

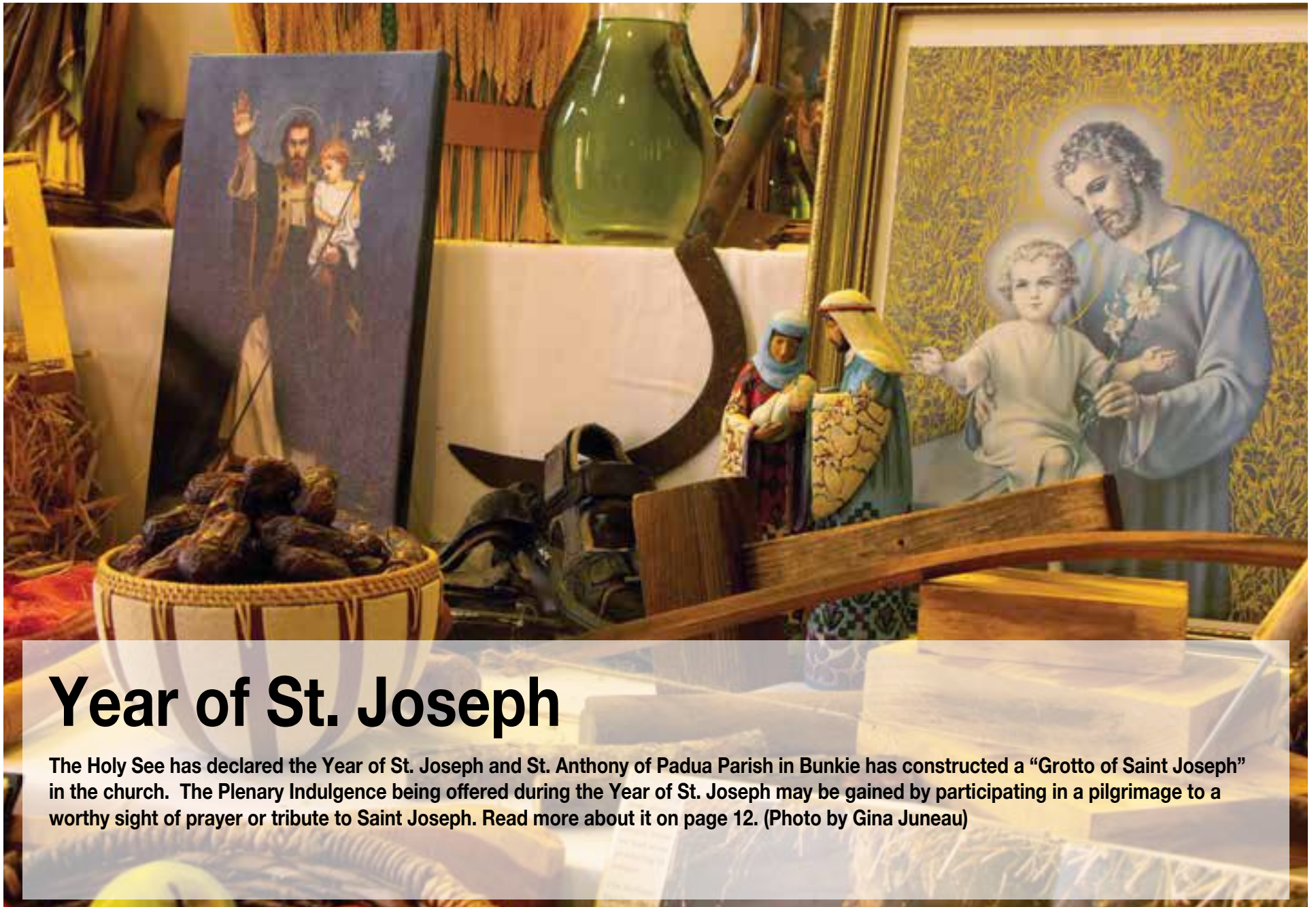
CHURCH TODAY

Volume LII, No. 3

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

March 29, 2021



Year of St. Joseph

The Holy See has declared the Year of St. Joseph and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Bunkie has constructed a “Grotto of Saint Joseph” in the church. The Plenary Indulgence being offered during the Year of St. Joseph may be gained by participating in a pilgrimage to a worthy sight of prayer or tribute to Saint Joseph. Read more about it on page 12. (Photo by Gina Juneau)

INSIDE

Easter beckons hope

“We are an Easter people, and alleluia is our song!” (Saint John Paul the Great) Read Bishop Marshall’s address to the people of our Diocese for this Easter season on page 2.

Church capacity increase

Governor John Bel Edwards recently announced that Louisiana would be allowed to move to Phase 3 of COVID-10 precautions. Read more about what that means for our local churches on page 14.

School and youth events across the diocese

The Catholic Schools Office is conducting an online teacher job fair, and the annual Steubenville South Conference has opened registration for this summer’s event. See pages 20-21 for more information.

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Holy Week, Easter, beckons hope and resurrection

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our season of Lent, our time away in the desert with Jesus, is coming to its dramatic climax. We are entering Holy Week, our annual commemoration of Christ's life, death and resurrection. Last year, in the earliest days of the pandemic when we were still locked down, many of you watched these liturgical celebrations play out on your computers, live-streamed from empty churches. I was on the other side of the cell phone-camera, challenged with participating in these beautiful liturgies with only a handful of other liturgical ministers. This year, though some will need to stay home to continue to protect their health, many of us can gather safely, with washed hands, wearing a mask, and maintaining a social distance. We invite you to discover again the richness of our Holy Week celebrations.

On Palm Sunday, we begin by commemorating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The vestments are red; the mood is joyful. We are part of that crowd who greeted Jesus, waving before him palm branches and shouting Hosanna to the Son of David. And almost instantly, when the priest arrives in the sanctuary, the mood becomes more somber. We listen to a passage from the prophet Isaiah referred to as a Song of the Suffering Servant. From Mark's gospel, we hear the story of the Lord's Passion – of his betrayal and arrest, his trial, his carrying of the cross, and ultimately of his crucifixion. In one liturgy, we move from the unbridled joy of Palm Sunday to the abandonment and heartache of Good Friday. It is the perfect introduction to Holy Week.

Our next major liturgy is that of the Chrism Mass – celebrated in our diocese on Tuesday of Holy Week. Here we commemorate the institution of the priesthood and all of our priests will be invited to renew the promises made at their ordination. We also bless the Holy Oils to be used in each parish over the next year. Through this common blessing, all of us who, over the next year, are baptized, confirmed, ordained to the priesthood or anointed when we are sick, are united to this celebration.

On Holy Thursday, Good



Live, Jesus, in our
hearts. Forever.

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

Friday and Holy Saturday evening, the Church invites us to enter into the solemn celebration of the Pascal Triduum – three distinct liturgies intimately connected to one another.

At our only Mass on Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper, where Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist and washed the feet of his disciples. Because of the pandemic, we won't be able to re-enact this foot washing ritual this year, but we will hear the Scriptural account of it from John's gospel. We are reminded that we are nourished by the Eucharist, by the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, not to sit on our hands, but to go forth and care for one another – to wash feet, if you will, and to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick. The celebration of Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper ends with the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament and some quiet time praying before the Lord, inviting him into our hearts.

On Good Friday, we take part in our most solemn and somber celebration of the year. The sanctuary has been stripped of candles and cloths. We kneel in silence as the priest and other clergy lie prostrate before the bare altar. As on Palm Sunday, we hear another of the Suffering Servant Songs from Isaiah. And we listen to the Passion Narrative from John's Gospel. Our Universal Prayer – General Intercessions or the Prayer of the Faithful as it used to be called – is more solemn today. We introduce each intention and then pray individually for each. Once again this year, the Holy Father has added a specific intention for an end to the pandemic. Following these Intercessions, a cross is brought forth, perhaps veiled in purple. We are invited to venerate the wood of the cross – on which hung the salvation of the world. It is often our custom to kiss the

cross, but that can't happen in this pandemic, so our veneration will be more internal than external. Depending upon the size of the congregation and the layout of the church, we might be invited to come forward and make a bow or genuflect before the cross – or we may be invited to just kneel at our pew and pray before the cross held before us for our veneration. Our time of veneration signifies our humble respect and gratitude for the death of the Lord. Finally, we receive the Eucharist which was consecrated the night before at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. On this one day of the year, when we commemorate the Sacrifice of Calvary, the Church does not re-present that sacrifice with the celebration of Mass. Having been nourished by the Body of Christ, we will be asked to depart the church in silence.

