

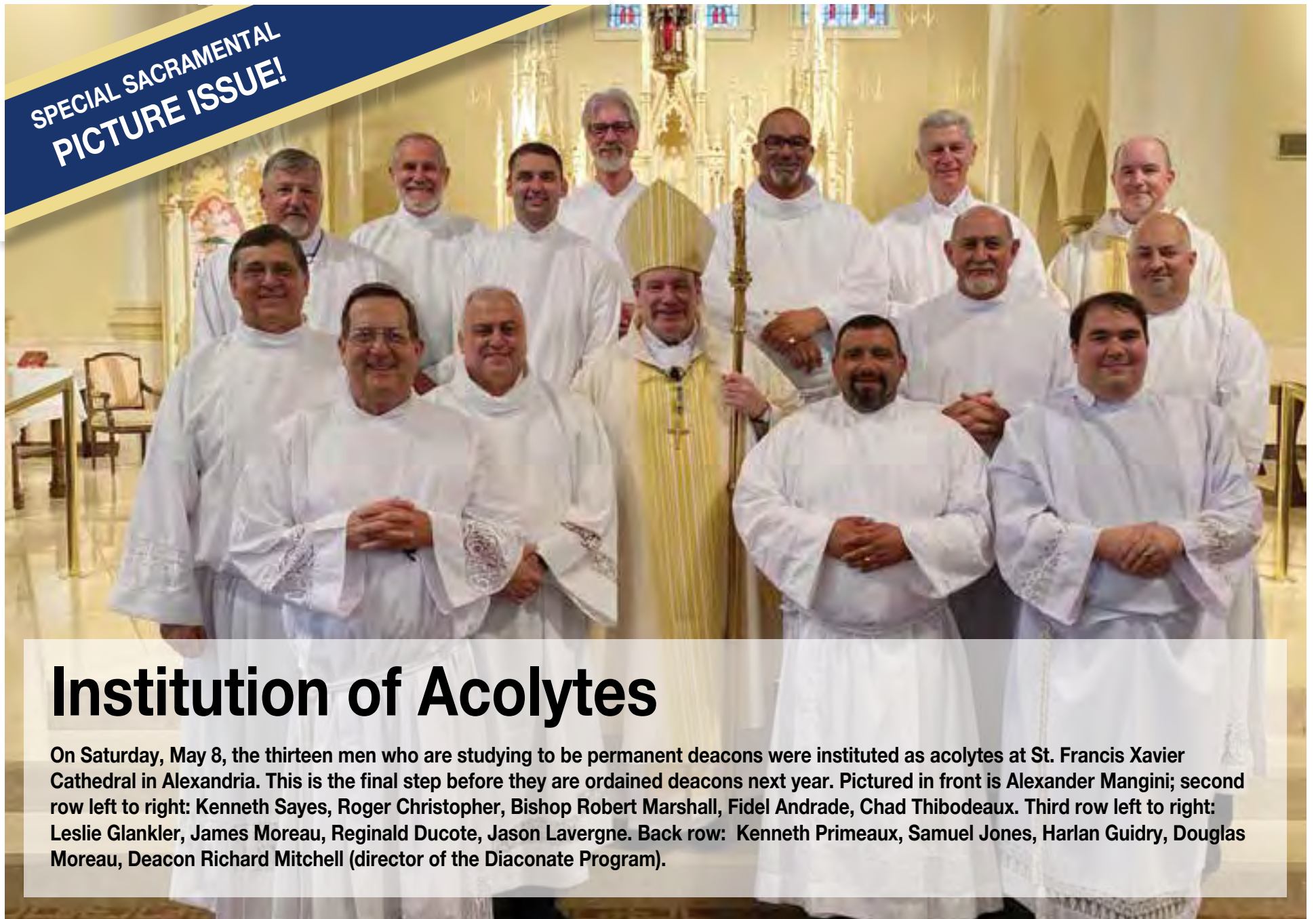
# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LII, No. 5

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

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 31, 2021



## Institution of Acolytes

On Saturday, May 8, the thirteen men who are studying to be permanent deacons were instituted as acolytes at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. This is the final step before they are ordained deacons next year. Pictured in front is Alexander Mangini; second row left to right: Kenneth Sayes, Roger Christopher, Bishop Robert Marshall, Fidel Andrade, Chad Thibodeaux. Third row left to right: Leslie Glankler, James Moreau, Reginald Ducote, Jason Lavergne. Back row: Kenneth Primeaux, Samuel Jones, Harlan Guidry, Douglas Moreau, Deacon Richard Mitchell (director of the Diaconate Program).

### INSIDE

#### Ordination to the priesthood

The diocese rejoices in the ordination of Rev. Robert Johnson and Rev. Thomas Kennedy to the priesthood on May 22. See page 4 for pictures and their parish assignments.

#### Clergy assignments

The Diocese of Alexandria has announced new priest assignments, to be effective July 1, 2021, and August 1, 2021. See page 5 for the list of updated assignments.

#### Celebrating Confirmation and First Communion

After a long lentes season, He is finally risen! It is a joyful responsibility to walk alongside the youth of our diocese. See pages 12 and 13, and the Diocese of Alexandria website to view pictures of First Holy Communion and Confirmation celebrations around the diocese.

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## When you need a refresh



## Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina  
Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

*"Rather, new wine must be  
poured into fresh wineskins."  
Luke 5:38*

The past few weeks have left me feeling weary and dry. I think it is the combination of the school year winding down (which actually adds more to the schedule), trip and holiday plans, personal and communal sufferings, and all of life's changes that find me feeling finally frazzled.

Maybe you're feeling the same?

The start of summer offers us a fresh opportunity to reevaluate how we are spending our time, energy, and hearts, and is an invitation to greater awareness of our purpose and mission in the coming season. I don't want to waste this time. Here are a few things I'm trying over the next several weeks to refresh my heart and soul.

**If you are in need of a refresh this summer:**

**Get back to basics.** Sometimes I can get so bogged

down in the details of daily living and decision-making that I forget the simple beauty of my vocation and calling. Because it really is simple. And, when my vocation or calling is feeling a little off, it's usually because I have overcomplicated things, have allowed myself to be distracted, or have neglected the hearts of those who are entrusted to me. So, I'm getting back to basics: I am revisiting music and habits that inspire me, writing down simple goals for my vocation (and getting them done!), and cultivating habits that I have let slip in the busy-ness of this season.

