

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LI, No. 10

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

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

October 26, 2020



## Congratulations, seminarians!

Alexandria seminarians were instituted as acolytes at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

Pictured left to right in the front: Father Jim Wehner, Rector of Notre Dame Seminary; Seminarian Chase Masters; Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer of the Archdiocese of Atlanta; Seminarian, Josh Burch; Father Luke LaFleur, director of vocations for the Diocese of Alexandria; in the back, Seminarian, Derrick Rials.

### INSIDE

#### All Saints Day and All Souls Day

We are fast approaching our annual celebrations of All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2). These feasts are important reminders that this life is not all that there is. Read more of Bishop Marshall's message to us this November on page 2.

#### Diocese of Alexandria seminarians

The Diocese of Alexandria is proud to support our seminarian Class of 2020! See page 5 for a list of seminarians with their pictures. Also in this issue, see where we send our seminarians for formation (page 7), and a quick glimpse at a day in the life of one of our seminarians (page 18).

#### New children's line for faith formation

Ascension Press launches a new, highly-anticipated children's line for a new generation of Catholics. Read more about the entire collection on page 19.

# A message from Bishop Robert Marshall

**INDEX**

Bishop's Message ..... 2  
 National / World News .....3  
 Letter from the Editor ..... 4  
 Question Corner .....4  
 Diocesan News.....5  
 Feature Story.....6  
 Burses / Vocations .....9  
 Parish Spotlight .....10  
 Picture Spread.....12  
 Feature Story .....14  
 Parish Events .....15  
 Catholic All Year! ..... 16  
 Marriage and Family..... 18  
 Schools / Youth .....20  
 Diocesan Briefs .....22  
 Calendar .....23

## CHURCH TODAY



Volume LI, No. 10  
 October 26, 2020

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

**Publisher:**  
 Most. Rev. Robert Marshall  
**Publication Manager / Editor:**  
 Cari Terracina, ext. 255,  
 cterracina@diocesealex.org  
**Multimedia Manager / Advertising:**  
 Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;  
 joanferguson@diocesealex.org  
**Circulation:** Sandi Tarver, ext. 209;  
 starver@diocesealex.org

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

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

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

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

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

As I write this, we are fast approaching our annual celebrations of All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2). These feasts are important reminders to us that this life is not all that there is. We are called to dwell in eternal happiness with God in heaven. It is there that our Lord has gone to prepare a place for us. We are called, we are challenged to be saints. From my days in seminary in New Orleans, I remember the oft-repeated story of the naming of the new expansion NFL franchise awarded to the city. Taken from the famous song that accompanies a second line, the city leadership asked the Archbishop of New Orleans if it would be sacrilegious to call the new team the "Saints." Archbishop Philip Hannan told the organizers that he saw no problem with the name, but he added, "I should warn you that most of the saints were martyrs." For more than a few years, as many of us can remember, Archbishop Hannan's prediction came true.

It is that double-edged sword of joy and sorrow, of suffering and eternal happiness, that seems even more poignant this year in the midst of this pandemic, in the aftermath of hurricanes. Our entire way of life has been disrupted. Some among us are repairing damaged homes – or looking for new ones. We have



Live, Jesus, in our hearts. Forever.

Most Rev. Robert W. Marshall, Jr.  
 Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria

adjusted to living much more "virtually" than we ever did before. We have friends and family who have caught the virus and recovered, and many of us know more than one person who has perished from COVID-19. We are separated from our loved ones, hesitant to travel, and anxious about our older and vulnerable neighbors, friends and family. The tension of this time has been increased by economic uncertainties and by a hostile – and mean-spirited – political climate. Yes, in large ways and in small, we are suffering.

Archbishop Hannan's words echo in our hearts – "most of the saints were martyrs." They suffered for their faith to the point of death. Suffering it seems is the crucible of sainthood. It is here – when our world has disappointed us and when everything else seems so fraught with peril – it is here in the midst of suffering that perhaps we are finally willing to listen to God. Oh, we pray often, we tell ourselves – but sometimes we do so quickly, without much thought. In those

times, we may have had no major cares or worries pressing on our heart. Now, it seems, we have so much that weighs us down. We may be finally ready to ask God for help – in a sincere way, in our own humble recognition that we cannot work our way, or laugh our way, or ignore our way out of this. The troubles that surround us defy a human solution. We not only want God – this time we actually need God.

As we gather to celebrate All Saints Day, may we do so with a recognition that most of the company of heaven lived through difficulties and challenges that make our tremendous burdens seem ordinary and unimportant. The saints understand our weaknesses, our fear, our profound recognition that the world is out of our control. It was always out of our control, of course, but now we are forced to admit it. The saints are anxious to intercede for us, to help support us in our weakness and strengthen us in our frailty. By the example of the saints, God can guide us through this time of trouble just as he guided them through the persecutions, wars, plagues, and hostilities of their times. This year, we not only celebrate the saints, we beg their intercession.

Our celebration of All Souls Day, when we pray for the Church in Purgatory, also takes on new meaning this year. It is often difficult for us to imagine what Purgatory is

like – how can we be assured of eternal happiness and yet still undergo purification? Brothers and sisters, I suggest that we are living through a mini-Purgatory now. We can throw up our hands and give up, weighed down by the problems that confront us, or we can look forward in hope, accepting the suffering we are enduring as a school of humility and an opportunity to expand our hearts. The souls in Purgatory are enrolled in this school of purification – but they have the promise of an eventual graduation. We can use this time of difficulty as a chance to get a little "extra credit," as a chance to read ahead in the lessons all of us must face before we can be ready to take in the beatific vision. May our prayers for the Church in Purgatory this year be ones of solidarity and of sincere gratitude for the opportunities God gives us to grow in faith.

At the end of the month, of course, we celebrate Thanksgiving. Ordinarily we do so with large family gatherings and plenty of food. This year, our celebrations will be more distant, more subdued. We will be tempted to let the difficulties of our time dampen our sense of gratitude for God's many blessings. Seeking the intercession of the saints and praying in solidarity for the souls in Purgatory, I suggest, we should increase our gratitude to God for his presence in the midst of our suffering, for his divine providence that will guide us through this perilous time, and for his love that sustains us even when we cannot see or feel his presence.

May God fill our hearts with his love now and always. Live, Jesus, in our hearts. Forever.



**POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

As the 2020 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, under "The Diocese - Policies and Structures."

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

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

**Visit the sign-up form at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org), or email [starver@diocesealex.org](mailto:starver@diocesealex.org) with their name and mailing address.**

# In confirmation hearings, Barrett stresses commitment to 'rule of law'

By Carol Zimmerman  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- On the fourth day of confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Judge Amy Coney Barrett, the Senate Judiciary Committee, with objects from Democratic members, said they would vote on Barrett's nomination Oct. 22.

The four days of hearings involved a day of introductory remarks, two days of questioning Barrett and a final day of witnesses brought in by Republicans, who emphasized her qualifications for the role, and a panel of witnesses assembled by Democrats who focused on the impact they said Barrett's possible decisions could have on either dismantling the Affordable Care Act or overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

During the two days of questioning from members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Barrett made a clear distinction between policy preferences and legal precedents.

She also did not give direct answers on how she would vote on top issues but assured the senators that she would follow the rule of the law.

"My policy preferences are irrelevant," she said Oct. 13 when asked if she had intended to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, and she reiterated this same view when asked about abortion and same-sex marriage.

On the opening day of the hearings, Republican senators had adamantly emphasized that Barrett's Catholic faith should not be a factor in questioning, and on the start of the first day of this inquiry, it clearly wasn't a topic, although it was mentioned, even in opening remarks by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, committee chairman.

He asked if Barrett would be able to set aside her religious beliefs to fairly decide legal cases, which she said she could.

"I can. I have done that in my time on the 7th Circuit," she said. "If I stay on the 7th Circuit, I'll continue to do that. If I'm confirmed to the



**AMY CONEY BARRETT.** Judge Amy Coney Barrett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, President Donald Trump's nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court, speaks during the second day of her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Oct. 13. (CNS photo/Drew Angerer, Pool via Rueters)

Supreme Court, I will do that."

When asked what she thought about the nomination, Barrett, in a rare moment of candor, said she has "tried to be on a media blackout" for the sake of her mental health but that she was aware of "the caricatures that are floating around" about her.

She said she has made her own choices professionally and personally with balancing her career and her family of seven children. "I have a life brimming with people who've made different choices, and I've never tried in my personal life to impose my choices on them and the same is true professionally."

She said in the short amount of time she and her husband had to decide if she would accept the nomination, they both knew "our lives would be combed over for any negative detail."

"We knew that our faith would be caricatured," she added, and they would have to determine if those challenges would be worth it.