On Holy Saturday evening, our Easter celebration begins with the Easter Vigil – one of the most beautiful liturgies of the Church's year. We light and bless a fire and light the new pascal candle that will be used throughout the Easter season and will be used thereafter for both baptisms and funerals. That candle will, at first, be the only light glowing in a darkened church. After the Exsultet, the great Easter proclamation is sung, we will sit in vigil, listening to accounts from our salvation history proclaimed in up to seven Old Testament readings. At the conclusion of those readings,

we sing again the Gloria that we have not heard in Lent. While the Gloria is proclaimed, the candles in the sanctuary are lit and we see clearly that the church that was stark and bare the night before is now adorned with lilies and assorted spring flowers and plants. We soon hear the word Alleluia again and we are reminded in the Gospel how the women went to anoint the body of the Lord only to find the tomb empty. Christ is risen and alive. We celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation with those adults who have been preparing for these sacraments through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and we celebrate the Eucharist for the first time since the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper two nights before.

The simplicity of Thursday's celebration, the stark and somber celebration on Good Friday, and the glorious celebration of the Easter Vigil help us to physically acknowledge and appreciate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in a way that mere words cannot.

Easter Sunday's celebrations are festive and filled with joy – a sharp contrast to the way we began Holy Week on Palm Sunday.

Please visit the diocesan website diocesealex.org for the times of each of the Holy Week services at the parishes and missions throughout the diocese or visit the website of your parish church for the times of each of these Holy Week liturgies. We hope that many of you can join us this year. Also posted on the various websites will be some of the options for watching the Holy Week liturgies by live-stream for those who cannot be with us in person.

Have a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter.



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Statement of USCCB President and Bishop Chairmen in response to passage of the American Rescue Plan Act

WASHINGTON -- Following the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act in the U.S. House of Representatives, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the chairmen of six USCCB committees released a statement. The bishops expressed support for the provisions in the bill that would provide relief to help those in need during the ongoing COVID pandemic but were also critical of the bill's lack of protections for the unborn.



Chairmen joining the statement included Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the Committee on

International Justice and Peace; Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, of Oakland, chairman for the Committee on Catholic Education; Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism; and Bishop Mario E.

Dorosanville, auxiliary bishop of Washington, chairman of the Committee on Migration.

The statement follows:

“As the American Rescue Plan Act was being written, Catholic bishops reached out to every House and Senate office to

express our support for providing additional relief to help poor and vulnerable people who are most at risk of harm from this pandemic, and our strong conviction that this relief should also protect the unborn and their right to life.

“We are grateful this legislation addresses many positive provisions including unemployment assistance, child and earned income tax credit enhancements, nutrition funding, vaccine distribution funding, health care funding, housing assistance, international assistance to regions stricken by COVID, conflict, and hunger. There are provisions in this bill that will save people from extremely desperate situations and will likely save lives.

“However, it is unconscionable that Congress has passed the bill without critical protections needed to ensure that billions of taxpayer dollars are

used for life-affirming health care and not for abortion.

“Unlike previous COVID relief bills, sponsors of the American Relief Plan Act refused to include the longstanding, bipartisan consensus policy to prohibit taxpayer dollars from funding abortions domestically and internationally. The policy was needed because this bill includes many general references to healthcare that, absent the express exclusion of abortion, have consistently been interpreted by federal courts not only to allow, but to compel, the provision of abortion without meaningful limit.

“The many important, life-saving provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act have been undermined because it facilitates and funds the destruction of life, which is antithetical to its aim of protecting the most vulnerable Americans in a time of crisis.”

Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Q: I have read that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has a connection with aborted fetuses. Now that this vaccine has been approved for use, does one have a moral obligation to request one of the other vaccines? Or is it morally acceptable to take whatever is available at a particular site? (Middletown, New Jersey)

A. In December 2020 -- two months prior to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine -- the Vatican's doctrinal congregation



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

said that, when alternative vaccines are not available, it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines developed or tested using cell lines originating from aborted fetuses.

The Vatican went on to explain that the “moral duty to avoid such passive material cooperation is not obligatory if there is a grave danger, such as the otherwise uncontrollable spread of

a serious pathological agent.”

In a March 4 video, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine, said that the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine “can be used in good conscience.”

He also made a March 2 statement in conjunction with Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, that if a choice of vaccines is available, “the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should

be chosen.”

So the answer to your question, it would seem, is that if you have a choice, you should opt for the Moderna or the Pfizer vaccine; but if the only one available to you is Johnson & Johnson, you may take that, and there's no need to postpone vaccination until you have a choice.

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

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Psalm 118: 24 | Responsorial Psalm for April 4



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The Word before the world

"In the morning, when I rise, give me Jesus." These song lyrics have been sitting on my heart lately. I long to begin my day by diving into quiet time spent with Jesus, but if I'm being completely honest, it feels like an impossible task.

Prior to the pandemic, I would wake up before my son, have a warm cup of coffee and prayer time. This gave me grace and strength to approach each day.

However, like most people, when the COVID-19 quarantines began, my morning routine fell apart. My prayer time kept getting pushed later and later



Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina

Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

into my day. My daughter was also recently born. While she truly is the happiest, chubbiest baby, her arrival has added to my lack of morning prayer routine. I've been searching for ways to bring more fruitful prayer time into my day.

How to put the Word before the world

Are you also struggling to prioritize time with Jesus? Is your heart longing for the comfort of His Word? Let's walk through an action plan to put His Word before the world's.

Start Small

The most important thing I've realized is that I have to approach tasks in small chunks. This can be a struggle for me, as I want to go all in and tackle an entire project at once. But this season of life requires me to set aside my desires for God's. No one would prepare for a marathon by starting with a 20-mile run. So why would expect the same in our spirituality? Find a short prayer to begin your day with, or save the Morning Offering as your phone's wallpaper to read each morning.

Prepare for challenges

Prepare yourself for challenges before they happen. This is our essential in our prayer routine! Are you frequently interrupted by text messages,

urgent work emails, busy toddlers, or a noisy roommate? Anticipate these challenges ahead of time and have a back up plan for when you can't devote your time to prayer in your preferred way. This may mean offering up an annoyance for the suffering of a family member or friend. It could be playing Fr. Mike Schmitz's Bible in a Year podcast while you feed the kids breakfast. Whatever it looks like for you, commit to one easy replacement for the tough days.

Find a realistic routine

In a perfect world, I would wake up an hour before everyone else in the house to get dressed, have breakfast, and spend time with Jesus. But in this season of life, Jesus is teaching me to follow His lead. Late night prayers and reading with a baby in my lap have replaced my usual morning prayer time... and Jesus meets me there. We were each called to our specific vocation in this specific time for a reason. Jesus doesn't ask for perfect prayer time, He simply asks that we meet Him where we are, and

He meets us there in return.

Limit Distractions

If you know you'll only have 5-10 minutes of prayer time, keep your distractions at bay. Silence your phone, sit outside, hide in the bathroom - whatever it takes!

Make prayer a part of your community

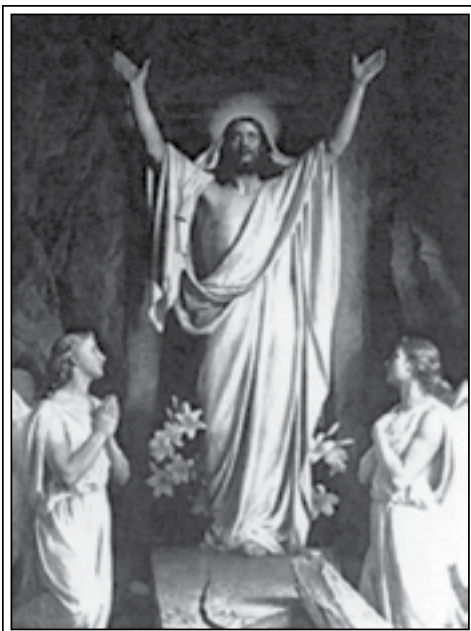
Our spirituality isn't meant to be experienced alone. One of the best ways to engage in Scripture is through relationships with others. Examine your season of life, and determine how you can stay connected to community. Options include participating in a virtual Bible Study, reading the Mass readings with a friend over Facetime, attending daily Mass once a week, reading a book with a friend, and more! Don't be afraid to ask a friend to keep you accountable.

Begin Again

Friend, are you ready to begin seeking God's Word before the world's again? Start simple. Bring what you have, and know that it will bear much fruit. We've already seen what Jesus can do with a meager offering of loaves and fish - He is just waiting to bless us with an overflowing abundance, too!

To beginning again,
Cari

Follow Cari on Instagram
[@cariterracina](https://www.instagram.com/cariterracina)



The Resurrection

O Jesus, Our Savior, rose from the dead
Giving us grace to stay ahead.

He wants us all with Him above,
We can make it happen with His mercy and love.

His Father called Him from this life,
To free Him from all hate and strife.

He made a place for Him by His side,
A place where the Holy Spirit also resides.

Because of Christ's resurrection we have
been freed from sin,
Making our hearts and souls pure
and holy from within.

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Prayer to St. Joseph

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through your foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer you my thanksgiving and homage. O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. Amen.