**Reprioritize (and rework) prayer.** We all know that when life gets busy, prayer is usually the first thing to fall off the list. So

this month, I am rededicating my usual prayer time and reinstating it as my non-negotiable. I'm encouraging myself to make prayer time more about building my relationship with God, and less about checking that prayer box in my daily planner.

**Find a mentor.** I have so, so much to learn - in every area of life. I need (and crave) the wisdom of women who have walked a little ahead of me. So, over the next couple of months, I'm reaching out to a few women in my church community. I want to buy them coffee. Seek their hard-earned wisdom. And, ask for their specific prayers while we're together.

**Rest more than you think you should.** Finally, I am doing

my best to rest more than I think I should. I am making a concerted effort to claim more slow mornings, and to "waste" more time in our yard with the kids. How can you find spaces for extra leisure?

Brothers and sisters, if you feel a bit out of sync and in need of a refresh, don't fret. This is a normal cycle of life. The important thing is that we recognize it and do something about it. If you're in need of revitalization, start by telling Jesus about it, and ask Him where you should begin.

To full cups,  
Cari

Follow Cari on Instagram  
@cariterracina

## Pope and grand ayatollah / Is feeding tube necessary?

**Q.** When the Holy Father and Ayatollah al-Sistani met recently, at the end they stood facing each other and seemed to be talking without an interpreter. What language did they use in order to communicate? (Powhatan, Virginia)

**A.** According to the website of the Jesuit magazine *America* there was, in fact, an interpreter present. *America* said in its report on the March 6 meeting that "the two leaders of Christianity and Shia Islam sat beside a small wooden table and spoke with the assistance of the pope's Palestinian-born translator."

I am happy, though, that you have called our readers' attention to this important meeting in the cause of peace.

The 90-year-old grand ayatollah is a revered and highly influential leader in Iraq, where more than 60% of Muslims are Shiites.

The Vatican noted that the meeting had given Pope Francis a chance to thank the ayatollah and the Iraqi Shiite community, which "raised their voices in defense of the weakest and the persecuted,



## Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

affirming the sacredness of human life and the importance of the unity of the Iraqi people" during the 2014-17 offensive of the Islamic State militants in which Christians suffered heavily.

After meeting with Pope Francis, the ayatollah said that the meeting served as an example of the importance of world leaders holding powerful nations to account and calling on them "to give priority to reason and wisdom (and) to reject the language of war."

**Q.** My 83-year-old sister has had dementia for many years. Now she is not eating regularly and seems to have no appetite. I was told that this is a sign that the end of life is nearing. As we are both Catholics, am I obligated to have her on life support and to

begin tube feeding? I don't believe she would want this, and neither do I. (Long Island, New York)

**A.** Whether a feeding tube is required depends on the patient's circumstances. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reflects that teaching: "Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate" (No. 2278).

The general principle, as enunciated by St. John Paul II in a 2004 talk to the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations and the Pontifical Academy for Life, is that artificial nutrition and hydration are, in principle, ordinary and proportionate measures and should be given to patients, even those who are in a persistent vegetative

state.

And so, nutrition and hydration should be provided to a terminally ill patient whose death does not appear to be imminent.

The church's point is that patients should die because of the underlying pathology and not because they are starved to death.

But that principle can be overridden in particular situations; tube feeding would not be morally obligatory when it brings discomfort and pain to a person who is imminently dying or when the patient's body cannot assimilate it.

In your own situation, my view -- from a distance -- is that, if your sister is close to death, you are not under any obligation to begin tube feeding.

An additional consideration, in your case, is that patients with dementia sometimes pull tubes out and might need to be restrained in order to be fed.

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



## Syriac Catholic patriarch says situation in Syria 'humanly unbearable'

By Doreen Abi Raad  
Catholic News Service

BEIRUT (CNS) -- The Syriac Catholic patriarch said the situation in Syria "continues to be humanly unbearable and devastating" and risks emptying the war-torn country of its Christian community for good.

Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan called on Western countries to lift "all economic sanctions against Syria, because they only harm the innocent."

"The economic sanctions imposed on Syrian people by the Western governments in the name of democracy and political liberty have created horrendous consequences in a country that endured wars, siege and abandonment for over 10 years," Patriarch Younan told Catholic News Service May 23 after visiting Syria.

"Ordinary people are suffering poverty that borders on starvation," Patriarch Younan said. He cited the lack of medicine, food, and fuel for electricity and transportation.

The patriarch, who is based in Beirut, spent 10 days visiting three Syriac Catholic dioceses: Homs, in central Syria; Aleppo in the north; and Damascus, the capital.

"Despite the joy of the encounters and visits, one could not ignore the feelings of sadness and resentment in the heart of many," Patriarch Younan said.

"I could read the signs of anxiety on the faces of parents fearing to lose their youth who are facing despair, despite the assistance of churches and Christian organizations," he said.

"Objective interventions are necessary for reconciliation between Syrian citizens inside and outside the country. Effective U.N. mediation would focus on the safe return of the millions of people who have fled to neighboring countries," he said.

"It is time for all people of goodwill, especially Catholics in Western nations, to



**DISPLACED SYRIANS CAMP.** Internally displaced Syrian girls play together at Teh camp in northern Idlib, Syria, May 5, 2021. (CNS photo/Khalil Ashawi, Reuters)

The Syriac Catholic patriarch said the situation in Syria "continues to be humanly unbearable and devastating" and risks emptying the war-torn country of its Christian community for good. Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan called on Western countries to lift "all economic sanctions against Syria, because they only harm the innocent. The economic sanctions imposed on Syrian people by the Western governments in the name of democracy and political liberty have created horrendous consequences in a country that endured wars, siege and abandonment for over 10 years," Patriarch Younan told Catholic News Service May 23 after visiting Syria. "Ordinary people are suffering poverty that borders on starvation," Patriarch Younan said. He cited the lack of medicine, food, and fuel for electricity and transportation. The patriarch, who is based in Beirut, spent 10 days visiting three Syriac Catholic dioceses.

understand that the situation in Syria continues to be humanly unbearable and devastating."

