

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LI, No. 7

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

July 27, 2020

Congratulations, graduates!

Holy Savior Menard High School held their graduation ceremony on Tuesday, July 14.

A last minute change was made to the ceremony, originally scheduled to take place at Louisiana College's Guinn Auditorium. Faculty, staff, and volunteers pulled together to make the outdoor ceremony as safe and memorable as possible. Congratulations to all graduating seniors!



INSIDE

Bishop-elect Robert Marshall

We look forward to welcoming Bishop-elect Robert Marshall to the Diocese of Alexandria soon! See page 5 to join us in praying for our new Bishop.

How to turn an annual gift into a forever gift

Annual gifts are a critical lifeline to your parish, school, and other ministries. See page 6 for an update on our local Catholic Foundation.

Formed

For those who think they've seen everything worth seeing on TV, they may need to hit pause. The Catholic streaming service, Formed, boasts thousands of hours of content in rotation across its platform. See page 14 for more on this Catholic streaming service.

Extraordinary times in Ordinary Time: Public Masses amid a pandemic

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- To resume public Masses during the coronavirus pandemic dioceses have issued guidelines to be followed by parishes. The Archdiocese of Washington's series of protocols, for instance, runs 14 pages.

This story aims to be not quite that long.

With worshippers' health the key concern, there's a different way of doing things in U.S. churches, where hand sanitizer has become the new holy water.

Diocesan guidelines vary due to local conditions, and parishes must take into account the size of their church among many other considerations.

At St. Gabriel Church in Washington, virtually every liturgical ministry is affected, except for altar servers. There are none now. No sacristan, either.

That means more work for the Deacons Duane Clark and Roberto Salgado, who take on more duties before, during and after Mass.

"I have to prepare the altar, I also have to serve as the altar server, ringing the bells and doing the wine and all those things," Deacon Clark told Catholic News Service. "We always profess to be at church at least an hour early. Now I really have to be at church an hour early because there are so many things to do," he chuckled.

"Every week -- every week -- there's always something I forget to do. And then we have to clean up the vessels." He gave profound thanks to Jackie Barnes, the parishioner who trains the altar servers.

Deacons also distribute Communion -- after Masses -- to the congregants. Worshippers are directed upon entry to pews marked with red ribbons, individuals to the transepts while couples and families occupy the center pews. The deacons go into the pews without the ribbons to distribute the Eucharist, placing the host in the hand. It's up to the parishioner to find a way to get the host inside the mask, and then inside their mouth.

Deacon Clark had to



EXTRAORDINARY TIMES IN ORDINARY TIME. A bottle of hand sanitizer is seen on the altar prior to Mass at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Washington July 11, 2020. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

distribute Communion by himself at the English-language Mass July 12. Word had filtered to St. Gabriel about a woman at a suburban parish in the archdiocese who had received Communion from the parish pastor, only to test positive later in the week for COVID-19.

"I thought, if I had given her Communion and she tested positive, I'm going to have to put myself in quarantine for two weeks," said Father Kevin Kennedy, pastor of St. Gabriel Parish. "And then there would be nobody to celebrate Mass." As a result, lay extraordinary ministers of holy Communion may make a quicker return from distributing Communion than expected.

Deacon Salgado said the parish's Hispanic members "don't get what they deserve. They are afraid to even go out, they are afraid of the new procedures, they don't know how to act, so they don't ask for what they really need."

At times when catastrophic illness comes, he added, "they were unable to invite people to the wake services or the

funeral itself." The Washington Archdiocese has put a 10-member limit on funerals and weddings conducted inside a church.

There is something lost beyond the loss of "the previous freedom and procedures that we have as far as getting close to our faith or living our faith," Deacon Salgado said. "Nowadays, it's so difficult because they are afraid to get infected, or they are afraid - this unemployment is another issue in the community. They would struggle to meet ends - make ends meet - as far as financially, so they were afraid to do other things" because they "worry about food, shelter, whatever."

Carrie Colella accepted her first cantoring assignment at St. Gabriel during the pandemic. She is a cantor at neighboring Nativity Parish; the two churches have some informal sharing arrangement. But the wife of Nativity's music director is handling cantor duties there for the time being.

For her own part, music director Patricia Burkhard has to collect the names of the

composers and publishers of the music used at all weekend Masses -- one in English and one in Spanish every Saturday and Sunday. Because the Sunday Masses are livestreamed and the Saturday Masses are recorded for the parish website, licensing rules must be adhered to.

Improvements are being made with each passing week, said Justin Johnson -- who, for lack of a better term, is the director of the online Masses.

"My dad is the deacon, Deacon Clark," said Johnson who was furloughed from his job when the pandemic hit. "I'm going to be honest with you. I wasn't going to church all time like I was when I was a kid. I guess I was too busy. I worked with techno stuff like computers and stuff like that, Just being a kid of that generation," he told CNS. "How it started was my dad asked me to help him out: 'I want to do a couple of reflections ... Can you help me?' I said OK."

He added, "Then Father (Kennedy) got involved: 'Do you think we can record the Mass?' ... Working organizationally, it was baby steps."

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

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

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Working hand-in-hand with Johnson is Mauricio Castro, the information technology administrator working for both St. Gabriel and Nativity. Neither he nor Johnson had any experience recording or livestreaming Masses before, but “the pandemic forced our hand,” he said.

Castro’s picked up tips from compatriots in Maryland and Michigan, as well as learning on the fly. St. Gabriel, he said, has more volunteers and better equipment than Nativity, so he’s able to split his time between the two more evenly.

But his Saturdays begin at 1 p.m. to record an English Mass at 2 p.m. and a Spanish Mass at 3 p.m. or so. But by the time both are ready for posting on the parish website, it’s midnight. Then it’s back to St. Gabriel at 8 a.m. Sundays, so he can set things up for the 9 a.m. English livestreamed Mass. Once Castro’s volunteers are in place and Mass starts, he drives to Nativity Church to set things up for a 10 a.m. Mass there. Lather, rinse, repeat: Back to St. Gabriel to set up for the noon Mass in Spanish, give the volunteers a pat on the back, then hustle back to Nativity for its 1 p.m. Mass.

“Tony Wingfield, head of St. Gabriel’s lector corps, did double duty, serving as the sole lector for the July 11-12 English Masses. Pre-pandemic, every Mass would have two lectors scheduled, but few lectors have responded to his invitation to accept an assignment. “We’re not trying to force people back into the church,” he said.

There are no announcements and the deacon has taken over reading the general intercessions, but Wingfield does lead the recitation of the Apostles’ Creed and, on Saturdays, an “act of



PUBLIC MASSES. Patricia Burkhardt rehearses prior to Mass at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Washington, July 11, 2020. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

spiritual Communion” since the Eucharist is not distributed during Mass.

When he was summoned to a meeting to devise a strategy for resuming the celebration of Mass -- St. Gabriel’s first online Mass was Passion Sunday, or Palm Sunday, April 5 -- Wingfield said attention was paid to detail. “When we do the broadcast, when we do the livestreaming, we want to make sure that we organize exactly what we want to do. We want to have a routine,” he added.

That routine extends well before the start of Mass -- which resembles a weekday Low Mass in the pre-Vatican II era, with the priest and deacon entering the sanctuary from the sacristy.

Steve Hawkins, an usher for 27 years, said his ministry’s new normal is “taking precautions and not getting anyone sick or spreading the disease around.” Before Mass, there are “no family greetings anymore,” he added. Customarily, “we’re close with

hugging and kissing.”

During Mass, there’s no collection, no walking backward in the aisles to signal parishioners when to get in the Communion line, and “no counting of how many parishioners are there, because if you’ve signed up and you’re signed in, that’s already there.”

Part of Hawkins’ new responsibilities include checking in parishioners against the pre-registration list. He gets to church a half-hour before the start of Mass. The list comes in handy should someone be diagnosed with COVID after going to Mass. He gets there even earlier when it’s hot to allow people to step into the church rather than stay outside in the wilting Washington heat.

“We just make sure everybody follows the rules,” he said. “We escort the patrons to their seats to make sure that they’re sitting at a spacious distance.” Once Mass begins, he

added, “I can be a parishioner -- until somebody else comes through those doors.”

Hawkins, 66, said his medical conditions put him at higher risk of contracting COVID-19, but “there have been quite a few ushers holding off for COVID,” so he makes sure to volunteer. He’s also an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, and takes Communion each Sunday to his parents, who were married at St. Gabriel 73 years ago.

Parishioner Kathy Kilty answered an online survey from the parish, saying she’d be willing to help out after Mass. She’s on wipe-down duty, taking rags and a bottle of sanitizer to clean the tops and the ends of pews. “It’s not onerous,” she laughed. “It’s not hard.” Three people can perform the task in less than 10 minutes.