She said her reason for moving forward with this

process is that she is "committed to the rule of the law and the role of Supreme Court and dispensing equal justice for all."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, the ranking member of the committee, asked Barrett about abortion, specifically if she agreed with Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion that the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion was wrongly decided. Barrett declined to answer, saying that as a sitting judge, she wasn't going to grade precedent with a "thumbs-up or thumbs-down."

Feinstein expressed some frustration saying: "It's distressing not to get a straight answer," on a topic that affects millions of women and where Barrett could be "a very important vote." In response, Barrett said she understood why the question was raised by reiterated that she can't pre-commit to how she might vote or what her personal views are.

"I have no agenda to try to overrule *Casey*," she said about the 1992 court decision, which said states may not enact

abortion regulations that place an "undue burden" on pregnant women seeking an abortion.

When asked about the court's 2015 *Obergefell* decision that legalized same-sex marriage, Barrett again said she has "no agenda" and added that she has "never discriminated on the basis of sexual preference." She also noted that challenges to that decision were not likely to come to the Supreme Court.

Later that day, after Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said the term "sexual preference" has a negative connotation suggesting that sexual orientation is a choice and does not need legal protections, Barrett said she "would never mean to use a term that would cause any offense in the LGBTQ community, so, if I did, I greatly apologize for that."

The nominee pointed out that hot-button issues don't just arrive at the Supreme Court without a long process starting with a challenge in lower courts and she also stressed that judges can't impose their own views on decisions, which some committee members expressed

skepticism about.

"Judges can't just wake up one day and say, 'I have an agenda. I like guns, I hate guns, I like abortion, I hate abortion,' and walk in like a royal queen and impose their will on the world," Barrett told the committee. She also assured them that even though she has praised her mentor, Justice Scalia, she was not going to follow in his exact footsteps.

"If I'm confirmed, you would not be getting Justice Scalia. You would be getting Justice Barrett," she said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont, participating remotely in the hearing, asked Barrett about an anti-abortion statement she signed in 2006. He said the group that sponsored the statement also had said in vitro fertilization was akin to abortion and he asked if she also held that view.

Barrett responded that she has never "expressed a view on it, and for the reasons I've already stated, I cannot take policy positions or express my personal views before the committee."

When he asked if she would recuse herself from any dispute arising from the 2020 election, she said she has "made no pre-commitments to anyone about how I would decide a case."

She also said she was not "hostile to the ACA," in response to Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, questioning her about comments she made as a college professor that were critical of Chief Justice John Roberts' reasoning on previous ACA cases.

Democratic senators said their concern about how she would vote stemmed from President Donald Trump's own words promising that he would pick a judge who would side with him.

Barrett assured the committee members that she had not spoken with the president about specific cases and made "no commitment" to the White House or senators on how she would rule on major cases on the Affordable Care Act, abortion or election disputes.

## Battle ready

*"You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you."*

- 2 Chronicles 20:17

I think we all wished we prayed more. We know it's a good thing. We know more time in God's presence has only positive effects. But we still struggle with it so much, don't we?

Let's hone in on a few tips for creating a habit of prayer so that we are battle ready when the Lord calls us to move.

**1. Recognize your need for Him.** First and foremost, if we think we can manage our



## Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina

Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

daily lives just fine without God, we will only call out to Him for the really tough issues. When we start to see how desparately dependent we are on Him for every little aspect of life, we start truly building a relationship with Him.

**2. Have a morning routine.** I don't think it necessarily matters here whether you consider yourself a morning person or a night owl. What we set our minds on at the start of the day directs the path

of the rest of the day to follow.

**3. Build prayer into everyday tasks that only really require your hands and feet.** Think about the things you do on a daily basis that don't necessarily require your brain as much as your hands and feet. Things like folding laundry, fixing lunch, or mowing the grass. You might be surprised to find how many opportunities there are in a day to start a conversation with God.

**3.** Instead of saying that you

need to pray, just get started! If someone emails or texts you asking for prayer, pray right there in your response. Don't just say that you'll pray or add it to your list - do it right then!

**4. Write down answered prayers.** Keep a spot in your journal or even on your fridge to write down prayers that God has answered. When we see God really working as we pray, it's easier to continue praying.

**5. Make a commitment.** This is one of those things that

we talk about, but quite often overlook. If we don't commit to our time with the Lord, it simply won't happen. So, make a plan for one month. Set your alarm on your phone for 5, 10, or 15 minutes - pray and don't let anything interrupt until the alarm goes off.

And, finally, remember the more you pray, the more you *want* to pray. God has this funny way of drawing us back to Him time and time again - reminding us of His love, His patience and gentleness with us, and His desire for our good. We simply have to sit still in His presence.

Follow Cari on Instagram  
@cariterracina

## Sacraments for divorced and remarried? / Concern for my grandchildren

**Q.** A divorced Catholic who has remarried outside the church cannot receive holy Communion without an annulment of the first marriage. Can they receive other sacraments -- such as the anointing of the sick or a Mass of Christian burial? (City and state withheld)

**A.** A Catholic who is divorced and remarried without an annulment is surely still a member of the church. In "Familiaris Consortio," an apostolic exhortation that he wrote in 1981, St. John Paul II highlighted this truth. He said:

"I earnestly call upon pastors and the whole community of the faithful to help the divorced, and with solicitous care to make sure that they do not consider themselves as separated from the church, for as baptized persons they can, and indeed must, share in her life. They should be encouraged to listen to the word of God, to attend the sacrifice of the Mass, to persevere in prayer... to bring up their children in the Christian faith, to cultivate the spirit and the practice of penance and thus implore, day by day, God's grace" (No. 84).

Specifically to your question, the person you ask about may receive the anointing of the sick



## Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

in danger of death and may have a Catholic funeral Mass and be buried in a Catholic cemetery.

**Q.** I am the grandmother of two beautiful children -- ages 4 and 16 months. My son, the father of these grandchildren, no longer practices his faith and is married to a non-Catholic.

When I approached our priest and asked him to baptize our grandchildren, he declined to do so -- because my son no longer attends church and was not married in the Catholic Church. When I told the priest that I have the children two days each week and am willing to instruct them in the faith, he said that was not my responsibility, but their parents'.

I cannot believe that God would ever turn a child away from our faith, nor deny them the graces from the Holy Spirit in the

sacrament of baptism, especially when there is an adult in their lives who is willing to raise them in the faith. Can you help me understand the church's position on this issue? (Port Royal, Virginia)

**A.** You are to be commended for your concern for the children's development in the faith. One thing you haven't told me though, is this: Does your son want his children to be baptized? (Or does he even know that you have asked a priest to do so?)

The church's Code of Canon Law provides that for an infant to be baptized licitly "the parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent" (Canon 868).

Now supposing that you are able to get your son to agree, there is still a further issue. That same canon goes on to say that "there

must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion." Granted that you have the care of the children two days a week, but where are they on weekends, and is your son willing, as the children grow, to take them to Mass?

I suggest that you have a quiet conversation with your son. Tell him of your deep desire that the children be baptized and raised as Catholics and of your willingness to assist with that. If he does not agree, then I think you are best off entrusting the children, with prayer, to the Lord. God, after all, created them out of love and cares about their spiritual welfare as much as you do and even more.

And by the way, the fact that your son was not married in the church does not restrict his right to have his children baptized.

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



Diocese of Alexandria Website  
[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)



Diocese of Alexandria  
Facebook  
[facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria](https://facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria)



Diocese of Alexandria  
Instagram  
@dioceseofalexandria



Diocese of Alexandria  
on Spotify

# 2020 Diocese of Alexandria Seminarians



**Rev. Mr. Thomas Kennedy**  
from Minor Basilica of the  
Immaculate Conception,  
Natchitoches



**Rev. Mr. Robert Johnson**  
from St. Mary's Assumption,  
Cottonport



**Mr. David Keran**  
from Minor Basilica of the  
Immaculate Conception,  
Natchitoches



**Mr. Chase Masters**  
from St. John Chapel,  
Columbia, LA



**Mr. Donnie Kuzma**  
from St. Anthony of Padua,  
Natchitoches



**Mr. John Mohn, IV**  
from St. Mary Church,  
Winnsboro



**Mr. Joshua Burch**  
from Minor Basilica of the  
Immaculate Conception,  
Natchitoches



**Mr. Derrick Rials**  
from St. John Chapel,  
Columbia, LA



**Mr. Matthew Bonner**  
from Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
Pineville



**Mr. Blaine Phillips**  
from St. Frances Cabrini,  
Alexandria

## Diocese to send ten men to seminary

The Diocese of Alexandria is proud to support our seminarian Class of 2020!

We have ten men in priestly formation, and with the support of their home parishes, they will

begin or continue their formation to priesthood. They have begun classes at Notre Dame Seminary

in New Orleans or St. Joseph's Seminary in Covington, according to director of vocations, Father

Luke LaFleur.

