

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LI, No. 9

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

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

September 28, 2020



## Back to school!

Pictured are the Jr. Beta Officers for the 2020-2021 school year from Sacred Heart School, including Treasurer, Arleigh [redacted]; President, Ryan [redacted]; Reporter, Lillian [redacted]; Chaplain, Zy [redacted]; Vice President, Jack [redacted]; Secretary, Arianna [redacted]; and Sponsor, Mrs. Katie Freeman.

Schools around the diocese celebrate getting back to the classroom. See pages 12-13 for back to school pictures and updates.

### INSIDE

#### Louisiana priests provide hurricane relief to parishes in need

There are several ways that you can help those who are recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Laura. See pages 2-3 for ways those around the state are lending a helping hand, or visit the website for links to charities assisting with relief efforts.

#### Bishop Marshall makes diocesan appointments

Bishop Marshall recently announced appointments for Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, to assist the Diocese of Alexandria in moving forward. See page 5.

#### Love Life Amendment

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops enthusiastically supports the Love Life Amendment, and encourages all to approach this initiative with a formed conscience and a commitment to defend the sanctity of human life. See page 8 for more information on this amendment to the Louisiana Constitution.

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# Faithful citizenship



**Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,**

Calendar year 2020 has already brought us many challenges - a pandemic, hurricanes, wildfires, a troubled economy, a renewed awareness of the racism of our society, virtual learning, and so many others. In some ways, these difficulties have brought out the best in the American people. We have seen the dedication of health care professionals tending to those suffering from COVID-19. We have witnessed the sacrifices made by firefighters in the West, by first responders and volunteers bringing assistance to those impacted by hurricanes, and by teachers (especially Catholic School teachers) who shifted to distance learning in order to continue teaching their students as the nation quarantined. Our consciences have been stirred by the outcry of the oppressed as cell phone videos have brought us face-to-face with the racism we have long chosen to ignore. Yes, we have been abundantly challenged in 2020.

In the midst of all of this, we are fast approaching a national election. Every election is important. It is a chance for the people to influence the future actions of our government at all levels. Yet in this year, with all of its difficulties, we are asked to make important choices about how we will face problems that are local, national, and international. We are choosing leaders who will guide our country and lead the free world. Citizenship is a responsibility and it is one that Catholics must take seriously.

We are invited to do that in two important steps. Our society has become so partisan, so divisive, that reasonable dialogue among those with different

viewpoints is almost impossible. Our first task, therefore, is to lower the volume, eliminate personal attacks, discuss issues calmly and constructively in an effort to find common ground and promote the common good. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has an important initiative - *Civilize It*. We are asked to pledge the following:

**Civility:** To recognize the human dignity of those with whom I disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.

**Clarity:** To root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well-formed conscience, which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening. I will stand up for my convictions and speak out when I witness language that disparages others' dignity, while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.

**Compassion:** to encounter others with a tone and posture which affirms that I honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. I will presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. I will strive to understand before seeking to be understood.

Read more about this initiative at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

and take the pledge at [www.wearsaltandlight.org](http://www.wearsaltandlight.org).

Our second task is to prepare ourselves to vote. We must be informed voters, which means turning off the partisan cable networks and actually reading the party platforms, listening to the candidates, discerning where they stand on the important issues of our time. But it is not enough to be "informed." Voting is a moral choice and we must make that choice with a conscience that is properly "formed."

Many people would like to skip this step. I have only been a bishop for one month, but I have already received many letters and emails from all sides asking me to "stand up," to "be a good and courageous bishop" by *instructing* my people how to vote. As you know, the Catholic Church does not tell people how to vote. We do not endorse any candidate or political party. We do not adopt any party platform. Indeed, the "platform" of the Catholic Church is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You might find the Gospel quoted or referenced in one platform or another, but you will also discover that the platform of neither of the major parties perfectly aligns with Catholic teaching. That is why we must form our consciences and make choices.

To assist us in this task, the USCCB has prepared a document entitled, "*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*." I invite you to read the entire document or at least a summary of the document in two parts, both on the USCCB website at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). If you prefer a video format, the USCCB has prepared a series of five videos which you can watch through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' YouTube channel. You could also visit the USCCB's page for these and other links and materials at <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>. On a local level, the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops has assembled a Public Policy Guide that speaks to many of the issues of our time; this guide can be found on our diocesan website.

Above everything else, I encourage you to join me in prayer for our community, our state, and our country. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in these important decisions. No amount of reading, no amount of partisan bickering or watching news reports or reviewing campaign literature will substitute for standing humbly before our God and asking for his wisdom. A Novena for Faithful Citizenship can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/novena-for-faithful-citizenship>.

May God continue to bless our country and our participation in the political process.

**Live Jesus in our hearts!**

Most Reverend  
 Robert W. Marshall, Jr.  
 Bishop of Alexandria

**POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

As the 2019 Election draws nearer, pastors and principals are reminded that any parish, school, or other Church-owned facility is not to be used for any activity related to the support of or opposition to any candidate for political office, nor as places for partisan debate.

The pulpit, especially, is never to be used by candidates or incumbents to advance their political views or their positions. Moreover, the pulpit is not to be used as a forum by any individual -- even a priest or deacon -- to support or oppose a candidate, public official, or political position.

For a full explanation of diocesan policy regarding political activity, please refer to Article 1400 on page 15 of the Diocesan Policy Manual, located at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org), under "The Diocese - Policies and Structures."

If you have any further questions, please contact David Brook at 318-445-6424, ext 215.

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# Louisiana priests provide hurricane relief to parishes in need

By Peter Finney, Jr.  
Catholic News Service

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) --

Louisiana priests that support each other with ongoing camaraderie and spiritual nourishment are now also providing very essential hurricane relief to priests and the parishes they serve in areas that were devastated by recent storm damage.

Just days after Hurricane Laura pounded the Diocese of Lake Charles in southwest Louisiana and damaged dozens of churches, eight members of a priests' support group bolted into action to aid their ninth member - Father Jeffrey Starkovich of St. Pius X Church in Ragley.

On Aug. 31, priests from the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge arrived in Ragley, just north of Lake Charles, driving U-hauls packed with donated water, food, soft drinks, paper goods, diapers, canned goods, ice, and gasoline.

The relief also included hundreds of hot meals - mostly jambalaya and red beans and rice - cooked by the parishioners of Annunciation Parish in Bogalusa, where support group member Father Daniel Brouillette is pastor. Those staples of Cajun cuisine were passed out to more than 1,000 cars lined up for donations.

"It's simply the gift of the priesthood - people being generous to one another," said Fr. Starkovich, the spokesman for the Lake Charles Diocese who was ordained in 2011. "In a very real way, I was moved



**HURRICANE LAURA RELIEF.** Two priests help unload trucks of supplies delivered Aug. 31 to St. Pius X Parish in Ragley, La., to help people in need in the wake of Hurricane Laura. (CNS photo / Sean Harrison, courtesy Archdiocese of New Orleans)

by the gift of the priesthood, because the priests brought the message to the people, and the people responded. It's just the beauty of the priesthood."

Father Jonathan Hemelt, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in New Orleans, and Father Bryan Howard, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Violet, drove their U-haul trucks 200 miles to Lake Charles, and Father Colin Braud, pastor of Visitation of Our Lady Parish in Marrero, drove his car in the caravan so they could make their way back to New Orleans.

"I've never driven a truck like that before," Fr. Howard said, laughing. "It got a little

hairy at times," he told the Clarion Herald, archdiocesan newspaper of New Orleans.

Fr. Hemelt said what touched him were his memories of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when he was one of thousands of New Orleanians who needed help.

"I thought about it when I saw that line of people waiting to see all the volunteers," Fr. Helmet said. "Fifteen years ago, I was in one of those lines waiting for supplies. The amazing thing is the people volunteering are the same people who also lost their own stuff. They are unloading trucks and they are probably in the same position as those

coming for help."

After Laura hit on Aug. 26, the support group members reached out to Fr. Starkovich and contacted their own parishioners about trying to mount a quick collection campaign. In addition to dropping off supplies, Our Lady of the Rosary parishioners donated about \$10,000 in direct financial assistance.

The other support group members are Father Daniel Green, pastor of St. Maria Goretti Church in New Orleans; Father Garrett McIntyre of the Lafayette Diocese; Father Todd Lloyd of the Baton Rouge Diocese and Father Andre Melancon of the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese.

Fr. Hemelt said he hoped Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Maria Goretti parishes could work together on a plan for long-term support of St. Pius X in Ragley.

