior specialists in America. With these plans and the continued dedication of so many parishioners at Saint Anthony in Bunkie, it is certain to remain one of the fine parishes of the Diocese of Alexandria.

**DIAPERS FOR HAITI.** Mother Superior, Sister James, is pictured above with a diaper from the very first shipment.



## Diapers for Haiti

Imagine going for a simple dental cleaning only to end up making over 500 diapers for children in Haiti.

This is exactly what happened to Sheri Strange and her family. Knowing that Dr. Jeffrey Seiler, DDS, and his staff takes mission trips to Haiti, setting up dental clinics and being of service to the local communities, Strange asked Dr. Seiler’s dental assistant - mission trip team leader - about their most recent trip.

“Alice explained the Sisters of Charity’s need for diapers. One thing led to another, and I found myself trying to figure out how to get some diapers made!”

With the help of a number of

ladies, and many donated t-shirts, and over the past two years, the group has been able to make about 500 diapers so far. The diapers are sent to the Sisters of Charity Intermediate Care Facility in Kobonal, Haiti.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with nearly 60% of its 10.8 million people living in poverty. Households lack food, clean water, health care, and education. The facility takes in sick children, mostly due to malnourishment complications. Once the children are nursed back to health, they are returned to their families. The Sisters of Charity serve these children and the community tirelessly. The area is extremely poverty stricken and the care facility is in tremendous need of diapers.

Diapers are made from donated t-shirts, with small, medium, and large templates available.

Anyone interested in making these diapers can view the tutorial videos at <http://pages.suddenlink.net/stranges/diapersforhaiti/>, or email [diapersforhaiti@outlook.com](mailto:diapersforhaiti@outlook.com). The group is also collecting t-shirts. New or used t-shirts can be dropped off in the basket at the entrance of St. Frances Xavier Cathedral or a dropoff donation coordinated by emailing the email address above.



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*For all  
who seek  
Christ...*

**ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Twenty-eight children at St. Frances Cabrini Church celebrated their First Holy Communion Mass on June 11.



**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** OLPS was able to celebrate First Communion the nights of May 26, 27 and 29. The three classes were divided and combined with CCD classes for each evening's ceremonies. At Communion time the communicants proceeded forward and received their First Communion with their parents by their sides.



**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS, AVOYELLES PARISH.** Newly elected officers of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Padre Pio #2141 from St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport were installed at a District Installation and Workshop on June 6 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church Community Center in Marksville. Father Rusty Rabalais, pastor, installed officers from four different courts in the district. From left to right are Vickie Mayeux, Regent; Sharon Lemoine Juneau, Vice-Regent; Father Rusty Rabalais; Colleen Armand, Treasurer; Irma Andress, Financial Secretary; Andrée Brouillette, Recording Secretary.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH, WINNFIELD.** May Crowning was held on May 31 at OLL Winnfield. [redacted] crowned the Blessed Mother.

Visit  
[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)  
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for photo  
submission guidelines.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, ALEXANDRIA.** Adult Confirmation was held on May 31 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Pictured from left to right, front: Roland Simons, Deacon Richard Mitchell, Father Jim Ferguson, Deacon Luke White and Cobi Doyle. Back row: Jason Martin and Tanya Townsend.

The Diocese of Alexandria continues to support each other, celebrate the sacraments, and grow in Christ.



**2020 CHRISM MASS AND PRIEST JUBILEE.** The Chrism Mass and acknowledgement of Priest Jubilee anniversaries was celebrated on May 27. Normally, the Chrism Mass is held during Holy Week, with all the priests of the diocese present, manifesting the unity of the priests with their bishop. Here the bishop blesses three oils: the oil of catechumens (oleum catechumenorum or oleum sanctorum), the oil of the infirm (oleum infirmorum), and holy chrism (sacrum charisma) - which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year. Above, seminarian Blaine Phillips reads the First Reading, and Archbishop Gregory Aymond blesses the oils.



**ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA.** Congratulations to the graduates of the Cabrini Kindergarten and 8th grade classes! Your school family is so proud of each one of you!



**ST FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO.** Students from St. Francis de Sales Church of Echo made their First Holy Communion on Thursday, June 18. Left to right: Grayson G█████, Ayan H█████, Landon D█████, Ava H█████, Emmilin H█████, and Nathan L█████. Also pictured are Ms. Gwen Dauzat and Fr. Dwight De Jesus.

**ST FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO.** Students from St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo made their Confirmation on Wednesday, June 17. Left to right: Sydney E█████, Macie L█████, Fr. Dwight De Jesus, Mallory H█████, and Jace B█████.

# Catechesis is about a relationship, not just information, Vatican says

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Teaching the faith is a work of evangelization meant to lead people to a deeper relationship with Jesus and not just impart information, said the updated "Directory for Catechesis."

