

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LII, No. 4

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

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

April 26, 2021



## Live performing again!

Holy Savior Menard Theatre Arts presented "The Wizard of Oz" at Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center in downtown Alexandria. Elizabeth [redacted] starred as Dorothy; Will [redacted] as the Scarecrow; Don [redacted] as the Tinman and David [redacted] as the Cowardly Lion; Mia [redacted] as Glinda, the Good Witch of the North; and Gracie [redacted] as the Wicked Witch of the West. The production was directed by theatre arts teacher, Cherise Rino. (Photo: Melinda Martinez/The Town Talk)

### INSIDE

#### 'Amoris Laetitia'

Pope Francis opened the 'Amoris Laetitia' Family Year March 19, encouraging people to strengthen their families and support other families who may be struggling. See page 2 for more on the papal document.

#### Prayers said aloud lead the way to God

Continuing his series of talks on prayer, the pope recently reflected on the importance of speaking the words of prayers out loud rather than seeing prayer just as a mental exercise or form of meditation. See page 6 for more from the pope's audience.

#### Golden Apple awards

Several diocese educators have been recognized with Golden Apple awards from local news station, KALB. See page 20 to celebrate our Catholic school educators!

## INDEX

Feature .....	2
World News .....	3
Question Corner .....	4
Diocesan News .....	5
Feature .....	6
Vocations and Burses .....	8
Parish Spotlight .....	10
Picture Spread.....	12
Feature .....	14
Livestream Schedule.....	15
Multicultural News .....	16
Schools / Youth.....	20
Diocesan Briefs .....	22
Calendar .....	23

CHURCH  
TODAY

Volume LII, No. 4  
April 26, 2021

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

# 'Amoris Laetitia' family portraits: Sometimes messy, but grace-filled

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Sometimes the Catholic Church has "proposed a far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situations and practical possibilities of real families," Pope Francis wrote in his 2016 exhortation, "Amoris Laetitia."

And too often people thought that because the church had an ideal for the family, it meant the church was for ideal families only.

"Of course, there aren't any perfect families, and Pope Francis says this in effect in 'Amoris Laetitia.' The reality of a man and a woman is an imperfect reality, but they can perfect themselves with the sacrament of marriage, with the grace of the sacrament," said Gabriella Gambino, undersecretary of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

"Marriage is a vocation; it is a path of holiness, which is perfected day by day," she told Catholic News Service April 21.

Pope Francis opened the "Amoris Laetitia" Family Year March 19, encouraging people to read the document, strengthen their families and support other families who may be struggling.

Gregory K. Hillis, a professor of theology at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, has been posting tweets about his marriage and family life with the hashtag #AmorisLaetitia almost since the document was published.

Often the tweets are humorous, like from Palm Sunday 2017: "It took a mere 10 seconds for my children to begin using their palm leaves as swords this morning. #AmorisLaetitia." And, shortly after Easter this year: "Discount Easter candy purchased. Now to hide it from the kids #AmorisLaetitia."

"The tweets are a way for me to highlight that 'Amoris Laetitia' is so much more than just about the issue of divorce and remarriage," the issue that attracted the most media coverage, he told CNS. "It is about the nitty-gritty of family

life in a way that truly spoke to me as a father and husband."

With the tweets, "just like 'Amoris Laetitia,' I wanted to be honest about both the humorous and less-than-humorous aspects of family life," he said.

"'Amoris Laetitia' spoke about families honestly and openly, and in a way that was refreshing," Hillis said. "The ideal is there, but the messy reality is also clearly recognized and honored."

The coronavirus pandemic and its various lockdowns and periods of working from home and attending class virtually have put added stress on families, but also underlined just how essential family relationships are to health, happiness and survival.

Gambino and her husband have five children: a 23-year-old university student, an 18-year-old and 12-year-old triplets. They were all together, in the same apartment, during Italy's severe lockdown in March-May 2020.

The children attended school online and both she and her husband were working from home, but they did not have seven computers or even seven devices. The Wi-Fi would slow down and crash and, at the end of the day, all seven of them would be screen zombies.

"Like everyone, we were unprepared for this long period of living together without leaving the house" except to go grocery shopping, she said. "We all had to have a lot of patience."

"But looking back, it really was a strong moment of learning for both of us as parents and for our children. We had to learn how to be generous, for example, in sharing computers" and everyday chores, which grew with everyone home for every meal -- "all seven of us there for breakfast, lunch and dinner!"

The triplets became "exceptional cooks," she said. But as a mom, "at the beginning I had to learn to close my eyes" to the mess they created. "Now, instead, they have become very good, because I explained to them the greatest cooks leave the kitchen clean!"

The children understood the

challenges of lockdown, she said, "but also the opportunity that it gave us to all be together and dialogue and play."

And, with two widowed grandparents living on their own, the children also stepped up to ease their loneliness, making sure they received a phone call from at least one grandchild every day.

In "Amoris Laetitia," Hillis said, Pope Francis wrote repeatedly about "manifesting generous love as parents and spouses, and this pandemic year has challenged me to live out this calling to generous love more than ever before -- not always, or even often, successfully."

The pandemic period has been "a year characterized by disorder and anxiety, but it's also been a year when we've come together as a family and spent more time together than ever before," he said. "That came with challenges, but it also came with tremendous grace."

Another lockdown discovery that Gambino and her husband are committed to continuing is "building community with other couples," something that began with friends on Zoom, not just as a "pastoral" exercise but as an opportunity to chat and to share.

"We discovered how vital it is to build a community with other families, especially when you are experiencing difficulties or going through a tough time," she said. "Talking with other families, sharing those challenges and ideas for dealing with them -- it was a real breath of fresh air. This must continue through the parish."

Priests around the world showed concern for families by celebrating liturgies online, organizing Zoom meetings and

sending family prayer suggestions to parishioners' homes, she said. But many of them also need to learn to welcome families as leaders in the outreach to other families -- "to embrace 'family' as an ecclesial style" -- with everyone pitching in, celebrating their different talents and caring for people in need.

"On this, there is still work to be done," Gambino said, because for so long, the priest was seen as the guide and he tried to "drag" everyone else along.

The "Amoris Laetitia" Family Year, she said, should help Catholics discover that the pope's document is about real families and has suggestions for how all Catholic families can be witnesses of the joy and beauty of marriage and family life -- challenges and all.

---

Follow Wooden on Twitter:  
@Cindy\_Wooden

*I will praise you,  
Lord, in the  
assembly  
of your people.*

Psalm 22: 26 |  
Responsorial Psalm  
for May 2



Refueling & Refreshing Communities

www.ynotstop.com

## Family Love: Vocation and Path to Holiness

Heavenly Father,  
We come before you to praise You  
and to thank You for the great gift of the family.

We pray to You for all families  
consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.  
May they rediscover each day the grace they have  
received, and as small domestic Churches,  
may they know how to witness to your Presence  
and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.

We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and  
suffering caused by illness or circumstances of which only  
You know.

Sustain them and make them aware  
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,  
so that they might experience your infinite Mercy  
and find new ways to grow in love.

We pray to You for children and young people;  
may they encounter You and respond joyfully  
to the vocation You have in mind for them;  
We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware  
that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood  
of God in caring for the children who, in body and spirit,  
You entrust to them;  
for the experience of fraternity that the family can give to  
the world.

Lord, grant that each family  
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church  
as a call to become missionary disciples,  
in the service of life and peace,  
in communion with our priests,  
religious, and all vocations in the Church.

Bless the World Meeting of Families.  
Amen.

*Official prayer for the X World Meeting of Families  
22-26 June 2022*

## Saying he missed people, pope returns to window for Sunday prayer



**POPE 'REGINA COELI'.** A woman attends Pope Francis' recitation of the "Regina Coeli" from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 18, 2021. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

*By Carol Glatz*  
*Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Greeting visitors in St. Peter's Square after nearly a month of tight restrictions due to the pandemic, Pope Francis said he was happy to see people allowed to gather and be present for Sunday noonday prayer.

"I offer a warm greeting to all of you, people of Rome and pilgrims," he said, pointing out the many flags he could see being held high.

A few hundred people, all wearing masks and socially distanced, attended the recitation of the "Reginal Coeli" prayer April 18 after nearly a month of tighter controls on gatherings in an ongoing attempt to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

"Thanks be to God, we can find ourselves again in this square

for the Sunday and holiday appointment," he said, adding how much he misses gathering people in the square when he must recite the midday prayer inside the apostolic library.