Hurricane Laura destroyed the St. Pius X office building and religion education classrooms, badly damaged the church roof and damaged the roof of the parish hall. But Fr. Starkovich celebrated the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the church on Sunday, Aug. 30, and 65 people showed up.

"What really touched me is the people are so filled with hope and happiness," Fr. Starkovich said. "Today everyone was joyful. We were short on volunteers, and we sent out a text message, and 50 volunteers came to the church in 10 minutes. They all left their own homes, which they were working on, to give food and water and supplies to everyone else." He said the group planned to work from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., but ended up helping from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. instead.

Because there is no water or power at the parish plant, Fr. Starkovich is living temporarily with nearly two dozen family members at his parents' home.

In addition to donations from the respective parishes of each support group member, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish in Chalmette and St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Slidell also donated supplies.

"Most of our parishes are taking up collections to help with financial assistance," Fr. Helmet said.

Fr. Howard also noted that, as one of his parishioners put it: "After Katrina, we were hit so hard, and help was coming from all over the country. Now it's our turn to return some of that help and support them."

That message is not lost on Lake Charles Catholics, Fr. Starkovich said.

"Our diocese helped New Orleans during Katrina," he said, "and now receiving that gift in return is a beautiful reality."

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*Finney is executive editor / general manager of the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.*

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

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

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

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

## Planting legacy

We are in a strange time together. The days sometimes seem to run together, don't they? In the midst of it all, there's one thing that keeps coming back to my thoughts: *What am I living my life for?*

And, *what will my life illuminate for others - long after I'm gone?*

This thought of legacy has rooted itself in my soul.

Today, let's chat about planting legacy, right where you are.

Legacy seems like a big concept, doesn't it? But it's really quite simple. It begins in small steps. Steps that add up over time. Steps and stories become seeds of faith that continue to produce fruit, year after year. Generation after generation.

Now, to create a legacy, something of value is passed from one person to another.



### Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina

Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

Through stories or songs. The firsthand witness of a life well-lived. Words on a page. Art.

My life has been shaped by the faith of those who have gone before me. Still, silent Masses. Prayers prayed in living rooms. Songs sung reverently in times of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Planted in faith, believing in what they couldn't yet see, generations before me passed on their faith to me. And I find myself wishing to do the same,

especially in this unique time. Are you feeling that, too?

Sometimes the only thing we have that is sure - is faith. Believing in what we can't yet see.

Planting legacy has been on my mind quite a lot lately, and maybe it's been on yours as well.

*What are we living this life for? What is my life illuminating for others? What will I leave behind for others if I finish my days in this pandemic?*

This fervent call to pass good

to my kids, and my husband, and the world - it's rooted itself into all of my thoughts since this strange time began.

*What do you want to pass along and multiply in the world - right now and long after you?*

Now, the best part of this is that you don't have to just look back. Perhaps some of your memories of the past are best rewritten in the future. You can pave a new path and change generations ahead of you as you do. The fun of planting legacy is

creating new stories to tell. And new values to pass on, too. You can write a new legacy for your family if that's what's needed.

So, a simple question for you: *what do you want to multiply in the world? What do you want to grow that lasts longer than you?* Write something down - there are no wrong answers.

*What do you want to multiply in the world?*

And then have some fun with it - think of the smallest, tiniest step forward that you could take today.

Let's plant seeds of legacy together. One small step at a time.

"Behold, I am making all things new."  
*Revelation 21: 5*

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## Disposing of religious articles / Receiving the Eucharist during the pandemic

**Q.** What is the proper way to dispose of the medals, rosaries, small crucifixes, etc., that many Catholic organizations mail out unsolicited? (I have enough of everything!) (Atlanta)

**A.** Perhaps surprisingly, church law on disposing of blessed articles of devotion is not very specific. Canon 1171 of the church's Code of Canon Law says simply that "sacred objects, which are designated for divine worship by dedication or blessing, are to be treated reverently." Traditionally, when no longer usable or wanted, they are buried or burnt.

But the articles to which you refer -- which arrive unsolicited -- have presumably not been blessed at all. Therefore, you are free to dispose of them as you wish,

What I do personally, when they have begun to accumulate, is to send them to an organization such as the Propagation of the Faith, which can use them for missionary work in foreign lands. Or, as an alternative, you could simply leave them at the entrance to a church, to be taken by anyone who might want them.

But please don't feel that you are duty-bound to do either of these; you never asked to receive



### Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

these objects, and you are free to dispose of them as you would any unwanted mail.

**Q.** My husband feels that, for the safety of our family, we should not attend Mass right now at our home parish. This is due to the fact that many of our parishioners are receiving the Eucharist on the tongue.

My husband is firm in his belief that reception in the hand is safer for all and that we should abstain from Mass and Communion while we have the dispensation to do so. (We found a parish 22 miles away where everyone received in the hand and we attended Mass there once, but other than that we have watched at home.)

I very much want to go back right now to regular attendance at our parish, but I have followed by husband's lead. I cry while

watching Mass on television, but anytime we discuss returning to church right now, an argument always erupts. (The longer we stay away from Mass, the less I like my husband!)

If I go by myself to Mass and receive Communion, would that be considered a sin? (Miami)

**A.** I, too, believe that Communion in the hand is safer. But some Catholics feel that receiving on the tongue is more reverent, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has recommended that people should maintain the right to that option.

So what we are doing in the two parishes that I serve is this: We ask those who prefer to receive on the tongue to wait until others have taken Communion before coming forward. That way, the priest can sanitize his hands once more -- and again

before each person who receives on the tongue.

Now, to answer your question: I understand and admire your deep desire to receive Jesus physically in the Eucharist. Like most people I feel that an act of "spiritual communion" can never match the experience of physical reception.

And no, it would not be a sin for you to go to Mass by yourself and receive. But for the sake of family harmony, I'm not sure that this would be the wisest course.

If you feel that you have done everything that you can to convince your husband how much you miss the Eucharist and feel the need for its strength, and if he still feels that for the safety of your family you are best off refraining from Mass attendance while you have the dispensation, then perhaps it would be best for you to make that sacrifice.

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



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on Spotify

## Bishop Marshall makes two appointments

Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. has announced two appointments. Father Scott Chemino, most recently Delegate of the Apostolic Administrator, has been appointed Vicar General. In making the appointment, Bishop Marshall noted that “Fr. Chemino has served as Vicar General for many years, and I am grateful that he has agreed to continue to share his knowledge of the diocese and his vast experience with me.” Father Chemino will remain Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church and School in Bunkie. Canon law requires that a bishop appoint at least one Vicar General, a priest who acts as the bishop’s chief agent in executive matters.

In addition, Bishop Marshall has appointed Father Michael Craig Scott to the position of Moderator of the Curia. Over the years, Father Scott has served as Vicar for Clergy and is presently Vicar Forane (Dean) of the Central Deanery. Father Scott



Very Rev. Scott Chemino, JD, JCL

will remain Pastor of St. James Memorial Church in Alexandria and Dean. A Moderator of the Curia, under the authority of the bishop, coordinates the exercise of the administrative duties and oversees those who hold offices and minister in diocesan administration. Like the Vicar General, he must also be a priest. “Father Scott brings to this position years of parish



Very Rev. Craig Scott, VF

experience and his knowledge of administration and of the needs of the diocese,” Bishop Marshall observed. “Both Father Chemino and Father Scott are well-respected by the priests and people of the diocese and I know that we will be able to work well together.”

*Effective Sept. 1, 2020.*

## Deans reappointed

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

I am pleased to announce that I have reappointed three deans for the Diocese of Alexandria. Under canon law, the bishop has the ability to group parishes into regional areas within a diocese, according to their geographic location. These regions are called *deaneries*. Deans (also called Vicars Forane) are priests who act as the overseer of a deanery appointed to them by the bishop. A dean’s main task is to first and foremost provide support to the faithful and priests of his deanery, but also to act as a liaison between the activities of his deanery and the bishop.

According to canon 555 in the Code of Canon Law, a dean is “a close collaborator with the Bishop in the pastoral care of the faithful and attentive ‘elder brother’ towards the priests of the deanery... It falls to him to coordinate the common pastoral activity of the parishes, to see to it that the priests are living lives in conformity with their state and that parochial discipline is duly observed, particularly with regard to the liturgy.”