“I’ve missed going. I’ve been watching online, but I missed going,” Kilty said. “I’m happy to be back, that’s for sure.”

Father Kennedy said he’s trimmed his homilies to six minutes to keep the entire Mass within 45 minutes. Both of the English Masses July 11-12 lasted 41 minutes.

“You gotta be flexible, and you can’t have any preconceived notions of how people are going to react,” he said before the July 11 Mass.

In an interview with CNS after the July 12 Mass, Father Kennedy said the Masses, available on YouTube, the parish website and St. Gabriel’s Facebook page, draw about 500 views weekly. Another 100 now come to church on Sundays. The total of 600 is two-thirds the pre-COVID attendance of 900 over four Masses.

“I feel like I need two heads. One keep my head down, pay

attention to the daily details of a crisis,” he added, and the other to look at a long-range vision.

Short-term, the parish religious education and sacramental preparation programs have been revamped. Currently, “about 25% of Catholics come to church on Sunday. They’re making those decisions now -- and they have been for years,” Father Kennedy said.

Long-term, “how does this represent an actual, permanent change in people’s behavior? And is the church going to meet people where they are as they transition from COVID-19?” Father Kennedy asked.

“You make sacrifices to go to Mass on a particular day at a particular time. Some people will have the mindset. But some won’t. Those are frail and elderly, for example. Some with children -- young children. This is, for them, becoming not only a convenience but a way to enhance their spiritual life.”

Father Kennedy added, “We’re providing a way to keep them connected, although tangentially, to their spiritual lives and to the community,” acknowledging there are some priests who call for an end to posting Masses online to force parishioners to return to the church.

“I’m trying to survey the horizon and see how this is going to be a permanent change,” Father Kennedy said. “I am extremely hopeful that the Holy Spirit has a hand in this. There are opportunities for the new evangelization. This is an opportunity. But where are the concrete examples where we’ve had success with it? And in a way we haven’t tried before -- using virtual means? Maybe the Holy Spirit is giving us a key.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brave new steps: when all of our best laid plans change

This year has been one of peaks and valleys. In uncharted land (looking at you, all of 2020), neither peaks nor valleys are entirely relaxing. Peaks take energy to climb and there is usually thick vegetation in valleys and water to cross. But, as hard as traversing mountainous land can be, climbing through peaks and valleys *does* do something good: it builds your endurance. Your strength. Your navigating skills. Your perspective of the land. Your confidence. Your humility. Your reliance on God for strength and your awe of Him for providing it.

As we hit this midpoint of 2020, I'm looking back at God's faithfulness and at how incredibly challenging this year has been. The peaks and valleys have grown my faith more than ever, and they've also tried to crush me a few times. I imagine



Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina
Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

you feel similarly: 2020 has been a bit of a zig-zag.

I'm seeing this half-way point of the year as a turning point. While unknowns will always lie before us in any year, there's one constant known that does not change: Him.

Interestingly, in this tumultuous year, I've made real progress on several of my goals from the beginning of the year. Has it been perfect? Absolutely not. But, my progress - and yours - doesn't have to be to add

up. I credit the progress made to one simple thing: I chose big picture goals and small mini-goals underneath them. When you know what matters to you in the big picture, you can be flexible about how you live that out from season to season. You aren't so focused on rigid plans and abandoning them when the first sign of trouble appears. Instead, you know WHY you are pursuing a goal and, if it matters to you in the big picture, you'll do something about it - no matter

how many times you mess up along the way. I've been more and more okay with plans not going as planned. I just take the next best step (or take a break!). Over time, the small steps we take add up.

So, tell me: what goals do you need to refocus on? What one area do you feel God calling you to bring to Him in prayer? How can we, as your diocesan family, pray for you?

Yes, this next year will be different. It will be hard. It is not

what any of us had planned. But - Him. He has us and we are held.

"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake
in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble
with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the
Most High.

God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;
God will help it when
the morning dawns."

Psalm 46: 1 - 5

*Follow Cari on Instagram
@cariterracina*

Do converts have to be 'remarried'? / Bowing at name of Jesus

Q. A friend and his wife, along with their daughter, were recently confirmed into the Catholic Church after being Methodists their entire life, including getting married within the Methodist Church. They were told by some parish officials (laymen) that their marriage is not recognized by the Catholic Church and that they must be "remarried" within the Catholic Church.

That does not sound right to me, but I can't find any specific ruling or teaching on this. (The same lay leaders also claimed that their Methodist baptism was not acceptable by the Catholic Church, but I have found letters from bishops stating specifically that baptisms in the United Methodist Church are recognized by the Catholic Church.) (Iloilo City, Philippines)

A. Your instincts are right on target. A marriage between two Protestants, in a Protestant ceremony, is normally recognized by the Catholic Church as a valid marriage, and many Catholic dioceses state this explicitly in their written guidelines. The Diocese of Venice in Florida, for example, says this on its website:

"The Catholic Church recognizes and upholds the



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

validity of marriages of a non-Catholic man and a non-Catholic woman who marry with no impediments, such as the bond of a previous marriage ... and who enter marriage through a form accepted by their church or ecclesial community and the civil government."

So your friend and his wife would certainly not have to be "remarried" upon their entrance into the Catholic Church. (You are correct, too, about baptism. The vast majority of Protestant baptisms, including those done in the Methodist religion, are recognized as valid by the Catholic Church, and that sacrament does not have to be repeated when a Protestant chooses to become a Catholic.)

Q. I don't understand why, over the last couple of years, I don't see folks bowing at the name of Jesus. It doesn't seem

to matter whether they are parishioners, priests or nuns. Is there some new rule on this, or am I just too old-school Catholic? (Lacey, Washington)

A. The custom of bowing at the name of Jesus is a worthy one, and it has a long tradition in the church. It takes its origin from St. Paul, who wrote in his Letter to the Philippians (2:9-10): "God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

The practice was reinforced at the Second Council of Lyons, convened in 1274 by Pope Gregory X, which highlighted the special honor due the sacred name and noted that "whenever that glorious name is recalled, especially during the sacred mysteries of the Mass, everyone

should bow the knees of his heart, which he can do even by a bow of his head."

Pope Gregory followed up with a letter to the Dominican Order, which became the foremost promoters of devotion to the Holy Name. In that letter, Pope Gregory said, "We wish that at the pronouncing of that name, chiefly at the holy sacrifice (of Mass), everyone would bow his head in token that interiorly he bends the knee of his heart."

I agree with our letter-writer that, over the past several decades, this practice is followed less widely. I also agree that more people should observe it; it serves as an important reminder of the reverence we owe the divine and reflects an interior desire to honor Jesus, who died on the cross to redeem us.

*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



Welcoming Bishop-elect Marshall

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

The Diocese of Alexandria invites you to share in the joy and thanksgiving of the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall, Junior as the thirteenth Bishop of Alexandria. The ordination will take place on Thursday, August 20 at 2:00 p.m., with the Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, presiding.

Everyone is invited to view the ordination and installation via livestream on the diocesan website at www.diocesealex.org.

Please join us in praying the novena to the Holy Spirit for our new bishop, beginning on Wednesday, August 12, and ending on Thursday, August 20.

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 August

The Maritime World
We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen, and their families.

Novena to the Holy Spirit

Let us pray together with great confidence and trust in our God who is all good and loving. This novena should be prayed for our new bishop beginning on Wednesday, August 12, and ending on the day of Bishop-elect Marshall's ordination and installation on Thursday, August 20.

O Holy Spirit, O my God, I adore Thee, and acknowledge, here in Thy divine presence, that I am nothing and can do nothing without Thee. Come, great Paraclete, Thou father of the poor, Thou comforter the best, fulfill the promise of our blessed Savior, Who would not leave us orphans, and come into the mind and the heart of Thy poor, unworthy creature, as Thou didst descend on the sacred day of Pentecost on the holy Mother of Jesus and on His first disciples. Grant that I may participate in those gifts which Thou didst communicate to them so wonderfully, and with so much mercy and generosity. Take from my heart whatever is not pleasing to Thee, and make of it a worthy dwelling place for Thyself. Illumine my mind, that I may see and understand the things that are for my eternal good. In flame my heart with pure love of Thee, that I may be cleansed from the dross of all inordinate attachments, and that my whole life may be hidden with Jesus in God. Strengthen my will, that I may be made conformable to Thy divine will, and be guided by Thy holy inspirations. Aid me by Thy grace to practice the divine lessons of humility, poverty, obedience, and contempt of the world, which Jesus taught us in His mortal life.