The directory, released by the Vatican June 25, lists the goals and essential elements of catechesis and is meant to guide the drafting of national catechisms and catechetical directories that take into account specifics of the local culture and the needs of Catholics at different ages and stages of life.

Previous versions of the directory were approved in 1971 by St. Paul VI and in 1997 by St. John Paul II.

The directory was released in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and French; the English and other translations were still being prepared as of June 25.

The updated content, according to the foreword, responds specifically to Pope Francis' 2013 exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), and to the 2012 meeting of the Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization.

Like the previous versions, the directory insists on catechetical programs that teach the basics of Christian faith: God's love for each person; salvation in Jesus Christ; belief in the Trinity; and "the definitive call to gather scattered humanity into the church," bringing people into communion with God and fostering unity among them.

While the 1997 directory insisted parishes provide suitable catechesis for members with physical or developmental disabilities, the updated directory expands the discussion to preparation for the sacraments.

"Persons with disabilities are called to the fullness of sacramental life, even in the presence of serious ailments," it said. "The sacraments are the gifts of God and the liturgy, before being understood rationally, is meant to be lived. Therefore, no one can refuse the sacraments to persons with disabilities."

The revised directory also includes expanded sections on



**CATECHETICAL CAMP.** Counselor Joe Leoncavallo leads a classroom session during a catechetical camp at St. John of God Church in Central Islip, N.Y.

catechesis tailored for migrants and refugees, for immigrants and for people who are incarcerated.

Because the faith is lived in human communities, it said, catechesis must take into account the challenges and problems of the societies in which Catholics live and should draw on Catholic social teaching, which applies Gospel values to social, political and economic questions.

"Catechesis participates in the church's challenge to oppose processes centered on injustice, exclusion of the poor and the primacy of money in order to be a prophetic sign" of promoting a full and dignified life for all people, it said.

The new directory also significantly expands the 1997 directory's entries on ecumenism, relations with

Judaism and relations with other religions.

"Especially in contexts where the divisions among Christians are more visible," it said, catechesis should "take care to affirm that the divisions are a serious wound that contradict the will of the Lord and that Catholics are called to participate actively in the ecumenical movement, especially with their prayers."

Technology, social media, online learning and biomedical questions -- referenced only in passing in the 1997 directory -- are treated in more depth, but always recalling that simply because something is technically possible does not mean it is ethically acceptable.

In other modern issues, the directory said that "a widespread position about what today is

presented under the title 'gender' calls into question the revealed fact: 'Male and female he created them.'"

The position, it said, holds that a person's gender "is no longer an originating fact which the person must accept and fill with meaning, but rather a social construct which one determines autonomously, totally unconnected to biological sex. The person denies his or her nature and decides to create it for him- or herself."

"The church is well aware of the complexity" some people face regarding their sexual identity, the directory said. "It does not judge people but calls for them to be accompanied always and in every situation. However, it is aware that, from the perspective of faith, sexuality is not only a physical fact, but a personal reality, a value entrusted to the responsibility of the person."

"Sexual identity and lived experience must be a response to the original call of God," it said.

The 1997 directory had a paragraph on "environmental catechesis," which referred to the fact that people living in a rural or urban environment may have different experiences of nature, of poverty and of faith.

The new directory has a section on "catechesis and ecological commitment," emphasizing how faith in God the creator implies a responsibility to care for all that God created.

"A catechesis sensitive to safeguarding creation will promote a culture of attention both to the environment and to the people who inhabit it," the directory said.

In 2013, now-retired Pope Benedict XVI shifted responsibility for catechesis from the Congregation for Clergy to the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization.

In the updated directory, the link between catechesis and the new evangelization is clear and it calls for a "missionary transformation" of catechism programs.

"Evangelization occupies the primary place in the life of the church and in the everyday teaching of Pope Francis. It could not be otherwise," Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the

pontifical council told reporters June 25.

"Evangelization is the task that the Risen Lord has entrusted his church," he said. "To ignore this premise would be tantamount to making the Christian community one of just many meritorious associations, strong in its 2,000 years of history, but not the church of Christ."

Among its guiding principles, the directory listed the church's "firm trust in the Holy Spirit, who is present and acts in the church, in the world and in the hearts of men and women." That affirmation, it said, should bring joy, serenity and a sense of responsibility to all who are called to teach the faith.

The directory also insists that while faith is born of a personal encounter with Jesus, that encounter takes place through and grows within the community of the church, that every baptized Catholic is responsible for sharing the faith and that belief always must give rise to witness through acts of charity.

And while church teaching does not change from continent to continent, the way it is proposed and explained will be most effective only if it considers the language, culture, age and experience of those listening, it said.

"The Gospel is not addressed to an abstract person, but to each real, concrete, historic person who is living in a particular situation and marked by psychological, social, cultural and religious dynamics," the directory said.