"I am happy, thanks be to God! And thank you for your presence," he said to applause.

In his main talk, Pope Francis said Jesus is a real living person whose presence always leaves the person encountering him astonished, which "goes beyond enthusiasm, beyond joy; it is another experience" that is profoundly beautiful.

He said the day's Gospel reading of the risen Christ's appearance to the disciples in Jerusalem, "tells us that Jesus is not a 'ghost.' but a living person," who fills people with joy.

"Being Christian is not first of all a doctrine or a moral

ideal; it is a living relationship with him, with the risen Lord: we look at him, we touch him, we are nourished by him and, transformed by his love, we look at, touch, and nourish others as brothers and sisters," he said.

Jesus invites his disciples to truly look at him, which involves "intention, will" and an attitude of loving care and concern, he said.

More than seeing, it is the way parents look at their child, "lovers gaze at each other, a doctor looks at the patient carefully... looking is a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others," the pope said.

**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.**



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



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



Diocese of Alexandria  
Instagram  
[@dioceseofalexandria](https://@dioceseofalexandria)



Diocese of Alexandria  
on Spotify

## Site of the Ascension

**Q:** Where did the Ascension take place? Matthew and Mark tell us that the apostles are to go back to Galilee, but Luke says that they should stay in Jerusalem until Jesus has risen. (Louisville, Kentucky)

**A.** On top of the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem's Old City is a small hexagonal chapel that commemorates the site of the ascension of Jesus.

St. Luke narrates in the Acts of the Apostles how the disciples gathered with Jesus and "as they were looking on, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight." Then, Luke notes, "they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath's



### Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

journey away" (Acts 1: 9 - 12).

In the weeks following his rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to the apostles and disciples on a number of occasions, both in Jerusalem and in Galilee.

On Easter itself, he appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the women at the tomb, to Peter, to

the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and to the 10 apostles in Jerusalem (when Thomas was not present).

A week later, when Thomas was with them, he appeared again to the apostles in Jerusalem (when Thomas was not present).

A week later, when Thomas was with them, he appeared again

to the apostles in Jerusalem. Later, he appeared to seven disciples as they were fishing near the shore of the Sea of Tiberias (John 21: 1) and to 11 disciples on a mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28: 16).

The ascension marks the final departure of Jesus for heaven following this series of apparitions. From then on, the disciples were to live by faith and communicate with Jesus through prayer and the sacraments.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 659) explains the sequence, "Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys.

"But during the 40 days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity.

"Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand."

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

## Pope calls for monthlong global prayer marathon for end of pandemic



By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic.

"The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world" in promoting the initiative so that individuals, families, and communities all take part in reciting the rosary, "to pray for the end of the pandemic," said the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization in a press release April 21.

"It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God,'" it said.

The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12: 1-12) when all the church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.

### GLOBAL PRAYER MARATHON.

Anabel Mutune, a third grader at Transfiguration Catholic School in Oakdale, Minn., prays during a Children's Rosary Pilgrimage at Transfiguration Church in this Oct. 7, 2020, file photo. Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon during the Marian month of May to petition God for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. (CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit)

Each day in May, there will be a livestream from one of 30 chosen Marian shrines or sanctuaries to guide the prayer at 6:00 p.m. Rome time (noon EDT) on all Vatican media platforms.

The pope will open the monthlong prayer May 1 and conclude it May 31, the council said.

### HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for May 2021

#### The world of finance -

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

### 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



### 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**

## USCCB Hispanic Ministry meets with Bishop Marshall

Bishop Robert Marshall recently met with Dr. Olga Villar, Ph.D., who is the Director of Formation for the Southeast Regional Office for Hispanic Ministry for the USCCB. SEPI is the organization of the United States Bishops that coordinates and supports Hispanic Ministry in the 30 dioceses of the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee).

Through its three pillars of Evangelization, Formation and Communion, its formative branch, SEPI, strives to facilitate the full participation of Hispanics / Latinos in the mission of the Church and society as authentic missionary disciples. Photo below: on the left of the Bishop is Mrs. Maria Gonzalez who is St. Rita Church's Director of the Alexandria Latino-Hispanic Community.



**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA.** The Catholic Daughters of America held their Louisiana State Convention in Alexandria from April 16-18. Opening the convention, Mass (pictured below) was held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral that Friday morning with Bishop Robert Marshall presiding and joined by Bishop Glen Provost of the Diocese of Lake Charles and Bishop Douglas Deshotel of the Diocese of Lafayette, pictured above.





**Panda Restaurant**  
Chinese Cuisine

*Dine in or Take out ... order from our extensive menu  
or enjoy our all-you-can-eat buffet.*

**2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA**  
**Ph: (318) 767-8596**

**Lunch:**  
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Dinner:**  
Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**Sunday:**  
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.



**Year of St. Joseph**  
**August 2020 - May 2021**

**ST. JOSEPH, pray for us**

### 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.*

## Prayers said aloud lead the way to God, pope says at audience

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because prayer is a dialogue with God, people should not dismiss or be embarrassed by saying their prayers out loud or in a whisper, Pope Francis said.

“Vocal prayer is an essential element of the Christian life,” and when Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, it was with a vocal prayer, the “Our Father,” the pope said April 21 during his weekly general audience.

Continuing his series of talks on prayer, the pope reflected on the importance of speaking the words of prayers out loud rather than seeing prayer just as a mental exercise or form of meditation.

Too often, people think reciting a prayer is something only children or the uneducated do, but it is the way Jesus taught his followers to pray, he said.

“The words we speak take us by the hand. At times they restore flavor, they awaken even the sleepiest of hearts,” they reawaken forgotten feelings and they “lead us by the hand toward experiencing God,” he said.

People should be humble when seeing the elderly who unfailingly show their fidelity to the duty of prayer and who are “often the great intercessors of parishes,” he said.

“They are the oaks that from year to year spread their branches to offer shade to the greatest number of people,” he said. And even though they, too, must have faced moments of darkness and emptiness, they remain faithful to vocal prayer.

“It is like an anchor, one can hold onto the rope and remain faithful, come what may,” he said.

“The words of a prayer get us safely through a dark valley, direct us toward green meadows rich in water and enable us to feast in front of the eyes of an enemy,” as Psalm 23 teaches, he said. The words can both reflect and shape feelings, helping feelings come to light, excluding and censoring nothing, the pope said.

“Pain is dangerous if it stays covered, closed up within us” as it can poison the soul, Pope

Francis said.

Sacred Scripture shows the human heart can be home to harmful or hateful feelings, he said, “and when these evil feelings come knocking at the door of our heart, we must be able to defuse them with prayer and God’s words.”

Vocal prayers “are the only ones, in a sure way, that direct to God the questions he wants to hear. Jesus did not leave us in a fog. He told us, ‘Pray then like this,’ and he taught the Lord’s Prayer,” he said.

### POPE TALKS ON PRAYER. (LEFT)

Pope Francis leads his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican April 21, 2021. Continuing his series of talks on prayer, the pope reflected on the importance of speaking the words of prayers out loud rather than seeing prayer just as a mental exercise or form of meditation. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)



### The Woman

A holy woman was chosen from birth,  
To bring her son down to earth.

His name would be Jesus  
A savior for all, His love for us  
Would lift us up after the fall.

A woman so holy with a love for man,  
She was put on earth,  
to give us a helping hand.

A woman so holy and so pure,  
She will intercede for us,  
You can rest assure.

So if we say these words,  
At a graceful pace,  
To the woman we love,  
“Hail Mary full of grace.”

To order a prayer card, send a request to:  
lizdescant@gmail.com  
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant

*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

# How to pray confidently and consistently

**Valerie Woerner**  
Guest Contributor

After 8 years of and thousands of conversations with our audience on prayer, I've learned the biggest struggles plaguing our prayer lives - feeling unsure of how to do it "right" and trying to figure out how to do it in a busy world.

We long to pray confidently and consistently. And it's not to check something off the list in our planner, but so that we can experience intimacy with our Creator.

We've all walked through seasons of feeling distant from God. Maybe you're in one right now. It leaves us feeling like something is missing. The hardest days, just feel harder, the great ones still feel empty.