Oh, rend the heavens, and come down, consoling Spirit! that inspired and encouraged by Thee, I may faithfully comply with the duties of my state, carry my daily cross most patiently, and endeavor to accomplish the divine will with the utmost perfection. Spirit of love! Spirit of purity! Spirit of peace! Sanctify my soul more and more, and give me that heavenly peace which the world cannot give. Bless our Holy Father the Pope, bless the Church, bless our bishops, our priests, all Religious Orders, and all the faithful, that they may be filled with the spirit of Christ and labor earnestly for the spread of His kingdom.

O Holy Spirit, Thou Giver of every good and perfect gift, grant me, I beseech Thee, the intentions of this novena. May Thy will be done in me and through me. Mayest Thou be praised and glorified forevermore!

Amen.

Prayer in thanksgiving for our Bishop-Elect

O Lord our God, Eternal Father and Guide, You have given the Diocese of Alexandria a new Bishop who is to shepherd Your flock.

In your love, help him to lead us with Christ's heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice.

Help him to fill us with the truth of the Gospel and the power of the Sacraments. Bless him with long and virtuous life, that with our Shepherd, we may proclaim in thanksgiving:
Live Jesus in our Hearts - Forever!

Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall, Jr.
Diocese of Alexandria
August 20, 2020

How to turn an annual gift into a forever gift

Annual gifts are a critical lifeline to your parish, school, and diocese. Without them, the church couldn't fund the many ministries and services we provide to our families. If you're an annual donor, you know firsthand the satisfaction that comes from making a difference - and we deeply appreciate your generosity.

But as you look to the future, you may wonder what will happen to the programs made possible through your gifts once you're gone. How can you make sure your generosity continues forever?

One option is to make a gift in your will or trust to establish an endowment for your church parish, school, or the diocese through the Catholic Foundation.

The Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation of North Central Louisiana was established in 1985 as a lay organization for a two-fold purpose: to conduct programs designed to share opportunities for planned giving that benefit Catholic causes and entities with in the Diocese of Alexandria; and, to administer those gifts under the terms of their specified purposes.

The Foundation is a "wonderful, wonderful organization established by Bishop Greco and far-thinking businessmen in the Diocese," says Mr. Graham Kramer, long-time board member. "I was fortunate enough to be invited to be a part of the board, and have been very impressed by its potential since the very beginning."

What the Foundation does

The Foundation provides benefits to the donor while also offering vehicles by which to meet future needs and provide for the future well-being of our Catholic entities.

It has been the experience



of the Foundation through the years that each donor has unique and personal reasons for gifting. Consequently, each gifting plan is the result of specific discussions between the donor, the staff of the Foundation, and professional advisors of the donor. The Foundation does everything possible to assure the plan established for you reflects the individual nature of the your charitable desires.

Several types of gifting opportunities are offered by the Foundation, including: outright gifts, charitable bequests, and charitable trusts.

How it works.

The Foundation has an active Investment Committee that works with professional investment managers. The overall investment policy of the Foundation is to recognize that all investments should mitigate risks as best as is possible and return a reasonable rate of return.

Here are a few examples of

how a gift might work:

- A donor wishes to provide \$10,000 to her parish or parish school with the provision that the pastor and the school board determine how the income from the gift is to be used.

- Another donor desires to make a similar gift but wants the income to be used only for religious education of children in the parish who do not attend Catholic school.

- Yet, another donor may have a life insurance policy(ies) purchased years ago that may not be needed for family or heirs or to offset estate taxes and liabilities. The donor may give those policies to the Foundation under a contract that provides that when they mature, the proceeds will be invested for the benefit of a Catholic entity.

The Foundation encourages its donors to be as specific as they care to be in defining the needs they want to meet with their gifts. It is the desire of the Foundation to see that the donor's wishes are

always met if possible.

Charitable gifts do not have to be large in amount, either, says Joe Hebert, Foundation President. One family, for example, wishes to provide a food pantry for a local parish. Starting at setting aside \$100-200 at a time, the account now totals around \$20,000 for the benefit of the parish's food pantry and its ministry.

How you benefit

Charitable donations - especially endowed giving - can be complex. The Foundation allows you and your family to experience the joy and satisfaction of fulfilling your charitable objectives while eliminating, or at least minimizing, the fears and frustrations that are often encountered with this type of planned giving. The Foundation and its board works with you to assure that your giving experience is handled professionally, efficiently, and competently.

The Foundation staff will listen to your needs and desires then assist in finding charitable

goals that directly benefit you and your family. The process includes a review of your options as they relate to your gift, and helps you to:

- Define your charitable objectives as clearly as possible, and
- Determine which giving options will help you achieve your goals.

Depending on the nature of your gift, the Foundation can assure that your gift provides some or all of the following benefits:

- Possible current and/or future year income tax deductions;
- Potential elimination of capital gains tax on appreciated property;
- Annual income, or
- Potential reduction of estate taxes leading to conservation of your estate.

Gifts and bequests made to the Foundation generally result in specific benefits to the donor. You are eligible, generally, for an immediate tax deduction in the year of the gift, among other benefits.

Peace of mind will be yours in knowing your gift is accomplishing the purpose you intended permanently. Once you have established your wishes in the gift contract, there is no need for you to ever worry about those wishes being carried out. The staff of the Foundation is responsible for assuring that this is done. Your children, heirs, or estate administrators are not burdened with wondering what your intentions were. You have already established your intent and wishes by your gift or bequest.

Most of all, you have responded to your personal desire to provide support for the Catholic causes within the Diocese in a manner that will

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

2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA
442-2325

bring you satisfaction and peace.

Established in 1985, the Foundation has since contributed \$70,000 to the diocese's priest retirement fund and \$75,000 to Holy Savior Menard High School. Parishes, schools, and ministries benefit directly from these contributions, Our Lady of Prompt Succor parish and school as just one example.

"The endowments OLPS has with the Foundation provide quarterly dividends the parish and school can use for the purposes for which the funds are designated. We use the money for everything from school tuition assistance to maintenance of our grounds to rosaries for our First Communicants. Some funds, of course, are available to use for whatever the need is," says Father Dan O'Connor, current pastor.

Approached in 1990 to oversee the Foundation's operations, Hebert says he's seen the most growth in the past 6 years or so, with refined operations, a solid investment policy, as well as a well-rounded board of advisors. "What we're doing is meant to permanently benefit the diocese and its ministries."

The Catholic Foundation of North Central Louisiana stands ready to help you in designing your legacy. For a confidential conversation, please contact Joe Hebert at joe@joehebert.com or by calling 318-308-2819.

"You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God."
2 Corinthians 9: 11

Please feel free to contact any of the Catholic Foundation board members for more information on how your contribution can help sustain your favorite ministries.

Mike Bordelon, Chairperson
Real estate appraiser
Our Lady of Prompt Succor
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*The hand of the Lord feeds us;
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Psalm 145: 16
Responsorial Psalm
for August 2

DIocese of Alexandria Office of Life and Justice

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

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

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

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

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED

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

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

Completed burses at \$15,000.00 each:

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

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

St. Damien de Veuster	175.00
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Bishop Lawrence P. Graves	5,805.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco	1,500.00
Bishop Ronald P. Herzog	450.00
Bishop Sam G. Jacobs	1,100.00
Bishop David P. Talley	525.00
Monsignor Marcel J. Anderson	100.00
Monsignor Leon R. Aycock	1,535.00
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway	825.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer	650.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote	560.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe	1,000.00
Monsignor James E. Howard	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd	1,500.00
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Monsignor Warren T. Larroque	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon	125.00
Monsignor George W. Martinez	500.00
Monsignor Bruce Miller	300.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy	2,304.00
Monsignor William C. O'Hanlon	5,000.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger	865.00
Monsignor Mozart Pelletier	100.00
Monsignor John V. Plauche	400.00
Monsignor F. Joseph Rateau	570.00
Monsignor Russell J. Richie	616.14
Monsignor B. A. Scallan	10,085.90
Monsignor Matthew J. Scanlon	310.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi	9,906.00
Monsignor Steve J. Testa	9,855.00
Monsignor Henry A. Thompson	360.00
Monsignor John M. Timmermans	8,570.00
Monsignor Martin J. Tyrrell	4,250.00
Monsignor Henry Van der Putten	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle	2,170.00
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Father William G. Allison	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar	50.00
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Father Basil Burns	100.00
Father Scott Chemino	475.00
Father Alfred Chlebowczyk	375.00
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Father Daniel Cook	2,500.00
Father Daniel Corkery	3,500.00
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Father John H. Cunningham	1,475.00
Father Dennis A. Curren	650.00
Father Leonard Curtis, OP	1,050.00
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Father Edward Deasy	625.00
Father Blake Deshautelle	50.00

Seminary Burses

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Father Rudolph J. Engelen	550.00
Father Richard Fale	5,700.00
Father James Ferguson	1,000.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier	1,475.00
Father Joseph Alfred Fortin	200.00
Father James Foster	280.00
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Father John M. Gayer	870.00
Father William Gearheard	100.00
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Father Rickey Gremillion	11,490.00
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Father Michael P. Kammer	921.00
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Father William B. Provosty	105.00
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In Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959	1,450.00
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, Alexandria	3,260.00
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Tallulah	100.00
St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Cottonport	700.00
General Fund	2,000.00

Total: 620,212.17

How to choose a religious community

By Sister Mai Dung Nguyen

Community plays a critical role in your vocation call. Religious community parameters are crucial for you to live your vowed life fruitfully and meaningfully. God's will can be magnified in you through these parameters. Thus, asking the right questions to reflect on, pray with, and to share with someone whom you trust is necessary in narrowing down which community is the right one for you.