Effective catechesis also must be adapted to each person's age and state of life, it said. "Faith is not a linear process" and each stage of growth can bring new and different challenges and raise new questions about how best to live one's Christian vocation.

And, it said, if faith is a gift that is passed on through and grows in a community, it is especially true of the family, which deserves the assistance and support of the church in carrying out its role as the first and primary teacher of faith.



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# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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

*Please continue to visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://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.*

## VIRTUS Sessions

**Thursday, July 9, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Joseph Church, MARKSVILLE

• **Wednesday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Joseph Catholic Center, ALEXANDRIA

• **Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 p.m.**  
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, NATCHITOCHEs

Face masks **MUST** be worn during the entire session. The session typically lasts 2.5 to 3 hours. Seating will be one (1) person per table (spouses may sit together). A maximum of **ONLY 15** adults will be allowed to attend each session. Minors are not allowed to attend because of the adult content of the videos and discussions.

To register, go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). | For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

*We look forward to welcoming Bishop-elect Robert Marshall to the Diocese of Alexandria soon!*

*More information concerning his ordination and installation date will be included in next month's issue of the Church Today.*

*Please join us in praying for Bishop-elect Marshall.*



## 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/](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/).

# This is my role: I am Catholic

By Kelly Lombardi  
Guest Contributor

And now, the story of a how a white, Catholic, stay-at-home-mother of five small children and one on the way stumbled (with the help of the Holy Spirit) into conviction about the current national conversation over race in our country.

When Black Lives Matter began to cross all of our newsfeeds, I did something I regret. I got very quiet. A life-long people-pleaser and severe over-thinker, my brain was cycling through layers of thoughts all centered on me. I wanted the many people of color in my life to know how much I cared and felt; that I remember the moment I learned what slavery was—the place I sat on the ground in front of the television as a seven-year old watching a movie with my babysitter who was black and an irreplaceable part of every aspect of my family's life. I wanted to say a lot. But I didn't want to come across as saying I knew anything about how it felt to be black in America today. I didn't want to come across as a know-it-all. I didn't want to be seen as just overly emotional. I didn't want to say the wrong thing and offend the people of color in my life and I also didn't want to make any of my white friends uncomfortable. So, I got quiet.

I knew that I had my own personal convictions. I saw that God, in His grace, had always given me the blessing of having meaningful relationships with a diverse community. And I married a man who, no matter what field he has ever worked in, continually lives into a very specific call God has placed on his life: to be hand-in-hand with the downtrodden, to defend the underdog, and to see the oppressed with clear eyes. I used



all of this to calm and convince myself that it was enough; safer and more comfortable for me to stay quiet, I thought. Just live the message of diversity and care for my neighbor in my own little life, and let everyone else do the same in their own. I didn't realize what was being asked of me.

But, here lately, God has been clarifying the request. As we continue to be faced with harsh news of injustice and racial disparity, it's like I'm being drawn into a battle that, because I am white, I have the luxury of choosing to withdraw from. I recently found myself engaged in a deep conversation with someone who actually doesn't believe that black people in our country are being oppressed in large number and it really floored me. I know that this line of thought exists, but I have not allowed myself to engage with it; another luxury for someone like me.

(I'm not here to try to explain racism or oppression, but

I encourage you - if you can't think of a number of times in your life where you have witnessed a person of color be overlooked, discounted, discredited, or mocked because of the color of their skin, please make the effort to read and research as we press into the hard work of healing that is happening in our world and local communities.)

Still, there are those who, no matter what you say, will not see the truth that is right in front of them. Will not feel it. Will not take any ownership. We, as a nation, live in a dysfunctional family. And one thing I've learned is that when you live in a dysfunctional family, everyone plays a role. Everyone. In this conversation I recently had, I found myself exhausted. Saddened. Maddened. Confused. Just altogether outdone.

And, in that, I realized what was being asked of me. I realized that, even though I've held strong convictions in my own heart

about what equality means, I have stood on the sidelines watching while my friends have gone off into the actual battle for it. I realized how tired they must be. And how alone our collective silence must have made them feel. The way I see it, this is perhaps the first time in history that the black community has been this represented; has had this kind of platform and freedom to speak—because of social media and because of the distance we have come as a nation towards racial equality. This is the continuation of the marches and rallies led by civil rights leaders in the 60s. This is our time to listen to what is being felt in the everyday lives of our brothers and sisters. And in order to be productive members of the family, that is exactly what we must do: we must listen.

As a married woman, I've learned this well. When my husband comes to me with something that he feels, I don't listen to react. I don't listen to correct. I don't listen to defend. I listen to hear what is being said by this precious, beloved member of my family, and of the family of God. If we listen now to what our family is saying, we find that our brothers and sisters have been in a

battle. So, this is the request. This is the conviction that the Holy Spirit has led me into. It's what God and my friends are asking of me: will you go into battle?

And I will. And I'm sorry for the times that I haven't.