Diocese of Alexandria financial information for the year ended June 30, 2020

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Cash	2,287,553
Accounts Receivable	979,448
Pledges Receivable	118,379
Note Receivable	1,655,885
Other Receivables	4,152
Prepaid Expenses	16,359
Investments	7,206,620
Interest in Trusts	1,232,455
Land/Buildings/Equipment	4,312,521
Equity in Workers Comp Pool	1,053,862
Other Assets	15,000
Total Assets	18,882,234
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	232,700
Loan Debt	2,238,227
Accrued Payables	5,535,120
Insurance Reserves	142,675
National Collections	76,339
Deferred Revenue	87,974
Total Liabilities	8,313,035
Net Assets	
Unrestricted - Undesignated	654,992
Unrestricted - Designated	6,378,439
Restricted	3,526,768
Total Net Assets	10,569,199
Total Liabilities / Net Assets	18,882,234

Revenue and Expense Statement

Revenue	
Parish Assessments	1,599,766
Priest Benefit Charge	498,270
Contributions / Grants	1,227,635
Maryhill	185,065
Church Today	29,418
Investment Income	320,643
Market Loss on Investments	(161,445)
Insurance Premiums	3,113,595
Steubenville Conference	23,821
Other Revenue	345,463
Total Revenue	7,182,231
Expenses	
Maryhill	307,109
Vocations	548,751
Infirm / Retired Priests	574,751
Educational Ministry	188,824
Pastoral Services	743,937
Communications	200,806
Tribunal	325,148
Insurance Programs	2,875,115
Steubenville Conference	22,718
Administrative	697,675
Development	169,299
Interest Expense	84,978
Depreciation	360,142
Total Expenses	7,098,758
Net Income	83,473
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	10,485,726
Net Assets - End of Year	10,569,199

Year of St. Joseph
August 2020 - May 2021

ST. JOSEPH, *pray for us*

Diocese of Alexandria • Catholic Schools Office

Principal Opening 2021-2020 School Year

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Rev. Blake Deshautelle, Pastor/Chancellor
Immaculate Conception phone (318) 352-3422

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- Preference of Catholic Education
- Credentials meeting Non-Public School certification for State of Louisiana
- Demonstrated Leadership Ability in Education
- Availability on or before July 1, 2021

Interested applicants may go online:

www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/job-applications/
for an application packet.

Deadline to receive applications: May 1, 2021

The schools of the Diocese of Alexandria admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.



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Gift of the Holy Spirit connects people to Christ, pope says at audience

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Every Christian is unique because the Holy Spirit inspires something new and original in each person, creating "an endless field of holiness," Pope Francis said.

"The one God, the Trinity of love, allows the variety of witnesses to flourish -- all are equal in dignity, but also unique in the beauty that the Spirit has willed to be expressed in each of those whom God's mercy has made his children," the pope said March 17 during his weekly general audience.

During the audience, livestreamed from the Library of the Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis concluded his series of talks about prayer by looking at prayer as a relationship with the Holy Trinity, in particular with the Holy Spirit.

"The first gift of every Christian existence is the Holy Spirit," he said. It is the key, essential gift because without the Holy Spirit, "there is no relationship with Christ and with the Father."

The Spirit opens the human heart to Christ's presence "and draws it into that 'vortex' of love that is the very heart of God," he said.

The Holy Spirit "dwells in



POPE GENERAL AUDIENCE. Pope Francis speaks during his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican March 17, 2021. The pope spoke about the role of the Holy Spirit in making Jesus present in people's lives. (CNS photo / Vatican Media)

us; it is he who transforms us deeply and makes us experience the moving joy of being loved by God as his true children," the pope said.

The Spirit writes the story of the church and of the world, he said, and "we are open pages, available to receive his handwriting."

"In each of us, the Spirit

composes original works because there is never one Christian who is completely identical to another," creating a vast and flourishing "field of holiness."

The church invites the faithful to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, to make Christ present so he can guide and transform his disciples, he added.

Calling on the Spirit for

support and inspiration is important, especially when one has not prayed in a long time, has lost the desire to pray or recites prayers "like a parrot," with no depth of feeling or faith, he said.

"This is the moment to say to the Spirit. 'Come, Come, Holy Spirit and warm my heart. Come,

teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, the son, teach me the way the path of faith goes, teach me to love, and above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope."

"If Christ were only far away in time, we would be alone and lost in the world," Pope Francis said, but with the Spirit, "the possibility of encountering Christ is open to Christians of every time and place."

Christians must "keep alive this flame" of the Holy Spirit, of God's love, in their heart, the pope said, the same way the lamp next to the tabernacle stays lit "even when the church empties and darkness falls, even when the church is closed."

"No one sees it, yet it burns before the Lord," he said. "That's how the Spirit is in our heart, always present like that lamp."

Catholic Trivia

According to tradition, the first Easter eggs were dyed what color?

(answer on page 19)

SAINTS Fun Facts

Saint Gertrude the Great was told by our Lord that each time the following prayer was said, one thousand souls would be released from purgatory!

"Eternal Father I offer you the most precious blood of your divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family! Amen!"

If you were to say this prayer just 50 times, 50,000 or a full baseball stadium of souls would be in heaven praying for you now and forever more!

lizdescant@gmail.com
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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/.



When Easter Sunday feels like Good Friday

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

By and large, the Easter Sundays I have celebrated these past thirty-some years have spanned the spectrum and landed primarily on the joyful side. As a child, Easter joy made sense to me for the most part because of things like baby bunnies, Peeps, egg hunts, Easter dresses, fancy shoes, and Alleluias.

What's not to celebrate?!

As a young adult, I felt my faith deepening as I learned the name for the three Holy Days (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday) in which the Church celebrates her highest feast - the Triduum. As a cradle Catholic, I began to understand that some folks had been preparing for entrance into the Church all year through RCIA. Adults, like my college roommate, would join us at Easter Vigil. Sometimes that even meant witnessing full immersion baptism in the Baptismal font!

Imagine my joy when individuals from our marriage prep class and our small faith-sharing group decided to join the Church. We were able to witness not only their faith-journey and discernment process, but we welcomed them fully to the table of the Eucharist. The season went from a very surface-level experience of happiness to one moored in deep emotion and spiritual significance.

The Lenten days meant the final days of preparation before one big celebration!

A different kind of Triduum

The rug got pulled out from under me a couple of years ago, when my biggest heartache to date synchronized perfectly with Holy Week.

We had learned earlier that winter that we were expecting



our third child. This created space for even more joy in our Easter preparation. What better way to celebrate new life?!

I had been feeling good - suspiciously good - so I was looking forward to our first ultrasound to confirm that all was well. Our doctor quietly shared that she was struggling to find a heartbeat. She wondered if somehow we'd miscalculated our due date. We were told to come back next week for a follow-up.

Our appointment was scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday. We hoped for good news, but our fears were confirmed.

With Mary at the cross

In some ways it was fitting to attend the Good Friday service that evening. To feel in my whole being the heartbreak of grieving for an innocent one

lost and the unfairness of it all. My tears didn't feel out of place before the barren altar that night. In a new way, I clung to Mary at the foot of the Cross for comfort.

Celebrating Easter Sunday when you're still mourning Good Friday

What was harder came next. What was harder was the immediacy of hope: coming back to church the next night, candles burning brightly, singing that life had conquered death. If I'm honest, in my very being, I felt like a sham. I felt like a living contradiction to the celebration.

To say the least, Easter joy didn't come for me that spring.

How had I never noticed the whip-lash extremes of grief-turned-joy that is the Church's celebration of the Paschal Mystery?

More than that, how had I been oblivious to the faction

of the Church for whom the melancholy of Good Friday felt an appropriate metaphor for their own circumstances? I could easily participate in the heartache of Good Friday. But it felt like a lot to ask me to rally for dry eyes - never mind the excitement of Jesus conquering the grave - despite its significance in my life.

I realize now that I was not alone in this place. Our suffering can be borne because it is shared by the entire Mystical Body.

We are not alone

A dear friend reminded me during this time that, "Good Friday doesn't always come on Good Friday and Easter doesn't always happen on Easter Sunday." And she's right.

What I'm slowly learning about my own experiences of death in all its forms - of a hope, of a loved one, a dream, a relationship, perfect health,

a job, or even the normalcy of routine - is that our losses deserve to be mourned and to be mourned fully. Jesus Himself tasted grief, betrayal, even death for a short time so that we might not venture anywhere God has not already been.

We have felt the promise of life fulfilled to look forward to. "We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song," after all. But our grieving hearts aren't expected to get there on any particular timeline. This is a helpful reminder as the trumpets blast, lilies intoxicate our senses, and our sanctuaries are transformed from barren deserts to lush oases and our tender hearts can't quite keep up.

Our "good Fridays" can and should be embraced. This also implies that our own experiences of resurrection are to come with feasting and celebration, too.