When visiting a religious community, you may feel drawn to this community because of the way the Sisters pray or celebrate Eucharist. You may find a community that wears a habit more comfortable for you. However, there is more to consider when choosing a religious community.

Along the way, to follow God's call, God may invite you to step out of your comfort zone and expand your horizon. Some communities you visit may both inspire and challenge you. This new discovery may disturb the way you have imagined religious life or of practicing your faith. Such experience may cause you to question your call or to be disappointed. However, perhaps these differences are expanding your expectations and opening you to new possibilities. Taking time in choosing a community with which to discern, calls for thoughtful reflection.

Below are just some suggested questions about community to consider:

1. What are the ten top values of a healthy faith-community you value most? How do these values fit with the community you are looking at?
2. What is the daily schedule of prayer, study, community, and ministry? How do you imagine living with this schedule for the rest of your life in a healthy way,



rather than one that is a burden?

3. How do the sisters and the community live out their vows of obedience, celibacy, and poverty?

4. How does the community live interdependently, intergenerationally, interculturally, and interracially? How do you see yourself living in such an environment?

5. How does the community support its members for mission, on-going education and personal development, and healthy living?

6. How much freedom and accountability do the members have? How are the voices of the members heard in the community?

7. What are the mission and vision statements of the community, and how do the sisters live out these

statements, day in and day out? How do your vision, dream, and gifts fit into these statements, making you feel you are a part of this community to share mission together?

8. How do the members of the community respond to the signs of the time, including social justice issues, issues within the church, service to people in need, care for creation, or creating a vision? How do these resonate with you?

9. If possible, visit a community for a retreat, a mission program or a "live in" experience for a week or more. Then, reflect on that experience as you discern where you are called.

10. Imagine you have decided

on the best community to join. Live with that decision for a week. How do you feel about it? What is God saying to you as you bring this decision to prayer? How do you imagine yourself living in this community in ten years, twenty years, and the rest of your life?

Different communities fit different people. A community can provide good soil for you to live out your vocational call, to grow, and to bear good fruit. Yet, it is important to choose the community that seems to be the best fit for you. Surrendering to God's will does not mean joining a community without having a serious discernment. Surrendering to God's will means accepting the invitation to join a community in which you can

share visions, dreams, gifts, and yet be transformed to become the best person God intended you to be. Choosing the right community for you takes time to discern. Be courageous, trust God, and invite others into your discernment journey with you. Reach out to a spiritual director, mentor, or vocation director with whom to guide your discernment journey.

The adventure is just beginning.

Originally published at <https://oppeace.org>.

Seminarian Burses

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Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$500.00
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Ms. Ingrid Cannella	\$500.00
Matthew Bonner Burse	
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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

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office, Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.
 -- Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino, Chairman

Parish Spotlight: Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen Established 1928



Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen

The small town of Evergreen is located in the southwest corner of Avoyelles Parish, just east of Bunkie.

It was founded as an English Protestant community in the midst of French Avoyelles around 1822.

The first Catholic church in

Evergreen, St. Theresa's Church, began as a mission of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie in 1928.

In 1933, it was organized as an independent parish by Bishop Daniel Desmond with Fr. Herman Couvillion serving as the first pastor.

During the 1960's, repairs

were made to the church and to its mission chapel, St. Charles, in Goudeau.

In 1997, a new rectory was built and in 2000-2001 a new hall was added to the parish plant. Repairs to the hall and to the church roof were completed by Fr. Daniel Corkery who was also responsible for overseeing the beautification of the church interior before his retirement in 2009.



St. Charles Chapel, Goudeau

Why "The Little Flower"?

At the age of 14, on Christmas Eve in 1886, Therese had a conversion that transformed her life. From then on, her powerful energy and sensitive spirit were turned toward love, instead of keeping herself happy.

She loved flowers and saw herself as the "little flower of Jesus," who gave glory to God by just being her beautiful self among all of the other flowers in God's garden.

Because of this analogy, the title "little flower" remained with St. Therese.

In her quest for sanctity and in order to attain holiness and to express her love of God, Therese believed that it was not necessary to accomplish heroic acts or great deeds. She wrote, "Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love."



Pictured above, St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as "The Little Flower"

*Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.*

Psalm 85: 8 | Responsorial Psalm for August 9

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Catholic
Trivia

???

Which saint is credited
with the following
statement:

*"A child of so many
tears cannot be lost."*

Answer on page 20.

Listen to the Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass on

KLIL 92.1

8 a.m. Sunday Mass

KZLG 95.9

7 a.m. Sunday Mass

Sr. Patricia Kimball dies

Sister Patricia “Pat” Kimball, (formerly Sister M. Philomene), CDP, entered eternal life on July 1, 2020 at the age of 84. She was born on March 27, 1936, in Alexandria, Louisiana, the only child of Bryan E. and Emily (Normand) Kimball. She answered God’s call to become a Sister of Divine Providence (CDP) on January 2, 1954, and professed first vows on June 22, 1956. Her entire life was filled with the Sisters of Divine Providence. Her life’s work was to praise God through the ministry of music.



joy to make music for the Lord. She loved to sing. Her long-lasting relationship with her former students were indicative of her compassionate heart and empathy. Although a strict music teacher about daily practice and homework, she had a keen sense about her students. If troubled on a certain day, her listening ear, kindness, and understanding took precedence over the lesson. The heavens now rejoice with their new resident angel!

She is preceded in death by her parents, Bryan E. and Emily (Normand) Kimball. She is survived by a number of cousins and her Sisters of Divine Providence.

Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, all services are pending.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a memorial contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, Texas 78207-4619.

Sister Pat considered it a

How faith grows in quarantine

By *Laura Kelly Fanucci*
Catholic News Service

Families have never been closer. Families have never been farther apart.

Like many of you, I’ve been sheltering in place with my spouse and kids for three months. We’ve eaten every meal together, spent every day together, argued and laughed and fumed and forgiven together.

But we can’t visit with friends and relatives like we used to do. We don’t get to catch up with co-workers over lunch or hang out with classmates after school. We’re stuck with the seven of us -- which, I remind myself every day, could be a dream for the lonely.

Many families are separated under difficult or devastating circumstances: health care workers who have to self-quarantine from their spouse or children to keep them safe, older adults in nursing homes isolated without visitors and relatives with chronic conditions that make them too vulnerable for a social distancing backyard visit.

What place does faith have in family life right now?

I’ll be the first to admit we’re struggling. Online Mass is no substitute for the real thing -- and our younger kids have as much trouble sitting still on the couch as in the pew. Faith formation classes were canceled. Vacation Bible school camps are over before they started.

I wish I had quick and easy answers for you. Ten ways to pray with your family during quarantine or six Scripture passages to inspire your Sundays at home together.

But all I have is solidarity for the struggle.

Now won’t last forever. I know this much is true. Someday our kids will be back in church,

servicing at the altar, running to hug their Sunday school teachers and squirming in the pews.

But what I wouldn’t give to wrangle a toddler in the gathering space or race to faith formation classes during rush hour or argue with kids about why we have to go to church.

Everyday hard never looked better than in the rearview mirror.

Yet God is here, too. Unlimited by time and space and social distancing. If anything, I’ve learned that grace pours out in strange and stronger ways during times of grief and loss.

While there’s no substitute for the sacraments and nothing can replace the support of in-person community, our faith lives do not have to dwindle during quarantine.

The work of faith formation is the work of the Holy Spirit. It does not depend on our programs, activities, curricula or camps. To dive deep into discipleship and learn what the Lord is asking from our lives, we must trust that God is already at work.

If we are the ones called to lead -- as parents, grandparents, volunteers, catechists or parish staff -- this does not mean we are the ones to do it all. Often it means quite the opposite: We let go of our plans and let the Spirit surprise us.

Families are struggling and suffering right now. We’re stuck together, and we’re flung apart. Neither is natural, and we’re aching for the end.