The Syrian-born patriarch, who led the Diocese of Our Lady of Deliverance for Syriac Catholics in the United States and Canada from 1986 to 2009, told CNS: "It is clear that the Western governments have had a wrong reading of the Syrian situation, its religious, confessional and ethnic diversity. They hastened to support the violent uprising, mostly for geopolitical reasons, imagining a democracy that is undoubtedly unfit for the Middle East region, that ignores the separation of church and state, religion and politics."

"Where there is no religious liberty, all other liberties

disappear," he said.

"Christians, both in Syria and Iraq, have already experienced the harmful and even deadly consequences of the chaos created by the agglomerated media, the political pressures and the military intervention by Western countries," Patriarch Younan said.

He added that Christians in Syria were "extremely grateful" to international Catholic organizations such as Aid to the Church in Need, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, L'Oeuvre d'Orient and other Catholic communities and individuals for their "outpouring of support and Christian solidarity, so crucial for the survival of their brothers and sisters of faith for

the past 10 years."

In Aleppo, Patriarch Younan chaired the May 18-20 annual meeting of the Council of Heads of Catholic Churches in Syria with Melkite Catholic Patriarch Joseph Absi. Cardinal Mario Zenari, the Vatican nuncio to Syria, attended.

In his opening remarks, Cardinal Zenari noted that the economic sanctions implemented against Syria, including those implemented by the U.S., affect the most vulnerable Syrian citizens "in the heart of their daily life," so much so that "the garbage containers in the streets have become a source of food for the poorest."

Likewise, the participants addressed "the unjust sanctions

imposed on Syria" and demanded that they be lifted, according to the final statement of the meeting.

The prelates commended Caritas Syria, noting that its humanitarian and social efforts have covered all Syrian regions and all societal groups, without discrimination. This makes "the church present and effective, and its witness visible among the needy and suffering people whose number increases from day to day."

In Aleppo, the patriarch celebrated Masses, blessed married couples, ordained two seminarians for minor orders, and presided over devotional rites for the Marian Month of May. He also inspected the restoration works of two very damaged sites: St. Elijah's home for the elderly and a cemetery.

In Homs, Patriarch Younan presided over devotional prayers for the month of May with a community that filled the restored Holy Spirit Cathedral. He reminded people that Syria "is one of the first countries that knew Christianity and knew Jesus."

Patriarch Younan assured the faithful: "No matter what happens to us, and the acts of violence, destruction, chaos and suffering that lasted more than 10 years ... we will remain the people of God and followers of Lord Jesus."

The patriarch also visited the Syriac Catholic Monastery of Moses the Abyssinian, also known as Mar Musa, which dates back to the sixth century and was reopened and revitalized by Italian Jesuit Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, who disappeared July 2013 in Raqqa. There the patriarch met the monastic community of four friars and four nuns.

**Father's Day is  
Sunday, June 20**

**ST. JOSEPH,**  
*pray for us*



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on Spotify



# Ordained to Holy Priesthood: Robert Johnson and Thomas Kennedy

The diocese rejoices in the ordination of Rev. Robert Johnson and Rev. Thomas Kennedy to the priesthood on May 22 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Fr. Kennedy's first assignment is parochial vicar for Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria and Fr. Johnson's first assignment is parochial vicar for St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria.

**LAYING PROSTRATE.** During the ordination ceremony, the ordinands lay prostrate (face down on the floor) before the altar as a sign of humility while the congregation prays the Litany of Saints.

**BELOW: LAYING ON OF HANDS.** Bishop Robert Marshall performs the "laying on of hands" during the ordination rite portion of the ceremony followed by concelebrating priests.



**VESTING.** Fr. Louis Sklar performs the vesting rite with newly ordained Fr. Thomas Kennedy.



**FIRST BLESSING.** The newly ordained Father Robert Johnson gives his very first blessing to Bishop Robert Marshall.



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*I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.*  
 Psalm 116: 13 | Responsorial Psalm for June 6

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# Clergy Appointments (Effective July 1, 2021)



**Father Wade DeCoste**  
Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes  
Winnfield



**Father Paul M. LaPalme**  
Re-appointed, Pastor  
Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth



**Father Marc Noel**  
Pastor, St. Martin, Lecompte and  
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Forest Hill



**Father Jose Pallipurath**  
Pastor  
Holy Cross Church, Natchitoches



**Father Brian Seiler**  
Pastor, Sacred Heart Church and  
Our Lady of Sorrows, Moreauville



**Father Peter Faulk**  
Pastoral Administrator  
St. Margaret, Boyce  
and its missions  
(while retaining current position  
as Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of  
Alexandria)



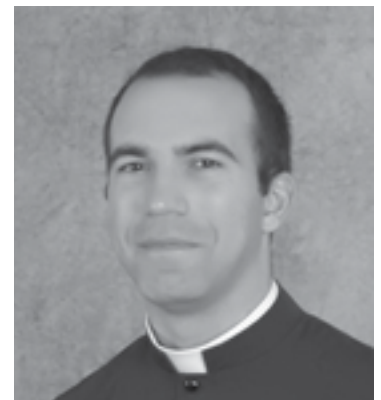
**Father Dale Meade**  
Pastoral Administrator  
St. William Chapel, Olla  
(in addition to current appointment  
as pastor of St. Mary Church in  
Winnsboro and its mission)



**Father Taylor Reynolds**  
Pastoral Administrator  
St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph and  
St. Francis of Assisi, Waterproof  
(remains Ecclesiastical Judge for  
the Diocesan Tribunal)



**Father Daniel Hart**  
Parochial Vicar, St. Rita Church  
Alexandria



**Father Luke LaFleur**  
Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Church  
Marksville (remains Director of  
Vocations for the Diocese)

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**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.

Alexandria Mall  
Panda Restaurant  
South Traffic Circle  
S. MacArthur Dr.

*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.



**Father Peter Kuligowski**  
Leave extended



**Father Adam Travis**  
Leave of absence

## Appointments effective August 1, 2021



**Father John Brocato**  
Pastoral Administrator, St. Joseph  
Church, Colfax and its mission  
(retains commitment to La. Air  
National Guard)



**Father Jacob Thomas**  
Retired

# The saving gift of fatherhood

By Timothy P. O'Malley  
Catholic News Service

I expected fatherhood to change the routines of my life. Everyone told me it would. Goodbye, sleep. Hello, collapsing in exhaustion at 8:00 p.m.