The Diocese of Alexandria

has been divided into four deaneries, a structure I have retained. I have asked the deans of three of these deaneries to remain in office for at least one additional year, and I am grateful that each has agreed to continue to serve. During this year, I will learn more about the diocese as well as the priests and parishes in each deanery, and I will have the opportunity to discuss with each dean whether he is willing and able to continue in this ministry. Those reappointed are:

**Father John O’Brien, Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches, is reappointed Vicar Forane (Dean) of the Natchitoches Deanery.**

**Father John Pardue, Pastor of St. Patrick Church, Ferriday, is reappointed Vicar Forane (Dean) of the Eastern Deanery.**

**Father Craig Scott, Pastor of St. James Memorial Church, Alexandria, is reappointed Vicar Forane (Dean) of the Central Deanery.**

In making these appointments, I want to express my gratitude to Father Rusty Rabalais who served faithfully as

Dean of the Avoyelles Deanery for the past six years. In August, Father Rabalais moved from St. Joseph Church, Marksville, in the Avoyelles Deanery to become Pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria, in the Central Deanery. As a result, he was ineligible to be reappointed Dean of the Avoyelles Deanery. Over the next weeks, I will consult with the priests of the Avoyelles Deanery and solicit the names of those priests whom they deem qualified to serve as Dean. In the interim, Father Scott Chemino, Vicar General and Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie, has agreed to serve as the contact/coordinator in the Avoyelles Deanery until a new dean is named.

As we remember today the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I ask Our Lady to look kindly upon the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Diocese of Alexandria and to continue to intercede for us before her Divine Son.

**Live Jesus in our hearts!**  
Most Reverend  
Robert W. Marshall, Jr.  
Bishop of Alexandria

## Bishop Marshall continues dispensation from obligation to participate in Sunday Mass

As the coronavirus pandemic persists and Louisiana remains in Phase 2 with churches limited to 50% of seating capacity, Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. has issued a decree granting Catholics a dispensation from their obligation to participate in Sunday Mass until further notice. “While we pray for an end to the pandemic and look forward to full churches again, at this time too many of our brothers and sisters are vulnerable to this serious virus,” said Bishop Marshall. “We must encourage those who are sick and those with serious health conditions and their caregivers to worship from home. Thank you to the priests and parishes who are regularly livestreaming their

Sunday Masses.”

In addition to renewing the dispensation, Bishop Marshall also reiterated the importance of taking necessary precautions for those who do come to Mass. “Please sanitize your hands and maintain at least 6 feet of distance between you and anyone from outside of your household. As advised by health care professionals, the governor has mandated that all wear masks and we respect both that medical advice and legitimate governmental authority. Because many who have the virus are asymptomatic carriers who unknowingly pass it along, we take these precautions out of our obligation to protect our brothers and sisters.”

## DONATE: Hurricane Laura Relief

There are several ways you can help those who are recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Laura.

You can donate to the Diocese of Alexandria by visiting the Diocese website, and clicking on the “Donate” button at the very top of the homepage. Choose “Hurricane Recovery” and type in the amount you’d like to donate.

Or you can also donate to Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana. Complete and submit

the form at [www.catholiccharitiesacadiana.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesacadiana.org).

You can also fulfill items from the Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana’s Amazon wishlist, found at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3GD6RRQS0UKWP>.

Lastly, you can always mail a check, payable to Diocese of Alexandria, note on the check that it is for the Hurricane Relief Fund and send to Diocese of Alexandria, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306.

*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 October**

**The Laity’s Mission in the Church** - We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

# Mary: Why we need Our Lady of Sorrows in 2020

By Rachel Bulman  
Word on Fire Ministries

Our Blessed Mother Mary is known by many gracious and descriptive titles, including “The Theotokos” (The God-bearer); Our Lady of Grace; Our Lady, Help of Christians; Our Lady, Undoer of Knots; among others - and “Mother” most appropriately. On this day, she is venerated as Our Lady of Sorrows.

It may seem rather odd to devote ourselves to a sorrowful mother. How does one find solace in being so seemingly full of woe? But as with all things Marian, in this mode, Mary of Nazareth continues to personify the perfection of humanity for us.

We should look to her not only for her premier example of motherhood, of receptivity, and of femininity, but also an example of full humanity itself. Within her, we find the human condition par excellence, and in her person we are meant to see redeemed humanity. Indeed, today we contemplate how sorrow is part of Christian perfection.

Our Lady of Sorrows is often depicted with a tear-stained face, and seven long knives or daggers piercing her heart. These seven sorrows begin with the words of the holy man, Simeon, who was present at the Presentation of Jesus.

In Luke 2:34-35 it says, “Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’”

It seems that Simeon poses two conditions for the hearts of many to be revealed: that Jesus would be contradicted and that the Mother would be pierced by a sword. For it seems that through



her sorrow, the hearts of men are revealed, precisely because her penetrated heart is a mirror of the one whom she loves completely and permanently, and did from the moment of her unconditional and unrestrained “yes” to God. Her sorrow is therefore a sorrow perfectly received. It does not undermine her mission. It does not diminish or weaken her personhood. Instead, it highlights the profundity of her call as Mother, as Theotokos, and as the Help of Christians. Those who would echo her premier “yes” would soon have a share of her deep anguish, while those who refuse our precious Lord would necessarily have their hearts hardened. The sorrows of Mary become a point of departure where hearts continue to be revealed:

- The other six sorrows are:
- The flight into Egypt;
  - The loss of the child Jesus in the temple of Jerusalem;
  - Mary’s meeting Jesus on the Via Dolorosa;
  - The Crucifixion of Jesus;
  - The piercing of the side of Jesus with a spear, and his descent from the cross;
  - The burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea.

These heavy events in Mary’s life remind us that she can relate to everything we have suffered: having to leave our homes to find safety, the terror of losing track of our children, watching our beloved ones suffer or even die, and more. I imagine her losing Jesus in the temple of Jerusalem and feeling such relief when she saw him again. When they go to him, she

(probably after clutching him to her breast) begins to reproach him, wondering at how he could put his parents through such a panicked search for him. Jesus says, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” And in the following verses it says that Mary kept all these things in her heart. As any parent would when confronted with the truth that our children are not us. Or wholly ours.

Relating as a mother, it seems to me that every moment of Mary’s sorrow was also a moment of letting go. She searches for him after losing him for three days only to come to understand that in the temple is where he would always be found. Each of the events remind her that his mission is the same as hers inasmuch as she is, in her very person, Church - bound to both Christ’s Mystical and physical body. She is thus called to be perfectly united to him and destined to become the mother of all Christians.

Sorrow is kept in her heart to continually soften it, to the point of piercing, to allow all of mankind to pass through. And the sorrow is so great that it enlarges what sorrow means and envelopes all of the heartache that every person feels. Finding Jesus in the temple not only serves to remind Mary of Jesus’ mission, but to remind all of us that when our sufferings lead us to think that all is lost, we need not only turn to the temple - both the structural temples without and the spiritual temple within - to be reunited with him again.

Even those who seemingly “have it all” are not immune to suffering and cannot escape human sorrow, for it does not discriminate based on belief or income tax bracket or address or religion. Sorrow is present in

every life, and our Lady shows us that in order to rise with Christ, we must first endure the cross, and that the journey to holiness must include sorrow.

And how relevant is Our Lady of Sorrows in this year of 2020, where every scroll down every feed, every news flash, and every headline screams of the rolling sorrow of the world. There comes a point when the grief and fear seem too great to bear - but Our Lady waits, prays, and weeps with us, consoles us, and ultimately teaches us to persevere in hope.

We find solace beneath her mantle - not because of her solidarity with our sorrow but because of her Immaculate Heart’s ability to see past it. Her lamentations are not for what racks mankind bodily or materially. She weeps for what separates us spiritually. She is sorrowful because of the malice of man. She is sorrowful because she loves us. Her sorrow is unselfish and grounded in love, and we find consolation there because her ultimate longing is for our hearts - for all of us to be united to her son.

Until that time, we weep in sorrowful love for all of mankind, and beg the intercessory prayers of the Theotokos; Our Lady, Undoer of Knots; the Help of Christians. The Mother.

---

*Rachel Bulman is a wife, mother of 4, speaker, and blogger. She enjoys seeking truth, finding beauty, rediscovering the goodness in all things; and answering the call to holiness through her life as a beloved daughter of God. Find more of her work at [rachelbulman.com](http://rachelbulman.com).*

## 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.

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# Patriotic Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. On Saturday, October 3, the first Saturday of the month, the Little Flower Church in Evergreen will have Holy Mass in the Church at 7:30 a.m. followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and praying of the Patriotic Rosary for our country.

Our country is dedicated to the Immaculate Virgin Mary

(patroness of the United States of America), and needs the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary more especially during our current time.

Let us come together to pray with one mind and heart that peace may be restored and deadly diseases may disappear from this earth.