But in this hard moment, the tension between what was and what will be, God is here, too. Filling our hearts with grace and our lives with hope.

Before Jesus died, he left us with a promise: “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always” (Jn 14:16).

The Spirit will remain with



us (Jn 14:17), teach us (Jn 14:26) and guide us to truth (Jn 16:13).

No matter what happens -- where we go, what we lose or whom we miss -- the Holy Spirit abides with us. Together or apart, we are one in the Spirit as the family of God.

Fanucci is a writer, speaker, and author of several books including “Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting.” Her work can be found at laurakellyfanucci.com.

Continue to support your church parish

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

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

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FLOWER MINISTRY. Recently, Mary, Mother of Jesus parishioners, Gerry Craft and Ramona Conques, put together and delivered 36 small flower arrangements for the people who live in Molly Wise Senior Living Apartments in Woodworth. Nicole Atwood, the manager, distributed the arrangements to the seniors who live there needed a little lift.

Visit www.diocesealex.org to see more pictures of life in the Diocese, or visit www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/the-church-today for photo submission guidelines.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI YOUTH GROUP. The youth group from St. Frances Cabrini visited the tomb of Charlene Richards on Saturday, July 18. They met with her family and heard testimony from her brothers. Local Catholic clergy and diocesan officials permitted, promoted, and participated in the popular veneration of Richard for years prior to her being named a Servant of God, the first step in the canonization process.



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION. Originally scheduled to take place at Louisiana College's Guinn Auditorium, as it has in the past, Holy Savior Menard had to make a last minute change of venue due to Governor Edward's mandate. According to Jennifer Tichenor, Institutional Advancement Director, "Once we heard the governor's address on Saturday we knew we had to make a last minute change to our indoor graduation. It was originally planned to be held at LC on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Administration had a last minute meeting on Sunday, and decided our best option to give these kids the proper graduation that they deserved was to hold one on our football field. Team work makes the dream work! We ALL pulled our sleeves up and pulled it off! It was hot, but so beautiful and worth the work to see the smiles on those kids' faces. We set the graduates' chairs 6 feet apart, we painted 6 foot squares on the field 6 feet apart from the next for their 4 family members, we recommended masks and asked for them to respect the social distancing order. It was a great event and we are all so blessed to have gotten to experience it! Now onto the 20/21 school year!

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



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, CHENEYVILLE. St. Joseph Church in Cheneyville held their Confirmation and First Communion on Sunday, July 19. Pictured above (left) is confirmandi, Bryce [redacted] with pastor, Father Dwight DeJesus. Also pictured above (right) are first communicants Gavin [redacted] and Nora [redacted] with Fr. DeJesus.



ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, HESSMER. First Communion on June 14. [redacted]



OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE. First Holy Communion was held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Moreauville on Sunday, July 19. Pictured left to right: Tina Anderson, DRE, Nalaah [redacted] and Father Jose.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL. (RIGHT) Summer [redacted], William [redacted], and Braydon [redacted] are shown with Father James Ferguson at their First Communion ceremony on Sunday, June 21.

TV for when the streaming you want involves the River Jordan

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service



NEW EVANGELIZATION. Tim Gray, head of the Augustine Institute in suburban Denver, is pictured above. (CNS photo/courtesy Augustine Institute)

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- For those who think they've seen everything worth seeing on TV, they may need to hit pause.

There is a Catholic streaming service called Formed, run by the Augustine Institute based in the Denver suburb of Greenwood Village. The institute itself claims its genesis in St. John Paul II's 1993 World Youth Day visit to Denver, and the pontiff's call for a "new evangelization."

While TV has been a source for evangelization since the days of Archbishop Fulton Sheen in the 1950's, the splintering of the TV universe into network, cable, satellite, and streaming services has made the field a rocky one for Catholics. Catholic institutions have been reluctant to pay for TV time as a plethora of Protestant preachers have been willing to do; by the same token, the Catholic Church also has looked askance at asking viewers on-air for contributions, while their Protestant counterparts haven't thought twice about flashing a toll-free number at the bottom of the screen.

Yet despite the Catholic Church being the largest denomination in the United States, Catholic television has come in for criticism for not being fully representative of the faith.

Along comes Formed, which boasts thousands of hours of content in rotation across

its platform. While there are many familiar names who are featured in programs -- among them Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles and Scott Hahn, Formed eschews a star system -- think of all those authors and TV preachers who are more of a "brand" than they are flesh and blood -- Formed's content is arranged by topic.

Searching through Formed, <https://formed.org>, you'll find these categories: the sacraments, faith formation, Bible studies, conversion-story talks, talks on Mass and the sacraments, talks on personal growth, talks on defending the faith, books on exploring the faith, movies, kids, music, faith at home, Mass at home, school at home, prayer at home, documentaries, current topics, apologetics, the life and

witness of Mary, modern-day saints, saints of history, men and women of faith -- followed by five categories of Spanish-language programming.

Formed celebrates its fifth anniversary Sept. 1, according to Tim Gray, president of the Augustine Institute and a program host on Formed.

In 2014 -- when Netflix was still mailing DVDs to its subscribers -- "we started with a simple platform for our youth Bible studies, and that was very popular," Gray said. People liked the platform for easy access. He added parishes loved it as well, especially with Formed's video material on youth and child ministry.

As a result, "we launched it at a bigger scale," Gray said. "It's been a home run since. It's

amazing."

He added, "I thought we could have a lot of reach, but it's exceeded the expectations we've had, that's for sure. That's usually how the Lord works."

Formed produces about 25% of its content, according to Gray. "We're always looking for good Catholic content. It's got to be orthodox and it's got to be high quality," he said, adding video comes from Catholic Answers, the Knights of Columbus, Ignatius Press and other apostolates. "We've been able to find a lot of great content partners," Gray said.

Another requirement: "It's got to be fresh. Our latest release is called 'The Search.' It's high-quality, professional videography that you'd find in Hollywood, and you'd find on any channel."

Formed has two kinds of subscriptions: parish and individual. "We have a couple of different price points depending on the size of the parish," Gray said, ranging from \$740 to \$1,800 per year. About 6,000 parishes subscribe to Formed.

Individual subscriptions can be had for just \$9.99 a month, and there are about 6,000 who get Formed that way. "That would have grown a lot, but we lose individuals to the parishes -- which is fine," Gray told Catholic News Service. When parishes subscribe, every household in the parish gets to watch Formed at no charge.

Another sign of growth: Formed crossed the 1 million

mark of registered users in late spring.

Gray said viewers like Formed's catalog of movies; in the catalog is the 1999 miniseries "Joan of Arc," which won an Emmy nomination for Leelee Sobieski in the title role. Oddly enough, for a video platform, other favorites are audio dramas. Gray cited two in particular: "Francis the Barefoot Saint of Assisi" and "The Adventures of Robin Hood."

EWTN says it has 12,000 programs in its streaming service. Gray isn't fazed. "I think there's a great complementarity with EWTN," he said. "A lot of parishes use the Formed platform for their RCIA catechists, for sacramental prep, for Bible studies. That's what EWTN doesn't do." Moreover, Formed has not only its audio dramas but there's a "a book section where they can download books," Gray said. "It's not just video."

Formed may branch out still further into daily programming. Subscribers "love hearing a conversation about faith and God, so I see that growing. I think more live programming on the platform is pretty popular," Gray said.

"Our mission is simply to help Catholics understand, live and share their faith. We do that in our graduate school in an intense way. We have our faculty on the Formed show 'Formed Now.' Not everybody can go to graduate school but they can listen in on the conversation."

The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host.

// Archbishop Fulton Sheen

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

View recorded Mass: St. Frances Cabrini Church on YouTube

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

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

Monday - Friday

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

Saturday

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

St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches on YouTube

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

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

*O God,
let all the
nations
praise you!*

Psalm 67: 4
Responsorial Psalm
for August 16

VIRTUS Sessions

Tuesday, August 4, 1:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., ALEXANDRIA


Wednesday, August 19, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., ALEXANDRIA

Tuesday, August 25, 6:00 p.m.
Mater Dolorosa Church, PLAUCHEVILLE

Thursday, September 3, 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.
For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.



Upcoming Retreats

All ACTS Retreats have been cancelled until further notice.

Please contact individual retreat organizers for more information about rescheduling.

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

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

The Americans with Disabilities Act and our new normal



*By Maureen Pratt
Catholic News Service*

July 26, 2020 marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A milestone in societal development, the ADA provided the basis of secular guidelines, incentives and mandates for making the worlds of work, life, and education accessible for persons with disabilities of all types.

With its signing into law by President George H. W. Bush, more individuals could move, literally and figuratively, from the sidelines to become ever more contributive members of society. And as medical and technological advances have made for enhanced capabilities, the contributions of persons with disabilities have only increased since then.