What I did not suppose was the way fatherhood would be an occasion for conversion.

Not that I was some sort of irreligious knave. I taught theology at the University of Notre Dame. I attended daily Mass as often as possible. I spent years as a catechist for middle school students.

The source of my unrighteousness was the absence of a disposition of solidarity. In every dimension of my life, I thought only of myself. At work, I focused on the trajectory of my career and where I was going in the future.

There were ladders to climb, and I wanted to be on them. It did not matter if climbing that ladder meant stepping on the heads of my colleagues. An unkind word here or there to the right person, and I would be elevated in the eyes of my superior.

When students were struggling in class, I thought only about the misery they wrought on me. You did not turn in your assignment on time! You thought that was a paper acceptable to write!

On not a few occasions, I failed students in class with a hidden albeit perverse joy. I pompously shared the worst things my students wrote, delighting that I could shine light on what I believed to be their idiocy.

And then my son was born.

Like all conversions in life, change was not immediate. Spending every night with a little babe who was struggling to keep his milk down was a vigorous initiation into a saving solidarity. As I attended to the suffering of this little creature, my beloved son, I began to think not of myself.

If sin, as St. Augustine notes, may be described as a curving in upon the self, God was inviting me, through my son, to attend to the rest of the human family around me rather than gazing inward at my own self.



## THE GIFT OF FATHERHOOD.

Timothy P. O'Malley is the director of education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame and academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. (CNS photo/courtesy Timothy P. O'Malley)

In the years that followed, this disposition carried over into the rest of my life. I came to recognize that untrammelled ambition was not becoming of a father. I needed to be at the center of every project and initiative because, in my deformed imagination, I was the most important person in the room.

And yet, through the mundane care of my son, I came to see how wrong I was. My flourishing was tied to my colleagues' flourishing.

A similar conversion took place among my students. I could no longer separate my identity as dad from my identity as teacher. When students sent late-night emails begging for an extension because of exhaustion, I did not just grant them. I asked what was going on and whether they needed to meet.

I noticed how many of my students were distracted and suffering from problems at home. Their brother just went missing. Their dad was dying from cancer. I changed everything about my style of teaching and grading, putting these young men and women at the center. I rejoiced more at success than failure.

I suppose, in essence, this invitation to move outside of the self to the other is the divine pedagogy of fatherhood. Men, for the most part, do not grow up thinking about being dads. When I ask my undergraduate men if they have thought about being dads, few say yes.

And yet, for many of us, our sanctification will take place through fatherhood. St. Joseph is our icon. Unlike me, Joseph was already righteous. From the

beginning, it was clear that he thought about others.

He refused to make a stink when he learned that his betrothed was with child not by him. He listened to the angel. He cared for his little family as they trekked to Egypt and back. He worked in silence, living a mundane life in the presence of Jesus and Mary. He died in their arms.

In declaring a Year of St. Joseph during the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis is prophetic. Think about the many social ills we are experiencing as a society, ills exacerbated by the pandemic: politicians who think more about their own career and self-importance than their responsibility for solidarity, businesses that operate with concern about profit margin alone, forgetting to care for their workers.

Arguments over masks and vaccines encourage us to forget that we human beings are made to care for others, that we are not the center of the cosmos. The saving gift of fatherhood for me was that I learned that I was not the center of the world.

And perhaps, in this Year of St. Joseph, through his intercession, church and society alike can rediscover the saving gift of fatherhood: being for others.

---

*Timothy P. O'Malley is the director of education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame and academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy.*



## LOVE

by Marcus Descant

The Most Sacred Heart, our Lord above,  
Appeared to St. Margaret Mary, asking for love.  
He opened His arms and showed His Heart;  
He willingly forgave, giving us a new start.  
The Thorns in His Heart hurt Him so much,  
All He wants from us is to keep in touch.  
The rays from His Heart spread far and wide,  
He loves us so much, He's bursting inside.  
The wound in His side was really sore;  
The Blood and Water opened the door.  
The Cross above is a sign of our fate;  
Without the Cross it would have been too late.  
If we heed these signs and symbols of love,

One day we will be with Him  
in heaven above.

Amen.

To order a prayer card, send a request to:  
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# Father's Day Gift Guide

By Valerie Keinsley  
*Blessed Is She ministry*

"What do you want for Father's Day?"

"Ummm... nothing. I don't know. Surprise me."

Am I the only one having this same conversation every May/early June, year after year?! As a wife to an incredible husband and amazing father to our two children, I deeply desire to celebrate my husband big and well on days like Father's Day. I love the idea of showering him with gifts that are meaningful or useful (or both!). I want him to feel appreciated, valued, and most of all, convey how grateful I am for all he does for our family. Not to mention, I need to celebrate and honor my own amazing dad, too!

But, man, picking out gifts for the guy(s) in your life can be hard, right?

## Father's Day Gift Guide

I've spent a lot of time browsing the wonderful wide web and asked some friends on Instagram for ideas. I'm hopeful that this round-up of Father's Day gifts will make this year's gift-giving a bit easier for us all!

### Magnificat subscription + leather Magnificat cover

While it's true that you can get the daily Mass readings online or in an app format, sometimes it's nice to have the actual printed version. Not to mention, the monthly books include extra prayers and other writings to aid in faith formation. An annual subscription to Magnificat is affordable and useful (the books show up in your mailbox about a month in advance). The books are great to keep in the center console of the car, a briefcase, or a desk drawer. Bonus: a cool leather case (available through [magnificat.net](http://magnificat.net)) would keep them from getting torn up.

### Cocktail Kit

Pair the Crate & Barrel boxed bar set with the fun and cheeky book *Drinking with the Saints* and you've got a gift match made in Heaven for the guy who likes to pretend he's a bonafide mixologist (anyone else's husband?!)

### Prayer Journals

Val Marie Paper's Prayer Memoirs and Men's Prayer Journal make great gifts for the guy in your life. Prayer Memoirs



**FATHER'S DAY GIVING.** A father looks at his daughter during Palm Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Sea Church in Solomon, Md. The invitation to move outside of the self to the other is the divine pedagogy of fatherhood. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

offers a space to jot down answered prayers, and the Men's Prayer Journal offers monthly prompts with space to write prayer intentions for himself, his family, his work, his friends, and other areas of his life. For the guy who likes structured prayer and/or writing, this makes a great gift.