I don't have answers and I can't say that I'm fully equipped, but I am Catholic. This I know about myself. The older I grow, the more I cling to this identity and the more grateful I become for the guidance of the Church. As Catholics, we need to look at what the Church is saying. We need to read the beautiful letter written by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Open Wide Our Hearts*. I struggled for a time to find my role in all of this. But I see now that this is my role: I am Catholic. And it is so very vibrantly, and radically Catholic to be with the oppressed. In word and deed. I look at Mother Teresa and Dorothy Day. This is our heritage and our identity as Catholics.

Identifying my role in this brought peace. My role is not to unpack the politics of it all, to campaign for one party or another. My role is not to accuse the looters and rioters. My role is not to pick apart affiliations and alignments.

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### 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.



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“Black Lives Matter” has become a rallying cry to unite a people to say something that needs to be said. And while different factions and establishments have formed under the title, the phrase is just that: a phrase. It’s a truth. My role is to stand in the truth with Jesus Who came for the “least of these.” That is the opportunity we have now: to stand with those who have been made to feel less. It is simple truth and if the truth offends, then let it offend. Maybe offense will turn to self-awareness that will grow into change.

As we pray and listen, we experience conviction. That is what a journey with the Lord

looks like. Hopefully, we will be experiencing conviction all of our lives. It’s conviction that leads us to growth in holiness. Where in our lives have we turned a blind eye to the pain of God’s children who are asking us now to hear? To see? I think the prayer is that we can all move forward from these convictions together with “the spirit of the sovereign Lord upon us...to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release from darkness to the prisoners...” (Isaiah 61) and, in doing so, step more fully into our identities as Catholics.

*Kelly Pease Lombardi is a wife, mother of five with one on the way, and worship leader. She is passionate about Jesus and the freedom that He brings.*

*Lord, you are good and forgiving.*

Psalm 86: 5  
Responsorial Psalm  
for July 19



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**The Cross Word**

July 5 and 12, 2020



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**Readings:** Zec 9:9-10/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30  
AND Is 55:10-11/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23

**ACROSS**

- 1 Moses \_ the Hebrews
- 4 Middle East dweller
- 8 Water container
- 11 To be in debt
- 12 Japanese staple
- 13 Veronica wiped
- 14 Eye movement
- 15 Flat and level
- 16 Pear shaped instrument
- 17 Died under water
- 19 Jesus' burden is
- 20 Holds wheat kernels
- 21 Walkway where seeds fell
- 22 Land estate

**25 Banished with horse**

- 26 Wash basin
- 29 An overthrow
- 30 Corruption
- 31 Plateau
- 32 Knows the father
- 33 \_ Francisco
- 34 \_ fruits of the Spirit
- 35 Stop the flow
- 37 Piece of butter
- 38 Public square
- 40 Gospel writer
- 44 Corn State
- 45 Deep cut
- 46 United States
- 47 A pub (2 wds)
- 48 Contemplate

- 49 Licensed practical nurse
- 50 Type of bean
- 51 Level
- 52 Picnic pest

**DOWN**

- 1 \_ of heaven/earth
- 2 Goes with basin at Mass
- 3 Show
- 4 Playing fields
- 5 From here to earth's ends
- 6 Did well
- 7 Big \_
- 8 "Rejoice, \_ Zion"
- 9 Adrenocorticotrophic hormone
- 10 "Justice and peace shall \_"
- 13 Flutter around
- 18 Wail
- 19 Commandment
- 21 Pan's partner
- 22 American Cancer Society (abbr)
- 23 Dove call
- 24 Flees (2 wds.)
- 25 \_ voyage
- 27 Ship initials
- 28 Baseball equipment
- 30 Sacrifice animal
- 31 Baseball glove
- 33 From sea to \_
- 34 The Son knows him
- 36 Russian ruler
- 37 Old-fashioned
- 38 Arrowroot herb
- 39 Spanish for "wolf"
- 40 Hawaiian island
- 41 41D dance
- 42 Sports channel
- 43 "I shall not \_"
- 45 Greenwich Mean Time

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# Online Catholic homeschool conference

## The Catholic Homeschool Conference

Are you new to homeschooling, or right in the thick of it? This conference brings you inspiration, curriculum guidance, help with fostering a healthy marriage, and tools to teach virtues to your children.

### What's in the Catholic Homeschool Conference VIP Pass?

The Catholic Homeschool Conference VIP Pass presents more than 50 vibrant and engaging talks by leading mentors and ministries. They encourage, guide, and teach Catholic families to follow the call to be "the primary educators of their children in the faith."

Talks will be available to participants 24/7, with unlimited access to tools again and again as parents homeschool their children.

#### Premium Pass Details

The VIP Pass to the Catholic Homeschool Conference includes:

- Lifetime, On-demand video access - use this as a treasured toolkit to transform your home into a mini-retreat with family or online with friends



and fellow homeschoolers, past the 3 day live event.