Thank you to everyone for your support for these men. Please cut out this page and post it in your home or office as a visible reminder to pray for our seminarians!



Emile P. Oestrieher, III, CPA

Anne M. Oestrieher, CPA, CFP®

### Oestrieher Financial Management Services

Let us help your family pursue your financial goals.

4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71308

(318) 448-3556

www.o-fms.com

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC



**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for November**

**Artificial Intelligence** - We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

# On widowhood: Celebrating the completed life

**Kathy Schlossmacher**  
*Blessed Is She Ministry*

Filling out a bit of paperwork recently, I was given the choice of two states: married or single. It gave me pause because very simply, I am neither. I am a widow.

My husband passed away over five years ago, and I am still struck by how the word “widow” can be such a conundrum. In fact, I have found that identifying myself as a widow can be quite the conversation stopper. There is an awkwardness that surrounds the word. Introducing myself as a widow seems to require a response, but it is as if folks don’t quite know what that response should be. An expression of sorrow seems trite and common, especially since his passing is a past event. Asking for details in response seems intrusive.

## *The Reality of Widowhood*

For myself, as a widow, to not identify as such seems to negate a large part of my life and to erase a big part of who I am. It may be that any word associated with death is the crux of the issue. Death remains one of the few remaining taboos in our social culture. While we will explore just about anything on social media or even at a cocktail party, death is still not acceptable as a conversation subject. In many respects, even the widow herself finds it awkward. We still carry an image of the widow as quiet and withdrawn, dressed in black, older, forever in mourning, less vibrant, less active. The product of this image is in effect: an unhappy woman.

The reality of life as a widow is very different. Becoming widowed is a part of marriage. It is one of the many seasons of marriage and of life. Eventually, it becomes



ordinary for the person living it. The initial shock, grief, and sadness becomes complicated by all the big issues associated with death. There are emotional, financial, and family issues to address. These are made even more complex if there are minor children to comfort and support.

There are, what seems to be, endless firsts to embrace and small heartbreaks as one grows accustomed to morning coffee alone or an empty side of the bed. There is loneliness and loss. There is silence.

## *Christ is the Consolation*

At the same time, there is also comfort. Family and friends carry us through the rough spots. There is also the ever-present comfort of faith. The words of the book of Revelation, a book often shrouded in mystery, become strongly comforting. Revelation 21:4 reads, “... he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no

more, for the first things have passed away.”

These words remind us that, as Catholic, we live in hope and promise. We live not just for eternal life, but for the hope, thanksgiving, and remembrance we share in the Eucharist. We remember that Christ lived and died to give us that life eternal.

## *Celebrating and Remembering*

The life everlasting promised us by Scripture and Tradition begins within ourselves. Celebrating the life completed begins with the memories we cherished.

For myself, celebrating that life completed happens each time my children gift me with another grandchild or when my eldest daughter uses a phrase coined by her father while she was growing up. It happens again when another child looks at her toddler son and suggests that, for one fleeting second, he bore a look that echoed the

grandfather he never met. The celebration grows broader each season through photos, Christmas ornaments, and anecdotes told around a dinner table. These memories become a glorious trigger of a life shared, as well as completed.

## *Being Comforted in Widowhood*

My personal faith has always been heavy on activism and intensity. A large portion of my life has been spent teaching and working in the realm of social justice and change. Fueled by my faith, I believe in a call to make present the Kingdom of God.

Through my husband’s passing, I learned that ensuring preferential options for the poor and imprisoned is also my birth right as a woman of Faith. It is my duty to feed and to comfort.

I also learned that in Faith, in my relationship with the Lord, and in our Catholic community, there exists a place for my

own comfort and consolation. I learned to sit and be still and let God be God, walking with me through the profound sadness while leading me to the realization that I had the privilege of living to completion this sacrament of marriage.

## *Widowhood as a Season*

In the end, being a widow isn’t awkward, it isn’t lonely. At least not forever. It is yet another season of life that contains good days, bad days, and simply ordinary days. In fact, life as a widow isn’t better or worse than life as a married woman. It is a different life. It is one that requires some getting used to, but different nonetheless. The difference isn’t good or bad, it is simply different.

There are days when I wish I had been a better wife and friend to my husband. There are days when I wish he had been a better husband and friend to me. There are days when I am glad my husband has been spared some of the suffering that is part of the day-to-day struggle of life. There are days when my morning coffee routine is still missing its other half.

There are, however, no days without some thought of him: a memory, a reaction I can imagine, a smile I can still feel, a laugh I can still hear. As long as those moments exist, then being a widow means celebrating a life completed, a life I had the privilege to share.

*Kathy Schlossmacher is a retired high school Religion teacher and a widow residing in Buffalo, NY. In her spare time, she hangs out with her dog and grand kids, reads, writes, knits, and drinks coffee.*

## *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.

## ☞ Mardel Products Co. ☛

Custom Millwork  
Residential/Commercial Woodworking  
www.mardelproducts.com  
(318) 253-7730

# Where do we send our seminarians?

We pray for them, and, through the contributions made to the seminary burses as well as the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we lend them our financial support for their formation. But most of us never have the chance to see or connect with the places where our diocesan seminarians are formed and educated in their preparations for the priesthood.

The Diocese of Alexandria is proud to have seminarians enrolled in Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, and St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana. See below for more information on these institutions.



### Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans

Established in 1923 by the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Notre Dame Seminary has, as its primary mission, the preparation of men for ministerial priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church. While primarily preparing men to serve as priests in the southern region of the United States, Notre Dame Seminary participates in the missionary activity of the Church by promoting a spirit of mission among its candidates for priesthood and by assisting certain missionary dioceses in other areas of the world.

### St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College, St. Benedict, Louisiana

Over the past century, Saint Joseph Abbey has become an enduring presence in the Gulf South, etching in small strokes an indelible mark on local and regional history.

Saint Joseph Seminary College is a community of faith and learning in the liberal arts rooted in the Benedictine tradition that promotes the development of the whole person.

Saint Joseph Seminary College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Bachelor of Arts Degree. The Seminary College



course of training also fulfills the requirements of ecclesiastical norms and offers a major in Philosophy and the Liberal Arts or in Philosophy and Theological Studies.

## B.K. ROOFING, LLC

### Call the Pros! Residential Roofing Experts

[www.bkroofingllc.com](http://www.bkroofingllc.com)

**Brian Maddox, Owner**

**13 years experience**

**Licensed & insured • References available**

**“It doesn’t cost any more to get it done right!”**

**Free estimates!**

**Most estimates in 2 days**

**Experienced in dealing with Insurance Companies**

**Let us handle the details!**

**318-201-9065**

**17 Glade St. • Pineville, LA 71460**

**Emergency  
service  
available**



### LEARN MORE

While the information listed here only begins to cover the rich histories of these institutions, everyone is invited to learn more about them by visiting their respective websites and/or following them on Facebook:

- **Notre Dame Seminary:** [nds.edu](http://nds.edu);  
[facebook.com/notredameseminary](https://www.facebook.com/notredameseminary)
- **St. Joseph Seminary College:** [sjasc.edu](http://sjasc.edu);  
[facebook.com/SJASC](https://www.facebook.com/SJASC)

## 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.

## Fleeing with the Lord

By *Katie Prejean McGrady*  
Catholic News Service

We fled.

We woke up early, checked the weather reports, turned on the news, and hastily packed the car, cramming in essentials: wedding photos, clothes, toddler toys, infant car seat in case the baby in my belly decided to come early.

And we left our home behind, a Category 4 hurricane barreling toward our beloved town.

I've evacuated from hurricanes before. It comes with the territory of being a resident of the Gulf Coast. But this evacuation, from my own house, with me in charge of packing supplies and boarding up windows, felt different, and not just because I was nine months pregnant.

I hung rosaries on every doorknob of the house before we left, whispered favorite Scripture passages, over each room as I walked the halls, a Hail Mary on my lips as we locked the back door, closed the garage and drove away, unsure if we'd have a home to return to after the storm had passed.

Never have I felt more connected to Mary, shoving myself into our overloaded Subara Forester to escape the wrath of an impending storm we were told could be the strongest to ever hit Louisiana. She must've been nervous as she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem for the census, terrified when they fled to Egypt to avoid King Herod.

"Mary, pray for me," I begged. "Mary, comfort me," I mumbled. "Give me your strength," I prayed as I thought about every change of plans she'd encountered in her young life.



**LAKE CHARLES HURRICANE LAURA.** Lex Lindell, center, of New Orleans, hands out food and supplies to Hurricane Laura evacuees from Lake Charles, LA., outside of the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans Aug. 30, 2020. (CNS photo/Kathleen Flynn, Reuters)

"How'd you do this, mom?" I thought. "How'd you handle this fear and uncertainty?"