God doesn't give busy work to pass our time on earth. That's why when His word repeatedly tells us to pray continually and always (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18, and Luke 18:1), we can know for sure that it's for a purpose.

Getting to do life alongside God changes everything.

His presence is where we find joy (Psalm 16:11) and peace (Isaiah 26:3). His presence is where we find comfort in hard times (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) and rest in the exhausting one (Matthew 11:28-30). And on top of that, God actually responds to our requests (John 14:13). It may not always be what we hope for, but when we share our hearts with God in prayer, we know we won't miss out on his blessings.

When we aren't praying, we're forfeiting the rich life God has for us right now. Not a life that is rich because of everything that comes our way but because of how different it can be when we go through life with God.

So, what are we missing out on right now because we



aren't praying confidently or consistently?

Is it peace? Joy? Is it the ache of trying to satisfy our souls with things neer meant to satisfy us?

I believe there are 15 main weights that are holding back our prayer lives. In the book, *Pray, Confidently and Consistently*, we'll identify what those weights are so we can throw them off. We'll talk a lot about what the Bible says and make sense of some of the more difficult concepts. And you'll also get lots of tips and practical advice to make prayer really happen.

Our key verse for the book is Hebrews 12:1.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run

with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

What would it be like to pray unencumbered by the things that either aren't true or don't matter?

In the show *The Biggest Loser*, there's a moment towards the end of the season when the contestants put back on the weight they've lost in the form of a weight vest. And then they run. With each marker, they get to take some of the weights off. It's an emotional experience because they can see what happens when they get to run without all the weight. They remember how hard it was to run with the weight they once carried and realize just how amazing it is to run unencumbered.

I want us to run too. Not just on the pavement, but in our prayer lives. I want us to not feel so burdened by distractions or doubts. I want us to feel confident as we pray and develop

a consistency that can't be stopped by every noise or to-do on our list.

When my friend Gretchen told me years ago that I should write a book on prayer, I really thought my voice wasn't needed. Didn't E.M. Bound or Tim Keller write the books on prayer? One look at my bookshelf could tell you there are a TON of amazing books on prayer. But this book is for the person who needs a good place to start without it being "Prayer for Dummies." It's a deep, but approachable book. And it will challenge you while offering lots of hope. It's based on so many real-life conversation and an in-depth look at Scripture instead of cherry-picked verses.

The possibilities of what could happen when we pray are limitless because our God has no limits to His goodness.

Originally published at [www.valmariepaper.com](http://www.valmariepaper.com), home of the original monthly prompted prayer journal.

## 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](http://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.



**BRIGITTE KELSO**  
INSURANCE, LLC

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

**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

**Completed burses at \$15,000.00 each:**

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

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

St. Damien de Veuster	175.00
Bishop William Friend	100.00
Bishop Lawrence P. Graves	5,805.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco	1,500.00
Bishop Ronald P. Herzog	450.00
Bishop Sam G. Jacobs	1,100.00
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.	200.00
Bishop David P. Talley	525.00
Monsignor Marcel J. Anderson	100.00
Monsignor Leon R. Aycock	1,535.00
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway	825.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer	650.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote	560.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe	1,000.00
Monsignor James E. Howard	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd	1,500.00
Monsignor William Kwitaal	850.00
Monsignor Warren T. Larroque	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon	125.00
Monsignor George W. Martinez	500.00
Monsignor Bruce Miller	300.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy	2,304.00
Monsignor William C. O'Hanlon	5,000.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger	865.00
Monsignor Mozart Pelletier	100.00
Monsignor John V. Plauche	400.00
Monsignor F. Joseph Rateau	570.00
Monsignor Russell J. Richie	616.14
Monsignor B. A. Scallan	10,085.90
Monsignor Matthew J. Scanlon	310.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi	9,906.00
Monsignor Steve J. Testa	10,155.00
Monsignor Henry A. Thompson	360.00
Monsignor John M. Timmermans	8,820.00
Monsignor Martin J. Tyrrell	4,250.00
Monsignor Henry Van der Putten	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle	2,170.00
Father Walter Ajaero	50.00
Father William G. Allison	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar	50.00
Father Lawrence Bonin	70.00
Father H. Gerald Bordelon	13,885.00
Father Vernon Bordelon	445.00
Father Gilles Boyer	85.00
Father Basil Burns	100.00
Father Scott Chemino	500.00
Father Alfred Chlebowczyk	375.00
Father Jules L. Claes, CICM	4,761.00
Father Wilbur G. Cloutier	3,690.50
Father Daniel Cook	2,500.00
Father Daniel Corkery	9,500.00
Father Anthony N. Cumella	1,250.00
Father John H. Cunningham	1,475.00
Father Dennis A. Curren	650.00
Father Leonard Curtis, OP	1,050.00
Father Ferreolus D'Cruz	875.00
Father Edward Deasy	625.00

# Seminary Burses

Father Blake Deshautelle	50.00
Father Derek Ducote	792.00
Father Rudolph J. Engelen	550.00
Father Richard Fale	5,700.00
Father James Ferguson	1,000.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier	1,475.00
Father Joseph Alfred Fortin	200.00
Father James Foster	280.00
Father Louis Gagnard	50.00
Father John M. Gayer	870.00
Father William Gearheard	100.00
Father Serafin Glasnovic	150.00
Father Rickey Gremillion	12,015.00
Father Daniel Hart	2,150.00
Father William M. Hopp	10.00
Father Mark W. Horacek	50.00
Father Bartholomew Ibe	200.00
Father Tom Jezak	400.45
Father Michael P. Kammer	921.00
Father W. John Kiley	625.00
Father Francis X. Kronemeyer	100.00
Father George Krosfield	50.00
Father Peter Kuligowski	1,408.00
Father Paul Kunnumpuram	475.00
Father Henri Jacquemain	50.00
Father Russell J. Lemoine	425.00
Father Frederick J. Lyons	1,600.00
Father Bernard F. Maguire	105.00
Father Robert M. Maure	10.00
Father Jamie Medina-Cruz	200.00
Father Jack Michalchuk	150.00
Father Adrian Molenschot	4,675.00
Father Joseph Montalbano	400.00
Father Govie J. Moraus, Jr.	200.00
Father Christudas Nayak	225.00
Father Peter T. Norek	650.00
Father Dan O'Connor	2,043.00
Father Thomas O'Connors	10.00
Father Chad Partain	150.00
Father Martin L. Plauche	50.00
Father Samuel J. Polizzi	1,000.00
Father George Pookkattu	50.00
Father William B. Provosty	105.00
Father Rusty Rabalais	50.00
Father Charles Ray	550.00
Father Frederick Taylor Reynolds	1,135.00
Father Yves J. Robitaille	1,900.00
Father José Robles-Sanchez	725.00
Father James Roy	100.00
Father Kenneth Roy	3,505.00
Father Sheldon Roy	225.00
Father Lloyd M. Samson	50.00
Father Craig Scott	2,000.00
Father Louis Sklar, III	250.00
Father Paul B. Smith	250.00
Father Irion St. Romain	75.00
Father Ker Texada	200.00
Father August Thompson	1,390.00
Father Adam Travis	100.00
Father Antonio E. Villaverde	1,300.00
Father Nino G. Viviano	200.00
Father Gus Voltz	75.00
Father Silvan A. Waterkotte, OFM	160.00
Father Kenneth Williams	880.00
Father John Wiltse	125.00
Father Joseph Xavier	100.00
Father Bernard L. Zagst	1,275.00
Reverend H. Biggers	158.50
Deacon Emile "E. J." Barre, III	100.00
Deacon L. G. DeLoach	625.00
Deacon Darrell Dubroc	200.00
Deacon Raymond J. Dunn	300.00
Deacon Ray D. Gibson	100.00
Deacon Charles A. Jones	1,150.00
Deacon Gregory P. LeBlanc	100.00
Deacon Todd Marye	100.00
Deacon Patrick C. McCusker	100.00
Deacon Richard W. Mitchell	250.00
Deacon Ted A. Moulard	300.00
Deacon Clifton "Kip" Pelto	100.00
Deacon William E. Schaidnagle	100.00
Deacon Gary A. Schupbach	975.00
Deacon William "Bill" Travis	200.00