We have the hope of resurrection to look forward to in God's own time. It may not happen in the way we would expect or even prefer. But the Lord does not leave us idly stranded in our despari (Jeremiah 29:11).

We're praying for all your Good Fridays and Easter Sundays

So, as I enter into Holy Week this year, I do it with the encouragement to enter fully. To bring my brokenness and the deaths I've had to die into the space where we re-enter the experience of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

And, in a new way, I do it mindful of those for whom Good Friday's rugged airiness feels an appropriate place to hunker down for a while. If this is you, know that I enter Holy Week with you in mind as well. I pray that you, too, will catch a breathtaking glimpse at the ways you are being resurrected through Christ's passionate love for you.

Kate Cassidy is a wife and mom to two little girls in Denver, CO. Steeped in theological reflection, beekeeping, and motherhood, she is appreciative of any and all wisdom she can glean from those living intentional lives of faith.

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Morgan Newton, Owner

Pandemic vocations: Call is the same, but many are answering on Zoom

By Carol Zimmerman,
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- When Liz Dodd was formally welcomed as a candidate for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace last November, she took part in the ceremony from her bedroom in London, with her housemates alongside her, while family members, friends, and dozens of sisters from around the world joined by Zoom.

"Normally this ritual would be in person -- but we are not blessed that despite COVID-19 and the large distances between us" so many "take part in this step Liz is taking," said Sister Coralie Muzzy, the congregation's formation director at the start of the Nov. 5 ceremony, speaking from her congregation's office in Bellevue, Washington.

After a sister said a prayer of blessing for Dodd that the sisters, many with white hair, joined by raising their hands toward their computer screens, they individually unmuted themselves and warmly welcomed their new candidate.

Most of the sisters said they couldn't wait to meet her in person, others said they felt they already knew her, and many said she was already a blessing and grace for them. A few dabbed their eyes during each other's remarks.

Dodd, a 34-year-old writer and editor, formally stated her wish to discern joining the order, or to be an inquirer, on March 22 of last year, the day before England went into lockdown because of the pandemic.

Since that day, her interaction with the sisters, except for one weekend visit last summer, has been all online with weekly and biweekly Zoom gatherings for discussion or prayer and one for formation, which her housemates call "nun school."

She hopes to enter the novitiate at the end of the summer where she will move in with a community for a two-year period.

During her online welcoming ceremony, she said that even though her experience is so different from sisters who joined the congregation decades



PANDEMIC FINAL VOWS. Sister Josephine Garrett lies prostrate during a Nov. 21, 2020, Mass at St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, where she professed her final vows as a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth. (CNS photo/Jonathan Hoang, courtesy Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth)

ago, there is "an amazing thread" that ties them together. She said what attracted her to this congregation is "how risk-taking and bold and spirit-filled you all are," which she said came through when she saw them all online.

The ceremony tied everything together for Dodd, because until that point the process had been very private and personal, and suddenly it was public and joined by sisters and associates from all over the world.

"I'm a convert, and neither my family nor my housemates are Catholic, so their first real encounter with this whole process was that Zoom ceremony," she added.

After it was over, she and her housemates celebrated "in true COVID style" with take-out food. They also had champagne and watched the movie "Sister Act," which she had never seen.

Dodd felt called to a vocation to the religious life soon after an 18-month bike trip around the world. She said her unique discernment process made her wonder if she was "among the

first candidates in church history" to do her postulancy like this.

"It works because you're creating an intentional space -- albeit online -- in response to God's call, and God absolutely honors that, whether it's virtual or in person," she said in an email to Catholic News Service.

She also said that millennials and those even younger "get a degree of security and comfort from being behind a screen -- it's our natural environment," which makes the initial stages in the vocation discernment process less daunting. As she put it: "You have more of a sense of control and security because you're having these wild conversations at your desk and in your home."

The format also works because traveling to visit congregations and orders someone is interested in "could feel impossibly overwhelming, but an email and a Zoom call doesn't. Plus, you can fit it all in with work and regular pandemic social life."

But that's not to say that online is always better. Dodd said it took in-person meetings to really confirm what she was

discerning, so she thinks a hybrid model works best.

Her experience this past year is not unique. Since the pandemic started, women's religious orders have adapted how they do formation, welcome new candidates, and also reach out to potential vocations.

Veronica Kowalski, a 26-year-old from Mississauga, Ontario, has officially been in the discernment process with the Felician sisters for more than a year. Last November, she quarantined and then stayed with the sisters in their convent in Mississauga for two weeks.

Since then, her conversations with the order's vocation director, other sisters, and other women like her who are discerning a vocation, have all been on Zoom.

She said she has spoken with older Felicians who have said they can't imagine going through the discernment process this way pointing out that they didn't even have computers when they joined.

Kowalski, who was laid off from her job in March due to the pandemic, said the frequent Zoom calls have built friendships

by "bringing us all together in one space."

"This is the start of building a community," she said in a March 15 Skype interview.

For now, she has been eagerly awaiting word of her acceptance into the candidacy program, which she got in the mail March 16. The fact that she knows some of the sisters and the other women considering a vocation but hasn't met them in person yet is hard.

Above all, the pandemic has confirmed her need to trust in God, something she said she has "done for a while." And even when she worried that the discernment process could take a long time or be really hard, the Zoom discussions reminded her it was possible.

"Here I am -- one year into inquiry and making plans to become a candidate -- so it worked," she said.

Those at the end of their discernment process have also faced pandemic-related challenges but of a different kind.

Sister Josephine Garrett, who professed her final vows as a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth last November, said that just three weeks before her final vows ceremony, she had to find another venue for it because the college campus where the ceremony was going to take place suddenly closed due to the pandemic.

Sister Garrett, who grew up Baptist and became a Catholic in 2005, is a school and community counselor and also works with her congregation's vocation ministry. After graduating from the University of Dallas, she worked in the banking industry before switching gears and pursuing a vocation in 2011.

Looking back to her final vows ceremony, where the guest list was limited, everyone was masked, there couldn't be a reception afterward, Sister Garrett has no complaints. "God gave me the graces," she said.

"In the midst of all this craziness," she added: "God was the same God; that's my memory."

Virtual Come and See Weekend, March 26-28

Discerning Vocations

St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College offered a virtual Come & See weekend March 26-28, open to any high school or college aged male who is thinking about priesthood or is simply interested in what seminary is like. All those interested in attending the next Come & See weekend are invited to contact Fr. Luke LaFleur at frllafleur@diocesalex.org.

Convent Curious? Virtual Retreat

Discerning Vocations

You are invited to meet the Sisters of Divine Providence in San Antonio via virtual gatherings (through Zoom) for women ages 18-40. Virtual gatherings will be held once a month. Those interested only need to register once to attend. Register via the online link below, and you will receive the meeting link before each gathering. For more information, please contact vocationministry@cdptexas.org (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y3w98m>) The next gatherings will be held Sunday, April 18 at 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. Gatherings include self-paced reflection time, community and fellowship, as well as individual time with the CDP (Congregation of Divine Providence) Sisters.

Priest Ordinations

Tentative Dates

Deacon Thomas Kennedy and Deacon Robert Johnson are scheduled to be ordained priests for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 10:00 a.m. Because we do not know what the COVID restrictions will be at that time, it is likely that seating will be limited. More information will be released in the coming months.

Supper with the Seminarians

Tentative Dates

Join us for Supper with the Seminarians and help support our men in priestly formation! Meet our seminarians and enjoy a delicious dinner prepared and served by them. This event assists in funding our seminarians' education. Dates are tentatively set for this summer; please plan on joining us. More information will be released in the coming months.

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.

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

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Mr. and Mrs. Marion A. French	\$50.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
Mrs. Barbara Rigby	\$100.00
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Total	\$400.00

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

-- Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino, Chairman

Parish Spotlight: St. Rita Church, Alexandria, Louisiana Established 1940

Founded in 1940 for a predominantly working-class immigrant community, St. Rita Parish has kept its welcoming spirit and dedicated attitude of service to others throughout the generations.

Though the demographic of the parish has changed much in the last 70 years, the heart of the parish remains in its roots of hard work, vibrant spirituality and social justice.

Bishop Daniel Desmond bought a piece of land on what was called the "Race Track Addition" of Alexandria to build St. Rita Church. The first Mass was celebrated on September 1, 1940. Rev. Hermel Dube, who had a particular devotion to St. Rita, "The Saint of the Impossible," became the first pastor in July of 1941 and served until 1954.

When the parish was founded it consisted of approximately 60 families. In 1948, the parish opened St. Rita School which offered hundreds of families a quality Catholic education for 60 years. The parish continued to grow through the pastorates of Rev. William Hopp (1954-56) and Rev. B. A. Scallan (1956-1964). St. Rita Parish flourished during the long pastorate of Msgr. Joseph M. Susi, who served as pastor from 1964 until his retirement in 1991.