Hurricane Laura brought destruction upon southwest Louisiana in the form of unfettered winds and flooding, and it tied the strongest storm to hit our state. Roofs were stripped from homes like tin cans being popped open. Windows blew out of buildings, glass littering rain-soaked floors.

Water crept into homes, seeping into the walls, dangerous mold quickly setting in due to the unforgiving Louisiana humidity. Power lines, water treatment plans, streetlights, stretches of road were wiped away, the city's infrastructure gone in hours. Every tree in the city seemed to be flattened, the landscape entirely different now.

There's a gasping sound you make when you see pictures of destruction. It's a quick intake of breath and then gets stuck in your throat, and your heart begins to pound as you realize, "that's my parish," and "that's our favorite restaurant," and "that's my house."

For days I kept whispering, "Lord, have mercy." It became my near constant prayer, followed with, "Mary, wrap us in your mantle of protection," as more news poured in of what was destroyed, gone forever.

There comes a moment in everyone's life, when the road before you seems too long, too treacherous, too steep to climb. I think every resident of southwest Louisiana has been standing on that road since Aug. 27, 2020, when Hurricane Laura

hit. Homes gone, businesses destroyed, schools caved in, churches flattened, and life as we know it essentially on hold for the foreseeable future: The road before us is hard to walk.

But that road -- steep and scary -- is not walked alone. As the rebuilding efforts have begun, the cost of which is colossal, the pain of which is sometimes too much to bare, we walk that road with the merciful God and his protective Mother, "Lord, have mercy," and "Mary, protect us" on our lips.

Two days after the storm, my husband and dad drove back to Lake Charles to check on our homes. My husband called crying, "The rosaries are still on the door, babe!" Our roof was ripped up, our fence gone, the month-old swing-set toppled over

and crushed, but the rosaries I'd hung on the inside and outside doors had not moved.

We fled. But we had not fled alone.

Our town was battered and beaten and will be for a long time. But we were not knocked down alone.

The road to recovery will be long, but we walk the road with Christ, who is present to us in every storm. Even the strongest storm to ever hit Louisiana. He's there in that storm, too.

*Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker, award winning author, and host of the Ave Explores and Ave Spotlight podcasts. She lives in Louisiana with her husband and two daughters.*

### DONATE: Hurricane 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.catholiccharitiesacadian.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesacadian.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/3GD6RRQSOUKWP>.

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.

### 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."





**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS.** Catholic Daughters of America regent, Ona Wilson and treasurer, Brenda Daenen, presented a check on behalf of CDA Court Bishop Desmond (St. Rita Church, Alexandria) to Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr., and Father Luke LaFleur, director of vocations and seminarians, for the Seminarians Education Fund.



**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS.** Catholic Daughters of America Court Notre Dame at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria present a check to Bishop Robert Marshall, Jr., and Father Luke LaFleur for the Diocesan Seminarians Education Fund. Pictured left to right: Linda Gauthier, State Regent; Fr. Luke LaFleur; Ellen Feduccia, Chairperson of the Seminarian Education Fund for Court Notre Dame; Marlene Sawrie, Regent and Susan Singleton, Treasurer.

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

### September 2020 Donations

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> ..... | <b>\$25.00</b>    |
| Father Irion St. Romain Burse               |                   |
| <b>Mr. and Mrs. Marion A. French</b> .....  | <b>\$50.00</b>    |
| Father Peter T. Norek Burse                 |                   |
| <b>Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach</b> ..... | <b>\$50.00</b>    |
| Deacon Gary Schupbach Burse                 |                   |
| <b>Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach</b> ..... | <b>\$50.00</b>    |
| Monsignor Steve Testa Burse                 |                   |
| <b>Mrs. Barbara Rigby</b> .....             | <b>\$100.00</b>   |
| Leo P. Dobard Burse                         |                   |
| <b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller</b> .....  | <b>\$200.00</b>   |
| Father Daniel Corkery Burse                 |                   |
| <b>Ms. Elizabeth S. Arthur</b> .....        | <b>\$1,000.00</b> |
| Sadie Stroud Burse                          |                   |
| <b>Total</b> .....                          | <b>\$1,475.00</b> |

### From the Cover:

The instituted acolyte is appointed to assist the deacon and serve the priest in the celebration of the liturgy. He is an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion serving only when sufficient ordinary ministers are not available. Instituted acolytes may also assist with the formation of other ministers who assist at the altar. A primary responsibility of acolytes is to assist with the purification of vessels used in the distribution of Holy Communion. Because the ministry has its roots in the formation of ordained clergy, the ministry is reserved to men.

### *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)

For more information on the Catholic Daughters of America and their work in the Diocese of Alexandria, please visit [www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/lay-organizations/catholic-daughters-of-the-americas/](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/lay-organizations/catholic-daughters-of-the-americas/)

## Parish Spotlight: St. Martin Church, Lecompte Established 1933

On February 28, 1878, Mrs. Sophie Lamoth Martin donated an acre of land to build a chapel on her plantation, Sugar Bend, at Kanomie on Bayou Boeuf, half way between Lecompte and Woodworth.

The priests of St. Francis Xavier Church took charge of the chapel as a mission station. Bishop Francis Xavier Leray dedicated the chapel on July 27, 1879 and it was finally completed in 1881.

In 1899, the chapel was moved into the growing community of Lecompte to land donated to Bishop Antoine Durier by a Mr. Weems and a Mr. Hardy and a tall spire was added to the structure.

In 1933, Bishop Daniel Desmond established the church as an independent parish with



ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC CHURCH, LECOMPTE.

Fr. B.A. Scallan serving as the first resident pastor. In 1942, St. Martin's in Lecompte began its own missionary work through establishing chapels in the towns of Elmer and Glenmora. St. Martin's assumed responsibility

for the mission church at Cheneyville and in 1969 another new mission church was established in Woodworth.

A parish hall was added to the Lecompte church complex in the 1950's. In 1963, a new

church, designed by Oren and Amy of Lafayette, was built of brick and steel, by Lonnie and J. W. Reynolds, on the site once occupied by the old church. The new church was blessed by Bishop Charles Greco on Sunday, August 4, 1963.

There have been several renovations of the church and additions made to the complex since that time. In 1983, a new rectory was secured and the old rectory next to the church was used for religion classes until it was removed in 2001. A new bell tower was completed in 1996. Two old plantation bells dating from 1859 and 1860 are hung in the tower. In 2005, a new parish hall with a seating capacity of 600 people was constructed together with a new parking lot between the hall and church.



**Hixson-Ducote Funeral Home**  
**Avoyelles Monuments**

*Ray and Marie Ducote, Owners*

*Bunkie*                      *Plaucheville*  
**(318) 346-6346**            **(318) 922-3200**

**LUMBER**      **Jeansonne's Millworks**  
**MILLWORK**      **& Cabinet Shop**

- \* Architectural Millwork
- \* Custom Cabinets & Moulding

**Phone 445-5665 \* FAX 445-5276**

GUY JEANSONNE                      1843 Sterkx Road  
Owner                                      Alexandria, LA 71301

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

**KLIL 92.1      KZLG 95.9**

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

**YOU GET IT ALL AT**

 **SAYES**  
OFFICE SUPPLY

**WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM**

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

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

*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.

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

Psalm 63: 2  
Responsorial Psalm for November 8

See the Catholic Trivia answer on page 18.



Melanie Blanchard, Broker  
Donald Baker, Agent  
Robert Tassin, Agent

Licensed in Louisiana, USA  
Phone: 318-473-8751  
3306 Giamanco St. Alexandria, LA

A Limited Liability Company

Website: bakeragproperties.com

We specialize in forest, recreation, and agriculture properties.

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

Certified Gemologists  
Registered Jewelers



American Gem Society



## THE STORM

by Marcus Descant

Because of our sins,  
Along came a storm,  
not so unusual  
But out of the norm.

God has a way  
of getting our attention,  
In too many ways,  
Even to mention.

His love for us  
Is ever so great,  
For if we humble ourselves,  
It will never be too late.

If we pray to Mary,  
Our mother so dear,  
We can rest assure  
She is always near.

So, if we ask God  
As we have before,  
Please have mercy on us  
And don't close the door.

lizdescant@gmail.com  
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant

## 20 RELAXING PHONE-FREE ACTIVITIES

*to try this fall*

**Many of us cannot gather for the fall fairs and festivals that normally fill our calendars - and our hearts - at this time of year. But, we can make our homes places of rest, retreat, and delight. Here are a few helping tips to make that happen this fall season.**

Picture it: you've finished your work day. Maybe you've already put the kids to bed, and you're sitting down in your favorite chair to relax a bit before bed. Maybe you pick up your phone to check in on Instagram or Facebook for a few minutes... which turns into a half hour... which turns into.. the whole evening?!