- 50+ speaker video sessions.
- Recordings of the 8 live keynote speakers - listen to Kimberly Hahn, Pam Barnhill, Laura Berquist, Andrew Pudewa, Susie Lloyd, Margaret Berns, John Martignoni, and Mary Ellen Barret.

• Recordings of live Gold Sponsor q&a's.

#### Talk topics center on:

- Homeschool guidance, from how to begin to college preparation
- Marriage and family
- Character and virtue

development for you and your children.

See what others think on each video, and leave your own comments, feedback, or questions. Join the Facebook group to make friends, ask questions, and even meet speakers. And, explore the Exhibitor Hall for Catholic groups to support you!

#### 7 Days Money Back Guarantee

The Catholic Homeschool Conference is so confident that you will be abundantly satisfied with the VIP Pass that they are willing to give you risk-free access for an entire week. Cancel anytime during that first week for a full refund.

The VIP Pass also includes bonus additional freebies, including A Catholic Homeschool Treasury: Nurturing Children's Love for Learning ebook by

Rachel Mackson and Maureen Wittmann, Read Alouds for 8-10 Year Old Girls by Maureen Wittmann, Books Especially for Boys by Maureen Wittmann, The Crash Course Guide to Catholic Homeschooling by Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Scapular Family Activity Packet download, and more.

The long list of speakers includes Margaret Walsh, Mike Aquilina, Eleanor Nicholson, Mike and Alicia Herson, TM Gaouette, Jordan Almanzar, Fr. Simon Baker, Patrick Reilly, Kevin O'Brien, Ginny Seuffert, Paola Ciskanik, Ginny Kochis, Dr. Amy Fahey, Patti Maguire Armstrong, Laura Berquist, Sarah Mackenzie, Ana-Braga-Henebry, Rachel Watkins, Dr. Edward Sri, Haley Stewart, Fr. Donald Calloway, Simon Carrington, Kimberly

Hahn, Jason Evert, Jennifer Mackintosh, Tim Staples, Fr. Mitch Pacwa, Erin M. Brown, MA, MFA; and many more.

Though the conference will be held June 25-27, participants are invited and encouraged to register even after the event date to access all conference sessions and materials for a one-time cost of only \$97. To register, please visit [catholichomeschoolconference.com](http://catholichomeschoolconference.com).

The Catholic Homeschool Conference also boasts an active social media presence, and can be found online at <https://www.facebook.com/Catholic-Homeschool-Conference-102503108172178> and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/catholichomeschool/>.

The conference is dedicated to the Holy Family, and their patron saint is St. Phillip Neri, the patron saint of humor and joy!

*The Catholic Homeschool Conference will be held live June 25-27, but participants are invited to purchase a Premium VIP Pass even after the event is over. For more information or to register, please visit [www.catholichomeschoolconference.com](http://www.catholichomeschoolconference.com).*

## Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

### Do you have a devotion to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

Do you have a desire to learn and become more involved with this vital ministry to and with our indigenous brothers and sisters?

Are you looking for new opportunities to pray, serve and grow alongside believers right in your own community?

You are invited to **COME & SEE** what we're all about!

- Tribal affiliation, though welcome, is not a requirement •

The "Heart of Saint Kateri" Circle meets:

2nd Thursday of each month 5:30 p.m.

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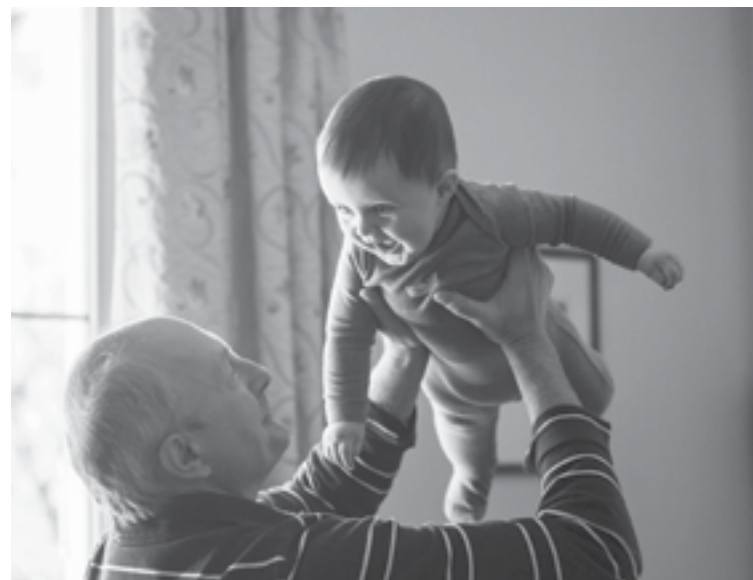
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*Lord,  
I love your  
commands.*