Even before the ADA was signed into law by President Bush, however, the U.S. Catholic Church had begun to articulate approaches to the pastoral aspect of accessibility and opportunity for persons with disabilities within the family of faith.

In 1978, the "Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic

Bishops on Persons with Disabilities" was issued, which describes the commitment to ministry to persons with disabilities "as a special focus for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference," the two organizations that combined to become today's U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The document presents the scriptural basis for disability ministry (it is what Jesus did) and describes work with persons with disabilities as necessary at all levels of church life -- from individual efforts to parish communities and leadership.

David Byers worked with others to write the statement.

"The statement came out in November 1978, with no opposition," said Byers. "It was read into the Congressional record, and the National Catholic Partnership on Disability was a direct and practical outgrowth."

The establishment of NCPD provided visibility to the USCCB's call for more practical and robust initiatives with persons with disabilities, including ways to broaden accessibility to the sacraments and physical considerations with

regard to building design. The 1990 passage of the ADA spurred development of education, workplace and other tools and technology that Catholic parents, religious educators, and physical building designers began to bring to parish communities.

In 1988, the USCCB issued a resolution reaffirming the 1978 statement and in 1995, published "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities." The guidelines address all sacraments, including Eucharist, confirmation, holy orders, and matrimony, and was revised in 2017, shifting emphasis slightly from ministering "to" persons with disabilities to ministering "with" them.

In recent years, more religious educators, theologians, pastoral ministers, and most especially, persons with disabilities have increasingly worked to broaden participation of all people in the life of the church. NCPD remains a central hub for resources and to connect with others working in the same vineyard.

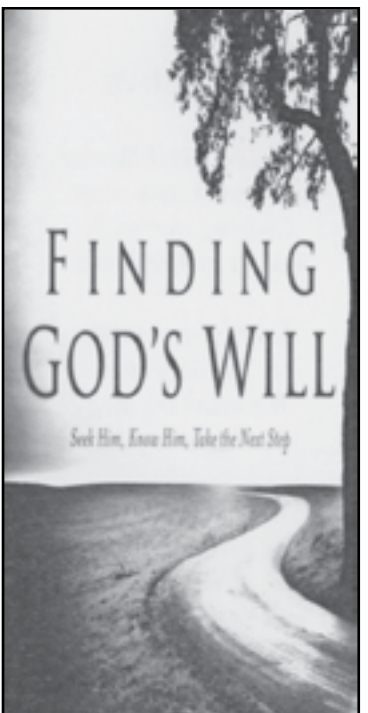
Executive director Charleen Katra stated, "NCPD is the only Catholic organization whose sole mission is to advocate for people with all kinds of disabilities in the

church."

With the coronavirus pandemic, many persons with disabilities are unable to attend any parish activities, even with health safety measures in place. Some of these faithful will be absent for a while, but others will not be able to return at all.

This will make it more difficult for faith communities to reach everyone and evangelize, too. But it is not an impossible task, nor is it outside the purview of parish mission.

As the 1978 statement reminds us, ministry with persons with disability is what Jesus did. Following his example as we find ways to encourage and grow in faith, we cannot go wrong.



**Our Lord and Savior
Gave us a new start,
Uniting our wills
With a gentle heart.**

**Uniting our wills
Is the only way
We must try and
Do this everyday.**

**His love for us
Is ever so great
If you follow His will,
It will never be too late.**

**His Holy spirit
Dwells in us,
To Jesus alone,
Who we can always trust.**

**So, if we unite our wills
In every way,
We can always find in Him
A Place to stay.**

by Marcus Descant

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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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Adjunct Professor, Southern University Law Center
 MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association,
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 National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives,
 Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State
 Bar Association).

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 Analyzing the Social Security Administration's Methodology
 for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers."

318-717-1995

The Cross Word

August 2
 and 9, 2020



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Readings: Is 55: 1-3; Rom 8: 35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21
 AND 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

ACROSS

- 1 Israelites
- 5 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
- 8 Winter hazard
- 11 Egg-shaped
- 12 Urn
- 13 Possess
- 14 North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- 15 Five loaves, ___ fish
- 16 "Eat, drink without ___"
- 17 Adroit
- 19 Roster
- 21 That woman
- 22 Expel

- 24 Used to attract attention
- 27 Smoky fog
- 28 Speak up
- 30 By means of this
- 33 Used to make wine
- 34 Longitudinal
- 35 "Let it be"
- 36 Short-term memory
- 37 Payable
- 39 "Blessed ___ thou"
- 42 Middle East dweller
- 43 Where funny bone is
- 45 List of meals
- 48 Hair stuff
- 50 Negative (prefix)
- 51 Branch
- 52 Epoch

- 53 Gas for lighted signs
- 54 Latin for "King"
- 55 Compass point
- 56 Sins

DOWN

- 1 Whale man
- 2 Dodge
- 3 God will give to the thirsty
- 4 Pig food
- 5 Appropriate
- 6 Leg deformity
- 7 Unblinking
- 8 The other half of Jima
- 9 Nervous system
- 10 Time zone
- 13 Rosary month
- 18 Earthquake
- 20 Keep stuff here
- 23 "Tidings of great ___"
- 24 Joint that moves leg
- 25 "We believe in ___ God"
- 26 Aye
- 27 Jesus walked on
- 29 Dab of butter
- 30 In possession of
- 31 Extension (abbr.)
- 32 Brim
- 33 Rummy game
- 35 Threads
- 38 "Don't spend on what fails to satisfy"
- 39 Led Saul's army
- 40 What a helicopter needs
- 41 Isaac and Esau
- 42 Assumption month
- 44 Trail
- 45 Meter
- 46 Ram's mate
- 47 Dismisses
- 49 The Commandments are "The ___"

Ministries for your heart

As ministries postpone events and work to find ways to build community online and in smaller in-person groups, please visit the ministries below to see how they might help you to develop your own prayer life and community right where you are.

- **The Greenhouse Collective:** Founded by Chris and Michelle Benzinger, the Greenhouse Collective exists to awaken your dreams so that your life displays God's glory. In their Greenhouse Immersion Year, they walk through the Manifesto as a community, and invite you to enter the process of rooting, cultivating, and growing along side those in proximity with you. For more information, visit www.greenhousecollective.org.

- **Lux U:** Created by former America's Next Top Model, Leah Darrow, the Lux app is the faith hub where prayer, connection, and faith formation meet. Latin for "light," the Lux app and community exist to proclaim the saving power, mercy, and glory of Christ to our "town" - whether that be our family, children spouse, coworker, neighbor, or stranger. To join, visit www.theluxuniversity.com.

- **DelRey Collective:** A place for the ordinary missionary disciple. What if when Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors, he meant our actual neighbors, those next door? Del Rey Collective, founded by Ennie and Cana Hickman, desires to see a day when there is an "open porch" in every neighborhood, showing Christian hospitality, and building authentic communities of love. Whether you have been hosting a gathering in your home (or porch) for years or you are just getting started, visit www.delreycollective.com to register your porch today to become a part of this amazing movement.

Laughing at God's good plans

By Katie Prejean McGrady
Catholic News Service

Andy was my sister's friend and I'd see him from time to time when I came home from college.

Nice kid.

But then one summer, my parish needed an interim youth minister, so they hired me. My sister and her friends faithfully came to every event. Including Andy.

This nice young man suddenly became the most loyal "youth group kid," never hesitating to show up, Bible in hand. He was engaging and funny, sharing his love of architecture and LSU football with anyone.

It's sort of a youth minister's job to notice the traits and qualities within young people that they may not even notice within themselves. It's one of the "happy accidents" of accompaniment -- we "learn" the teen. And so a youth minister is called to tell those young people what we see in them and encourage them to use their gifts and talents.

So at the end of the summer, before I headed back to college, I casually mentioned to Andy that I thought he'd make a good priest someday.

He laughed.

And then he told me I wasn't the first person to tell him that, and he would think about it. Standard interaction in youth ministry, really. I imagine most youth ministers have said, "Have



LAUGHING AT GOD'S PLANS. Newly ordained Father Andy DeRouen blessed Katie Prejean McGrady. (CNS photo/courtesy Marina Rain Darbonne)

you considered the priesthood?" a time or two.

It's what comes next that's significant: the loving and present attention a mentor in faith gives as he or she helps that young man discern, walking with him as he journeys and ponders the realities of his life, trying to hear God's voice.

So I stuck around in Andy's life. He and his family had become close friends, and as he went off to LSU to study architecture we kept in touch. He'd tell me about things he was working on, share

papers he'd written, even visiting me with my sister in Chicago so he could tour the works of Frank Lloyd Wright.