### Masculine Rosary

I don't know about you, but now that we're real adults, I find myself wanting to upgrade things like our Bibles and rosaries from our junior high versions. There are many beautiful Rosaries out there for men, including the combat rosary (designed and issued to soldiers in WWI, and available at [romancatholicgear.com](http://romancatholicgear.com)), and the "rugged Rosary" ([ruggedrosary.com](http://ruggedrosary.com)) made out of paracord.

### Horse Soldier Bourbon

Right after 9/11, a group of elite Green Berets were sent to north Afghanistan to help rally the rural tribes against the Taliban. These soldiers were nicknamed the "Horse Soldiers" because they had to literally travel by horseback to reach some of the

remote areas. These same soldiers went on to found American Freedom Distillery, who makes Horse Soldier Bourbon. If your husband, brother, or dad likes military history, America, or bourbon, they will love this. Pair it with a copy of the book *Horse Soldiers*, or set a time to sit down and watch the movie portrayal, *12 Strong*, together.

### Classic leather wallet

A staple on any gift guide for men: the leather wallet. But really though, every guy I know could use a new, nice leather wallet to replace whatever ratty one they have (or to replace the binder clip they're currently using!) Try a classic wallet made ethically in Peru (available at [nisolo.com](http://nisolo.com)) or a pocket wallet made in the USA. (available at [holtzleather.com](http://holtzleather.com))

### Coffee mug to make him laugh

Perfect for the Catholic guy with a sense of humor! Pair a mug from [catholiccompany.com](http://catholiccompany.com) with some fair trade coffee from Catholic Relief Services Ethical Trade and call it a day.

### Monk Manual 90-day

### notebook

Inspired by monks, the Monk Manual is a 90-day planner that "helps you focus on the most important things, so you can live each moment with greater purpose, productivity, and presence." With a streamlined design and gorgeous leather cover, it's great for the guy who likes minimalism, goal setting, or mindfulness!

### Wooden pocket cross

The crosses from [catholicwoodworker.com](http://catholicwoodworker.com) are small and designed specifically to be carried in a pocket as a reminder throughout the day to pray, hope, and not worry. An alternate, also pocket-sized idea is the pocket oratory from [peterssquare.com](http://peterssquare.com), designed to aid in prayer while on the go.

### Engraved leather mousepad

This full-grain leather mousepad is handmade in the USA and can be engraved with up to 15 letters. Consider something other than his initials, like "AMDG." This stands for Ad maiorem Dei gloriam, the Latin motto of the Jesuits, which means "For the greater glory of God." The phrase "soli deo gloria" (glory to God alone) would also fit.

### A conversation-starter tie

Would it even be a Father's Day gift guide if there wasn't a tie included? If you're shopping for a guy that rocks a tie on the

regular, consider the Our Lady of Guadalupe option, the Marian symbol design, or a tie featuring the Benedictine cross - all from [catholicothemax.com](http://catholicothemax.com).

Good luck, and if you have any more ideas, share with the rest of us!

- - -

Valerie Keinsley is a wife and mama living in central Indiana.

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## Every prayer -- including yours -- is needed to increase vocations

By Mike Krokos  
Editor, *The Criterion*  
(Archdiocese of Indianapolis)

Several weeks ago, April 25, the Vatican and many dioceses around the world celebrated the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

In a letter to priests and parish life coordinators, vocations director for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Father Michael Keucher wrote, "The church in the whole world will be storming heaven for God to bless his church with numerous holy vocations!"

And echoing the words of the late Franciscan Sister Norma Rocklage, a longtime educator at Marian University in Indianapolis, he added: "Every prayer counts."

We've editorialized about praying for religious vocations in the past, and we believe those petitions should be offered daily, asking for more holy men and women to minister in our church.

In this time of pandemic, the ministry they offer cannot be underestimated or unappreciated. We need to offer them thanks for their unwavering commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ to so many.

We understand the challenges priests and religious currently face, spreading the word of God and being present to those desperately seeking assistance.

They serve parishioners, the hungry and homeless and others through countless ministries. But for the past year, COVID-19 has had them ministering to an ever-growing population -- those impacted by the coronavirus -- some of them living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, others who are patients in hospitals, still others staying at home because they feel safest without having to step outside their comfort zones.

Pope Francis reminds us vocations to ordained ministry and religious life are all about the gift of being present and giving to others.

"The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes," the pope wrote in his World Day of Prayer for Vocations message released at



**VOCATIONS.** Kevin Rueda, right, and Deacon Joseph Catafago, seminarians for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., distribute Communion during Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church in East Northport, N.Y., April 25, 2021, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Deacon Catafago will be ordained to the priesthood on June 19, 2021. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

the Vatican on March 19.

"The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility, but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life," he wrote.

The Holy Father said religious and priestly life must be filled with the simple joy of caring every day for what really matters -- faithful friendship with God and one another.

"I pray that you will experience this same joy, dear brothers and sisters who have

generously made God the dream of your lives, serving him in your brothers and sisters through a fidelity that is a powerful testimony in an age of ephemeral choices and emotions that bring no lasting joy," Pope Francis wrote.

Released on the feast of St. Joseph, the message was dedicated to the saint and "the dream of vocation." The pope declared a special year devoted to the saint starting Dec. 8, 2020, to encourage a greater love for and inspiration from Jesus' guardian and patron of the universal church.

As the protector of Jesus and

the church, St. Joseph can be a model for all vocations, which are meant to be the "ever-active hands of the Father, outstretched to his children," the pope wrote.

St. Joseph has "the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines," which is the same aim of vocations, he wrote.

Jesus' earthly father, the pope said, is one of those gentle "saints next door" whose "strong witness can guide us on the journey."

The saint's heart was always listening to God, who spoke to him in his dreams, the Holy Father added.

"This applies also to our

calling: God does not like to reveal himself in a spectacular way, pressuring our freedom," Pope Francis wrote. "He conveys his plans to us with gentleness," speaking through one's thoughts and feelings and unveiling "profound and unexpected horizons."

Like St. Joseph, we each must find the courage to understand and follow God's will. In our vocations, the pope continued, "there can be no faith without risk."