Been there. While connecting through our devices is a good thing in moderation, especially in this time of isolation, too much time on our phones can leave us feeling numb, restless, exhausted, and (ironically) even more disconnected. Below is a list of phone-free activities to try out to connect with yourself, your family, and back to God.

- Read a book. Allow yourself to sink into the story by reading for an hour or more!
  - Pretend to be on Chopped, and make a meal from food in your pantry.
  - Eat dinner in your backyard, on your front porch, or on your apartment balcony.
    - Spread out a picnic blanket and settle in!
      - Fill out a page in your journal.
      - Pull weeds or water your garden.
      - Write a note to a family member or friend.
      - Dig into all of your magazines that have been piling up.
    - Page through one of your cookbooks and mark every recipe you want to try.
      - Go for a bike ride (even on the elliptical!)
- Watch a movie. Don't do anything else (besides maybe eat a snack!) - just watch and enjoy!
  - Organize or declutter a part of your living space.
  - Light a fire in a backyard fire pit - include some s'mores!
    - Bake cookies or a breakfast treat for the next day.
      - Listen to a podcast.
    - Play "DJ Alexa" while cleaning the kitchen.
      - Try your hand at watercoloring.
      - Talk a walk around your neighborhood.
- Take a class on the Peloton app (free for 90 days!). Choose from stretching, yoga, dance cardio, strength training, and more.
  - Play a board game, a card game, or a simple, quick game like Bananagrams.
  - If all else fails, go to bed early. You can (almost) never get too much sleep!

## ? Catholic Trivia ?

**The United States of America shares its principal patron saint with hundreds of countries, cities, organizations, and even religious concepts. She is regarded as uniquely placed as an intercessor, due to family ties. Can you name her?**

# Life in Christ



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.** St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marksville celebrated the sacrament of First Communion on Saturday, Sept. 12, with Father Dan O'Connor, pastor. Pictured with Fr. Dan: top row (left to right) Mrs. Evelyn Cass, 2nd grade Catechist; [REDACTED] Nancy Desselle, DRE; [REDACTED] and Mrs. Carol Gagnard, Catechist. Bottom row (left to right) [REDACTED]



**BLESSING OF THE PETS.** Blessing of the animals took place at St. Rita Church in Alexandria on Sunday, Oct. 4 on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. A beautiful and obviously grateful german shepherd is blessed by St. Rita pastor, Fr. Anthony Dharmaraj.



**ST. MARY'S NATCHITOCHEs BIBLE CHALLENGE.** Students at St. Mary's school in Natchitoches have been working hard learning the books of the Old and New Testament. Mrs. Hogg's 4th and 5th grade Religion classes were challenged to learn all 73 books of the Bible. Students who listed all books were treated to a candy bar of their choice!



**ROSARY FOR AMERICA.** On Oct. 7, Bishop Robert Marshall and some of the staff of the St. Joseph Catholic Center joined Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles along with several other bishops, in praying the rosary in a moment of unified prayer for America. On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, we seek healing and ask Our Lady to pray for us and help lead us to Jesus. We also prayed for safety from the upcoming storms approaching our area.

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.



**PERMANENT DEACONS INSTALLED AS LECTORS.** Deacon candidates were installed as Lectors on Sept. 26 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral by Bishop Robert Marshall. This is an important step in their formation to become deacons. They have approximately two years remaining in their formation. The next step is to be installed as Acolytes which is anticipated to happen in 2021.



**DEACON PROGRAM.** Patrick and Randalle Moore were instrumental in establishing the St. Peter's fund with the Catholic Foundation. The fund was established to support the Diocese of Alexandria Deacon Program. Those pictured at the signing ceremony are Father James Ferguson, Patrick Moore, Deacon Richard Mitchell, Joe Hebert, and Randalle Moore (seated). If you are interested in contributing to the fund, please contact The Catholic Foundation or Deacon Mitchell at 318-44-6424, ext. 206.



**HURRICANE ASSISTANCE.** St. Frances Cabrini School collected items for Our Lady Queen of Heaven in Lake Charles, LA. They have a Pre-K through 8th grade school, like Cabrini. Students brought diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies, water and other items needed in the distribution center at the church and school grounds. Pictured is Sr. Nina Vincent, OLS, Principal of Cabrini; Fr. Taylor Reynolds, Parochial Vicar of St. Frances Cabrini Church, and Fr. Levi Thompson, the Parochial Vicar at Our Lady Queen of Heaven. Fr. Taylor and Fr. Levi were in Rome together, and that is how the connection was made between the parishes and schools.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRESENT CHECK. (RIGHT)** Representatives from the Knights of Columbus Council #8029 from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish in Alexandria present a check to Bishop Robert Marshall and Father Luke LaFleur. Pictured left to right: Bishop Marshall, Mr. Dan Henry (Grand Knight), Mr. Gerald Mayeux (Past Grand Knight), Fr. LaFleur, and Mr. Mike Sawrie (Financial Secretary).

# Celebrating Vocation Awareness Week

*National Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated throughout the United States Nov. 1 - 7, 2020.*

Started by the United States of Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 1976, National Vocation Awareness Week is an annual week-long celebration dedicated to the promotion of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. The celebration is intended to renew our support for those who are considering one of these vocations through a focus on prayer and education.

National Vocation Awareness Week will be

celebrated in our country Nov. 1 - 7, 2020. Please ask our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of a vocation.

Furthermore, Catholic schools and church parishes are urged to engage their students and parishioners in this celebratory renewal. Visiting the USCCB's website allows pastors, principals, and other parish or school staff members and volunteers to access a number of supporting resources.

Additional resources found

on the USCCB website include a PDF prayer card (with English and Spanish versions available) which may be downloaded, printed, and distributed throughout the community. Visitors can also access a guide to conducting a Holy Hour for Vocations and special homily aids.

Those who feel called to discern a vocational calling to religious life or the priesthood are encouraged to contact the Diocese of Alexandria's Office of Vocations by calling 318-445-6424 ext. 260 or emailing [frllaflaur@diocesealex.org](mailto:frllaflaur@diocesealex.org).

## 5 BOOKS FOR MEN + WOMEN ON DISCERNMENT

*for men*

**Pastores Dabo Vobis  
(I Will Give You Shepherds)**  
St. Pope John Paul II

**To Save a Thousand Souls:  
A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to  
Diocesan Priesthood**  
Fr. Brett Brannen

**Priests for the Third Millennium**  
Cardinal Timothy Dolan

**The Spirituality of the Diocesan Priest**  
Fr. Donald Cozzens

**A Living Sacrifice: Guidance for Men  
Discerning Religious Life**  
Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P.  
Fr. Andrew Hofer, O.P.

*for women*

**On the Dignity  
and Vocation of Women**  
St. Pope John Paul II

**Discerning Religious Life**  
Sr. Clare Matthiass, CFR

**The Fire in These Ashes:  
A Spirituality of Contemporary  
Religious Life**  
Sr. Joan Chittister

**An Introduction to the  
Vocation of Consecrated Virginity  
Lived in the World**  
United States Association of  
Consecrated Virgins

**And You Are Christ's: The Charism  
of Virginity and the Celibate Life**  
Fr. Thomas Dubay

## OTHER RECOMMENDED READING

**Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux**  
**Introduction to the Devout Life: St. Francis DeSales**  
**Time for God: Fr. Jacques Phillippe**  
**Jesus of Nazareth: Pope Benedict XVI**

## Conference of Chancery and Tribunal Officials

Of the Provinces of New Orleans and Mobile

**It is with much excitement that we notify our members  
and regular convention attendees of our very first vir-  
tual CCTO Convention!**

The annual Conference of Chancery and Tribunal Officials of the Provinces of New Orleans and Mobile will be held online from Wednesday, November 18 through Thursday, November 19, 2020 (Central Standard Time).

**The Diocese of Alexandria, as host  
of this year's conference will be hosting  
the following virtual conferences:**

November 18 - Dr. William Daniel, J.C.D.  
9:00 a.m. - *Mitis Iudex* 5 Years Later:  
Analysis and Reflection  
11:00 a.m. - *Mitis Iudex* 5 Years Later:  
Analysis and Reflection  
1:00 p.m. Reform of Book 6: Sanctions

November 19 - Dr. Massimo Faggioli, PhD  
9:00 a.m. - A Missionary Church of Mercy:  
Pope Francis and Vatican II  
11:00 a.m. - A Missionary Church of Mercy:  
Pope Francis and Vatican II  
1:00 p.m. - The Abuse Crisis and the Church  
in the United States

Dr. William Daniel is a professor of Canon Law at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Faggioli is a professor of Theology at Villanova University, Philadelphia, PA.

For more information or to register for the Zoom webinars, please email [ccto2020alex@gmail.com](mailto:ccto2020alex@gmail.com).