He was a friend, not just a "former youth group teen," and the thought of him becoming a priest sort of left my mind. He'd design beautiful buildings and make his mark on the world.

But a few years later, he called me up and told me he had some news. As we sat on my back porch, he shared that for the past few months he felt like maybe he needed to think about

the priesthood. So, he applied and had been accepted to seminary. And he was going.

I laughed.

It was the first time one of those young men I'd noticed something in, and said something to, had seen the same thing in themselves.

Six years later, on a hot summer day, I sat in the front row of our cathedral and watched that gangly youth group teen walk up the aisle in a chasuble, swing a thurible around the altar, elevate the host and say the words of consecration, and then I knelt at his feet as he bestowed his priestly blessing upon me for the first time.

Little Andy, now Father DeRouen, asked me to lector at his first Mass; the other lector was the youth minister who came after me.

Two people who'd been in Andy's life during his teenage years, who walked alongside him as he grew deeper in his faith and dove into Scripture, were the ones to proclaim God's word at his first Mass of thanksgiving.

We often mistakenly think of youth ministry in terms of "numbers" -- how many teens are coming each week and when can we get them to volunteer to stuff something in the bulletin?

But the success of youth ministry is measured not in crowd size or how many pizzas we order. It's measured by the moments we get to see vocations discovered,

come to life and flourish.

I didn't cry at Andy's first Mass. I laughed. The same way he once laughed at me and I once laughed at him. Only this time, I was laughing at the Lord, whose plans, works and promises are ones of great joy, and always surprising.

Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker, writer, and author of four books. She hosts the *Ave Explores* podcast and lives in Louisiana with her family. She writes the "Window Seat Wisdom" column for Catholic News Service.

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Lord,
your love is
eternal;
do not
forsake the
work of your
hands.

Psalm 138: 8
Responsorial Psalm
for August 23

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Catholic All Year: celebrating the feast of St. Lawrence

St. Lawrence of Rome was born in the third century in Spain. He accompanied the soon-to-be Pope St. Sixtus II to Rome and there was named the youngest of the city's seven deacons. St. Ambrose of Milan tells us that, as a deacon, Lawrence was in charge of the material goods of the Church and the distribution of alms to the poor. During the persecution of Christians ordered by the Roman emperor Valerian, Pope Sixtus II was executed along with many other priests and deacons.

The local prefect offered to spare the life of St. Lawrence if he would turn over to him the treasures of the Church.

Lawrence asked him for three days to gather the treasures, and the prefect agreed. The deacon spent the days distributing the wealth of the Church to the poor of the city, and entrusting important books and documents to their care, asking only that they would agree to meet him outside the home of the prefect on the morning of the third day.

When the prefect came out, expecting gold and jewels, he was presented with a motley crew of widows and orphans, the poor, the crippled, and the blind. St. Lawrence declared that these were the true treasures of the Church. And he was promptly arrested.

The prefect was so angry that, rather than behead Lawrence, as he had the other Christians, he had a large gridiron prepared, with red hot coals beneath it. He had St. Lawrence placed upon the gridiron to suffer, but Lawrence, in the midst of his physical agony, just before his death, cheerfully declared, "You had better turn me over. I'm done on this side!"

He is a patron saint of librarians and archivists, for the care he took to preserve the books and the documents of the Church. He is a patron saint of cooks, for the fact that he was cooked. And, he is the patron saint of comedians, for the excellent sense of humor he displayed about the

whole ordeal.

Ways to celebrate St. Lawrence's feast day.

Even in the middle of a pandemic, remembering and celebrating the lives of the saints can bring stability, peace, and joy to our homes. Consider celebrating St. Lawrence's feast day with your family, cooking meat and veggies on the grill and having everyone come prepared with a couple of their favorite jokes to share.



The feast of St. Lawrence will be celebrated on Monday, August 10

Now taking pre-orders for the 2020-2022 Diocesan Directory

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Psalm 63: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for August 30

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Catholic schools in U.S. unveil reopening plans for worrisome fall term

By Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) -- U.S. Catholic schools are tweaking their reopening plans for a worrisome fall term by consulting parents and training staff for face-to-face instruction in many cases, but with distance-learning programs in place as well.

With only a month left of summer vacation and with enrollment season unfolding in the atmosphere of uncertainty, parochial and other private Catholic schools around the country are rolling out a variety of teaching approaches for the new school year.

And given the mixed results of last spring's rapid pivot to online education, a preference has been emerging for in-person instruction or for a hybrid blend of both virtual learning with partially reopened campuses.

"What I know about children and how they form relationships with adults, I don't think there is much doubt that it would be better in person," said Kathy Mears, interim director of the National Catholic Educational Association. "I also have no doubt that there are some really creative teachers out there who are going to figure out how to build those (online) relationships as best they can."

Both in-person and virtual learning methods are set to be



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PLAN TO REOPEN THIS FALL. Kamran Farghaly, a second grader at St. Rose of Lima School in Massapequa, N.Y., smiles as he chats with a classmate Jan. 28, 2020. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

implemented in various forms as school communities decide on strategies that are certain to vary from region to region and are subject to mid-course change as the pandemic expands, impacting some communities more than others.

Mears told Catholic News Service recently the NCEA has begun collecting schools' reopening plans and safety protocols designed to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. There are more than 6,000 Catholic

schools in the U.S., and many of those best practice plans will be shared among Catholic schools superintendents and principals nationwide through conference calls as the school year progresses.

Last year, students had the benefit of at least starting the school year in person and getting to know each other and the faculty face to face over a period of months before a national lockdown in March. It may prove a less than ideal situation wherever students are asked to

start the next fall term online if forming trusting teacher-student relationships suffers.

"I am sure it will be more difficult the younger the students are," Mears said. "I know some Catholic school teachers have already been meeting their students via Zoom one on one before school has even started so that the kids will kind of know their teachers the first time they come together as a group online."

In addition, Catholic schools around the country that

have posted their reopening plans online or shared them as news releases indicate several common modifications and safety protocols and a few novel ideas as well.

- Many schools are planning to reopen with an option for both in-person classes and virtual learning for families not ready to return their child to campus.

- Across the board, schools have made an array of campus modifications to enhance social distancing, student traffic flow, mask wearing, safe drop-off and pickup procedures, temperature checks, and enhanced air circulation, sanitation measures, and professional cleaning services.

- Schools are keeping children in age-related cohorts that will study and play together but not mingle outside their cohort to limit the spread of a potential infection, reducing the need to quarantine an entire student body in the event of an outbreak.

- Parents and volunteers will be restricted from being on campus for the foreseeable future.

- Some schools are offering one-time financial incentives for students transferring in from non-Catholic schools

Mears said she can't think of any school principals who took vacation this summer as they worked nonstop to ready their school for all contingencies. And some estimates say at least 100 Catholic schools will

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?? Catholic Trivia Answer ??

more than 100 works of theology and apologetics. spent the rest of his life in service and study, writing Adeodatus, were both baptized by St. Ambrose. He the faith. A year later, in the year 387, he and his son man. He later began to read the Bible and to study as a child. Augustine left the faith entirely as a young a pagan, who would not allow his son to be baptized instructed her child in the faith, but her husband was to North Africa. St. Monica was a Christian and St. Monica and St. Augustine were both native prayers for her son. tears cannot be lost," in reply to St. Monica's tearful St. Ambrose, friend to both St. Monica and her son,

Answer: SAINT AMBROSE.

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

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

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

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

not reopen this fall due to the economic hardships imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic strain.

Meanwhile, working parents stuck at home have been under stress both from working remotely while simultaneously tutoring children for the last six months. Many are desperate to get their kids back into the classroom while others are more reluctant.

“The United States has never been more dependent on their teachers than they are right now and my hat is off to them because they are willing and trying to do what is best for their students,” Mears said.

The Archdiocese of Chicago, credited with a well-crafted and thorough reopening plan for some 70,000 Catholic school students, is encouraging in-person instruction at its schools.

But for families who aren’t ready for that, the archdiocese has consolidated virtual learning into a centralized virtual academy platform to relieve schools of the burden of running both format simultaneously.

“We believe it might be very difficult for classroom teachers to deliver both forms of instruction simultaneously and do it well,” Jim Rigg, the archdiocese’s superintendent of Catholic schools, told CNS.

“We are telling our teachers to put their time and attention into the face-to-face instruction component” whereas a new centralized archdiocesan virtual academy will serve families with long-term virtual teaching.

Parents who opt for virtual learning would still pay tuition and affiliate with their local Catholic school, with ongoing communication and coordination between that local school and the

archdiocesan virtual academy.

Rigg said every Catholic school has its own unique history and culture and reopening with in-person instruction enables campus individuality to flourish with schools finding the right blend of solutions for returning to school safely while incorporating the current scientific and medical guidance on COVID-19.