This invitation is extended to all.



**OUR LADY OF SORROWS FEAST DAY.** On Sept. 15, Sacred Heart School celebrated Our Lady of Sorrows feast day. Students made cards and the Parent's Club provided refreshments for the faculty and staff.

*The vineyard of the Lord  
is the house of Israel.*

Isaiah 5:7  
Responsorial Psalm  
for October 4

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### DIocese of Alexandria Office of Life and Justice

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

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

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

Please visit [www.diocesalex.org/latest-news/social-services-information/](http://www.diocesalex.org/latest-news/social-services-information/) for a directory of local services.

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

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

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

## Love Life amendment to the Louisiana constitution

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops strongly supports the Love Life Amendment, which would successfully amend the Louisiana constitution and thereby continue to strengthen our commitment to end abortion in our state. Citizens of our state will have the opportunity to affirmatively state that they “Love Life” on November 3 - the same day as the United States presidential election - by favoring this amendment.

As Catholics, we are called

to ensure that life is indeed valued and that the dignity of all is upheld. This is the foundational principle of our social teaching and must be intentionally considered in all that we do.

Passage of the Love Life Amendment would have a dual effect. Primarily, it will ensure that the state of Louisiana cannot establish a right to abortion at present or if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned in the future. Secondly, it will prohibit the funding of abortion through tax payer dollars within our

constitution. Without such an amendment, the invalidation of the many anti-abortion laws we have all advocated so strongly for in Louisiana remains a possibility.

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic bishops therefore enthusiastically supports the Love Life Amendment, and encourages all to approach this initiative with a formed conscience and a commitment to defend the sanctity of human life and uphold the dignity of all people.



**BISHOP AT MANNA HOUSE.** Bishop Robert Marshall helps on the serving line at Manna House following Hurricane Laura. The numbers of hungry being fed daily at Manna House have increased due to the influx of hurricane refugees from south Louisiana.

## Finding a Spiritual Director (and what to expect)

### *Life Teen*

I remember one day in seminary hearing the very direct words of one of the faculty - “a priest without a spiritual director is a menace.” It was a bold statement, but the emphasis on spiritual direction was important.

The history of the Church has always held the position of spiritual director as vital to the life of any clergy or religious. Today that still holds true, but many lay men and women, especially those in a life of ministry, also find a spiritual director to be a huge benefit.

Going about discerning and finding a spiritual director can be intimidating and can sometimes be downright difficult. Here are a few ideas for praying through the process and finding someone to help you in your walk with Christ as a youth minister, volunteer, and as a child of God:

**1. Pray.** Don’t enter into spiritual direction simply because it seems like the right thing to do. Pray and discern if you are ready, and ask the Lord to lead you to a good director who can help you.

**2. Go outside your circle.** Your spiritual director should not be someone who directly supervises you. You may also find it awkward to choose



someone you work with on a daily basis. You want to be able to speak openly about work and your own struggles and with some distance, it will help keep a clear line between your spiritual growth and your ministry.

**3. It does not have to be a priest.** Permanent deacons, religious, and many lay ministers are trained in direction. Look for a Catholic who has experience and is willing to commit to guiding and guarding your soul. Many priests are happy to offer

spiritual direction, but some simply do not have the time or cannot take on any additional directees. If you choose someone other than a priest, you will want to be sure to find a regular confessor.

**4. Ask someone who is experienced.** You may really look up to some people in your parish or diocese who are spiritually right on track. But that alone does not mean that they will have the gifts needed to direct your soul. Be sure you’re

asking someone who has some experience in Catholic spiritual direction.

**5. Spend some time “interviewing” more than one potential director.** Meet with a possible director to find out their approach. Simply get to know them and ask their style of direction and approach to prayer. Ask them what general format they keep for spiritual direction and pray with them about the possible relationship.

**6. Don’t be confused: a spiritual director is not a 1-on-1 with Dr. Phil.** It is not therapy and it won’t be a “quick fix.” Trust in the Lord to work through the relationship and be willing to do the work. Your spiritual director’s job is to guide you in your relationship with Christ. Also, the spiritual director should be humble and willing to serve you as a spiritual director, not someone who wants to turn you into a mini-me of himself!

Spiritual direction is a great opportunity to place your trust in another person and to allow a good sense of discipleship. Pray through it, ask God to be with you, select a strong and faithful Catholic, and be open to the Holy Spirit. Communicate honestly and you’ll be off to a great start.

## Interested in becoming a spiritual director?

The Diocese of Alexandria has partnered with the Archdiocese of New Orleans Spirituality Center Formation Program to offer a certification for those interested in becoming a spiritual director. This program is a two-year Spiritual Director Internship and is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Classes are one day per month and available during either weekdays or weekends.

There is an application process with prerequisite requirements and a \$2,000 fee for the 2-year program.

If you did not attend the informational meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 29 and you are interested in learning more about this ministry or you would like to enroll, you may still contact Deacon Richard Mitchell to schedule a personal informational meeting about this program: [dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org).



# Seminarian named chair of national board



**Seminarian John Mohn**

NEW ORLEANS -- John Mohn, Pre-Theology II seminarian from St. Mary's Church, Winnsboro, and St.

John's Chapel, Columbia, has been appointed by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council as the seminarian chair of the National College Councils Advisory Board.

The Board advises the supreme council on affairs related to college knights councils in the United States and Canada. John will represent the seminary councils of the United States and Canada of the college councils on the campuses of pontifical universities, St. Paul's in Ottawa and the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

"I am honored to have been chosen to serve the Knights of Columbus as an advisor," said Mohn. "The Knights are a large supporter of vocations in the Diocese of Alexandria, and have a long history of supporting

seminarians on a local, state, and national level. I hope that I can honor the memory of our late Bishop Charles P. Greco, 6th Bishop of Alexandria and first supreme chaplain to the Knights of Columbus."

September 11 marked the date of the first virtual college councils conference, John will be a featured keynote speaker on the role the Knights of Columbus in seminary councils.

Mohn, who has been a knight for five years, is a fourth degree knight, and currently Grand Knight of the Notre Dame Seminary Council in addition to his role on the Advisory Board.

Mohn will serve on the Board until March 2021.



## Sister Gianna Joseph

Sister Gianna Joseph (formerly Allison Harrison of Tioga) came home for a week long home-visit at the end of August. Harrison has recently been accepted as a novice for the Dominican Sisters of Mary the Mother of the Eucharist, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

When entering religious life, men and women usually adopt a new name in honor of one or two saints that they admire. Allison has taken on the name of Sister Gianna Joseph. The next time she will return to the Alexandria area for a home-visit will be in 2 years, after making her simple profession of vows.

Please pray for Sr. Gianna Joseph, and for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our diocese.

The Permanent Deacon candidates will be installed as lectors on Saturday, September 26. Please pray for these men as they take the next step in their formation to continue serving the people of our diocese. See the next issue of the Church Today for pictures.

## Golf Tournament cancelled

Due to COVID-19, this year's Golf Tournament has been cancelled.

We look forward to celebrating the 25th Bishop's Golf Tournament Invitational in 2021!

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

## Seminarian Burses

### August 2020 Donations

<b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Irion St. Romain Burse	
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes Church</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. Burse	
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes Church</b>	
<b>Altar &amp; Sanctuary Society</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. Burse	
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes Church Men's Club</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. Burse	
<b>Ms. Corrine Randazzo</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Marion A. French</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Father Peter T. Norek Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hirschak</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Father Taylor Reynolds Burse	
<b>Mrs. Barbara Rigby</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
<b>Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard</b> .....	<b>\$5,300.00</b>
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$5,750.00</b>
<b>Correction:</b>	
<b>Leonard E. Johnson</b> .....	<b>\$1,750.00</b>

### *Prayer for Vocations*

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

A prayer card with this prayer can be downloaded and printed from [foryourvocation.org](http://foryourvocation.org)

## Parish Spotlight: St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches Established 1935



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, NATCHITOCHES.

Out of concern for the well-being of the black Catholic population of Natchitoches, Msgr. Antonie Piegay, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, with Bishop Daniel Desmond's blessing, used his own funds to purchase land for the construction of a new church on the corner of Pavie and 5th Street from Judge D. C. Scarborough. Msgr. Piegay supervised the building of the

first wood-frame church erected by Ignatius LeGras at a cost of \$3,280. Bishop Desmond blessed the new church on May 5, 1935.

The bishop invited the Holy Ghost Fathers to administer the parish and appointed Fr. Joseph Kelly as administrator. On April 19, 1936, Bishop Desmond established St. Anthony's as an independent parish and Fr. Ivan Huber was appointed the first

pastor. His first task was to build a rectory behind the church. The rectory was completed in July, 1936.