As the parish grew, Msgr. Susi made many improvements to the church and other parish



ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

buildings, including building a parish hall and a gymnasium.

A tragic fire severely damaged the original church on north 17th Street in November of 1994. Shortly thereafter, Bishop Sam Jacobs announced that a new St. Rita Church would be built at 4401 Bayou Rapides Road. The Diocese of Alexandria donated 6.6 acres of land to the people of St. Rita.

Under the leadership of then pastor Rev. Bruce Miller, JCL, (1991-2002), a new church was built and dedicated on October 26, 1996. With expanded programs and ministries, the parish continued to grow, and welcomed

more and more families to this "Loving Family in Worship, Learning, Action," Fr. Miller's chosen parish motto.

In June of 2002, Rev. Craig Scott became the sixth pastor of St. Rita Church. In 2003, the debt on the new church was retired after only seven years.

A successful capital campaign was conducted in 2006 which led to the construction of the foyer addition to the church and the Holy Family Center, a parish life center with meeting rooms, a choir and bride's room, grand hall, and a full-service kitchen. The Holy Family Center was dedicated by Bishop Ronald Herzog in January

of 2008. Presently the parish consists of approximately 1,500 families with Father Anthony Dharmaraj as pastor. The traditions of active ministry, a well-rounded liturgical music program, and engaging liturgies, in addition to the welcoming and friendly nature of St. Rita's people, remain at the heart of who we are in Christ. This parish community strives to reflect its current motto: "Be The Hands and Heart of Christ."

To learn more about St. Rita Church parish, check the Mass schedule and read the current bulletin, visit their website at www.strita.org.

Continue to
support your
church parish

Though you are not obligated to attend Mass during this time, please consider continuing to support your church parish with your tithing and donations.

Church parishes rely on these funds to continue to operate and provide programs and services to the faithful in our communities.

The address to each church parish can be found on the diocese website at www.diocesealex.org. Your pastor will appreciate your continued support.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.


*Give thanks
to the Lord
for he is
good; his
love is
everlasting.*

Psalm 118: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for April 11

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ST. PATRICK CHURCH AND ST. GERARD CHURCH. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass on Sunday, Feb. 28 at St. Patrick Church in Ferriday (above) and St. Gerard Church in Jonesville (below). Bishop Marshall said: "After the Masses, Father Pardue took me to lunch in nearby Natchez, Mississippi. It was my first 'trip' out of Louisiana since July 2020."



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, DEVILLE AND MONCLA. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Deville and at St. John the Baptist Church in Moncla on Sunday, March 21. Bishop Marshall said both churches were friendly and welcoming and thanks Father Albi Mulloth, Pastoral Administrator of both churches, and everyone who helped to make the celebrations so memorable.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

If you know a teen you'd like to recognize, please fill out the form, found on the Diocese website at www.diocesealex.org. Catholic students in either junior high or high school, attending our Catholic schools or public schools will be considered. 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.

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

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

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

For updated information, news articles, and documents regarding ongoing activity and planning for securing and maintaining a Safe Environment for all, visit www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing (visit www.diocesealex.org and look for "A Safe Environment For All" under the "Our Faith" tab). Here, you can find more information, 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."



ST. RITA CHURCH MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES. St. Rita Church in Alexandria recognized anniversary couples at Mass on Sunday, Feb. 14. Those recognized were: 25 years; Gregory and Diana Beavers, Russell and Ashia Branigan, Hanner and Rebecca Jeansonne, Jonathan and Misty Slayter; 40 years; Patrick and Tina LaBorde, Leslie and Judy Stokes, Ronald and Linda Vidrine; 50 years; C.F. and Susan Garon, Louis and Patricia Joseph, Adrian and Cynthia Parker, Jr., Francis and Brenda Tauzin, James and Sharon Yarbrough; 60 years; John and Beverly Wilmore; 65 years; Amos and Geraldine Lacaze; 70 years; Gerald and Mary Robichaux (pictured).

Activities across the Diocese of Alexandria



BLACK HISTORY MONTH. Sacred Heart School in Moreauville celebrated Black History month with various activities including poster contests, reports, presentations, and the main building housed a bulletin board display. The students learned about various black historians who have impacted our world today. Photos: Mrs. Cindy Roblin's 1st Grade class and detail view of the bulletin board displaying several prominent Black Louisianians.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, PINEVILLE. Sunday, Feb. 21. Bishop Robert Marshall visited Sacred Heart of Jesus in Pineville. Pictured are pastor, Fr. Walter Ajaero, Deacon Michael Young and Bishop Marshall.



SAINT JOSEPH GROTTTO. In conjunction with the Holy See declaring the Year of Saint Joseph, Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Bunkie has constructed a "Grotto of Saint Joseph" in the church. The grotto contains a full display of paintings, art, and various statues of Saint Joseph as well as a broad display of biblical tools used by a carpenter. There are also replicas of farm implements from biblical times, along with legumes, fruits, grains, and nuts that were all staples in the diet of the Holy Family. The Plenary Indulgence being offered during the Year of Saint Joseph may be gained by participating in a pilgrimage to a worthy site of prayer or tribute to Saint Joseph. Please know that Saint Anthony Church will be open for all visitors from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. every day of the week. The grotto will have prayer pamphlets available for special devotions to Saint Joseph as well as prayers focused on the True Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the grotto will take place all day each Friday with Benediction at 4:45 p.m. Parishes and church organizations are most welcome to visit the grotto with a group of pilgrims. The grotto will remain in the church until April 15. All are most welcome in this Year of Saint Joseph.



FR. CRAIG SCOTT. Never one to be held back, Fr. Craig Scott, who has been recovering from a recent illness, created his own St. Joseph Altar at his residence, the old St. Rita Rectory. Fr. Scott reports that he is greatly improved and hopes to begin returning to ministry at St. James soon.



NEW FLAG FOR THE ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CENTER. Leo Aragon and Eddie Figuron present a new U.S. Flag to Deacon Richard Mitchell, Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Alexandria. Mr. Aragon and Mr. Figuron are both Past Department Commanders of the Disable American Veterans, Paul Benoit Chapter #7. The flag was donated by the American Legion Post #3.

View more photos on the photo galleries at www.diocesealex.org



DEVILLE AND MONCLA. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Deville and at St. John the Baptist Church in Moncla on Sunday, March 21. Bishop says, "Thank you to Father Albi Mulloth, Pastoral Administrator of both churches, and to everyone who helped to make the celebrations so memorable. I even met St. Joseph in Deville!"



CHRISTUS ST. FRANCES CABRINI HOSPITAL capped off their 70th Anniversary Year by celebrating Mass in the Atrium of the Women's and Children's Hospital on Masonic Drive in Alexandria. Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr., was principal celebrant with Fr. Joy Antony, and assisted by Deacon William Aldridge and Deacon Richard Mitchell. Others pictured are members of the administration of the hospital.



ST. CHARLES MISSION CHURCH, GOUDEAU. Pastor, Father Ramji Shoury blessing the traditional St. Joseph's Altar at St. Charles Church in Goudeau for the Feast of St. Joseph.



CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD. Fifth Ward/Moncla Knights of Columbus Council #9418 recently presented its 2021 Keelan Normand Catholic Youth Leadership Awards. The award is granted to two Catholic seniors for encouragement and public recognition in support of their outstanding leadership in their church, community, and school. This year the council recognized, M████ Dupuy and N████ Guillot, both LA School for the Agricultural Sciences seniors and members of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Fifth Ward.

Church capacity increase



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.

Governor John Bel Edwards recently announced that Louisiana would be allowed to move to Phase 3 of COVID-19 precautions. The Governor indicated that, in Phase 3, reduced capacity limits for churches set for COVID-19 precautions are lifted. Capacity limits set by Fire Marshals remain in effect. Under the new state guidelines, "Religious services will no longer have capacity limits, social distancing is strongly encouraged, and masking will still be required."

This means that some parishes no longer need to have pews blocked off or signs designating where parishioners may sit. In an effort to protect vulnerable parishioners and/or to encourage social distancing among congregations that

may not embrace that encouragement on their own, the pastor of a particular church may determine that blocked off or designated pews may still be advisable. However, while church capacity limits are lifted, the governor also stated that social distancing in places of worship is encouraged.

While capacity limits have been increased, all in the Diocese of Alexandria are asked to honor the safety and comfort of those around us, and practice social distancing by spreading out in our churches to the extent possible.

In Phase 3, masks are still required statewide. Therefore, masks will continue to be required for attendance at Mass. Pastors should have masks available for those who have come to Mass unprepared.

Governor Edwards noted that the past several weeks have been full of hopeful milestones, and for that, we are grateful. These milestones include the fact that the state has administered over one million doses of the COVID vaccines. While we celebrate these blessings, each one of us must remain vigilant, and continue to follow the suggested precautions.