Deacon John L. Whitehead	100.00
Deacon Michael L. Young	200.00
Sister Margaret McCaffrey	300.00
Sister Marie Therese McGee, OP	100.00
Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick, CDP	100.00
Seminarian Matthew Bonner	500.00
Ismael and Libby Agosto	250.00
Shirley Alexander	1,125.00
Charles P. and Florence C. Anastasio	880.00
Germaine Armand	550.00
Virgie D. Aymond	225.00
Bobby D. Basco	4,690.00
Delores Basco	150.00
Harold and Lillie Beridon	7,000.00
John M. Bauer	150.00
Dr. Lamar and Jean Boese	50.00
Will Bollich	100.00
J. V. Bonnette	50.00
Carolyn Brouillette	50.00
Nathan Cannella	225.00
Frank V. Cariere	175.00
Dylan Michael Cashio	400.00
T. W. Clark	50.00
James Curley	50.00
Charles D'Amico	50.00
Leo P. Dobard	4,600.00
Gerald Flynn	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Flynn	50.00
Anne Berry Gallagher	2,025.00
Anthony and Mary Glorioso	100.00
Toby Guedry	1,000.00
Gail T. Gutierrez	100.00
William J. Hamlin	500.00
Madeline Jeansonne	100.00
Leonard E. Jeansonne	1,750.00
Richard Kelly	100.00
Maria S. Keran	1,000.00
Floyd J. LaCour, Sr.	9,100.00
Gerry and Connie Leglue	100.00
Huey and Neen Lemoine	150.00
Louis Lowrey	200.00
Judge Alfred and Mary Jo Mansour	2,050.00
Cecilia Vanderlick Mathews	100.00
Huey and Ethel Mathews	1,000.00
Louis "Dump" Henry Mathews, Sr.	100.00
Daryl "Pat" Mauterer	6,100.00
Ethel Miller	100.00
Odin James Miller	190.00
Yvonne Moore	150.00
Gerald Moreau	215.00
Helen Morgan	12,000.00
Marge Murrin	315.00
Alcide A. Nassif	522.29
Kitty Treadway Nassif	100.00
Maurice Noel	295.00
N. J. and Hannah Nolan	10,000.00
Harvey Miller "Buddy" Normand	100.00
W. D. O'Neal	8,159.00
Danny O'Quinn	100.00
Albert and Elsie Poche	900.00
Kathleen Poole	375.00
Edna Rabalais	3,032.50
Rita Juneau Rabalais	2,000.00
Dr. Sidney Rud	50.00
Luis R. Robles-Cortez	125.00
Dr. Brenda V. Seiler	1,100.00
Josephine G. Serio	275.00
John Gregory Simms	4,275.00
Sadie Stroud	14,000.00
Robert Upton	100.00
Henry Vanderlick	300.00
Patsy Dekeyzer Vincik	200.00
Gus Voltz, Jr.	6,085.00
Larry Lee Wiltse	1,925.00
Tracy P. Wiltse	1,825.00
Mary Virginia Young	100.00
Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence	100.00
Deceased Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Regina Pacis #1372, Natchitoches	775.00
In Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959	1,450.00
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, Alexandria	3,260.00
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Tallulah	100.00
St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Cottonport	700.00
General Fund	2,000.00

**Total: 640,777.17**



# Two to be ordained to priesthood May 22



Rev. Mr. Robert Johnson



Rev. Mr. Thomas Kennedy

Immaculate Conception and Dcn. Robert Johnson of St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport. The Ordination will take place on May 22, 2021 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. To view the Ordination Mass, please visit [www.sfxcathedral.org](http://www.sfxcathedral.org) for the livestream of the event.

The diocese currently has six men in priestly formation, and with the support of their home parishes, they will continue their formation to priesthood. Thank you to everyone for your support for these men through the Annual Bishop's Golf Tournament as well as the Suppers with the Seminarians fundraisers. Please continue to hold them in your prayers.

The Diocese of Alexandria is proud to announce that we have two transitional deacons who

will be ordained to the priesthood this year: Dcn. Thomas Kennedy of the Minor Basilica of the

## Supper with the Seminarians dates set

SAVE THE DATE! Supper with the Seminarians will be happening this year! Reservation information will be forthcoming soon but make sure to mark your calendars:

- June 3:** St. Joseph Church, Marksville
- June 12:** St. Rita Church, Alexandria
- July 10:** St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches
- July 24:** St. Marys Church, Winnsboro

This is a great opportunity to meet the men currently in priestly formation as well as enjoy a meal prepared by them. There is no charge for the meal but your donations go straight to the Seminarian Education Fund. At this time we do not know what COVID restrictions may be in place. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

**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




**LUMBER MILLWORK**

**Jeansonne's Millworks & Cabinet Shop**

\* Architectural Millwork  
\* Custom Cabinets & Moulding

Phone 445-5665 \* FAX 445-5276

GUY JEANSONNE  
Owner

1843 Sterkx Road  
Alexandria, LA 71301

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

Certified Gemologists  
Registered Jewelers

Under the clocktower

**Schnack's**

FINE JEWELRY

Established 1865

1438 Dorchester Drive  
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-3408  
[www.schnacks.com](http://www.schnacks.com)



## Seminarian Burses

### March 2021 Donations

<b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Sheldon Roy Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Marion A. French</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
<b>Mr. Maxwell Desselle in memory of Margaret and Lyle Desselle</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
<b>Mrs. Barbara Rigby</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller</b> .....	<b>\$200.00</b>
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$500.00</b>

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. Louis Church, Glenmora, Louisiana Established 1941

The town of Glenmora began as a crossroads community on Spring Creek known as Babb's Bridge in the late 1860's.

After the completion of the railroad linking Alexandria and Lake Charles, the small village began to grow with the construction of the Crowell and Spencer Lumber Company. The first masses in the area were held in the home of Mrs. T. L. McNicoll. A small chapel was built in 1913 as a mission station of St. Francis Xavier in Alexandria.

The chapel was dedicated in honor of the Most Holy Redeemer. In 1933, priests from Lecompte took over the mission until its erection as an independent parish in 1941 by Bishop Daniel Desmond.

New missions were established in the communities of Elmer and Sieper. During World War II, Mass would also be said for German prisoners of war held at nearby Camp Claiborne.

After the war, Bishop Charles Greco was able to purchase the Army chapel from Camp Claiborne from the government and had it moved to Glenmora where it was remodeled. The new church was blessed in 1948 and dedicated in honor of St. Louis, King of France.

The Sisters of Divine Providence were invited by the pastor, Fr. Gerald Ducote, to open a school in the community

and a small two-room elementary school was established in the old church. It served students up to the fifth grade. In time, the school was forced to close and the building was remodeled into four apartments. The rent from these units provided additional income for the parish.

St. Louis parish had a resident priest until 1989. After this, two sisters from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Srs. Marie Brogran and Mary Ellen Theriot, were appointed by Bishop Sam Jacobs to serve as parish life coordinators.

Visiting priests offered masses on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation under the direction of Msgr. Ronald Hoppe, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini in Alexandria. Following Sr. Marie Brogran's death, Sr. Mary Ellen was reassigned and the diocesan clergy again took over the active



ST. LOUIS CHURCH, GLENMORA, LOUISIANA

administration of the church. Today, Fr. Kenneth Obiekwe, a native of Nigeria, serves as pastor of the parish and its missions St. Peter in Elmer and St. Jude in Sieper.



MISSIONS OF ST. LOUIS CHURCH. Left, St. Jude Mission, Seiper, LA; right, St. Peter Mission Church, Elmer, LA.

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.



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

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

Website: [bakeragproperties.com](http://bakeragproperties.com)

We specialize in forest, recreation, and agriculture properties.



Member FDIC

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



YOU GET IT ALL AT



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

*The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.*

Psalm 98: 2  
Responsorial Psalm for May 9

## Pentecost: Breathe, forgive, renew

By Mike Nelson  
Catholic News Service

What could be more essential to life than breathing -- or forgiving?

Breathing and forgiving: One follows the other. Forgiveness, as Jesus makes clear throughout his earthly ministry, is part of the deal for all who call themselves his disciples.

Such as in the Gospel reading for Pentecost Sunday, when Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:22-23).

"All Jesus does is breathe forgiveness," says Franciscan Father Richard Rohr in his book, "The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder."