In 1938, additional land was purchased to build a two-story school which was named 'The Piegay Memorial School' in honor of the parish's generous benefactor. The parish grew rapidly and new property was purchased for the construction of a larger church in the late 1950's. Ground breaking for the new church took place on May 26,

1963, under the direction of Fr. Francis Smith, C.S.Sp. D'Avy and Veltin were the architects with E. C. Breedlove serving as contractor for the project. The new church and rectory were blessed by Bishop Charles Greco on January 26, 1964.

In recent years, a new hall and parking lot have been added to the complex and the rectory has been remodeled and updated. The sanctuary has been renovated and new icons have been added to the original statues and altar fixtures.

*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](http://www.diocesealex.org). Your pastor will appreciate your continued support.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

*I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

Psalm 23: 6 | Responsorial Psalm for October 11

See the Catholic Trivia answer on page 19.

Martha Neil Anthony



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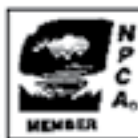
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**LOS ADAIS.** A special monument dedicated to the honor of St. Michael the Archangel has been erected at the historic site of the Los Adais Mission near Robeline, Louisiana. This monument includes a bronze marker listing the names of the Spanish Franciscan Friars who served at the mission from 1717 - 1773, when the mission was abandoned. This project, 3 years in the making, was the result of a collaborative effort between the Diocese of Alexandria and the Louisiana Department of Parks and Services. Interest in the Los Adais site and its history has been of great interest to our former bishops from the very beginning of the diocese. Bishop Van de Ven, Bishop Desmond and Bishop Graves showed great and continued interest in the development of the site and its designation as a state park. Dr. Pete Gregory and others who have conducted archeological digs and surveys of the site have always kept the diocese informed of their findings. Many early relics of the mission, including religious artifacts, are on view at the site.



**ST. PAUL, MANSURA. CORRECTION** - Confirmation was held July 18 at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. left to right: Evelyn Simon (Teacher's Aid), Julia Boston (11th Grade Teacher), Abby [redacted], Zachary [redacted], Brandi [redacted], Lea [redacted], Fr. Irion St. Romain, Isabella [redacted], Kylee [redacted], Rosie [redacted] and Amie Smith (DRE).

**SACRED HEART, MOREAUVILLE.** Bishop Robert Marshall joins pastor, Father Jose Pallipurath, to celebrate Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville on Sunday, Sept. 20.

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**? Catholic Trivia ?**

All ordained ministers in the Church are called to functions of Word, Sacrament, and Charity, but *these* men exercise these functions in various ways.

# Getting back to school!



**HOLY GHOST CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.** The Confirmation mass for Holy Ghost Church and St. Richard's Chapel was held on Aug. 22 at Holy Ghost Church in Marksville. Confirmandis included Collin [redacted], Isaiah [redacted], Orlando [redacted], Marshall [redacted], John [redacted] and Sedra-nee [redacted]. Also pictured above are Deacon Ted Moulard, Francine Darby (DRE), and Father Abraham Varghese (Pastor).



### CABRINI SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH THE READING CENTER AND DISCOVER DYSLXIA.

Five years ago, Cabrini School opened the first special education program at a private school within a 100 mile radius. As the program has grown, Cabrini has been able to partner with specialists and therapists to help give students access to as many resources as possible. One exceptionality that we see often is specific learning disabilities in the areas of reading and/or written expression, which is also referred to as dyslexia.

Yvette Blanchard is a dyslexia specialist who founded the Reading Center in Lafayette in 2016. Since its opening, she has opened multiple campuses and been into schools all over the Acadiana area as a dyslexia screener, simulator, and private reading strategist. With over 140 hours of Graduate level courses on reading disabilities, her expertise is extensive. Her work has been highlighted in dozens of publications in Acadiana, and since she began this work in 2016, The Reading Centers have successfully treated over 500 students who were unable to read, write or comprehend language. The Reading Center now has multiple locations in the Lafayette area. Yvette is also the CEO of the non-profit Discover Dyslexia, which was founded to provide screening, identification, remediation, and advocating for those students and adults at risk for dyslexia. Cabrini School is excited to partner with Yvette, The Reading Center, and Discover Dyslexia to give their students and teachers the tools they need to successfully treat reading disabilities. On Sept. 10, Mrs. Blanchard led a simulation to let parents and teachers know how it feels when a child struggles to read. The Reading Center will serve students on St. Frances Cabrini School's campus. There are some after-school slots available for students who don't attend St. Frances Cabrini School. If interested in having your child pre-screened, call Liz Hines at 318-448-3333 or email lhines@cabrinischool.com.



**SACRED HEART BACK TO SCHOOL.** Classes get underway at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville. Students have individual transparent screens on their desks. Fr. Jose Pallipurath celebrates Mass for the students at Sacred Heart School.



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



**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR BACK TO SCHOOL.** While back to school did not look like the normal back-to-school season that we're used to, we are back and grateful to be! Things look different this year, but one thing that is not is our ability to have Mass. To do this at the current time, one class goes to the church to participate in Mass, while the other classes participate from their classrooms. While we pray for an end to the coronavirus, and to be able to worship all together is our greatest prayer right now. Until then we are thankful to have the means to worship together. This Mass was also the first Mass that Fr. Rusty Rabalais has celebrated with the students of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School. These school Masses were celebrated on August 6-7, 2020.

You are being enriched in every way  
 for all generosity, which through us  
 produces thanksgiving to God

II Corinthians 9:11

The Catholic Foundation of North-Central Louisiana provides a way to ensure future financial security for our parish, schools and diocese.

**ENDOWMENT BENEFICIARIES**

**FUND BALANCE**

Diocese of Alexandria	1,577,300.00
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Alexandria	1,387,500.00
St. Anthony of Padua Church and School, Bunkie	531,000.00
Other Beneficiaries	529,600.00
Mary Queen of Peace Bossier City	382,000.00
Holy Savior Menard High School Alexandria	360,000.00
St. Joseph Zwolle	306,700.00
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Alexandria	300,100.00
St. Joseph Marksville	127,300.00
Christ the King Simmesport	108,900.00
St. Mary Winnsboro	100,600.00
Kramer Educational Funds	98,700.00

**ENDOWMENT BENEFICIARIES**

**FUND BALANCE**

St. Rita Alexandria	77,000.00
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Campti	61,500.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Vidalia	55,300.00
St. Paul Mansura	43,600.00
St. John the Baptist Moncia	40,400.00
St. Martin of Tours Hesmer	40,100.00
Sacred Heart Pineville	29,200.00
St. Anne Natchez	25,200.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Fifth Ward	13,900.00
St. Augustine Natchez	6,500.00
St. Joseph Plaquemine	5,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,207,400.00</b>

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# Anxious rest vs. active rest

By Annie Theby  
Greenhouse Collective

I think active rest or “play” is the condition of a relaxed soul. Allowing ourselves to play is a direct fruit of abiding and not striving. In a time where exhaustion has become a status symbol and productivity impacts our self worth, we often throw leisure aside or mistake it for scrolling on our phones or bingeing episodes of *The Office*.

Whether we realize it or not, when this becomes our norm, we are rejecting our identities as sons and daughters of the Father. Let’s not forget where our roots come from back in the garden.

The first full day of man’s life on earth was a day of rest, and I can’t help but think the Father had a whole day of play and adventure waiting for Adam.

Being able to play is not a luxury for the few, but instead a necessity for all.

Below is a list we can use to check in with our minds and our hearts to gauge where we are when we try to rest.

---

“Anxious rest vs. active rest” was first published at [greenhousecollective.com](http://greenhousecollective.com), home to the Greenhouse Collective ministry. 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](http://www.greenhousecollective.org).

Annie Theby is a creative missionary, storyteller and graphic designer. Learn more at [www.annietheby.com](http://www.annietheby.com).

<i>anxious rest</i>	<i>active rest</i>
<b>CONCERNED WITH STRIVING + EARNING</b>	<b>ABIDES IN PEACE + TRUST</b>
<b>WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS THINK</b>	<b>SECURE IN THE FATHER’S OPINION</b>
<b>CHECKING OUT OR NUMBING OUT</b>	<b>FULLY ENGAGED</b>
<b>LEADS TO ISOLATION + DESPAIR</b>	<b>STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIPS + LEADS TO HOPE</b>

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

// Archbishop Fulton Sheen



## Ministries for your heart

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

We hope this issue of the Church Today finds everyone well - safe and healthy with your families.