Thank you for your faith. Thank you for those who come together in community to worship Jesus Christ in the celebration of the Mass, and to receive His True Presence in the Most Holy Eucharist. Thank you to those as well, who participate in the televised Mass, or Mass online.

All are reminded that the obligation to attend Mass remains dispensed for all

Catholics in the Diocese of Alexandria. If you are not yet comfortable returning to in-person Mass, you can make a Spiritual Communion while watching a televised or live-streamed Mass individually or as a family. You might also consider reciting the rosary, reading scripture, or participating in other devotions. Individuals of all ages with underlying medical issues should adhere to all CDC guidelines.

We pray that as we enter in to the Easter season, there will be continued improvement in our state, and in our local area's COVID numbers, and the subsequent relaxing of other requirements. Together, let us offer the Lord thanks!

*Check with your parish
for any updated times
and locations of Masses,
both in -person
and virtual.*

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for April 2021

Fundamental rights -

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes, and even in democracies in crisis.



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Mass is being offered online and on radio

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

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

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

Sunday

- 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
(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
St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook
- 10:00 a.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville on Facebook or YouTube
Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen on Facebook
- 10:30 a.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria
on Facebook or YouTube
St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle on Facebook
Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth on Facebook or YouTube
- 11:00 a.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
- 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 (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)
- 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. St. Rita Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
Radio Maria | www.radiomaria.us (click the play button)
or tune in on your radio in Alexandria on station 580 AM
or in Natchitoches on station 89.7 AM
- 5:00 p.m. St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville on Facebook

View recorded Mass on YouTube:

St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
and St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches

Easter Sunday
is
April 4

Check with your parish
for times and locations of
Easter celebrations.

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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.

Catholic leaders speak out against violence targeting Asian Americans

By Carol Zimmerman
Catholic News Service



GEORGIA ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES. Women in Atlanta embrace March 19, 2021, after laying flowers at a makeshift memorial outside the Gold Spa following the deadly shootings March 16 at three day spas in metro Atlanta. (CNS photo/Shannon Stapleton, Reuters)

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In the days following the March 16 shootings in Atlanta that left eight people dead, including six Asian American women, protests and vigils took place around the country remembering the victims and calling for an end to a growing wave of anti-Asian racism and violence.

Two Jesuit universities, St. Louis University and Georgetown University, held vigils online that also included discussion on challenges faced by the Asian American/Pacific Islander community and ways to better advocate for them.

Catholic bishops and women religious also spoke out against the violence and renewed their calls to end racism.

“We must support all victims of violence and stand in solidarity with those who are vulnerable in our communities,” said Atlanta Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer in a March 17 statement.

He also pointed out many people “endure discrimination, aggression and violence every day of their lives,” and said Christians must work to protect the whole community, speaking up against aggression and actively pursuing an end to “racism and discrimination of every kind.”

Bishop Oscar A. Solis of Salt Lake City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs, echoed the Atlanta archbishop’s call to stand in solidarity with the vulnerable.

In a March 22 statement, he said the Atlanta shootings have “prompted national dialogue on addressing anti-Asian bias that has taken the form of numerous other acts of physical violence, verbal attacks, and destruction of property against those of Asian descent over the last year that have left communities across the country traumatized.”

The bishop said he was deeply saddened the mass shooting has “tragically taken the lives of eight people and has renewed concerns about a rise of hostility against individuals of Asian descent.”

“As bishops, we decry any

kind of hatred and violence, particularly based on race, ethnicity or sex,” he said. “We pray for the families and friends of those who were lost, and for their communities, who may feel unsafe and vulnerable at this time.”

Although the suspect, 21-year-old Robert Long of Woodstock, Georgia, has been arrested and charged with eight counts of murder and one count of aggravated assault for the shootings at three spas in the Atlanta metro area, he has not yet been charged with a hate crime.

Investigators are still looking into if the crimes were racially motivated or if, as Long claimed, they were committed to end his temptation because he is a sex addict.

Long, a member of Crabapple First Baptist Church in Milton, Georgia, had been treated at an inpatient addiction facility, HopeQuest Ministry Group, which specializes in treating sex and pornography addictions.

But as Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms put it to reporters the day after the shootings: “Whatever the motivation was

for this guy, we know that the majority of the victims were Asian. We also know that this is an issue that is happening across the country. It is unacceptable, it is hateful, and it has to stop.”

The shootings touched a nerve across the country in response to a growing wave of anti-Asian violence, particularly since the outbreak of the coronavirus which began in Wuhan, China last year. The group AAPI Hate, an advocacy group that tracks hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, said it had received about 3,800 reports of hate incidents across the country since last March, up from its usual total of 100 incidents a year.

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich specifically addressed “brothers and sisters in the Asian American community” in a March 18 statement, telling them they should know the archdiocese and the entire church stands with them “in this moment of grief and horror.”

He noted there has been a 150% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in the past year, and that while hate crimes in general

dropped 7%, this situation is intolerable.

“We pray for all who suffer racist violence and hate speech,” Cardinal Cupich said. “There can be no place for either in our society, and it is incumbent on all of us to resist language, culture, and acts that denigrate Asian Americans and all people of colors -- because they have deadly consequences.

“We must be ever vigilant against words that inspire acts of hate -- this responsibility is even

greater for elected officials.”

Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron also noted the Atlanta-area shootings occurred against a backdrop of an “increase in reports of verbal and physical assaults against Asians and Asian Americans” since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“During this time, we have witnessed with growing alarm the increase in reports of verbal and physical assaults against Asians and Asian Americans,” the archbishop said March 21.

“While violence of any kind is wrong,” he said, “violence born of racism is a particular evil that must be condemned and eradicated. It has no place in our society.”

The archbishop, who is USCCB vice president, said the Atlanta shootings “cut deep into existing wounds carved over the past year” and urged prayers for the victims and their grieving friends and families.

The general council of the Dominican sisters of Adrian, Michigan, also called for an end to the violence against Asian Americans and people from the Pacific Islands and urged Congress to enact strong legislation against hate crimes.

While the Adrian Dominicans stressed the need for strong hate-crime legislation, they also said they were praying “for a profound conversion of heart among us all that we may root out the racism that continues to cause such injury to our sisters and brothers of color and to erode the moral fabric of our nation.”

Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

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Tekakwitha Conference National Center
2225 North Bolton Avenue • Alexandria, LA 71303

For more information, call (318) 227-0545 or (318) 471-2044

Hank Aaron Leaves Lasting Legacy of Catholic Faith

On Jan. 22, 2021 the great Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 86. “Hammerin’ Hank” was of course known for his prodigious power at the plate. What you might not know about the Hammer is that he also had a powerful Catholic faith.



HANK AARON 1934-2021.

A son of Mobile, Alabama, Aaron grew up in poverty amid the worst abuses of the segregated south, only to become the baseball player who smashed the hallowed home-run record of Babe Ruth. In 1959, two years after winning the MVP, Aaron and his wife and children were baptized and received into St. Benedict Catholic Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, under the instruction of Fr. Michael Sablica, a priest who was vocal in his support of the civil rights movement. Hank Aaron described him as “more than just a religious friend. He was just good people.” Throughout his career, Aaron was known to keep a copy of Thomas à Kempis’ devotional classic *The Imitation of Christ* in his locker.

Aaron said in his Hall of Fame induction speech, “The

way to fame is like the way to heaven. Through much tribulation.” One such example was in the offseason of 1973-1974 when Aaron received racist hate mail and death threats as it became apparent that he would break Babe Ruth’s record shortly after the new season began. And when he finally hit number 715, two white college students rushed the field while he was rounding second base. For a moment, it looked like he might be under attack; but it turned out they were just excited fans cheering him on.

The 25-time All-Star won the 1957 National League MVP — the same year his Braves won the World Series. He was also a three-time Gold Glove and a two-time National League batting average, contributing to his career .305 mark — unheard of for a power hitter of his caliber.

Aaron was a pillar of strength to baseball fans and the Black community at a time when they desperately needed that source of strength. Hammerin’ Hank will live on as an example of someone who respected life, his faith and the game of baseball. He now takes his place in right field on Heaven’s All-Star team.

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Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Tuesday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center,
4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria

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

To register, go to www.virtus.org.
For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

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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.”

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*Lord,
let your
face shine
on us.*

Psalm 4: 7
Responsorial Psalm
for April 18

Let Them Live - defending the defenseless fundraiser

According to the Let Them Live organization, 73% of women have abortions due to financial burden. Let Them Live offers these women financial support so that they can choose life instead.