# 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  
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

## 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  
St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook (Wednesdays),  
(9:30 a.m. talk - aka "The CU Catecast"; Wednesdays)
- 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  
St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook (Fridays)

## Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria  
on Facebook or YouTube
- 9:00 a.m. (Latin) 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.

Blessed  
are those  
who fear the  
Lord.

Psalm 128: 1  
Responsorial Psalm  
for November 15

## Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Thursday, November 19, 6:00 p.m.  
St. Paul Church (church hall), Mansura

Thursday, December 3, 6:00 p.m.  
St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria

Tuesday, December 15, 6:00 pm  
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception,  
Natchitoches (church hall)

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/).

## Catholic All Year: celebrating the feast of St. Martin of Tours

Lord, if  
your people  
need me,  
I will not  
refuse the work.  
Your will  
be done.

// *Martin of Tours*

November 11 marks the commemoration of Veterans' Day in the United States, Remembrance Day in Canada and Australia, and Armistice Day in Europe. It is the day on which we commemorate the armistice of World War I that was signed in 1918 (on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, at the eleventh hour) that ended "the war to end all wars," which, unfortunately, it wasn't. On this day, our nations gratefully remember everyone who has served in the military.

Coincidentally, or perhaps providentially, it is also the feast day of St. Martin of Tours, soldier and bishop. Martin was born in the fourth century in Hungary and became a member of the Roman calvary, like his father before him. As a young man, he converted to Christianity over the objections of his pagan parents. Christianity was legal at that time in the Roman Empire

but was still frowned upon in Roman society, especially in the higher levels of the military.

Martin's faith, however, permeated every part of his life, including his military service. The most famous story about him says that one day, as he was approaching the gates of the city of Amiens on his horse, he met a scantily clad beggar. The beggar asked for alms in the name of Christ, but Martin had nothing with him but the clothes on his back. He took out his sword, cut his military cloak in two, and gave half to the beggar. That night, St. Martin had a dream in which he saw Christ, clothed in the half cloak Martin had given away.

When his military service ended, Martin was ordained a priest and ministered to the faithful from a hermitage in the French countryside. His superiors soon had grander plans for him, but he was uninterested

in becoming a bishop. He was so uninterested that the archbishop had to trick him into coming to the city (he was asked to come pray with a sick man). When Martin figured out what was going on, he tried to hide from the archbishop in a barn, but the barn was full of geese, which started honking and gave him away. Thus discovered, he reluctantly became the bishop of Tours in 371. He served faithfully and well and died at the age of eighty-one.

In the spirit of St. Martin sharing his cloak, one idea to remember his legacy is to organize and clean out your home's coat closet. Over the year, a family can often acquire more sweatshirts, coats, and jackets than they really need. As winter is approaching around this time of year, it's the perfect time to sort and donate any extra winter gear to family and friends



**The feast of St. Martin of Tours  
will be celebrated on  
Wednesday, November 11**

or even strangers who may need it. Even if your family actually can use everything you have, taking accounts is still a great way to be good stewards of our resources.



### Fr. Dwight DeJesus appointed Dean

Fr. Dwight De Jesus has been appointed Vicar Forane (Dean) of the Avoyelles Deanery.

He will remain pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church, Echo, and St. Joseph Church, Cheneyville.

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

## LEGLUE NISSAN INC.

NEW & USED CARS •  
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

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



**COTTONPORT**  
CORNER DRUG  
*and gift boutique*

**Flu Shots & Vaccinations**

Many gifts including large selection of religious items:

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

Follow us on Facebook @ Cottonportcornerdrug.giftboutique

**(318) 876-3665**

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

206 Choupique Lane • Cottonport, LA 71327

Kim & Stewart Wixson, Owners



# 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.

## BARRETT

(continued from pg. 3)

There was not much mention of Barrett's faith during the Senate committee's questioning, despite Republican senators' criticism in saying at the start that her strong beliefs would be highlighted by Democrats as a potential concern for her fitness for the role of Supreme Court.

Republican Sens. Josh Hawley of Missouri and Mike Lee of Utah mentioned her Catholicism and highlighted cases where the court has ruled in favor of religious liberty. Hawley said these cases show it is "vital that religious rights be respected" and added that he hopes she would "respect that precedent moving forward, and I don't see any reason to think you won't."

On Oct. 14, Graham started the hearing by saying it was the "first time in American history that we've nominated a woman who's unashamedly pro-life and embraces her faith without

apology," adding what Barrett has emphasized, that she would set aside personal views to decide cases fairly.

Throughout the hearings, senators submitted letters of support or concern about Barrett's confirmation. On Oct. 13, an open letter to Barrett signed by 100 Notre Dame professors was published online urging her to put a "halt" to the nomination process until after election. The letter emphasized that this would allow "voters to have a choice" in the next judge on the nation's high court.

After the committee's vote, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R- Kentucky, will then determine when to move the nomination to the Senate floor for a vote, which is expected to take place the week of Oct. 26, just days before the election.

**The Cross Word**

November 1 and 8, 2020

- 52 "The \_\_\_ of the Lamb"
- 53 Bro.'s sibling
- 54 Not downs
- 55 Jesus is God's
- 56 Compass point

**DOWN**

- 1 "\_\_\_ living creatures"
- 2 Satellite receiver
- 3 Too
- 4 Baptism brings
- 5 The other half of Jima
- 6 Lean over
- 7 San Francisco neighbor
- 8 Past
- 9 Land "east of Eden"
- 11 Israelites
- 12 Henna
- 18 "Son of \_\_\_"
- 20 South southeast
- 22 Out of the way
- 24 Healing plant
- 25 Allow to borrow
- 26 Parent teacher groups
- 27 "The \_\_\_ Ranger"
- 28 Robots
- 29 Paul's greeting
- 32 Stress
- 35 Snake like fish
- 37 "Blessed \_\_\_ you"
- 39 Work needs
- 41 Recede
- 43 Not win
- 44 St. Thomas was one
- 45 Otherwise
- 46 Winter malady
- 47 Representative
- 49 Date

© 2020 tri-o-a-publications.com

**Readings:** Rev 7:2-4, 9-14; 1Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a and Thess 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

**ACROSS**

- 1 Make food laws
- 4 Adam lost one to Eve
- 7 Disallow
- 10 Virgins had flask of
- 11 Cut with ax
- 13 Pride
- 14 Ship initials
- 15 Dark wood
- 16 Pole
- 17 Parallelograms
- 19 Office furniture
- 21 Tapestry
- 23 "The \_\_\_ of the Living God"
- 26 Heavenly bodies
- 29 Southern girl
- 30 2,000 pounds
- 31 "Wearing \_\_\_ robes"
- 33 Billion years
- 34 Mountain range
- 36 Bridegroom was
- 38 Dry plants
- 39 Opera singer
- 40 False butter
- 42 Thin
- 46 Friday (abbr.)
- 48 Kind of knife
- 50 Night bird
- 51 Moses did for the Israelites

**SABINE STATE BANK**  
 & Trust Company



Member FDIC



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

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

**PETER J. LEMOINE**

Social Security Disability Law

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

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

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

**318-717-1995**

# Seminary life: a typical day



**By Donnie Kuzma**  
Diocese of Alexandria  
Seminararian

As my alarm goes off at 5:00 a.m., I begin my day by rubbing my eyes, asking for Our Lady's assistance, and quickly jumping in the shower before I realize how tired I still am. I finish getting dressed around 5:30 a.m., and head straight for the coffee pot.

After my coffee finishes brewing, I sit outside (weather permitting) for an hour. During this hour I read through my first obligation: The Breviary's Office of Readings, which is a set of psalms followed by sections from other Old Testament books and some writings from the saints and Church Councils. These readings take roughly 20 minutes.

After I finish my Office, I take the next 40 minutes reading through the news and checking sports scores. At 6:30 a.m., I go into the chapel at Notre Dame for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration, Bible reading, and Rosary. At 7:30 a.m., the second round of



**VOCATIONS AWARENESS.** Seminarians serve at a Supper with the Seminarians event held in Alexandria in 2018. National Vocations Awareness Week is Nov. 1-7, 2020. (CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Catholic Standard)

Breviary readings begin with Morning Prayer, which leads me into my first class at 8:00 a.m.

My classes, which include Scripture, Pastoral Ministry, Fundamental Theology, Liturgy, and Spirituality, last from 8:00 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. I have a quick break to catch my breath and then Mass at 11:45 a.m.

Lunch follows Mass; Notre Dame has a cafeteria and offers a variety of different options. From 12:30 - 5:45 p.m., I am capable of setting my own schedule. During this block of time, I am

able to catch up on some of my pastoral ministry and community projects, as well as homework.