In this Year of St. Joseph, let us each make a concerted effort to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

There are resources on the archdiocese's vocations website at [heargodscall.com](http://heargodscall.com), including videos, prayer resources, links and other helpful information.

As Father Keucher wrote: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest" (Mt 9:37-38).

May our faith lead us to plant seeds for religious vocations. And through our efforts, we pray that more people will risk truly hearing -- and following -- God's call to the priesthood and religious life.

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*The views or positions presented in this or any guest editorial are those of the individual publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Catholic News Service or of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

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

**The beauty of marriage** - Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness, and patience.

*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)

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# Religious Freedom Week, June 22-29, 2021: Solidarity in Freedom

Religious Freedom Week takes place June 22 – 29 each year. It begins with the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, includes the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and ends with the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

The theme for this year is *Solidarity in Freedom*. The Church’s promotion of religious freedom expresses her solidarity with all people who seek the good and who hope for fulfillment in the truth, which the Church teaches is ultimately found in Jesus Christ.

“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community” (Fratelli tutti, 116). Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all.

The USCCB provides “Pray – Reflect – Act” resources at [www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek](http://www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek) — one for each day on different



RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM  
WEEK

religious liberty topics. These materials help people learn about religious liberty from a Catholic perspective, pray about particular issues, and act on what they learn by advocating for policies that promote religious freedom.

The Pray-Reflect-Act resources show the breadth of religious liberty issues of concern for the bishops. The Committee for Religious Liberty has collaborated with the Office of International Justice and Peace to raise awareness about the persecution of Christians in Nicaragua and to lift up Pope

Francis’s trip to Iraq this year. We need to be in solidarity with people throughout the world who suffer for their faith.

Domestically, a major area of concern continues to be freedom for Catholic institutions, such as schools, hospitals, and child welfare service providers, to carry out their missions with integrity.

While the United States has suffered the effects of the COVID pandemic, Catholics have stepped in to serve. Catholic schools,

like those in the Archdiocese of Boston, have led in showing how to safely reopen schools. In Hawaii, Catholic Charities has worked to help renters get access to government relief programs. In addition to its regular work of advocacy, Catholic Charities U.S.A. has provided personal protective equipment, organized food donations, and started the Francis Fund for Eviction Protection. However, religious organizations’ ability to partner with the government in its relief efforts and to receive needed government aid is continually threatened by legislative provisions that would exclude some faiths but not others.

Another issue of special concern is the wave of attacks on Catholic churches that began in May of 2020. Vandals entered churches and desecrated sanctuaries. A man in Florida even attempted to set a church on fire with people inside. There have been over 60 attacks so

far, and that number continues to grow. The precise reasons for these attacks are often unknown. In some cases, they are tied to anger at perceived injustices from the past. Other cases may involve mental illness. In all cases, Catholics must remember that we worship the Lord who reveals the truth and beauty of the gospel in his suffering and resurrection, and that we are called to respond to aggression with compassion.

Through prayer, education, and public action during Religious Freedom Week, we can promote the essential right of religious freedom for Catholics and for those of all faiths.

### *A Prayer* to Avert Storms and Hurricanes

Father, all the elements of nature obey your command. Calm the storms and hurricanes that threaten us and turn our fear of your power into praise of your goodness.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## Seminarian Burses April 2021 Donations

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Bishop Charles P. Greco Burse	
<b>Mrs. Barbara Rigby</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Dan Vanderlick</b> .....	<b>\$200.00</b>
Dr. Charles Vanderlick Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$450.00</b>

Correction from April 26, 2021 Church Today, page 8:

**Leonard E. Johnson** ..... **\$1,750.00**

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood.

Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office: Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.

-- Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino, Chairman



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## Supper with the Seminarians dates set

Supper with the Seminarians will be happening this year! See reservation information below and make sure to mark your calendars:

**Thursday, June 3 - Avoyelles Deanery:** St. Joseph Church, Marksville  
RESERVE your place by May 28: [www.diocesealex.org/supper-with-the-seminarians/](http://www.diocesealex.org/supper-with-the-seminarians/)

**Saturday, June 12 - Central Deanery:** St. Rita Church, Alexandria  
RESERVE your place by June 7: [www.diocesealex.org/supper-with-the-seminarians/](http://www.diocesealex.org/supper-with-the-seminarians/)

**Saturday, July 10 - Natchitoches Deanery:** St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches  
Reservation information coming soon!

**Saturday, July 24 - Eastern Deanery:** St. Marys Church, Winnsboro  
Reservation information coming soon!

This is a great opportunity to meet the men currently in priestly formation and 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!

# Parish Spotlight: Our Lady of Sorrows Church Moreauville, Louisiana Established 1944

Msgr. Stanley DeKeuwer was responsible for securing land for a new church in Moreauville to serve the black Catholics in the community. A new church was built and Bishop Greco formally established it as the center of an independent parish in 1946. The Holy Ghost Fathers were invited to take charge of the new parish. They served until the 1970's when a priest of the Holy Cross congregation, Fr. George Dolan, took over for a short time. A school was opened in 1949 and it remained in operation until 1970.

In recent years, the parish has served an active congregation of over 100 families.

Today, Father Jose Pallipurath, pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville, is also the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH CIRCA 2010.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS, 1946. Dedication of the new church, circa 1946. A young Bishop Charles Greco and Fr. Stanley DeKeuwer, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, and the parishioners of the newly established church parish of Our Lady of Sorrows in Moreauville.



A THRIVING CHURCH PARISH, 1984. An elderly Bishop Charles Greco with Father August Thompson. It is unknown what this particular occasion was.



MAY CROWNING, SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE.



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT. The Catholic Daughters Court Padre Pio #2141 of St. Mary's Church in Cottonport announced the winners of their Education and Scholarship Contests. The Division 3, 9-12th grades Essay Contest Winner is Caroline [redacted], 1st place local, 3rd place State. Graduating Senior \$200 Scholarship winner is Rylie [redacted]. Both are pictured above with pastor, Fr. John Wiltse.



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*Lord,  
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to give  
thanks  
to you.*

Psalm 92: 2  
Responsorial Psalm  
for June 13



## Live-streamed Mass Schedule

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. Please inquire directly to your church parish concerning their requirements and guidelines for attending Mass in-person.