St. Frances Cabrini Church is partnering with Let Them Live by sponsoring the "Adopt-a-Mom" program. Through this program, the parish community has been assigned a woman who was considering abortion, but now has chosen life. The parish and school will journey with her until the birth of the baby in October, providing spiritual, emotional, and financial support. The sponsored mom is a

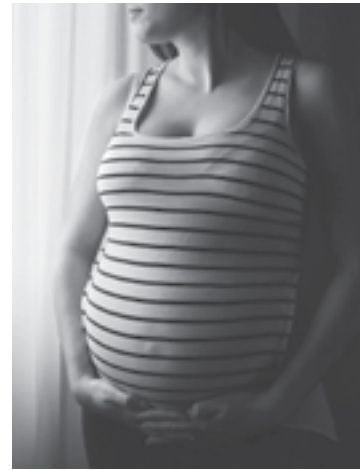
19-year-old college student with no health insurance. Because of the financial strain, she was considering abortion, but the Let Them Live organization has helped her to choose life.

The Let Them Live organization envisions a culture where women never feel like abortion is their only option simply because of their financial situation. Let Them Live was founded by Nathan and Emily Berning in 2019 because they were connected with an abortion-minded woman who was homeless because she couldn't pay her bills. They emptied their bank account and gave her the

financial assistance she needed to keep her baby. After saving her and her baby from abortion, they founded Let Them Live to help moms and give others the opportunity to experience the same joy that comes with saving a life.

Assistance provided through their ministry is tailored directly to each individual mom's circumstances. Generally, this includes paying for rent, utilities, car payments, gas, food, a baby registry, financial literacy classes, counseling, and assistance in finding full time employment.

Counselors work with each mom to create a financial plan



moms completely back on their feet during the last few months of their pregnancy. Once they give birth, moms should be financially stable, and capable of supporting themselves completely.

Anyone wishing to partner with St. Frances Cabrini Church in providing assistance to this young mom is encouraged to call the church office at 318-445-4588, or email Fr. Taylor Reynolds at freedtree71322@gmail.com or Kim Swart at kswart@cabrinischool.com.

Please make checks out to St. Frances Cabrini Church, with "Adopt-a-Mom" in the memo line.

that is specific to their own unique situation. Generally, the counselors are able to get the

DIocese OF ALEXANDRIA OFFICE OF LIFE AND JUSTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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It is finished

Our Lord and Savior was nailed to the cross,
For all of us sinners and those who are lost.

He looked down on each one of us,
Giving us hope and someone to trust.

His heart was grieved and He hurt so much,
Hoping one day we would keep in touch.

His side was pierced with a lance,
His pain was terrible, but it gave us another chance.

His arms stretched out, and His hands were nailed,
His feet were pierced, and I know He yelled.

He then died on the cross after He cried out,
"It is finished," thus giving us a new route.

To order a prayer card, send a request to:

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The age of the grandparent?

Not so very long ago the word 'grandparent' evoked an image of an obviously elderly, somewhat immobile individual, often in need of care and support. Nowadays, this image would be wildly inaccurate. Today, a grandparent is likely to be a fit and active person in his/her sixties or seventies, finding time in retirement for a variety of interests, among which family affairs (and members) are likely to be prominent.

Perhaps the most important result of this 'rejuvenation' of grandparents - important for society as a whole - is the strengthening of the bond and deepening of the relationship which has always existed between grandparents and their grandchildren. The very words call out to each other. Here is how a recent conference on social affairs talks about this relationship: 'Our lives are enriched by our connections with people older and younger than ourselves. All it takes is the time and willingness to get to know each other. The grandparent/grandchild relationship is perhaps one of the most important of these relationships. It is, in fact, second in emotional importance only to the parent/child relationship. Grandparents can bring their grandchildren a sense of history, unconditional love, and support and advice. Grandchildren can bring to their grandparents a sense of the present, exuberant love, and a meaningful purpose. Grandparents are keepers of our heritage; grandchildren are forgers of our future. And they can be each other's conscience.' (U.S. Catholic Conference 18.11.1999).

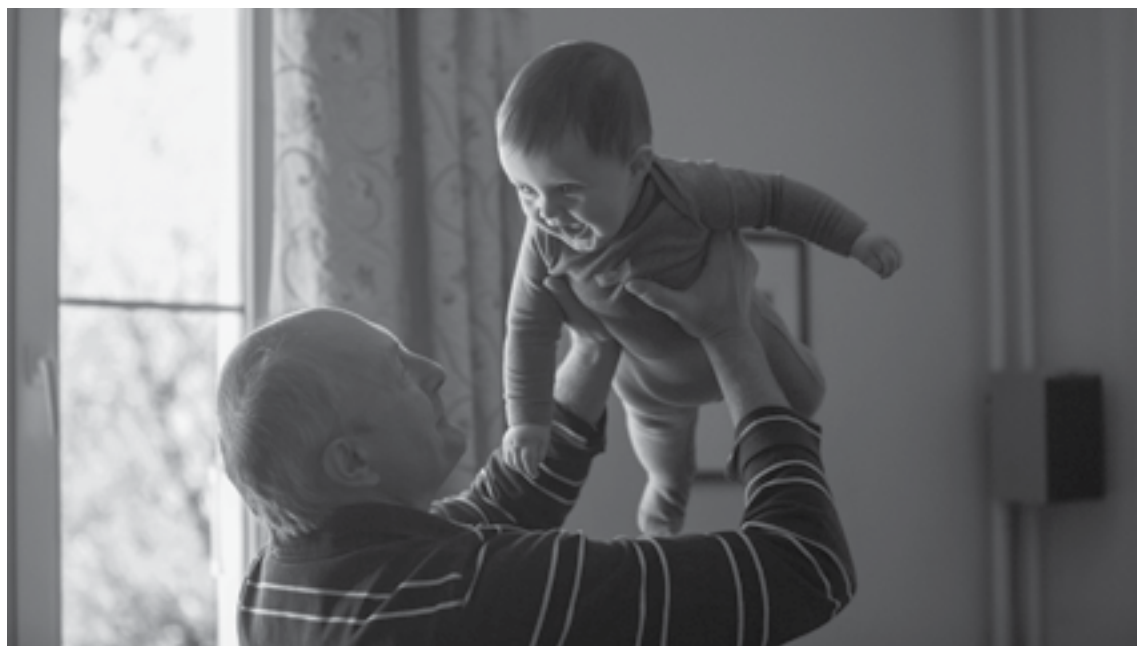
This little study is interested in grandparents as keepers, especially of our religious heritage. Pope Benedict, in his recently composed Prayer for grandparents, calls them 'living

treasures of sound religious tradition.' In churches and chapels and other religious meeting places, they are very often the backbone of the worshipping congregation, holding it together and ensuring its continuity.

Not surprisingly, church leaders are becoming increasingly aware of the actual and potential value of grandparents in the evangelization of what might be called the next generation. On the one hand, they possess and value their faith; on the other hand, they have this unique relationship with their grandchildren which forms a natural channel for its transmission.

Parents, of course, remain the first and best educators of their children in religion, as in so much else and when they are able to carry out this vital task, they will find in grandparents an invaluable source of help. But parents nowadays often find themselves hampered and constrained. Not infrequently, both have outside jobs as well as a home to run, and tiredness and lack of opportunity may limit the attention they can give to their children. Marital breakdown and single parenthood don't help. In general, grandparents have a larger helping of that valuable commodity, so scarce nowadays, which we call time; time to listen and time to share.

From all this (and much more which could be added) it is evident that grandparents are an invaluable resource in transmitting the Gospel to the next generation. The Church needs to be aware of this. Parents also need to share awareness. Perhaps, most importantly of all, grandparents themselves need to be convinced of their vital role in handing on the faith in the world of today, and the importance of preparing and equipping themselves to carry it through effectively.



The Cross Word

April 18, and 25, 2021
answers on pg 6



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Readings: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Lk 24:35-48 and Acts 4:8-12; Jn 10:11-18

ACROSS

- 1 Duet
- 4 Falls over
- 8 Pace
- 11 Sign language
- 12 ___ of the Apostles
- 13 Discount
- 14 Employ
- 15 "___ from the dead"
- 16 "The ___ vine"
- 17 Grazed
- 19 Bethlehem was not ___
- 20 ___ Father
- 21 Explosive device
- 22 Dales
- 25 Wooden leg
- 26 Inlet
- 29 Barber's call
- 30 Her
- 31 India dress
- 32 Luau dish
- 33 What a cow chews
- 34 Jesus Christ is ___ "
- 35 Store
- 37 Egg layer
- 38 Ditto (2 wds.)
- 40 Very aware of trends
- 44 Cain's brother
- 45 Drill a hole
- 46 Manger bedding
- 47 St. Anthony nickname
- 48 Golf tournament
- 49 North American nation
- 50 Trinitrotoluene

- 51 Nearly horizontal entrance
- 52 Foxes have, according to Jesus

DOWN

- 1 Smear
- 2 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- 3 Margarine
- 4 Saul came from here
- 5 Colder
- 6 Post-traumatic stress disorder
- 7 Compass point
- 8 Released in Jesus' place
- 9 Positive
- 10 Contest
- 13 Body of a plant
- 18 Accustomed
- 19 Lumber
- 21 Honey maker
- 22 Gross national product (abbr.)
- 23 Pope name
- 24 Extant
- 25 Doctoral degree
- 27 "Blessed ___ you"
- 28 Yang's partner
- 30 Eat
- 31 Breaks commandments
- 33 Dove sound
- 34 "___ and be converted"
- 36 "The ___ and righteous one"
- 37 "___ man" (worker)
- 38 Matthew's Gospel (abbr.)
- 39 Dark in hue
- 40 N.A. Indian of Arizona
- 41 Fall heavily
- 42 Alleviate
- 43 Irish name for "little king"
- 45 Constrictor

?? Catholic Trivia Answer ??