My pastoral work includes meeting with two elderly people, once a week each, for about an hour. Sometimes we just sit and talk, other times we go out for a meal, whatever they want to do and whatever they want to talk about is our only agenda. This is my most treasured time of the week as their life lessons help me grow both spiritually and as a future pastor. I believe my visits are efficacious for them too, as I

attempt to help them manage their own issues, which primary are concerned with the faithfulness of their children. I often remind them that prayer is the most powerful thing in the universe and that our surrender to divine providence will be rewarded by our merciful Lord.

Moving on, my community obligations are three-fold. First, I am the Theology 1 class president and my duties including organizing a Mass serving schedule, and being the academic liaison between the faculty and

my classmates. Any complaints my classmates have go through me, and I do my best to express their concerns to formation.

Second, I started a wiffleball league for the seminary, which is made up of 40 seminarians and 8 teams. In addition to playing in the league, I umpire all of the games and keep detailed statistics that I release to the entire community through a weekly, satirical newsletter. The wiffleball league has been a huge hit!

On Fridays, I go to football practice in preparation for our annual big game with St. Ben's Seminary in Covington, which is played every year the Friday before Thanksgiving.

On Sundays, I go to my Legion of Mary meeting, which is a Marion-centered prayer group dedicated to evangelization. Those groups (and homework) fill the majority of my 12:30 - 5:45 p.m. block. At 5:45 p.m., we go into our next "hour" of the Breviary, which is followed by dinner.

After dinner, around 6:30 p.m., I start to tie up loose ends from the day: homework, more wiffleball, responding to emails, and mentally relaxing with friends.

My night ends with Night Prayer and bedtime around 10:00 p.m. As I place my head on my pillow, the day finally slows down, but I'm thankful for the fullness of the schedule because, as the old saying goes, *the devil sits on an idle horse.*

**Budget Blinds**  
a style for every point of view™

Custom Window Coverings  
Shutters • Draperies • Blinds

Huge selection of the best brands!

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

Professional Installation • Low Price Promise  
Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated  
[www.budgetblinds.com](http://www.budgetblinds.com)

Signature Series • Lafayette Interior Fashions  
Exterior Window Screens

**Refueling & Refreshing Communities**

[www.ynotstop.com](http://www.ynotstop.com)

?? Catholic Trivia Answer ??

The Virgin Mary is patron of more than 350 people, places, and things.

**Answer: VIRGIN MARY (OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION).**

CALL IN YOUR ORDER - WE WILL HAVE IT READY IN 20 MINUTES

**COMPARE QUALITY - TASTE - QUANTITY & PRICE**

**WE DELIVER** EVERYTHING FROM CHEESE TO "FULL HOUSE"

WITHIN LIMITED AREA CHECK ACCEPTABLE

SUN-THUR 11 AM-10:30 PM  
FRI & SAT 11 AM-11 PM

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

VALUABLE COUPON

**Two Medium Pizzas \$17.99**

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

Coupon Expires 11/30/20

All prices subject to change

# Ascension launches highly-anticipated children's line for a new generation of Catholics

West Chester, PA - Releasing recently is Ascension's new line: **Ascension Kids**. The highly-anticipated line from the leader in Catholic faith formation is designed for ages toddler through 12. The books, Bibles, curricula, and gifts included in the new brand will help children dive deeply into the beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith. "Ascension Kids" products feature engaging illustrations, age-appropriate activities, and kid-friendly explanations of Catholic stories and teachings.

"Kids represent 25% of the Catholic Church in the United States today, and 100% of the Church of tomorrow. Therefore, few things are more important to Catholic parents, pastoral leaders, and religious educators than the faithful transmission of

our faith to the next generation," explains Matthew Pinto, Founder and President of Ascension. "To this end, we wanted to create an array of new resources that would unpack and display the richness and beauty of our Catholic faith."

"Catholic parents, teachers, and mentors have a sacred calling from God to bring up their children in the faith," adds Luis J. Medina, General Manager of Small Group and Consumer Products at Ascension. "Ascension is proud to come alongside families, parishes, and school communities to support them in this critical mission. The resources we are offering with the new Ascension Kids brand are faithfully Catholic, beautifully designed, and just plain fun!?"



## ASCENSION

The Faith Formation Leader

Previously this year, Ascension released several Bible story books and activity books for children, products which will now be included in the Ascension Kids line. The announcement of

Ascension Kids brand solidifies the company's position in the Catholic children's market, and portends many future releases, including the *Interactive Mass Book* and *God's Plan in*

*Scripture (GPS)* which both became available for pre-order in October. A children's book about Christmas is planned for Advent 2020.

**ASCENSION KIDS.** The Ascension Kids collection includes the My First Catholic Bible Stories - an authentically Catholic board book filled with fifteen favorite Bible stories to introduce little Catholics to the God who loves them. With big hearts and wide eyes, little ones will see in vibrant color God's glorious plan for salvation history for the very first time. Crafted with playful children in mind, this sturdy book is created to be passed down and loved by many young Catholics. Written in simple language with engaging illustrations, this book is an excellent first step to forming little ones in the Catholic faith. Shop the entire collection at [www.AscensionPress.com/Kids](http://www.AscensionPress.com/Kids).





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

Phone: 318.448.2226  
Fax: 318.448.2280  
bkelso@kelsoinsurance.com

Auto, Home, Recreational Vehicles, Collector Cars, Commercial

**Lacombe  
Floor Finishing**

**310 N. Briarwood, Bunkie, LA 71322**  
Specializing in installation

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

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

**PEST AID CO.**

We Sell  
Do-It-Yourself  
Pest Control  
Supplies



Termites • Ants  
Ticks • Roaches  
Mice • Fleas  
Mosquitoes

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



**473-0228**  
**1-800-256-0450**



2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA

The Lord is my strength;  
there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 23: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for November 22

# NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

**561-2500 • NBALawFirm.com**

Richard J. Arsenault
2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria



**FOOTBALL.** (LEFT) On Monday, October 19, Bunkie's St. Anthony of Padua School Bulldogs came home with the win against Alexandria's Our Lady of Prompt Succor School Bulldogs. The game took place at the Holy Savior Menard High School football field. We are proud of our Bulldogs no matter what, but even more proud of the sportsmanship that was witnessed when two Catholic schools play ball. Tonight ALL of the Bulldogs on both sides of the field came together in prayer. #itsablessingtobeabulldog (RIGHT) The cheer team for St. Anthony of Padua School poses before a game.

TIRE  
**DESPINO'S**  
SERVICE

visit us at  
**DESPINOTIRE.COM**

LIKE US ON  
**f facebook**

*Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face  
and we shall be saved.*

Psalm 23: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for November 22

**NEBLETT, BEARD  
& ARSENAULT**

**Need Social Security  
Disability Benefits?**

---

**561-2500**

**NBALawFirm.com**

Richard J. Arsenault      2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria

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  
lray@diocesealex.org

Northwestern State University  
Catholic Student Organization  
Chaplain: Fr. Marc Noel  
Campus Minister: Shelley Mims  
Phone: 318-352-2615  
frmnoel@diocesealex.org

Louisiana College Catholic Student Organization  
Campus Minister: Lynn Ray  
Phone: 318-613-0634  
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.

# How Liturgy of the Hours became a part of my life

By Faith Noah  
Life Teen



Liturgy of the Hours: a Catholic, ancient form of prayer that used to intimidate the heck out of me.

I walked into our campus' chapel once to find our priests and FOCUS missionaries praying morning prayer, one of the parts of Liturgy of the Hours. I optimistically tried to follow along, until I soon discovered that there was simply too much page flipping, too much standing up and sitting down, and too many confusing say-this-thing-but-not-that-thing-but-sometimes-this-thing parts. I made sure to avoid that specific time slot in the chapel in the future.

Until I realized that LITURGY OF THE HOURS IS AWESOME!

## *The Daily Prayer of the Church*

Liturgy of the Hours goes by many names: Divine Office, Breviary, Flippy Book (I may be the only one who uses this last one, though). As the USCCB states, it is "the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer." The five "hours" during which you offer praise to God in this prayer are 1) Office of Readings, 2) Morning Prayer or "Lauds," 3) Daytime Prayer (divided into specific parts of the daytime, 4) Evening prayer or "Vespers," and 5) Night Prayer

or "Compline."

The Divine Office traces its roots back to the early Church. Although the practice of marking the day with prayer has been engrained in our faith throughout all of salvation history. The prayers usually come in a Breviary, a thick book with many ribbons that mark specific hours or seasons in the Liturgical Year. They focus heavily on the Psalms, but include parts from all over the Bible and particularly the Gospel.

In reflecting on these verses, we have the opportunity to hear the Spirit's voice, to realize that God crafted these words knowing

that we, specifically, would read them. And, fun fact: like the Mass readings, the readings we reflect on change each day and week. Any Catholic reading the Divine Office that day is reflecting on the same unique piece of God's inspired Word.

Even the title "the daily prayer of the Church" points to its significance. I would think the Rosary or the Mass would earn that title (though the Mass is the source and summit of our faith, so I think it wins in the end). But no it's the Breviary!