Psalm 119: 97  
Responsorial Psalm  
for July 26

# Prayer for grandparents

*Composed by the late  
Msgr. Joseph Quinn to  
coincide with the First National  
Grandparents' Pilgrimage  
at Our Lady's Shrine, Knock,  
Co. Mayo.*



God of the Ages, we praise and thank you. From generation to generation, You have been our refuge and strength. You give your gifts of grace for every time, place, and season as we strive within the family to walk in Your ways and remain close to one another and to You. We pray that our homes may be schools of faith, where we come to know and to love You. Teach us the sanctity of human love. Show us the value of family life and help us to respect all life. May the young find in the family strong support for their humanity so that they may grow in truth and love. May the elderly experience respect, support, love, and care within the family circle. We give thanks for grandparents, and we pray for them. We give thanks, for they connect us with our heritage and our roots through

the mists of time. We give thanks for their Christian memory which inspires and enlightens us. We give thanks for the example of their faith, for the witness of their lives, for the constancy of their love, for the support of their prayers.

Bless all grandparents and keep them in Your care. Bless them with peace, health, and healing. Reward them for their

Faith and fidelity, for their work and goodness, for their love and thoughtfulness, for their gifts and prayers. Give them a long and happy life together. May old age come to them in the company of family and friends. And when life is over, unite them again, where parting will be no more, in the Kingdom of Your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*A Meditation Before the Blessed Sacrament*



## Heart to Heart

*by Marcus Descant*

O Sacrament most Holy,  
O Sacrament Divine,  
Open your Heart and make me Thine.

Your body was nailed  
And fastened to the Cross,  
You did all this for me who was lost.

Your Heart was pierced,  
And Your blood flowed out;  
By letting this happen I was given  
a new route.

The road to heaven was opened once more,  
It would be hard for the rich,  
but easy for the poor.

The Humble were lifted,  
The proud were down cast,  
If I wish to be first, I must be last.

So to meet Him in Heaven  
on that Great Day,  
I must do as He does,  
And follow His way.

[lizdescant@gmail.com](mailto:lizdescant@gmail.com)

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# Hope Alive: Update on summer youth events

*"Hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." - Romans 5:5*

We've all experienced our fair share of sufferings during these past few months. So much about our lives has changed, and it hasn't been easy. **But through it all, one thing hasn't changed: Jesus Christ is still with us and he loves us beyond measure.**

It pains us that we can't personally support you and all the people who normally come to encounter the life-changing love of Christ at our Steubenville South weekend. Still, that's not going to stop us from being there for you during these difficult times.

**Experience hope alive at the very first virtual Steubenville Youth Conference, Steubenville Live!** Enjoy a virtual event like no other, featuring:

- Live-streamed sessions from Steubenville Florida, no pre-recorded talks
- Opportunities for interaction;
- Powerful worship music;
- And, of course, Jesus will be there, the source of our hope!

*Steubenville Live* will take place on July 17-18, 2020, and will feature the following ministry team:

- **Hosts:** Brian Kissinger and Chris Padgett
- **Worship Leader:** Josh Blakesley



• **Priest:** Fr. Mike Schmitz

• **Speakers:**

Mary Bielski, Michael Gormley, and Oscar Rivera, Jr.

**As an added bonus, everyone who registers for Steubenville Live gets free access to Real Life Catholic's I AM 30-day coaching program.** Chris Stefanick will show you how to put away the shame, insecurity, and fear that is keeping you from living a life full of freedom, joy, and purpose. This program is perfect for individuals, youth groups, and families alike!

Steubenville Live is a Steubenville Youth Conference, so the programming will speak most effectively to the needs of

high schoolers. However, anyone who is interested in hearing dynamic talks on hope and trust, having their faith and heart renewed, and praying with tens of thousands of Catholics across the United States and beyond is invited to join. Registration is open to groups, individuals, and even families to attend together.

To participate in the weekend, please visit <https://store.steubenvilleconferences.com/live/south/> to register, or email [info@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto:info@steubenvillesouth.com) for more information.

Because of the unique nature of *Steubenville Live*, everyone is also invited to attend a webinar on July 9, explaining how to

get the most out of the event. Whether you will view the event as a family, an individual, or a group member, this webinar will explain how you can participate and give you tips on how you can enhance your experience through prayer and small group discussions.

To register for the webinar or to view a list of FAQ's concerning the conference weekend, please visit [steubenvilleconferences.com/live](http://steubenvilleconferences.com/live).

United with Christ and with each other we can restore hope to our world. We hope to see you there!

## RECONCILIATION

Continued from page 10

Talk not only about racism being wrong, but abortion, euthanasia, and all the other issues that they are hearing about in the world. You also can reach out to your own neighbors or people around where you live that may be poor and bring them some needed food, water, or home goods, or even just smile and talk to them.