Answer: According to tradition, the first Easter eggs were dyed red to symbolize the blood of Christ.



Bishop Robert Marshall concelebrated holy Mass with Fr. Jose Pallipurath at Sacred Heart Church on March 5. In attendance was Superintendent Thomas Roque, Sr. After Mass Bishop Marshall and Mr. Roque presented 8th grader Ryan Lemoine with his medal and certificate for winning the Student of the Year for the Diocese of Alexandria. Pictured left to right: Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, principal, Thomas Roque, Ryan Lemoine, Bishop Robert Marshall, Fr. Jose Pallipurath.

Our Catholic Schools



JR BETA CLUB, MOREAUVILLE. Sacred Heart School's Jr. Beta Club induction was held on February 26 in the Sr. Marisa Ricci Media Center.

The Catholic Schools Office
is conducting an
"Online" Schools Job Fair!

Go to
www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/job-applications/
and see a listing of positions available at each of our Catholic Schools within the Diocese of Alexandria: teachers, administration and other positions. You can apply online right there!

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Program dates: July 4-24, 2021
Financial Aid application deadline: April 5, 2021
Application and payment deadline: April 26, 2021



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PSALM 80:3

June 26-27, 2021

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

Calling all high schoolers! Join us at this year's Steubenville South Conference, June 25 - 27, 2021!

Can you remember a time when you weren't anxious about something? The chaos of our lives can overwhelm us and make it difficult to see anything other than confusion and brokenness.

And somewhere along the way, we've forgotten who we are - and, more importantly, who God is.

We have a good, loving Father in heaven who created us to share in His glory, to see everything and everyone with His eyes. His greatest desire is

to raise us up out of our fear and anxiety, and restore us to the hope and abundant life that only He can give.

This summer, the Diocese of Alexandria will host the 2021 "Restored" Steubenville South Conference, June 26-27 for a limited number of attendees.

Steubenville South is a weekend conference that evangelizes, equips, and empowers students in grades 8 - 12 to become radical joyful disciples! Enjoy keynote speakers, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, the sacrament of Reconciliation, and much more.

Part of a series of 25 Steubenville Youth Conference across North America that serve 50,000 young people annually,

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*The stone rejected by the builders
has become the cornerstone.*

Psalm 118: 22 | Responsorial Psalm for April 25

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, 318-473-6494

Northwestern State University Catholic Student Organization
Chaplain: Fr. Marc Noel. Phone: 318-352-2615 | frmnoel@diocesealex.org
FOCUS Ministries: <https://nsucatholic.org/focus>

Louisiana College: Catholic Student Organization, 318-613-0634

Bulldog Bingo - April 17

St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie, will have SAS Bulldog Bingo in the school gym on Saturday, April 17 at 11:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. \$250 cash jackpot prize! Play entire time at each event for only \$10 per card. Family-friendly and COVID-compliant! Burgers, beer and more! Masks are required.

Heart of Kateri Circle Meeting - April 8

The monthly Heart of Kateri Circle meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 8 at the Tekakwitha Conference office on 2225 North Bolton Ave., Alexandria, LA. All are welcome.

Discalced Carmelites meeting - April 10

The Order of Discalced Carmelites will hold its monthly meeting 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 10, at Maryhill Renewal Center. Anyone is invited to attend morning prayer at 9:00 a.m. followed by Mass and then the community meeting. If you are interested in Carmelite studies, please contact Mary Jo McCoy (318) 346-6860 or (318) 481-9638.

St. Anthony School BULLDOG BONANZA 5K Fun Run & Pet Parade - April 17

St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie will hold a Bulldog Bonanza 5K Run & Pet Parade at 8:00 a.m. on April 17. Bring your pets for the 1-mile Costume Pet Parade competition! \$29 pre-registration by Friday, March 19 includes t-shirt, or \$25 registration (t-shirt not guaranteed). Pick up forms from St. Anthony School Office or local gym. Return forms to Olivia Vasquez, P.O. Box 474, Hessmer, LA 71341 or St. Anthony School Office. Please make checks payable to St. Anthony of Padua School.

Convent Curious? - April 18 and May 18

You are invited to meet the Sisters of Divine Providence in San Antonio via virtual gatherings (through Zoom) for women ages 18-40 to meet the Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio. We will have once a month opportunities to gather. You only need to register once. Register via the online link below and you will receive the meeting link before each gathering. For more information, you may contact vocationministry@cdptexas.org (link: <https://tinyurl.com/yx3w98rn>)

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

1st Annual St. Rita Youth Golf Tournament - April 23

The 1st Annual St. Rita Youth Golf Tournament will be held Friday, April 23 at Oak Wing Golf Club. The St. Rita Youth Golf Tournament is a fundraising opportunity for our Junior High and High School Youth programs.

All funding will go toward the formation and catechization of all youth activities and include activity fees, and travel funding for our yearly summer camp trip to Covecrest in Tiger, Georgia. Tournament format is 4-man scramble, each team member will pay an entry fee of \$125 and includes one mulligan.

Sponsorships available: Golf Cart Screen Ad \$25; Tee Box Sponsor \$150; Team Play \$500, includes team registration; Team Sponsorship Package \$600, includes team registration and 1 teebox ad. (\$50 savings); Title sponsor \$2,500. Lunch and check-in at 12:00 p.m. Shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. To register or buy a sponsorship contact Judy Dekeyzer at (318) 201-8385 or jdekeyzer@strita.org

Sacred Heart School Spring Raffle & Dinner - April 25

Sacred Heart School's Spring fundraiser kicks off with a raffle to win a 2021 Honda Pioneer 700 or a Charbroil Performance Series Gas Grill. Raffle tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased from any SHS student or at the school. Drawing to be held April 25. Do not to be present to win. Also on April 25, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. a DRIVE THRU Jambalaya dinner will be served at the school. Dinner tickets are \$10 each and can also be purchased from any SHS student or at the school. For more information call (318) 985-2772.

Ordination to Priesthood - May 22

Dcn. Thomas Kennedy and Dcn. Robert Johnson are scheduled to be ordained priests for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 10am. Because we do not know what the COVID restrictions will be at that time, it is likely that seating will be limited. More information will be released in the coming months.

Pilgrimage to France - June 2-11

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 Medial Chapel, as well as cruise down the Seine River. Request more information by calling 337-291-1933 or visit www.holytravels.org/materdolorosa.

Steubenville South High School Youth Conference - June 26-27

The Steubenville South High School Youth Conference is scheduled for June 26-27, 2021. For more information as we make updates, please visit www.steubenvillesouth.com or email Cari Terracina at info@steubenvillesouth.com.

Prayer Line - Ongoing

Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth has a dedicated prayer line. One of our Prayer Companions will pray with you when you call or, privately, if you prefer, following your call. Anonymity and confidentiality are ensured and respected. Our desire is to pray with you for the gifts of hope, and asking for the continued mercy and love of Jesus Christ. The prayer line phone number is 318-625-9195.

Maryhill Legacy Bricks now available!

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

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

Church Today News Deadlines

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

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April 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>MARCH 29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Chrim Mass 12:00 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>31</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>APRIL 1</p> <p>HOLY THURSDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>3</p> <p>HOLY SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</p>	<p>4</p> <p>EASTER PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</p>
<p>5</p> <p>EASTER MONDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>	<p>6</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p>7</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Heart of Kateri Circle Meeting 5:30 p.m. Tekakwitha Conference Office, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Discalced Carmelites Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>	<p>11</p> <p>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>
<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>13</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>SAS Bulldog Bonanza 5K Run & Pet Parade 8:00 a.m. St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie</p> <p>Bulldog Bingo 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Convent Curious Virtual Gathering</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>
<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p>23</p> <p>St. Rita Youth Golf Tournament 12:00 p.m. Oakwing Golf Club, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Sacred Heart School Raffle & Dinner 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sacred Heart School, Moreauville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>
<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. OGBONNA</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPURAMBIL</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>	<p>MAY 1</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>



WOMEN'S ROBOTIC SURGERY

"My best advice to women is put your health first."

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Robotic Surgeon

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