"It's interesting," Father Rohr continues, "that Jesus identifies forgiveness with breathing, the one thing that we have done constantly since we were born and will do until we die. He says God's forgiveness is like breathing. Forgiveness is not apparently something God does; it is who God is. God can do no other."

Forgiveness is something we seek and offer, as is clear at each Sunday Mass.

In the penitential rite, we confess our sins, we beseech the prayers of Mary and we hear the presider ask, "May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life."



**PENTECOST.** The Holy Spirit, traditionally depicted as a dove, is pictured in a window at St. Mary's Church in White Bear Lake, Minn. Pentecost invites us to celebrate the birthday of the church and meditate upon the Holy Spirit's role in our individual lives. (CNS photo/Crosiers)

In our profession of faith, we proclaim our belief "in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life."

And when we pray the Our Father, we ask the Lord "to forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us."

Many years ago, I heard a priest use a good share of his homily to address this last phrase -- "as we forgive those who have trespassed against us." He suggested that if we didn't feel the need to

forgive someone for however he or she may have offended us, we didn't have to, because we have God-given free will, right?

"But," the priest added, raising and shaking his finger, "don't expect forgiveness for what you have done if you're not going to forgive someone for what they have done to you. Forgiveness has to work both ways or it doesn't work at all."

If we hold on to the hate, the bitterness, the anger attached to an

offense committed against us -- real or perceived -- who does that hurt? Hint: not the offender.

And even if we feel ready to forgive, we often aren't sure that the offender wants or is even aware of the need for forgiveness.

What I have learned -- slowly, I admit -- is that if I want to move forward in my life, I need to let go of the negative feelings that come with being offended. I need to make peace with my offender.

I need to acknowledge that this person, no matter how serious and hurtful the offense, is a creation and child of God like myself, and for that reason alone deserves to be treated with the respect and dignity that all of God's creation deserves. That includes offering forgiveness.

Which isn't to say that forgiveness means we tell our offender, "Hey, whatever, no problem," any more than we should expect the same response from those whose forgiveness we seek.

We would hope that the action of forgiving is accompanied by a sincere resolve and effort to change for the better.

No, we can't control how others respond. But we can choose to move forward and not "retain," as Jesus said, the anger, bitterness and hurt.

Think of the responsorial psalm for Pentecost Sunday: "Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth." Exactly how does the Spirit renew the face of the earth?

Through us, it would seem. Pentecost Sunday's first reading

reminds us that the descent of the "tongues of fire" upon the disciples of Jesus so filled them with the Holy Spirit that they began chattering in different languages "of the mighty acts of God."

Soon those disciples "moved forward" to spread the good news -- to breathe new life into a world that needed renewal. Sound familiar?

Indeed, in these times when so much vitriol and vilification is in our midst, what could happen if each of us took time to really reflect upon the hurts we've been dealt and made a serious effort to "breathe some forgiveness" into this world?

I know one thing: When I am able to forgive or when I am forgiven something very powerful and wonderful takes place inside me. I feel like I can breathe, as if a great weight has been lifted off my chest.

Letting go of anger and bitterness and hurt is an amazing gift to myself. When I forgive, I have let God into my life in a way that heals and renews.

The Pentecost sequence phrases it nicely:

"You, of comforters the best; You, the soul's most welcome guest; sweet refreshment here below; in our labor, rest most sweet; grateful coolness in the heat; solace in the midst of woe."

Yes, come, Holy Spirit, come!

---

Mike Nelson writes from Southern California.

### 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 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."

### Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Tuesday, May 18, 6:00 p.m.,  
St. Joseph Catholic Center,  
4400 Coliseum Blvd., ALEXANDRIA

Wednesday, May 19, 6:00 p.m.,  
The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate  
Conception (church hall), NATCHITOCHE

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.

# Activities across the Diocese of Alexandria



**CHRISM MASS.** Bishop Robert Marshall blesses the oils during Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 30 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Only clergy were in attendance this year.



**LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** St. Frances Cabrini School students performed a Living Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.



**ST. PETER/ST. MICHAEL CHURCH, BORDELONVILLE.** On March 21, St. Peter and St. Michael Churches held a spring fundraiser featuring a cochon de lait meal, hamburgers and homemade cakes. Pictured is Fr. Sklar greeting the people as they picked up their plates.



**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH, MANSURA.** Members from St. Paul the Apostle's Ladies Altar Society of Mansura, delivered handmade Easter Baskets to their homebound members for Easter.

**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, LEESVILLE.** Confirmation was held Monday, April 19. Pictured with the confirmandi: pastor, Father Kenneth Michiels, Father Daniel Hart, Deacon Stephen Gramigna and Bishop Robert Marshall.



# Confirmation

View more photos on the photo galleries at [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)



**ST. PETER/ST. MICHAEL CHURCHES, BORDELONVILLE.** Confirmation was held Saturday, April 10. Pictured with Nicolas [redacted]: pastor, Father Louis Sklar, Bishop Robert Marshall and Deacon Richard Mitchell.



**ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Confirmation was held Wednesday, April 14. Pictured with the confirmandi are Father Anthony Dharmaraj, pastor of St. Rita Church, Fr. Luke LaFleur, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Alexandria, Fr. David Braquet and Bishop Robert W. Marshall.



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE.** Confirmation was held Wednesday, April 7. Pictured with the confirmandi: pastor, Father Scott Chemino and Bishop Robert Marshall.



**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH, ECHO.** Confirmation was held Thursday, April 8. Pictured with the confirmandi: pastor, Father Dwight de Jesus and Bishop Robert Marshall.



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD.** Confirmation was held Friday, April 9. Pictured with the confirmandi: Bishop Robert Marshall and pastor, Fr. Brian Seiler.



**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, HESSMER.** Confirmation was held Monday, April 12. Pictured with the confirmandi: pastor, Father Edwin Rodriguez and Bishop Robert Marshall.



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, COLFAX.** Confirmation was held Sunday, April 18. Pictured with the confirmandi: pastoral administrator, Father Jacob Thomas and Bishop Robert Marshall.



**ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Confirmation was held Wednesday, April 21. Pictured with the confirmandi: pastor, Father Craig Scott and Bishop Robert Marshall.

## Pentecost and the fires in our cities

*Bishop Robert Barron  
Word on Fire*

It is in a way providential that the Feast of Pentecost arrives this year just as our country is going through a convulsive social crisis. For the Holy Spirit, whose coming we celebrate on Pentecost, is a power meant to transform the world, or in the language of Psalm 104, “to renew the face of the earth.” Pentecost, accordingly, is never simply for the Church; it is for the world by means of the Church.

One of the principal biblical metaphors for the Spirit is the wind, and indeed, on Pentecost morning, the Apostles heard what sounded like a strong driving wind as the Spirit arrived. But the wind, elusive and unpredictable, is never really known in itself, but only through its effects. On the scriptural reading, the first effect of the Holy Spirit is the formation of an *ekklesia* (a church), which in turn is designed to transform the wider society into the Spirit’s image. In the words of the Nicene Creed—accepted by Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Christians—this *ekklesia* is “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.” The wind of the Holy Spirit produces these qualities, and therefore, it is by them that the Spirit’s action is discerned. So let us analyze them one by one.

The Acts of the Apostles gives us the great icon for the unity of the Church in the picture of the Apostles gathered in prayer in one place with the Virgin Mary on Pentecost morning. The Holy Spirit is nothing other than the love that connects the Father and the Son, which explains why one of his great titles in the tradition is *vinculum amoris* (chain of love). Thus the Spirit draws all of the followers of Jesus together in unity. This is not an oppressive or imperialistic oneness, for indeed there is a marvelous variety of personalities, theological schools, and pastoral emphases in the Christian community. But in essentials, the community of Jesus is meant to be united, and in that unity to find its power to unify the world. Origen of Alexandria said “ubi



**PENTECOST.** A scene from Pentecost is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Greenlawn, N.Y. Think of the responsorial psalm for Pentecost Sunday: “Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.” (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

*divisio ibi peccatum*” (where there is division, there is sin). Consequently, the Church’s missionary task is to overcome division, wherever it might be found. The night before he died, Jesus prayed “that they might be one, as you, Father, and I are one” (John 17:22). In this prayer, he intended not just the Church to become one, but the world by means of the Church.