The Steubenville South Office has been working with Franciscan University and the facilities that host our summer conference, and would love for you to mark your calendars for the Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference, March 6-7, 2021, and the Steubenville South High School Youth Conference, scheduled for June 25-27, 2021!

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

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

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



Please mark your calendars for

**Beyond the Limits: March 6 - 7, 2021 and**

**Steubenville South: June 25 - 27, 2021**

Check [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com) for updates.

# 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

- 7:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville KZLG-FM 95.5
- 8:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville - KLIL-FM 92.1  
St. Rita Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube  
Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. (time varies) Radio Maria | [www.radiomaria.us](http://www.radiomaria.us)  
(click the play button) or tune in on your radio  
in Alexandria on station 580 AM  
or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 9:00 a.m. St. Francis de Sales, Echo on Facebook  
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. 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. St. Rita Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube  
Mass from St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans on Facebook
- 11:30 a.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville on Facebook or YouTube  
Radio broadcast of Mass will be available on your radio on these stations:

## Monday - Friday

- 7:00 a.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth  
on Facebook or YouTube (Monday - Thursday only)
- 8:00 a.m. Radio Maria | [www.radiomaria.us](http://www.radiomaria.us) (click the play button)  
or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM  
or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 8:30 a.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:00 a.m. Mater Dolorosa Church, 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](http://www.radiomaria.us) (click the play button)  
or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM  
or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 5:00 p.m. St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville on Facebook

**View recorded Mass on YouTube:** St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria and St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches

Please continue to visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) for updated livestream Mass times, as well as additional updates from the Diocese of Alexandria.

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

Give the Lord glory and honor.

Psalm 96: 7  
Responsorial Psalm  
for October 18

## Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

**Tuesday, October 13, 6:00 p.m.**  
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, NATCHITOCHES

**Thursday, October 15, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Mary's Assumption School, COTTONPORT

**Tuesday, October 27, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Joseph Catholic Center, ALEXANDRIA

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

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



## Upcoming Retreats

**All ACTS Retreats have been cancelled until further notice.**

Please contact individual retreat organizers for more information about rescheduling.

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

A list of ACTS Retreat dates can be found at [www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/).

# Church, society should recognize leadership of Hispanics, Latinos, bishop says

*Catholic News Service*

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Catholic Church and American society should recognize the historic and current contributions of Hispanic and Latino leaders, said a U.S. bishop at the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated Sept. 15-Oct. 15.

This year, Hispanic Heritage Month is especially meaningful as the Catholic Church in the United States is concluding the four-year process of the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry, said Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda of Detroit, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs.

The main goal of the Fifth Encuentro, or V Encuentro, he said, has been to discern ways in which the U.S. Catholic Church can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics and Latinos respond to the call to the new evangelization as missionary disciples serving the church and society.

The fifth Encuentro and the four previous similar events have recognized how Hispanics and Latinos have been woven into the very fabric of church and society in the U.S. for many generations.

In preparation for, and during the most recent Encuentro gatherings, significant research was conducted about the presence of Latinos in the church and in U.S. society. One finding showed that from 1990 to 2016, the U.S. Hispanic/Latino Catholic population increased by about 13.7 million, while the overall U.S. Catholic population only increased by about 3.6 million.

Another finding was that the percentage of U.S. Hispanics and Latinos who were Catholic in 2016 was 52%, and just over half of the Catholics under age 50 were Hispanic or Latino.

"As the formal V Encuentro process transitions into its implementation phase, it is clear that the numerous initiatives emanating from it show the enthusiasm and vibrancy of the church," said Bishop Cepeda.

To help highlight this, the USCCB's Subcommittee on



Hispanic Affairs will conduct a national V Encuentro event virtually Oct. 9-10.

"It is our hope that this event will help participants to visualize the future of Hispanic and Latino ministry both at the local and national level, and of Hispanic leadership and participation within their organizations," said Bishop Cepeda.

The virtual gathering is designed to help dioceses, parishes and Catholic organizations drive home the findings of the Fifth Encuentro and assist them in identifying, creating, or fine-tuning their pastoral responses at the local level.

The national Encuentro in October 2018 in Grapevine,

Texas, was the culmination of parish, diocesan, and regional gatherings.

Out of those gatherings emerged dozens of pastoral priorities, which were synthesized into a concounding document that came out of the V Encuentro to be used by dioceses, parishes, and national structures in drafting their own pastoral plans according to their own realities and priorities.

The ongoing health and economic constraints generated by the COVID-19 pandemic has kept many dioceses and regions from conducting in-person gatherings originally planned to complete the V Encuentro process.

"The V Encuentro process

has showcases the deep faith and commitment of Hispanics and Latinos to the church," said Bishop Cepeda. "At the same

time, it has demonstrated their entrepreneurship, profound awareness and care about the social ailments of our society, as well as their strong commitment to social justice, including a wide range of life issues.

"Hispanics, and in particular Hispanic Catholics, are determined to be part of the solution to the current reality: the COVID-19 pandemic, the call for racial justice, and the continuing impact of global climate change."

At the national level, these priorities include leadership development, particularly of Hispanic and Latino young adults; a focus on strengthening marriage and family life; evangelization and catechesis with a strong scriptural component; vocational discernment; educational attainment; and generating responses to the pastoral challenges generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected people of color, particularly Blacks and Latinos.

## Mass of Thanksgiving Patronage of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

*Bishop Robert Marshall will celebrate  
the Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Kateri Tekakwitha  
at St. Anne Chapel in Robeline  
on Friday, October 23 at 6:00 p.m.*

## Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

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

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

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

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

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

The "Heart of Saint Kateri" Circle meets:  
2nd Thursday of each month 5:30 p.m.  
Tekakwitha Conference National Center  
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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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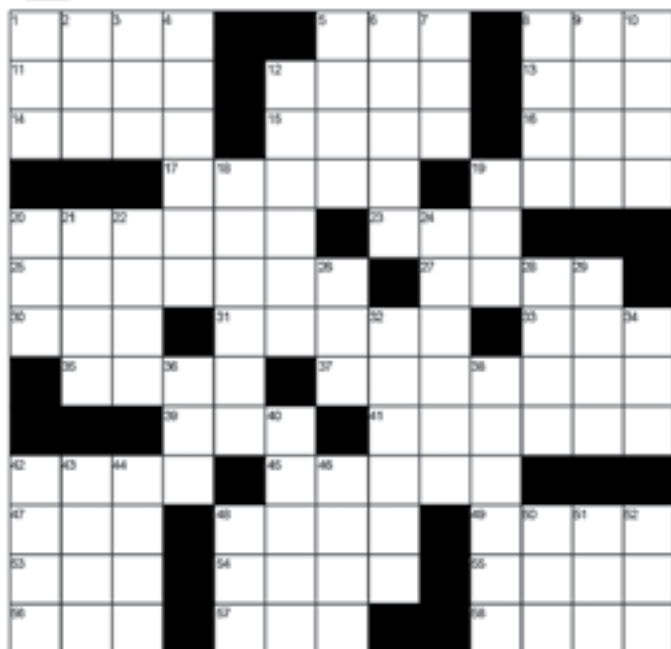
Adjunct Professor, Southern University Law Center  
MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association,  
Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association,  
National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives,  
Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State  
Bar Association).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited,"  
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Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at  
Social Security Disability Hearings," "An Unsolved Mess:  
Analyzing the Social Security Administration's Methodology  
for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers."