### 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
- 10:00 a.m. **Radio Maria** | [www.radiomaria.us](http://www.radiomaria.us) (click the play button) or tune in on your radio in Alexandria: station 580 AM or in Natchitoches: station 89.7 AM
- 9:00 a.m. **Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church**, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube  
**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
- 10:30 a.m. **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: station 580 AM or in Natchitoches: station 89.7 AM
- 9:00 a.m. **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
- 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: station 580 AM or in Natchitoches: station 89.7 AM
- 5:00 p.m. **St. Michael the Archangel**, Leesville on Facebook

**View recorded Mass on YouTube:**  
**St. Anthony of Padua Church**, Natchitoches



MAY CROWNING, ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO.



MAY CROWNING, MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH, PLAUCHEVILLE.

### 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."**



# Graduation



**CLASS OF 2021, HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.** Menard graduation was held Tuesday, May 11 in the auditorium of the Pentecostals of Alexandria.



**CLASS OF 2021, ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE.** Graduation was held Wednesday, May 12 at Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaquemine.



**CLASS OF 2021, ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHE.** Graduation was held Sunday, May 16 in the Natchitoches Event Center.

# First Holy Communion



**ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** First Holy Communion for St. Rita was held on Saturday, April 17 with Father Anthony Dharmaraj and Father Luke LaFleur.



**ST. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN.** This is the 2021 class of First Communion at Sts. Frances & Anne Catholic Church, pictured with Deacon Greg LeBlanc and pastor, Fr. Bino Jacob.



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.** First Holy Communion was celebrated at St. Joseph Church on Friday, April 17. Celebrant was Fr. Dan O'Connor, pastor and assisted by Deacon Gary Schupbach. Also pictured with the class is Evelyn Cass, catechist, Nancy Desselle, DRE, Carol Gagnard, catechist.





**ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Confirmation was held April 24. Pictured with the confirmandi are catechists and pastor, Father Chad Partain, Father Taylor Reynolds and Bishop Robert Marshall.



**STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in Kolin on April 28. Pictured with Bishop and the confirmandi are Deacon Greg LeBlanc and pastor, Father Bino Jacob.



**ST. GENEVIEVE CHURCH, BROUILLETTE.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in Brouillette on May 1. Pictured with Bishop and the confirmandi is pastor, Father Abraham Palakkattuchira.



**SACRED HEART AND OUR LADY OF SORROWS, MOREAUVILLE.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in Moreauville on May 5. Pictured with Bishop and the confirmandi is pastor, Father Jose Pallipurath and Deacon Richard Mitchell.

## Confirmation



**ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, ISLE BREVELLE.** Confirmation was held April 25. Pictured with the confirmandi are pastor, Father Charles Ray and Bishop Robert Marshall.



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in Marksville on April 30. Pictured with Bishop and the confirmandi is Deacon Gary Schupbach and pastor, Father Dan O'Connor.



**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH, MANSURA.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in Mansura on May 2. Pictured with Bishop and the confirmandi is pastor, Father Irion St. Romain.



**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in Cottonport on May 6. Pictured with Bishop and the confirmandi is pastor, Father John Wiltse.

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





**MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NATCHITOCHES MAY 10.** Pictured with the confirmandi are pastor, Father Blake Deshautelle, Father Louis Sklar and Bishop Robert Marshall.



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, NATCHITOCHES.** Confirmation was held May 16. Pictured with the confirmandi are pastor, Father John O'Brien, Deacon Steven Newbury and Bishop Robert Marshall.



**NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH, CAMPTI.** Senior Celebration Mass was celebrated on May 23 for Averiana [REDACTED], she graduated from Lakeview High School. Pictured: Deacon Tommy Robichaux, Averiana [REDACTED] and pastor, Father Gus Voltz.



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, PINEVILLE.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in Pineville on May 19. Pictured with Bishop and the confirmandi is pastor, Father Walter Ajaero.



**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH, TIOGA.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in Tioga on May 20. Pictured with Bishop and the confirmandi are pastor, Father Rickey Gremillion, Deacon LG Deloach and Deacon Richard Mitchell.



**NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH, CAMPTI.** First Holy Communion was celebrated on May 23. Pictured: Deacon Tommy Robichaux, Harper [REDACTED] and pastor, Father Gus Voltz.



**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, MAY 24.** Pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall and the confirmandi is pastor, Father Rusty Rabalais.



**ST. RICHARD CHAPEL, HICKORY HILL, MAY 25.** Pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall and the confirmandi is pastor, Father Abraham Varghese.

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.

**Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions**  
**Sunday, June 13, 3:00 p.m.**  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Divine Providence Center, ALEXANDRIA  
**Wednesday, June 30, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Paul the Apostle, Community Center, MANSURA  
**Tuesday, July 13, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., ALEXANDRIA  
Face masks MUST be worn during the entire session. The session typically lasts 2.5 to 3 hours. Seating will be one (1) person per table (spouses may sit together). A maximum of ONLY 15 adults will be allowed to attend each session. Minors are not allowed to attend because of the adult content of the videos and discussions.  
To register, go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).  
For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

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# First Holy Communion



**ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** First Holy Communion was celebrated at St. Frances Cabrini Church on April 24. Celebrant was Fr. Chad Partain, pastor and assisted by Fr. Taylor Reynolds. Also pictured with the class is Sr. Elizabeth Holmes and catechist, Leigh Schneider.



**CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER, EVERGREEN, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.** Pictured with the First Communicants is pastor, Father Ramji Shoury.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL.** First Holy Communion and May Crowning were held May 2 at the Cathedral in Alexandria. Pictured: Father James Ferguson, Brice [redacted], Alli [redacted] and Nate [redacted].



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHES.** First Communion was held for the 2nd Grade students of St. Mary's School at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches. Pictured: Father Blake Deshautelle and Deacon John Whitehead with the First Communicants.



**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH, ECHO.** First Communion was held at St. Francis de Sales on May 2. Pictured with the communicants is Gwen Dauzat and pastor, Fr. Dwight de Jesus.



**MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH, PLAUCHEVILLE.** First Holy Communion was held May 2. Pictured with the First Communicants is pastor, Father Martin Laird.



**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** First Holy Communion was held May 7. Pictured with the communicants is pastor, Father Rusty Rabalais.