Secondly, the Church is meant to be holy, and it achieves this quality precisely in the measure that it is filled with the Holy Spirit. And since the Holy

Spirit, as we saw, is none other than the love that connects the Father and the Son, holiness consists in love, which is not an emotion, but the act of willing the good of the other. Everything in the life of the Church—sacraments, the Eucharist, the liturgy, preaching, the witness of the saints, etc.—is meant to inculcate love. I will confess that I frequently shake my head ruefully when I come across Catholics on the internet, who profess passionate commitment to the sacraments, doctrines, and practices of the Church,

and who yet are obviously filled with hatred. I want to tell them, “You know, all of your devotions are fine, but in your case, they’re not working!” Did not Jesus himself say, “By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35)? Willing the good of the other is the great flag of the Holy Spirit.

In the third place, the Church is marked by catholicity, a word derived from the Greek phrase *kata holos* (according to the whole). By its very nature, the *ekklesia* of Jesus is universal in scope and mission, for it is meant to bring the whole world to Christ. Jesus said, “Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19), and that when the Son of Man is “lifted up,” he “will draw all people” to himself (John 3:14, 12:32). To be sure, there is a terrible history regarding attempts to achieve this unity through violence and imposition, but that is simply the story of how nominal Christians refused to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. What is most important to see in this regard is that the Church’s task is to be light, salt, and leaven for the whole society (*kata holos*), never suppressing the plurality of cultures, but at the same time, bringing them under the influence of the divine love.

And finally, the Church is apostolic. The word “apostle” is derived from the Greek *apostelein*, which means “to send.” The original twelve Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit and then sent into the world to evangelize. Though they received the Spirit while they were hunkered down in the Upper Room, they were never meant to stay hunkered down. From the beginning, there has been an expulsive, centrifugal energy to the *ekklesia*, an instinct for the ends of the earth. The original flame of the Holy Spirit was meant to become a conflagration, for Jesus said, “I have come to light a fire on the earth” (Luke 12:49). One of the principal themes in the writing and sermonizing of Pope Francis is precisely this missionary nature of the

Church. He wants believers in the Lord to leave their sacristies and get out onto the streets, to stir things up, even to overturn what needs overturning.

All of which brings me back to the situation in which we find ourselves this Pentecost. The riots and unrest which are convulsing our country were prompted by the killing of George Floyd, to be sure, but their deeper cause is the racism—systemic and personal—that has bedeviled our society for over four hundred years. Though undoubted progress has been made in the course of these four centuries, there is still irrational hatred in the hearts of far too many in our country. And for all the years that racial tension and violence have endured—from slavery and segregation to the racism both overt and indirect that obtains today—the overwhelming majority of people in our land have been Christians—which is to say, people baptized into the divine life, filled, at least in principle, with the Holy Spirit. In the measure that the scourge of race hatred remains, therefore, we know that the *ekklesia* of Jesus has not been fulfilling its mission, has not been living up to its identity. If Christians have been the dominant presence in our country for all of these centuries, why isn’t there more unity? Why isn’t there more love? Why is it painfully obvious that so few of us have really gone on mission?

May I offer a challenge to all the members of the *ekklesia* today, Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox? Celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost, but then get out of the Upper Room! Light the fire of love in the streets, in the halls of government, in the world of communication, in business and industry, in schools, and in the hearts of your friends and neighbors. The stubborn survival of the awful cancer of racism in the body politic proves—and I say it to our shame—that we have not been the *ekklesia* that the Holy Spirit wants us to be.

# 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  
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](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)
- 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](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

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

## LEGLUE NISSAN INC.

**NEW & USED CARS •  
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS**

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



*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.*

## Catholic leaders seek peace, nonviolence and healing in the wake of the Chauvin trial

By Carol Zimmerman  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Although Catholic leaders across the country called the April 20 jury verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial a moment of justice, they also stressed there is still a lot of work to do to move toward healing.

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of Minneapolis and St. Paul called the verdict - which found the former Minneapolis police officer guilty on all counts for his role in the death of George Floyd last spring - "a sobering moment for our community."

"The decision by a jury of peers punctuates the grief that has gripped the Twin Cities in these last months and underscores the soul-searching that has taken place in homes, parishes, and workplaces across the country as we together confront the chasm that exists between the brokenness of our world and the harmony and fraternity that our creator intends," he said.

The archbishop said he was praying for healing in the nation's communities in this challenging time and for comfort for the Floyd family and for all who mourn and seek justice.

In an April 21 statement, Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory said he echoed Archbishop Hebda's call for "peace and nonviolence in all of our communities." He also urged people to renew their commitment to respect each other and remember their shared humanity.

Other bishops around the country echoed this response



**NEW YORK CHAUVIN REACTION.** People in New York City are seen near a makeshift memorial April 20, 2021, after jurors issued their verdict convicting former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter in the death of George Floyd. (CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters)

soon after verdict was issued as many were gathered outside in Minneapolis and around TV sets and phones across the country awaiting the jury's decision in the late afternoon that came after more than 10 hours of deliberation over two days.

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori said the "just verdict" should bring "more than a sigh of relief," stressing that it should "spur us on in the peaceful but persistent struggle for racial justice, for genuine police reform and toward the

creation of peaceful cities and neighborhoods."

He also said the continued work is up to everyone in "overcoming racism, prejudice

and other injustices."

Similarly, Bishop Michael W. Fisher of Buffalo, New York, said the jury's "verdict of accountability" was an "important

step in healing the deep wounds of racial tension."

He said the image of Floyd's confrontation with police and the final moments of life, "will forever challenge us and must always compel us to create a more compassionate and just society, where all enjoy equal rights and protections under the law."

Chauvin's high-profile trial was three weeks long and included testimony from dozens of witnesses and hours of video footage. But just because the trial is over does not mean underlying issues are resolved, another bishop said.

"We must still face the reality that we are not done with racism," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri. "In our own communities, including in the Diocese of Jefferson City, individuals are being humiliated and denigrated because of their race. Their human dignity is being crushed and defiled because they are seen as 'other' or 'less than.'"

In a statement, he said, "Violence motivated by racism must stop," and he asked people to pray for this to happen, urging an "awakening of consciences in every American, but especially in our faithful."

### 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.



# JRS launches border program to address migrants' psychological needs

By David Agren  
Catholic News Service

MEXICO CITY (CNS) -- Migrants arriving in Ciudad Juárez in recent years have remained stuck in the Mexican border city, unable to claim asylum in the United States and vulnerable to crimes such as kidnapping, robbery and extortion.

During the administration of former President Donald Trump, the categories for claiming asylum were reduced. Many asylum-seekers were forced to wait in Mexico as their

cases were heard in U.S. courts. And with the pandemic, people were turned back immediately or expelled.

All of the difficulties caused distress, say activists working with migrants.

"There were people who had been in Ciudad Juárez for two years and were having many emotional problems due to this situation," said María Sajquim de Torres of Jesuit Refugee Services.

The tough psychological situation confronting migrants, Sajquim said, started prior to the inauguration of President



**BORDER PROGRAM.** Asylum-seeking migrants from Central America who were airlifted from Brownsville, Texas, to El Paso, and later deported, walk outside a National Institute of Migration office at the Paso del Norte International Bridge in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, March 23, 2021. (CNS photo/Jose Luis Gonzalez, Reuters)

## The Infinite Value



## of the Holy Mass

The Holy Mass is the highest form of worship. It is the sacrifice of Calvary renewed. One Mass gives

God more praise and thanksgiving, makes more atonement for sin and pleads more eloquently than does the combined and eternal worship of all the souls in heaven, on earth and in Purgatory. In the Holy Mass, it is Jesus Christ, God, as well as Man, who is our Intercessor, our Priest and our Victim. Being God – as well as Man – His prayers, merits, and His offerings are infinite in value.

lizdescant@gmail.com  
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant

Joe Biden in January, but it has continued under his administration.

"People really became desperate," Sajquim told Catholic News Service. "There were people who were in Ciudad Juárez for two years and were having many emotional problems due to the situation."

Jesuit Refugee Service has started a program for such migrants and asylum-seekers in Ciudad Juárez. The program -- "Caminar Contigo" or Walk With You -- aims to provide psychological support as rules for seeking asylum remain uncertain.