**3) Get informed.** Learn more about the issues in your areas since each area and culture is different and beautiful but can offer unique strengths and challenges. Look to good Catholic media sources. Fr. Josh Johnson, a black priest from Baton Rouge, has a black father who was a cop and a white mother and he offers a unique perspective. He has a wonderful podcast called "Ask Fr. Josh." He also has videos about racism and reconciliation that are all very good. Another Catholic speaker, Meg Hunter-Kilmer, has been doing research on Black saints and Blesseds in the Church to offer inspirations

from their lives. You can search for her on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter as well as search the hashtag #BlackSaintsnovena for more information.

**4) Be Active.** Take the steps we can to establish equality in our world. We, as Catholics, are called to look after the poor and strive for solidarity and subsidiarity. The issues of human respect are interwoven. We can't support one without the others. For example, there are 9.8 million victims of human trafficking every year of every race, class, color; 56 million people are aborted every year world wide. The human rights issues build on each other so we must first fight and strive to end abortion and oppose the attacks against not just one race, but the human race. Fighting abortion also reminds us that all life is sacred no matter how small, poor, it is, and no condition or life ever takes that dignity away. Then we look after the poor and the alien for equality.

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?? Catholic Trivia Answer ??

Dorothy Day's life and legacy is a radical movement, faithful to the Gospel and the Church, immersed in the social issues of the day, with the aim of transforming both individuals and society. Although Dorothy spurned the suggestion that she was a saint, she took seriously the importance of becoming one; saintly people, she thought, could heal the ills of this world. Dorothy Day provides a contemporary model of the qualities of holiness: solidarity with and service to God's poor, promoting and being willing to suffer for justice, acting in charity, living in community, integrating faith and action through prayer, sacred ritual, and meditation.

Answer: DOROTHY DAY.

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](mailto:lray@diocesealex.org)

Northwestern State University  
Catholic Student Organization  
Phone: 409-749-9971  
[dylan.browning@nsucatholic.org](mailto:dylan.browning@nsucatholic.org)

Louisiana College Catholic Student Organization  
Phone: 318-613-0634  
[lray@diocesealex.org](mailto:lray@diocesealex.org)



**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL, IN MY OWN WORDS.** (ABOVE) Congratulations to Sacred Heart Schools, seventh grade student [REDACTED], son of Jeremy and Amy Lemoine of Plaquemine, LA. [REDACTED] won first place this past fall at the KC Council #2333 level, and now he has won at the Diocesan level for his essay on "America the Beautiful, in my own words." The award was presented by Sacred Heart Church's Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus member Mr. Tim Bordon. [REDACTED] received a certificate and a monetary award.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS.** (LEFT) Catholic Daughter Court Padre Pio of Cottonport announced that [REDACTED] was the recipient of the 12th grade Scholarship Award. She received a check for \$200, and is pictured with her mother, Tina, and grandmother, Elaine Juneau.

**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.

**TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION, VISIT:**  
<https://bit.ly/3g7Jb2g> OR  
 Contact Janet Burgess at 318-445-6424, ext. 234 with any questions.

Position available:

**School Guidance Counselor**

Holy Savior Menard Central High School • 2020-2021 School Year

**Required:**

- Valid Louisiana Elementary/Secondary Certificate
- Completion of a standards-based master's degree program in school counseling preferred.

**Responsibilities include but not limited to:**

- To implement the junior high and high school curriculum of Holy Savior Menard;
- To guide and counsel individuals and groups of students through the development of educational and career paths, which may include:
  - Working with students who have discipline, attendance and academic problems and are referred by teachers, parents or administrators.
  - Ensuring that students are aware of requirements for graduation and college admission, as well as any NCAA requirements that may be necessary for athletic participation.
  - Guiding each student to choose courses consistent with his/her interests and abilities.
  - Helping students develop post-secondary educational plans in accordance with their interests, abilities and career plans and assisting them with the completion of admissions applications.
- To complete other duties as assigned by the administration.

To see a full job description, please visit the Catholic Schools Job Center:  
<https://www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/job-applications/>

Send resume to [cgatlin@holysaviormenard.com](mailto:cgatlin@holysaviormenard.com)

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## Taking Down Giants - June 4 - July 30

Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville 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

## Men's Nocturnal Adoration - July 2-3

The Mens' Monthly Nocturnal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at **St. Frances Cabrini Church** on Thursday, July 2 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending Friday, July 3 at 7:00 a.m. To sign up for an hour please call 445-4588.

## Heart of St. Kateri Circle Meeting - July 9

Our next Heart of St. Kateri Circle meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. at **St. Augustine Church Hall, 2262 Hwy 484, Natchez, LA**. On the meeting agenda is discussion about a movie night as well as to instruct some of the parishioners how to hold a Kateri Circle meeting. Everyone interested is invited to attend.