All of this to say, Liturgy of the Hours is a beautiful aspect of our faith. For centuries, priests and religious have poured their intercession into our Church family through this form of prayer. For lay people today, and especially us as young Catholics, it can serve as a powerful reminder of the Lord who constantly surrounds our daily life.

### *The Fruits of Divine Office*

Unity. I think this is one of the greatest things to be earned from incorporating the Divine Office into our daily routines. I'm writing this from a coffee shop in Nicaragua, where I will be spending the next two months of my summer. New foods, new languages, and new experiences make me nervous about staying connected to my Church community. The Eucharist and the Divine Office keep me sane and ease these fears.

I can reflect on the prayers each day and know that my Catholic brothers and sisters are reading these same words. My chaplains back home, my parish

priest, the awesome Dominican Sisters in Nashville (who sing the words of Divine Office), and the priest down the street at the local Church here are all praying with me. And even my friends and family members who also use this form of prayer. Friends, strangers, all of us are reflecting on this same devotional.

### *Where to Start.*

So you want to give this whole shindig a try? First of all, know that you don't have to pray the Divine Office if it's not for you. And, if you decide you do like it, you don't have to do all the prayers. And, you don't have to pray the hours at the actual time, although it's preferred.

The Flippy Book is confusing, so I'd recommend praying with your priest or a well-versed friend at first. They can help you set the ribbons and explain what you need to know to get off the ground.

A far less intimidating way to start is with an app version. I personally love iBreviary, but there are many awesome alternatives. They present the prayers for that specific day, as the format can be changed based on the season, whether or not it's a feast day, etc..

Furthermore, Compline (Night Prayer) is probably the most accessible and the best place to start. Unlike the other hours, it repeats on a weekly cycle (the others rotate on a 4 week cycle). This means that every Monday, Tuesday, etc. you pray the same prayer specific to that day. It's much simpler and includes less flipping. Then from there you can learn more about the other hours,

especially morning and evening prayers, which are both particularly common.

Lastly, don't be afraid to mess up. I may get completely off and start doing the wrong prayers for this whole 2 months, but hey, prayer is prayer. Already I've seen the Lord speak life through His words in these prayers. And, perhaps more significantly, I've found myself better able to think of Him. It's so easy in our busy world to put Him off, to reserve Him only for that one hour on Sundays. But, by marking each day - and even each part of our day - as a blessing from Him, His presence becomes second nature.

So, if you ever are to mozo on into a morning prayer party, be not afraid! You can do this! Join the ranks of awesome nuns and priests and saints and monks and lay people and conquer the Flippy Book.

I believe in you. And know that I'll offer my Liturgy of the Hours prayers for you.

## Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Sept. 29, 2020  
The Church Today  
393-240  
Monthly  
Free of Charge  
4400 Coliseum Blvd.  
Alexandria, LA 71303  
(318) 445-2401

**Publisher:**  
Diocese of Alexandria  
**Editor:** Cari Terracina  
**Advertising:** Joan Ferguson

|                           | Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: | Number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Total copies</b>       | 11,437  | 11,364   |
| <b>Outside county</b>     | 6,323   | 6,287  |
| <b>In-county</b>          | 5,000   | 4,972  |
| <b>Other distribution</b> | 114   | 105  |
| <b>Total Distribution</b> | 11,437  | 11,364   |
| <b>Percent Requested</b>  | 100%  | 100%   |

Filing Date: Sept. 29, 2020

*Choosing Kramer Funeral Home means choosing 145 years of compassion, respect, and dignity.*

*Since no two people are alike, no two funerals should be alike.*

*We are here for you and your family yesterday, today, and tomorrow.*

**KRAMER**  
Funeral Home and Cremation Service  
Est 1875  
www.KramerFunerals.com 318-445-6311

## National Vocation Awareness Week - Nov. 1 - 7

National Vocation Awareness Week will be celebrated in our country Nov. 1 - 7, 2020. Please ask our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of a vocation.

## Love Life Vote YES for Amendment #1 - November 3

Please vote "YES" for Amendment #1 on November 3. The Love Life Amendment will make sure there is no constitutional right to an abortion or no taxpayer funding of an abortion in the Louisiana Constitution. Visit [LOVELIFEVOTEYES.com](http://LOVELIFEVOTEYES.com) or text LOVELIFE to 77222 for updates. Please call the Cenla Pregnancy Center at 318-314-3061 and speak with Claire on how you can receive a yard sign or other Love Life Amendment material.

## Sr. Briega McKenna Healing Mini-Conference - November 13-14

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans is delighted to welcome back Sr. Briega McKenna for a Healing Mini-Conference, November 13-14, 2020, at St. Angela Merici Church in Metairie. Sr. Briega is well-known around the world for her ministry of prayer for healing. She has authored a book entitled *Miracles Do Happen*, giving accounts of extraordinary healings she has witnessed. Sr. Briega was originally scheduled for the CCRNO March 2020 Conference, which had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This Mini-Conference is for the benefit of CCRNO, a self-supporting office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Sr. Briega will speak on a different topic and pray for healing at each session. Attend all three. The Healing Mini-Conference will consist of three separate and distinct sessions, Friday night from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Saturday morning from 9:30 a.m. - noon, and Saturday night from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Friday topic: The Importance of Prayer and Healing followed by a Prayer for Healing. Saturday morning: Mary, Health of the Sick followed by a Prayer for healing. Saturday evening: *Miracles Do Happen* with Eucharistic Healing Service.

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Music by Jamie Diliberto and Tongues of Fire, testimonies by Alex Lorio, Jean and Janice Charbonnet and Eucharistic Procession with Fr. Bill Henry.

Pre-registration is required at [ccrno.org](http://ccrno.org). Adults: \$15 per person, per session; Youths (under 18): \$5 per person, per session. Because of social distancing, seating is limited to approximately 300. No onsite registration. Masks are required. Check in one half hour before each session. We anticipate this Mini-Conference will be well-attended so pre-register today for all three sessions.

If you do not have access to a computer and need help with registration, please call the CCRNO office at 504-828-1368. For questions, call CCRNO at 504-828-1368, not St. Angela Merici parish.

Registration closes at noon on November 11.

## 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/).

## NEW DATE - Pilgrimage to France - June 2-11, 2021

The pilgrimage with Fr. Martin Laird to Lourdes, France has been rescheduled for June 2-11, 2021. In Lourdes, experience the Grotto and Way of the Cross, and visit the Basilica of St. Therese in Lisieux. In Paris, see Sacre Coeur and the Miraculous Medal Chapel, as well as cruise down the Seine River. Request more information by calling 337-291-1933 or visit [www.holytravels.org/materdolorosa](http://www.holytravels.org/materdolorosa).

## 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:  
November 30  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, Nov. 12

**Petrus**  
FEED & SEED

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

Martha Neil Anthony



Feline Canine Coach

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

985.226.6458 • [www.felinecaninecoach.com](http://www.felinecaninecoach.com)

# November 2020

| Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  | Sunday  |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>OCTOBER <b>26</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p> | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>VIRTUS<br/>St. Joseph Catholic<br/>Center,<br/>ALEXANDRIA<br/>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<br/>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p> | <p>NOVEMBER <b>1</b></p> <p>ALL SAINTS DAY<br/>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>                        |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| National Vocation Awareness Week, November 1 - 7, 2020  |  |  |   |   |   |   |
| <p>ALL SOULS DAY<br/>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</p>    | <p>ELECTION DAY<br/>PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</p>   | <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ</p>   | <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE</p>   | <p>FIRST FRIDAY<br/>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>   | <p>FIRST SATURDAY<br/>PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</p>            | <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>  |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b>                                       | <b>14</b>   | <b>15</b>   |
| <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>                           | <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>  | <p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS<br/>FEAST DAY</p> <p>VETERAN'S DAY<br/>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p> | <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</p>   | CCRNO Healing Mini-Conference,<br>New Orleans   |   | <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>   |
| <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>                                       | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b>   |
| <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>                       | <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</p>  | <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>   | <p>VIRTUS<br/>St. Paul Church,<br/>MANSURA<br/>6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p> | <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>              | <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>                                | <p>SOLEMNITY of OUR<br/>LORD JESUS CHRIST,<br/>KING of the<br/>UNIVERSE<br/>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p> |
| <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>                                       | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b>   |
| <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>                          | <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</p>   | <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>  | <p>THANKSGIVING<br/>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>  | <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>                 | <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>                                 | <p>FIRST WEEK<br/>OF ADVENT<br/>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAVAK</p>   |

A cross on the outside

Means a difference on the inside



CHRISTUS.  
ST. FRANCES CABRINI  
Hospital

[CHRISTUSHealth.org/StFrancesCabrini](http://CHRISTUSHealth.org/StFrancesCabrini)