"The issues at the border of the United States and Mexico have often left thousands of people, nameless and faceless, in the headlines of our papers, but they are our brothers and sisters, and we are committed to walking with them, recognizing their inherent dignity and showing them our solidarity and support," Patricia Hernández Lopez, JRS Mexico director, said in an April 21 statement.

The initiative comes as migrants arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border in ever-increasing numbers, fleeing poverty, violence and the

disastrous impact of twin hurricanes battering Central America.

Sajquim said many are arriving with the hopes of entering the U.S. quickly due to the change of government in January.

"Although it seems things have changed, what's seen is a more positive image," she said. "In reality, practices have not changed all that much. People continue to be expelled to Mexico."

Sajquim said migrants are still expelled into Ciudad Juárez. Sometimes, she said, U.S. officials fly migrants from other parts of the border to neighboring El Paso, Texas, then release them into Ciudad Juárez.

With the new initiative to address migrants' psychological needs, Sajquim said she tries to establish contact with them.

"I speak with them," Sajquim said. "It's not sufficient (time,) but the idea is to enter into contact with them and give them some relief."

*The Lord  
has set his  
throne in  
heaven.*

Psalm 103:19  
Responsorial Psalm  
for May 16

## We need rituals to mourn

By *Laura Kelly Fanucci*  
Catholic News Service

Our youngest turns 1 year old today. Last night we baked a cake, hung the birthday banners and set his presents on the kitchen table.

The same rituals we do for every child, every year.

Family life is full of rituals: school pictures, special desserts, summer reunions, game nights and grace before meals.

Anthropologists and sociologists tell us that rituals are essential. We need to mark the milestones of our lives and the passage of time in order to bring meaning and coherence to changes we face.

Theologians and liturgists praise the power of rituals at the core of our faith. Rhythms of prayer and traditions of worship orient our lives toward God and set a solid foundation in an ever-shifting world.

But we've neglected ritual in a stark and sobering way this year.

We haven't mourned our dead.

Recently, the United States passed a terrible milestone of 500,000 lives lost to COVID-19. I watched the media coverage and the president's ceremony, but I saw next to nothing from our church on national or local levels. While I'm sure there were responses I missed, I felt the ache of emptiness at so many lives lost - 2.5 million worldwide - without a loud cry of lament from the faithful.

We could change this: as individuals, families, and communities.

We don't need to make up new rituals for mourning. We can draw from the beauty of our



tradition, bringing all that we have to this current crisis.

We can keep praying for the dead at each Mass, remembering in the prayers of the faithful those who have died from COVID-19, their caretakers and loved ones. Repetition is key to ritual.

We could keep a votive candle lit in vigil for those who have died during the pandemic. Constant prayer is part of our Catholic identity.

We could offer a special prayer service - virtual or in-

person - to remember all the lives lost to COVID-19. As we mark the one-year milestone of the virus' outbreak in the United States, this would be a powerful time to gather and pray.

Rituals can come home, too. What if parishes sent home a psalm of lament for parishioners to pray together? Or a small candle to light in memory of those in the parish who have died of the virus?

Every night one of our kids pray for "those who are dying from COVID and the doctors and

nurses who are caring for them." The simple act of remembering has been transformative for our family during the pandemic, as we reach out across our isolation.

Plenty of parishes make space for rituals that matter to their community: daily Masses offered for beloved dead, weekly prayers for vocations to religious life or yearly displays of crosses for babies lost to abortion.

If we believe each life is sacred, then we must also ask how to honor half a million who have

died here in the past 12 months.

What we cannot do is become complacent - or worse, callous. We are called to care about more, not less. We must mourn each life lost, no matter the circumstances, because each life matters to God.

My youngest turns 1 today. My faith taught me that his body and soul held infinite worth from the moment he sparked to life inside me.

As our family turns to ritual to mark this milestone, I remember those who grieve even as I rejoice. This is part of what it means to be Catholic: that my concerns are forever united to the body of Christ and my life is never mine alone.

May we as people and as parishes ask how we can remember our dead and those who grieve for them.

Rituals help us celebrate and mourn - and faith calls us to do both.

---

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

**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**

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

2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA

**442-2325**

**NEBLETT, BEARD  
& ARSENAULT**

**561-2500 • NBALawFirm.com**

Richard J. Arsenault

2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria

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

*Ray and Marie Ducote, Owners*

*Bunkie*

**(318) 346-6346**

*Plaucheville*

**(318) 922-3200**

# Pope chooses theme for July 25 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- To express the closeness of God and of the church to every older person, Pope Francis has chosen "I am with you always" from the Gospel of Matthew as the theme for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

The theme for celebration July 25 is especially appropriate "in these challenging pandemic times," said the announcement from the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

"I am with you always" is also a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share. Not only are grandchildren and young people called upon to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation, and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith," the statement said.

Pope Francis announced

in late January that he was establishing the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which is to be celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents.

Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the dicastery, had said the annual event would be "a gift to the whole church" and one that emphasizes the pastoral care of the elderly as "a priority that can no longer be postponed by any Christian community."

"In the encyclical, 'Fratelli Tutti,' the Holy Father reminds us that no one is saved alone. With this in mind, we must treasure the spiritual and human wealth that has been handed down from generation to generation," he said.

Pope Francis is expected to mark the day with an evening Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.



**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS.** Princess Leonore, held by Sweden's Queen Silvia, gives a papal key to Pope Francis during her grandmother's private audience with Pope Francis in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican in this April 27, 2015 file photo. The pope has chosen the theme, "I am with you always," for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will be celebrated July 25, 2021. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

*Lord, send out your Spirit,  
and renew the face of the earth.*

Psalm 104: 30  
Responsorial Psalm for May 23

**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**

**The Cross Word** May 23  
and 30, 2021

answers on pg 6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18		19				20				
		21			22					
23	24	25		26				27	28	29
30			31	32				33		
34			35					36		
		37			38	39				
40	41	42		43				44	45	46
47			48					49		
50				51				52		
53				54				55		

© 2021 tri-c-a-publications.com

**Readings:** Acts 2:1-11; Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23 and Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Rm 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

**ACROSS**

1 Not on

4 "Keep yourself \_\_\_"

8 Unconsciousness

12 Battle

13 Summit

14 Prayer ending

15 Time period

16 Quarrel

17 Rave

18 Some saw risen Jesus, but \_\_\_

20 Boredom

21 Canoe propeller

22 Bard's "before"

23 Technical

26 Pounds per sq. inch

27 Luau dish

30 Running water energy

34 Still

35 Timid

36 \_\_\_ Spirit

37 Santa helper

38 Thai

40 \_\_\_ Dei

43 "The Spirit itself bears \_\_\_"

47 Snoopy

48 Strange-shaped fruit

49 Also

50 Trim

51 Indian wrap

52 BB association

53 Stove top emissions

**DOWN**

1 Payable

2 Gambling game

3 Herr's wife

4 Noodles

5 In the \_\_\_ Room

6 Studied

7 Extension (abbr.)

8 Chili con \_\_\_

9 Middle East country

10 List of meals

11 Opposed

19 "\_\_\_ Model" about atoms

20 \_\_\_ the Red

22 Compass point

23 "\_\_\_ will be done"

24 Symbol for God the Father

25 Central Daylight Time

26 Wooden sheet

27 Not amateur

28 Used to anoint kings

29 Slippery

31 Norway capital

32 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)

33 Slim

37 Moses came up from

38 Jeweled headdress

39 A vacation (2 wds.)

40 Part of a foot

41 Digging animal

42 Cappadocia, Pontus and \_\_\_

43 Have clothing on

44 Bunsen burner

45 Weeps

46 Drench

48 Pacific Standard Time

## Diocese educators recognized with Golden Apple Awards from KALB

ALEXANDRIA, La. (KALB) - Father Taylor Reynolds teaches 8th Grade Physical Science at St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria.

"I'm honored that even in two years I could make a little bit of a difference for the kids," says Fr. Taylor.

Cabrini student, Gillian Bordelon, says Father Taylor is always willing to help his students when there is something they don't understand. "He explains everything. Some things that are difficult, like in the classroom right now, he's teaching us how to do chemical equations."

8th grader, Brenna Griffin says Father Taylor shows them brilliant experiments, even taking them on a field trip to launch and recover a weather balloon. "Father Taylor shows that he cares and he involves us in fun-filled trips... and its overall enjoyable to learn what he is teaching."