## Spiritual Reflection: Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Crisis - July 11

Join us at **St. Frances Cabrini Church** on Saturday, July 11 at 9:00 a.m. for a Day of Spiritual Reflection: Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Crisis. The day will include a series of talks, lunch and an opportunity for Adoration and Confession. There is no cost but please RSVP by Wednesday, July 7 by calling 446-4588.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### Steubenville Live - July 17-18

*Steubenville Live* will take place on **July 17-18, 2020**, and will be a **fully online** Catholic Youth Conference! It will feature the following ministry team:

- **Hosts:** Brian Kissinger and Chris Padgett
- **Worship Leader:** Josh Blakesley
- **Priest:** Fr. Mike Schmitz
- **Speakers:** Mary Bielski, Michael Gormley, and Oscar Rivera, Jr.

Enjoy a virtual event like no other:

- Live-streamed, no pre-recorded talks;
- Fully interactive;
- Powerful worship music;
- And, of course, Jesus will be there, the source of our hope!

Register at <https://store.steubenvilleconferences.com/live/south/> or email us at [info@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto:info@steubenvillesouth.com) for more information. We hope to see you there!

### Pilgrimage to France - October 21-30

Fr. Martin Laird will lead a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France from October 21-30, 2020. The journey will include visits to the holy sites in Lourdes, Lisieux, and Paris with a special trip to the glorious Chartres Cathedral. More information can be found on the Magnificat Travel website at <https://holyltravels.org/tours>.

## Maryhill Legacy Bricks now available!

A great gifting opportunity! These beautiful, personalized, and engraved commemorative Maryhill Legacy Bricks make the perfect year round gift! These commemorative paver bricks will be installed and displayed at the entrance of the main chapel as a permanent legacy at Maryhill Renewal Center. To order your Maryhill Legacy Brick, contact Deacon Luke White or order online at [www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/](http://www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/)

## Manna House "Summer of Love"

For 30 years, Manna House has focused its efforts on providing hot, nutritious meals to people of all ages, homeless families, children, veterans, and seniors throughout our community - no questions asked. Our staff and volunteers work **DAILY** to provide these meals. **"TO-GO"** meals are served 7 days a week from 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

We need your help to continue to **FEED THOSE IN NEED!**

Together, let's make it a **"SUMMER OF LOVE"** by making a monetary donation at our website: [givetomannahouse.com](http://givetomannahouse.com) or P.O. Box 6011 Alexandria, LA 71307. Financial donations allow us to purchase needed food and serving supplies. Donations are tax-exempt. Your support helps break the cycle of poverty for children, families, seniors, and the homeless.

## Our Lady's Manor Senior Living Facility

Our Lady's Manor, a HUD-subsidized, independent living facility sponsored by Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish in Alexandria, provides a comfortable, safe, and affordable environment for the elderly and disabled. **One must be at least 62 years of age with a gross income 50 percent below the median income of Rapides Parish to be eligible.** Amenities include utility allowance, basic cable, laundry facility, library, chapel, community room, beauty/barber shop, on-site parking, secured entries, and security cameras, emergency call buttons in bathrooms and fully equipped kitchen with refrigerator and stove. Please call 318-473-2063 or stop by the facility at 402 Monroe Street (across the street from Rapides Regional Medical Center) Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Prayer to overcome racism

Dear Jesus, to save our broken world, you embraced our nature to the point of making it Yours.

True God and true man, our pain became Your pain so that Your life may become our life. To love You means to love who You are as God and who You became as man. Your saints Martin and Rose learned to love You with a generous, humble, burning love. In pursuing You, they grew past the thorns of hatred and discrimination to blossom into a holy friendship. As a bee forms honey from flowers of different colors and types, so too the Holy Spirit drew their virtue from them to form one friendship.

Good Saints Rose and Martin, pray for us!


As your hearts learned to embrace all, even the smallest animals, pray that we may have strength to love in place of hate. May we see Jesus in all and respect and love the sacredness of life in every race, color, and class from conception until natural death. Finally, when our lives end, let us see the reward of all the saints joined in one love of God and the true identity of God in all, and all in God. Amen.

Visit [www.praymorenovenas.com](http://www.praymorenovenas.com)  
to join in praying the Coronavirus novena.

Join in the Coronavirus novena at  
[www.praymorenovenas.com](http://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.

## Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: July 27  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, July 16

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# July 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>JUNE 29</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>	<p><b>JULY 1</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP-ELECT R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Men's Nocturnal Adoration 7 pm-7 am</b> <b>St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>FIRST FRIDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> <b>FIRST SATURDAY</b> PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Heart of St. Kateri Circle Meeting 5:30 p.m. St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph, Marksville</p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Spiritual Reflection: Lessons Learned from COVID-19 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>FEAST of</b> <b>ST. KATERI</b> <b>TEKAKWITHA</b> PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Steubenville Live!</b> <b>Online Youth Conference</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ</p>		<p><b>19</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>	<p><b>AUGUST 1</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP-ELECT R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>

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