The Chicago schools are now finalizing their individual reopening plans and will submit those to the archdiocesan schools office for review by Aug. 19; meanwhile, they are training staff and faculty on the reopening measures.

“We feel face-to-face instruction is vital to Catholic education and something is lost when you lose those daily interactions between students and teachers,” Rigg said. “Most of our families still want that to happen.”

North of San Francisco, the principal of St. Vincent de Paul High School in Petaluma has announced a hybrid reopening plan starting Aug. 11, and featuring an initial phase of two days of in-person instruction Monday and Tuesday. It will be followed by three days of at-home, virtual learning for its 200 high school students.

By Sept. 15, the school will assess the situation and consider moving to four days of face-to-face instruction, giving the students a chance to acclimate to the novelties and restrictions of a post-pandemic campus.

“We felt this hybrid model will give students and teachers as well as time to get acclimated to things like teaching behind a plastic screen and students wearing face masks - it’s a different educational experience,” Patrick Daly, St. Vincent de

Paul’s principal, told CNS.

Daly represented Catholic schools at a “National Dialogue on Safely Reopening America’s Schools” with President Donald Trump July 7 at the White House.

Trump has been advocating for schools to reopen with face-to-face teaching and to revive a devastated U.S. economy.

Daly told the president that decisions about school reopenings should never be political, but rather based on safety precautions and what is best for the youth. He also said he hopes to avoid full-time distance learning, which he said isn’t healthy for young people nor their parents nor teachers, whom he said end up working three and four times harder.

“You can get some one-on-one learning through Zoom but not everything,” Daly said. “We also have to worry about (student) mental health.”

The NCEA’s Mears simply asks parents to keep an open mind about both online learning and in-person faith-based instruction as schools go forward: Virtual learning has been proven to work and can be a highly effective platform for both religious instruction and core curriculum. Likewise, she said, schools understand the current science on COVID-19 and are confident they can mitigate risks of face-to-face teaching.

“Teachers everywhere will continue to try to do what is best for their students. I don’t feel like there are tons of choices - if people are making that decision that they have to start online, it’s because the science dictates that and they will make the best of it,” Mears said. “We are not going to know for several years probably how this impacted children.”

A note from the Catholic Schools Office

Information and guidelines for schools regarding safety with COVID are always evolving, changing, and generally present a challenging situation for all businesses and individuals. We know that parents have many questions about the start of the school year, and are working with our Catholic schools to best answer those questions.

Our Catholic schools have a long history of providing a top-quality Catholic education. We look forward to continuing that education in the school year to come. If you have any questions, we invite you to contact your school administration or the Office of Catholic Schools.

Thank you for your patience and prayers as decisions are made daily to best care for the youth of our diocese. Please see page 22 for a listing of Catholic school openings as of the publication date of this issue of the *Church Today*.

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 the 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:
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 Contact Janet Burgess at 318-445-6424, ext. 234 with any questions.

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Geaux Get Tested - July 21 - August 5

The Louisiana Department of Health is hosting a "Geaux Get Tested" Back to School Blitz from July 21 - August 5. Everyone is welcome, no symptoms required. They are especially encouraging all parents to bring in school aged children (or younger), as well as teachers, school employees, bus drivers, and others associated with education for this special COVID testing opportunity. Testing during this period will be provided with no out-of-pocket expense, with test results returned in four days' time.

This is a unique opportunity for citizens of CENLA to get tested with four-day turnaround for a limited time. It is a collaborative effort between the Office of Public Health and the Louisiana National Guard. Testing will be provided Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Exhibition Hall next to the Rapides Parish Coliseum.

In order to be tested at this site, you must provide you telephone number and email address. You must also register at www.DoINeedCOVID19test.com, where you will be able to access your test results. Help yourself and others by taking advantage of this opportunity!

St. Kateri Circle Meeting - August 13 and September 10

Our Circle meetings will be held at St. Frances Cabrini School gym for August and September 2020 due to the Governor's new mandated rules. On Thursday, August 13 and September 10, 5:30 p.m. We will require members to wear a mask when they attend.

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://holytravels.org/tours>.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Holy Land Pilgrimage - January 15 - 23, 2021

Join us for a journey of a lifetime on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Scriptures will come alive as you visit Our Lord's homeland. It is an encounter that has changed the lives of many pilgrims, and it is an act of faith and prayer. Your spiritual director for this trip is Fr. John Wiltse, pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport. For more information, call 337-291-1933 or visit www.holytravels.org/tour/stmaryscottonport/.

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/

Tentative: School start dates are changing

After consultation with Bishop-Elect Robert Marshall and Diocesan officials, and after surveying the readiness of our schools in these unprecedented times, Superintendent Thomas E. Roque, Sr. announces that, as of publication date, students' first day of school will be on the following dates:

- St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport: **July 27**
- Holy Savior Menard High, Alexandria: **August 7**
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria: **August 7**
- St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria: **August 10**
- Sacred Heart School, Moreauville: **August 17**
- St. Anthony School, Bunkie: **August 10**
- St. Joseph School, Plaquemine: **August 7**
- St. Mary's School, Natchitoches: **August 7**

School dates, continued...

As you know, the situation due to the pandemic may cause further changes in the school start schedule. Any changes will be announced in the Church Today and on the Diocese of Alexandria website as they become known.

Our Catholic schools will follow all federal, state, and local guidelines and protocols to protect our students, faculty, and staff. Each school has developed a safety/health plan of action that will be followed. Please contact your individual school with any questions.

We welcome our parents and students back to our Catholic schools for a spirit-filled, strong academic year.

Introducing two new Church Today columns

Student Spotlight:

The Church Today would like to recognize young men and women across our diocese for their achievements in school and community life, may it be fine arts, hobbies, athletics, church, school, club and community service, who have been faithful in lifestyle and service, but who aren't always recognized. We don't know them like you do!

We are seeking nominations from priests, Youth Ministers, Directors of Religious Education and other church parish staff members, and teachers for "Student Spotlight:" Catholic teenagers and/or students in both Junior High Schools and Senior High Schools, both those attending our Catholic schools or those attending public schools.

If you know of a teen you'd like to recognize, please fill out the form, found on the Diocese website at www.diocesealex.org. Help us to introduce some of our wonderful youth to the rest of our diocese!

Once we receive your submission, we'll contact you (the adult leader) to ensure that the youth nominated is a good fit to be featured in this Church Today spotlight.

Stump the priest:


As often as possible, we will publish 5-10 rapid fire Q&A's with one of our diocesan priests. If you have any questions about Catholicism that you'd like to see answered in the Church Today, please email them to cterracina@diocesealex.org.

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

Join in the Coronavirus novena at www.praymorenovenas.com, praying for all who are affected, all who are sick suffering, for all those who work in the medical profession, and for those who have died as well as for their grieving family members.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: August 31
Deadline for news:
Thursday, August 20

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>JULY 27</p> <p>TENTATIVE First Day of School St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Taking Down Giants Online program 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p>31</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>	<p>AUGUST 1</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP-ELECT R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>
<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. GUS VOLTZ</p>	<p>4</p> <p>VIRTUS St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p>	<p>6</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>	<p>7</p> <p>TENTATIVE First Day of School • Holy Savior Menard, Alexandria • Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria • St. Joseph School, Plaquemine • St. Mary's School, Natchitoches</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY</p>
<p>10</p> <p>TENTATIVE First Day of School • St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria • St. Anthony School, Bunkie</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>	<p>13</p> <p>St. Kateri Circle Meeting St. Frances Cabrini Gym 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY</p>	<p>15</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</p>
<p>17</p> <p>TENTATIVE First Day of School • Sacred Heart School, Moreauville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</p>	<p>19</p> <p>VIRTUS St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</p>
<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>25</p> <p>VIRTUS Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>



CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK
CLAY SHOOT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020



CONFERENCE CENTER ON THE GREENS

90 Harold Miles Rd., Alexandria, LA

8:00am **Registration**

9:00am **Shotgun Start**

12:00pm **Lunch & Awards**

- * Shooter goody bags, t-shirts, and all meals will be provided.
- * Golf carts are not necessary for this year's course. Instead, a tractor shuttle will provide transportation to and from the club house as needed.
- * Shotguns and shells are **not provided**. Plan to bring at least 4 boxes to complete the course.

Join the CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Foundation on August 29th as we "golf with a gun" to raise support for our local Children's Miracle Network. The event will consist of a 100-target course, games, raffles and prizes. There are only 25 (4-man) teams available, so grab some friends and your favorite shotgun and join us for a good cause!

Sponsor Deadline: August 14th

For more information or to book your Sponsorship/Team: Visit www.christuscabrinifoundation.org/cmn-clayshoot

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