**318-717-1995**

## The Cross Word

October 18  
and 25, 2020



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**Readings:** Is 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21  
and Ex 22:20-26, 1Thes 1:5c-10 and Mt 22:34-40

**ACROSS**

- 1 In \_\_\_ (together)
- 5 Computer part
- 8 Crow's cry
- 11 Look at
- 12 We partake of one \_\_\_
- 13 Frozen water
- 14 Opposed
- 15 In addition
- 16 God is \_\_\_-loving
- 17 30 days
- 19 "With all your \_\_\_"
- 20 Jonathan was David's
- 23 "\_\_\_ and you shall receive"
- 25 Sea cow

- 27 Put on \_\_\_
- 30 Time zone
- 31 Utopian
- 33 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- 35 A psalm could be called one
- 37 God \_\_\_ Cyrus' right hand
- 39 Affirmation
- 41 Ruled Palestine at Jesus' time
- 42 "Endurance in \_\_\_"
- 45 \_\_\_ donna
- 47 Much \_\_\_ About Nothing
- 48 Legal claim to land
- 49 Very dry

- 53 Not (prefix)
- 54 Trigonometry
- 55 Mined metals
- 56 Old bread
- 57 Fox home
- 58 God called Cyrus by \_\_\_

**DOWN**

- 1 Resort
- 2 Japanese money
- 3 St. Peter used one
- 4 Claimed by Ukraine
- 5 Male foal
- 6 Turkish officer
- 7 Flying saucer
- 8 Italian greeting
- 9 Civil liberty group
- 10 Healthy
- 12 Touched down
- 18 Timely (2 wds.)
- 19 Winter sport
- 20 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
- 21 Freeway entrance
- 22 Within
- 24 Muslim bow
- 26 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 28 Sales agents
- 29 Type of butter
- 32 Curving
- 34 32nd U.S. president
- 36 "An \_\_\_ for an \_\_\_"
- 38 Advent is a church \_\_\_
- 40 Steeple
- 42 At God's right \_\_\_
- 43 Incense gives off one \_\_\_
- 44 What every child wants
- 46 Guides 44D
- 48 Limited (abbr.)
- 50 Time period
- 51 Radioactivity unit
- 52 Compass point



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### Peter's Words

*"He who hears you, hears me,  
and he who rejects you, rejects Me."*

These words are of profound importance, for they were spoken by Jesus Himself to the first Pope of His Church, St. Peter. We must honor and love the Pope because his "Sovereign Authority" was bestowed upon him by Christ Himself.

Throughout history, the names of the Popes have changed and also the external appearances, but the office of the Vicar of Christ never changes. Christ Himself promised, "I will be with you always even to the end of times" again, not only that, concerning His Church, He promised that the "gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

The following quote from Pope Saint Pius X is a great testimonial to the Papacy:

"When people love the Pope, they do not discuss his orders; they

do not question the extent of their obedience nor in what matters they are to obey. When people love the Pope they do not pretend that he has not spoken clearly enough as if he were obliged to whisper in each one's ear that which he often times expressed so clearly in words and encyclicals. One cannot cast a doubt upon his orders under the pretext so commonly adduced by those who are unwilling to obey, that it is not the Pope who commands, but those who surround him; one cannot limit the ground on which he may and ought to exercise his authority, in matters of authority, one cannot give the preference to persons whose ideas clash with those of the Pope however learned these may be, for though they be learned, they are not.

lizdescant@gmail.com  
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# The need for sacred spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic

By *Elise Italiano Ureneck*  
Catholic News Service

My son's pediatrician had one piece of advice at his nine-month check-up: baby-proof our home. "Secure bookshelves to walls, cover electrical outlets, put up gates, and get safety locks for cabinets," he said. "And bring everything along to Grandma and Grandpa's, too, because most accidents happen in other people's homes."

My son is an unusually fast crawler and has a pretty long wingspan, so we had already implemented safety measures. But the doctor's emphasis drove home the point: Restrain and constrain against his instincts, at least for this period of time.

I think many of us can sympathize with my son's frustrations: We've been restricted to certain spaces for nearly five months. A few weeks ago, The New Yorker ran a cartoon depicting family members climbing the walls of their living room. The caption read, "It's great to have something we can all do together." Many of us can relate.

Our access to people and places has been unnaturally curbed, limited to activities and places that have been deemed "essential" by people charged with protecting our health and safety. Our world has been baby-proofed, so to speak, though for good reason: flattening the curve,

protecting those who are most at risk, and supporting those on the front lines of the pandemic. Keeping ourselves safe, even if we'd prefer to risk it on occasion, is also a worthy reason for being a bit caged in.

But as we turn the corner from summer to fall and then fall to winter, I can't help but wonder how long we will be able to manage without more access to certain spaces, particularly those that are sacred. Let me explain.

A few weeks ago, my husband and I were in Philadelphia visiting family, and we stopped by the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul where we got engaged. We wanted to bring our son to the plaza where we made our commitment and stop inside the church where we attended Mass in thanksgiving.

I approached the doors of the church, assuming that they would be locked. Every church I have approached on weekday walks with my son during the pandemic has been locked. My heart sinks each time.

When the door opened, I began to cry. The chance to walk inside, to draw near to the Lord in the tabernacle, was so welcome. The feeling that this space was different from other ordinary spaces was palpable in a way that was more magnified than before the pandemic began.

While social distancing has helped many of us to more intentionally make our



homes "domestic churches" by incorporating more religious imagery or scattering sacramentals around, that same

space is also where we eat, recreate, work, study, exercise, and scroll through social media platforms.

It is true that God is present where two or three are gathered, and grace does sanctify our ordinary activities. Nature has also been a godsend. I don't know how I'd be faring if I couldn't pray while hiking the nearby reservoir or go sit by the ocean.

But sacred spaces -- those where God dwells -- are true sanctuaries. You know it viscerally by their silence, their smell, by the creaking kneelers and the draft in the rafters. The air is different inside.

Jesus tells us that Martha "chose the better part." But what do you do for months -- maybe a year or more -- when you can't sit at his feet?

My son knows that the space is different, too. He observes that his father and I act differently there than we do at home. When we take him to socially distanced Mass, he is captivated by the stained-glass windows and lights up when the bells ring at the elevation of the host.

Our baby is proof that our senses need the sacred. Pastors, please keep your doors open as much as you safely can.

---

*Elise Italiano Ureneck*  
is a communications consultant  
and is a columnist for  
Catholic News Service.

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# Catholic All Year: celebrating the feast of St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi is one of the most well-known saints in history. Born in Assisi, Italy in 1182 to wealthy Catholic parents, Francis lived a life of leisure.

As a young man, he was a soldier and fought in a battle between Assisi and the city of Perugia. Upon returning home, Francis found it difficult to return to his life of leisure, and began to spend more and more time in prayer and service to the poor. While praying at an old country chapel in San Damiano, he heard the icon of Christ Crucified speak to him, saying, "Francis, Francis, go and repair my house which, as you can see, is falling into ruins."

Francis assumed that Jesus meant that he should repair the chapel, so he took some cloth

from his father's shop, sold it, and used the money to begin repairs. Francis' family was not pleased with this, after all, he had stolen the cloth. So, Francis decided to renounce the wealth of his family, returning the money he had taken from his father, along with everything his parents had given to him.

He spent the next few years rebuilding ruined church in the area with the help of donations. He felt more and more called to embrace a life of complete poverty, eventually gaining some followers, and finally receiving permission from the pope to begin his order of brothers. This was followed by an order of sisters, under the supervision of his friend, St. Clare of Assisi. Francis never became a priest, but his love of poverty and joyful

preaching converted people everywhere he went.

St. Francis had a great love for all of God's creatures and was known to practice his preaching by giving talks to the birds. It's said that he was so compelling that the birds would fly down from the trees and perch on his shoulders to be able to hear him better. "Canticle of the Sun," composed by Francis to praise God through his creatures, is an excellent prayer for the day.

Back in Italy, hoping to inspire people with the beauty and the humility of the first Christmas, Francis created the first Nativity scene, complete with living animals!

At the age of forty-two, while in prayer at a mountaintop retreat, St. Francis had a vision of an angel and received the

stigmata (the five wounds of Christ Crucified) in his hands, feet, and side. Since then, a few other saints have also received this rare gift, but St. Francis was the first. He had the wounds for the rest of his life. He died two years later, and was canonized two years after that.

### Blessing the animals

Many parishes offer a blessing of pets in honor of this feast day. If your parish does not offer this blessing, you can do it yourself at home.

This is a great opportunity to adventure with the kids: making bird feeders, visiting the zoo, or taking a nature walk. Any animal-themed snack would be appropriate to teach small children about this humble saint.



The feast of St. Francis of Assisi will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4

?? Catholic Trivia Answer ??

diocesalex.org.

contact Deacon Richard Mitchell at dcnmitchell@

program in the Diocese of Alexandria, please

For more information on the Permanent Deacon

needs.

then marshaling the Church's resources to meet those

deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others,

wake and funeral services. As ministers of Charity,

faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct

ministers of Sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the

preach, and teach in the name of the Church. As

As ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel,

Answer: DEACONS.

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

Psalm 18: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for October 25

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## Commercial stoves for bid

Two commercial stoves are for bid at our Catholic schools: one at St. Mary's School in Natchitoches, and the other at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville, in addition to a tilt skillet at Sacred Heart.

Both stoves are in good working condition. The tilt skillet has a crack, but is repairable. All items are "as is" for this bid process. These items were replaced due to available space in our kitchens.

The Child Nutrition Office is accepting sealed bids with the opening to be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center.