Cabrini student, Sierra Guimaraes describes Father Taylor as a "cool" teacher who makes science fun. "He's really goofy and more like a big brother. Outside our school, he's our priest and our youth minister."



Father Taylor says he aims to make teaching more than just reading from books and taking tests.

"How can I better my life, how can I discover more about the world, how can I make things, maybe that don't make sense, how can I make them useful in my life." And all while helping students make connections between physical science and the Catholic faith. "Studying science, you are studying the handiwork of God. You are seeing how God put an order and a plan to everything that exists and again you are just kind of discovering the

fingerprints of God everywhere."

Sylvia Davis is a 9th grade English teacher at Holy Savior Menard.

"Since we're her last class she's teaching, it'll be an amazing award and make everything better for her," said Menard student, Mason Holloway.

She was nominated by Holloway who says Miss Davis makes understanding the subject easy.

"She's very personable with her students and every day after class I talk to her, just an amazing person to be around, makes my day all the better every day," added Holloway.



Principal Chris Gatlin says Davis' years of experience in a variety of roles over the years has made her an outstanding educator.

"Because she knows about kids and she knows how to reach kids and it makes her a very good teacher," says Gatlin.

When asked how it feels to be a Golden Apple winner, Davis remarked, "Well since I'm a golden senior citizen, it feels amazing - AMAZING!"

Davis says she was inspired to become a teacher by her own parents and grandparents who are all teachers.

"My favorite memories are when a kid just didn't get it and all of a sudden the light comes on, that's why we do it," Davis said.

This year will be her final year in the classroom. She plans to retire at the end of the school year.

When asked what is the one lesson she wants the students to take with them when they leave class, Davis said, "learning doesn't stop after the classroom, we are continuously learning. When we stop, then that's the end, so we learn every day, and not just Romeo and Juliet that we are doing right now but we learn life lessons every day."

When schools shut down last March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, parents were left to figure out how to keep their kids on track academically.

"That's one thing we feared for both of our kids but especially for Jackson - that they would just be a step behind where they needed to be," said Cole Churchman, father of 7th grade student Jackson Churchman.

The unsung heroes of the last year are grandparents like Gregory "P-Paw" Ray who have stepped up to make sure their kids don't fall behind as they transitioned to distance and virtual learning. Ray has spent the last year helping his grandson Jackson Churchman stay on track with his studies.

"It was really hard," said Jackson when talking about virtual learning.

In addition to helping Jackson with his schoolwork two to three days a week while his parents are working, Ray - a retired U.S. Marshal - used the time away from the classroom to teach Jackson life skills.

"We would ride the four-wheeler, till the garden, tend to the dogs, watch the news, talk about current events, balance a checkbook, talk about money, talk about a job, talk about retirement. Just life skills that probably you don't learn in seventh grade," Ray said.

Jackson and the family presented P-Paw with a special award for all his efforts.



"It says the Greater Kolin Independent School District recognizes Gregory P-Paw Ray. 2020-2021 Junior High School Teacher of the Year. So that's from my kids. That's special," Ray said.

As of the week of March 15, students in Rapides Parish are finally scheduled for a full school week in the classroom.

"I'm very excited because I'll get to see my friends every day," Jackson said.

Ray says one of the biggest lessons they've learned in all this is that learning outside the classroom is harder than it seems.

"I think the biggest thing is that people have to socialize. People have to have people to get better. You can't just learn everything off of a computer or a book. You can't read it and get it. You have a lot of advantages when you have someone there who spends quality time with you to show you what needs to be done," Ray said.

That's especially true for parents who are doing it all on their own.

"I feel very blessed to have Greg who's been at home this entire time to take up the reigns on that. I really don't know how parents who don't have the grandparent or the relative who's either staying at home or who's retired that's been able to help out like that. I'm sure it's been very difficult for those parents," Churchman said.

We dedicate an "Honorary Golden Apple" to Gregory "P-Paw" Ray and all the others in Cenla who have stepped up to help during the most difficult year most of us have ever seen.

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

**[www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/  
job-applications/](http://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!

**Don't miss this opportunity!**

**NEBLETT, BEARD  
& ARSENAULT**

**Need Social Security  
Disability Benefits?**

**561-2500**

**NBALawFirm.com**

Richard J. Arsenault

2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria



**St. Anthony School Bulldog Bonanza 5K Fun Run, Pet Parade**

St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie held their Bulldog Bonanza 5K Run and Pet Parade on April 17. Though it was a damp day, participants brought their pets for the 1-mile Costume Pet Parade competition! The 5K run included both kids and adult participants. All proceeds benefited St. Anthony of Padua School. (Photo: Chantel Couvillion)

**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



**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/).

*Martha Neil Anthony*



**Feline Canine Coach**

- Behavior Modification
- Obedience and Therapy
- Pet Training
- 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)**



COMPARE QUALITY - TASTE - QUANTITY - PRICE

**WE DELIVER!**

WITHIN LIMITED AREA • CHECKS ACCEPTABLE

Everything from cheese to our "Full House"

#1 ALEXANDRIA 902 VERSAILLES BLVD. 448-4104	#2 BALL 6301 MONROE HWY 640-2983	#3 PINEVILLE HWY 28E AT STILLEY RD 445-9249
---------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------

VALUABLE COUPON

**Two Medium Pizzas \$19.99**  
Single Topping only

Additional Toppings Extra • Not valid with any other coupon  
All prices subject to change

Expires 5/31/21

*Blessed are the people  
the Lord has chosen to be his own.*

Psalm 33: 12 | Responsorial Psalm for May 30

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 | [frnoel@diocesealex.org](mailto:frnoel@diocesealex.org)  
FOCUS Ministries: <https://nscatholic.org/focus>

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

### Convent Curious? - 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](mailto:vocationministry@cdptexas.org) (link: <https://tinyurl.com/yx3w98rn>)

### 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.

### Suppers with the Seminarians is back! - June 3 • June 12 • July 10 • July 24

Save the dates! Supper with the Seminarians fundraisers have been scheduled for the four deaneries:

- June 3: Avoyelles Deanery, St. Joseph Church, Marksville
- June 12: Central Deanery, St. Rita Holy Family Center, Alexandria
- July 10: Eastern Deanery, St. Mary Church, Winnsboro
- July 24: Natchitoches Deanery, St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches.

Reservation information will be available soon!

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### Taste of St. Joseph's Food Fest - June 12

Please join us for St. Joseph Church's Taste of St. Joseph's Food Fest on Saturday, June 12 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Tastings of home-cooked meals from a variety of cuisines plus desserts! Drawings for door prizes and a Silent Auction. Bring friends to share the fun! Tickets are \$16 per adult and include meal, dessert and ticket drawing; \$8 per child (12 & under). Water and other drinks are extra. For more information, contact Celia Hebert at (318) 481-1042 or Sandra Deville at (318) 452-5021.

### 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](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com) or email Cari Terracina at [info@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto: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!

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/)

### Online Catholic Schools Job Fair

The Catholic Schools Office is conducting an "Online" Job Fair for positions within our Catholic Schools!

Visit the Catholic Schools Office webpage at [www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/job-applications/](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/job-applications/) to see a listing of positions available at each of our Catholic Schools within the Diocese of Alexandria: teachers, administration, and other positions.

### Adopt-a-Mom

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.

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](mailto:freedtree71322@gmail.com) or Kim Swart at [kswart@cabrinischool.com](mailto:kswart@cabrinischool.com).

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:

May 31

Deadline for news:  
Thursday, May 20



Emile P. Oestrieche, III, CPA

Anne M. Oestrieche, CPA, CFP®

## Oestrieche Financial Management Services

Let us help your family pursue your financial goals.

4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71303

(318) 448-3556

[www.o-fms.com](http://www.o-fms.com)

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



# May 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>APRIL <b>26</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. OGBONNA</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPURAMBIL</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>	<p>MAY <b>1</b></p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNAMPURAM</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>MOTHER'S DAY PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Convent Curious Zoom Meeting VIRTUS St. Joseph Catholic Center, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIKWE</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Ordination to the Priesthood St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria * Limited Seating</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>PENTECOST SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. OGBONNA</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPURAMBIL</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>

A cross on the outside

Means a difference on the inside.



CHRISTUS.  
ST. FRANCES CABRINI  
Hospital

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