If any other information is needed, please feel free to contact Mrs. Burgess by calling 318-445-6424, ext. 234 or 318-613-0204. You may also contact her by email at [jburgess@diocesealex.org](mailto:jburgess@diocesealex.org).

*Bid forms and pictures can be found at  
[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org).*

*Please send all bids to:  
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CNP Supervisor  
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## Free meals for all students at our Catholic Schools

The Diocese of Alexandria Child Nutrition Program was approved by the Louisiana Dept. of Education to begin serving FREE breakfast and lunches to **all actively enrolled students** in any of the diocese's eight Catholic schools.

The announcement came from USDA on August 31 to extend the August 31, 2020 deadline, allowing the continuation of the USDA Summer Food Service Program. Meaning school systems can serve free meals to all children **into the fall months**. This unprecedented move will help ensure no matter what the situation is on the ground that children have access to nutritious food as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA has been, and continues to be committed to using the congressionally appropriated funding that has been made available.

**On Monday, September 14, ALL enrolled students in Diocese of Alexandria schools became eligible to receive ONE free breakfast and ONE free lunch each day with NO paperwork for families to complete! Free meals will continue through December 2020, or until USDA Summer Food Service Program funding is no longer available, therefore free second servings are not allowed.** Please note that schools will continue to accept Free and Reduced Meal Applications during this time to ensure that they are prepared when funding for the extended program runs out. Any student needing to complete an application should do so.

Students will also be able to continue to purchase second servings of menu items, and all Smart Snack items, juices and bottled water as long as there is money in their lunch accounts to do so or be prepared to pay with cash.

All positive meal account balances will remain in the student's account for when the switch back is made to the National School Lunch Program on or before December 31, 2020. Parents are encouraged to take this time to catch up on all outstanding charges their child may have at this time. We encourage all students to participate.

The Diocese of Alexandria greatly appreciates USDA for addressing the critical challenges shared by our employees serving students on the front lines and by allowing our school nutrition professionals to focus on nourishing children for success.

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

LSU of Alexandria:  
Catholic Student Organization  
Campus Minister: Lynn Ray  
Phone: 318-473-6494  
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Northwestern State University  
Catholic Student Organization  
Chaplain: Fr. Marc Noel  
Campus Minister: Shelley Mims  
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Louisiana College Catholic  
Student Organization  
Campus Minister: Lynn Ray  
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[lray@diocesealex.org](mailto:lray@diocesealex.org)

### *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*.



**CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY.** Lynn Ray, director of campus ministry, and several LSUA students help elderly residents of Dry Prong clean up debris left behind from Hurricane Laura.

The Catholic Student Organization also usually hosts a wine and cheese social for professors, but this year that was impossible with social distancing so the students delivered goodie packages with a wine glass, cheese, crackers, and fruit to each professor instead.



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

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

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

**• This pandemic-EBT is for any families who did not previously receive these benefits. •**

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

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

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

As school facilities remain closed, households that meet the following criteria may now be eligible to receive

**P-EBT benefits to help them buy food for their children:**

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

### TO APPLY:

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

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

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

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

**TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION, VISIT:**

<https://bit.ly/3g7Jb2g> OR

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

## 2-yr Spiritual Director Internship Information Meeting - September 29

There will be two informational meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 29. The first meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. - noon, and repeated again from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria. The Diocese will partner with the Archdiocese of New Orleans Spirituality Center Formation Program to offer a certification for those interested in this ministry. This program is a two-year Spiritual Director Internship that is based on the Spiritual Exercise of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Classes are one day per month and available during either weekdays or weekends. There is an application process with prerequisite requirements and a \$2,000 fee for the 2-yr program. Learn more by attending an information meeting. To register for the meetings, contact Deacon Richard Mitchell at dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org.

## Men's Monthly Nocturnal Adoration - October 1

Men's Monthly Nocturnal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held at St. Frances Cabrini Church beginning Thursday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m. and concluding Friday, October 2 at 7:00 a.m. Call Michelle at 318-445-4588 to sign up for an hour.

## Mass and Patriotic Rosary - October 3

On Saturday, Oct. 3, the Little Flower Church in Evergreen will have Holy Mass in the Church at 7:30 a.m., followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and praying of the Patriotic Rosary for our country. All are invited.

## St. Joseph School Drive-thru Fair October 10-11

St. Joseph School in Plaquemine is hosting the annual school fair AS A DRIVE-THRU FAIR, October 10-11. Saturday, October 10, starting at 5:00 p.m.

- Carlos Smith's Famous Egg Roll drive-thru pickup while supplies last. \$20 per dozen, frozen; \$2 each freshly fried. You may preorder frozen eggrolls by the dozen through any student or the school office.

- Cakes will be sold by the whole or half.

- Silent Auction done virtually using the Auctria App. Use code SJS2020.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

*Sunday, October 11, 10:00 a.m.*

- Sunday Dinner drive-thru pickup. \$8 each. Plates consist of Cochon de Lait, BBQ chicken, yams, rice dressing, coleslaw & roll. Tickets may be purchased through any student or the school office.

- Cakes will be sold by the whole or half.

*At 2:00 p.m.:*

- Silent Auction Ends

- Cash Raffle Drawing. \$1,000 first prize, \$500 second prize & \$250 third prize. \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased through any student or the school office. For more information contact Ashley DeSoto at (318) 922-3401.

## Public Square Rosary Rally - October 11

Public Square Rosary Rally for the needs of our Country will be held at St. Frances Cabrini Church on Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited.

## CANCELLED: Bishop's Golf Tournament

The 2020 Bishop's Invitational Golf Tournament has been cancelled due to the Corona Virus. Please join us in 2021 for the 25th Annual Tournament.

## Mass of Thanksgiving, St Kateri Tekakwitha - October 23

Bishop Robert Marshall will celebrate the Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Kateri Tekakwitha at St. Anne Chapel in Robeline on Friday, October 23 at 6:00 p.m.

## 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/](http://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/](http://www.diocesealex.org/maryhill-legacy-bricks/)

## 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](http://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](mailto:cterracina@diocesealex.org).

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

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

## Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: October 26  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, October 15

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# October 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Spiritual Director informational meeting St. Joseph Center, ALEXANDRIA</p> <p>FEAST of SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAPHAEL the ARCHANGELS</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 1</b></p> <p>Men's Nocturnal Adoration 7 pm-7 am St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</p> <p>MEMORIAL of SAINT THERESE of the CHILD JESUS</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIAL of the HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ROBLES-SANCHEZ</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Mass and Patriotic Rosary Church of the Little Flower, EVERGREEN 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>FEAST of SAINT FRANCIS of ASSISI</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. RYAN</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>St. Joseph School, Plaucheville Drive-thru Fair</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Public Square Rosary Rally Cabrini, ALEXANDRIA 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>CANCELLED: Bishop's Golf Tournament</p> <p>COLUMBUS DAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Immaculate Conception, NATCHITOCHEs 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. TIMMERMANS</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>VIRTUS St. Mary's Assumption School, COTTONPORT 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>MEMORIAL of ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Mass of Thanksgiving, St. Kateri Tekakwitha St. Anne Chapel, ROBELINE 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>VIRTUS St. Joseph Catholic Center, ALEXANDRIA 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>HALLOWEEN</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 1</b></p> <p>ALL SAINTS DAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHRISTUS CABRINI BREAST HEALTH CENTER & CANCER CENTER

WE'RE GLEAUXING  
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# GLEAUX FOR THE GIRLS 5K

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## BREAST CANCER DOESN'T STOP SO NEITHER DO WE!

### JOIN THE VIRTUAL RACE

#### STEP 1: REGISTER

Register as an official Gleaux for the Girls Virtual Runner on our website. All registered runners will receive an official 2020 Gleaux for the Girls t-shirt in the mail.



#### STEP 2: RUN OR WALK

Run (or walk) your 5K from any location you choose during the month of October. Post your results on Facebook and tag "CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini" with #gleauxforthegirls to show your support and tell us who you are running for.

#### STEP 3: SHARE

Nominate a friend or family member to register and Gleaux for the Girls to fight breast cancer!

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Visit our website or any Walker Dealership to purchase your \$15 Raffle Ticket for a chance to win a one-of-a-kind, "pinked out" 2007 Toyota FJ Cruiser. The drawing will be held in a Facebook Live event at 6:00pm on October 17, 2020 on the CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Facebook page. You need not be present to win.

For more information, visit  
[www.christuscabrinifoundation.org/gleaux-for-the-girls-5k](http://www.christuscabrinifoundation.org/gleaux-for-the-girls-5k)