**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, BLACK LAKE, FIRST COMMUNION.** Pastor, Fr. Gus Voltz, III, Jaycie [redacted] and Deacon Tommy Robichaux.



# Martinez named Advocate for diocesan Tribunal

Mr. Isaul Martinez, a parishioner of St. Rita Church in Alexandria, LA has been named as Advocate to the Tribunal of the Diocese of Alexandria representing the Latino-Hispanic Catholic population of the Cenla area. An Advocate assists those who wish to submit a petition of (marriage) invalidity to the Tribunal.

Mr. Martinez will serve as a liaison with the Tribunal and will represent the Spanish speaking Latino-Hispanic community of the Diocese of Alexandria.

Along with his mother, father and his wife, Anna, the Martinez

family were among those who founded the Latino-Hispanic ministry at St. Rita more than 30 years ago with the help of Fr. Pedro Sierra-Posada and Msgr. Bruce Miller, JCL.

Since that time, he and his wife have served as Directors of the community as well as assisting many Spanish speaking migrant families in their inclusion and vibrant participation in our faith community. In fact, the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the St. Rita Adoration Chapel was a generous donation to St. Rita by the Martinez family.



**MARTINEZ FAMILY.** Mr. Isaul Martinez surrounded by his family and members of the St. Rita community. Mr. Martinez has been involved in Latino-Hispanic ministry at St. Rita Church for over thirty years.



**LEFT:** Mr. Martinez will serve as the liaison between the Latino-Hispanic community and the Diocese of Alexandria Tribunal.

## Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mystical Rose,  
 make intercession for holy Church,  
 protect the sovereign Pontiff,  
 help all those who invoke you in their necessities,  
 and since you are the ever Virgin Mary  
 and Mother of the true God,  
 obtain for us from your most holy Son  
 the grace of keeping our faith, of sweet hope in the midst  
 of the bitterness of life  
 of burning charity, and the precious gift of final perseverance.  
 Amen.

**Feast of  
 Saint  
 Junipero Serra**

**July 1, 2021**

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

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

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**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, HOLY CROSS, NATCHITOCHES.** April 11, 2021. Pictured with the communicants: pastor, Fr. Marc Noel with Melanie McCain.



**FIRST COMMUNION, ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE IN MANSURA.** May 1, 2021. Pictured with the communicants is pastor, Fr. Irion St. Romain, Tonia Lemoine, teacher and Amie Smith, DRE.



**FIRST COMMUNION, CCD, SACRED HEART, MOREAUVILLE.** Sunday, April 25. Fr. Jose Pallipurath, the communicants and Andre' Spruill, DRE.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE.** Sunday, April 24. Fr. Jose Pallipurath, the communicants and principal, Sister Sandra Norsworthy, Andre' Spruill, DRE, and teachers.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ST. PETER'S MISSION CHURCH, ELMER, APRIL 11.** Pictured with pastor, Fr. Kenneth Obiekwe are Jane [redacted], Lanie [redacted], Danni [redacted], and Claylee [redacted].

## Words of Wisdom

The first thing we need to do is admit that we don't always get it right. We're going to make mistakes and hurt people, even when we have good intentions. There will even be times, humbling though they may be, when our good intentions end up serving devilish purposes. Praise God for his mercy and patience!

Second, we need to know that the Holy Spirit wants to teach us how to live. St. Paul tells us that no matter how inscrutable the wisdom of God may be, "we have the mind of the Lord" ( 1 Corinthians

2:16). This means we really can learn how to discern spiritual things.

Over time, Peter learned how to discern God's voice. He learned how to sort through his intentions and be a clearer instrument of God's grace. We can too. Just keep telling yourself, "I have the mind of Christ. I believe that the Holy Spirit is my guide." With this little statement of faith, you can develop the gift of discernment.

**"Lord show me your ways so that I may discern your will."**

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## Upcoming Retreats

• July 15 - 18

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Visit [www.cenlaacts.org](http://www.cenlaacts.org)

• August 12 - 15

**CENLA Men's ACTS Retreat**  
Visit [www.cenlaacts.org](http://www.cenlaacts.org)

More information coming soon!

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

*Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting.*

Psalm 107: 1  
Responsorial Psalm for June 20



## Teen fertility awareness: Helping our daughters reclaim the true meaning of their bodies

By Ann Gundlach  
Director of Communications  
Couple to Couple League

Many parents, and I was one of them, dread having to have “the talk” as their child approaches puberty. We are not quite sure what to say about teen fertility awareness, and we fear what questions we may get.

Looking back, I see that practicing fertility awareness helped my husband and me grow comfortable talking about intimate issues ourselves. This helped us down the road when we began talking to our children about their bodies.

For instance, we always used accurate terminology when talking to them about their body parts. We didn’t realize this was laying the groundwork for being able to talk to them more easily about intimate things as they got older.

It also provided a few of our funniest memories (ugh!):

- Our neighbors told us that our 5-year-old happily announced to them that we were going to Vagina Beach for vacation.

- Spotting a cover of *Cosmopolitan* magazine at the grocery checkout, our daughter loudly exclaimed, “Wow, mom, I bet Kevin wishes you had those breasts!” (Kevin was the new nursing baby brother, but no one else in earshot knew that!)

Being open with them also brought some tender moments that gently pointed them toward God’s plan for openness to life. I was asked more than once if I was sick when they saw me taking my



**MOTHER DAUGHTER PROGRAM.** CCL has just launched a new online program from Live the Love for moms and daughters, centered around a series of short video lessons: “Fertility 101: Basic facts every young woman should know.” Younger daughters can hear about the fertility cycles and basics of fertility awareness alongside their moms in talks from a CCL teacher, a nurse practitioner, and an OB/GYN. Moms of older teens can opt to let their daughters watch on their own. For moms there is bonus content and a community area to support each other.

Help your daughter discover and treasure the gift of being female. Empower her with knowledge, and teach her to advocate for better approaches to cycle irregularities. For more information, visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org).

morning temperature. I just said, no, I did this because it helped me to know if God had sent us a new baby. Their eyes always lit up at the thought!

### Reclaiming these beautiful truths

Practicing fertility awareness as a teen does cultivate appreciation and even awe for God’s design of our bodies and his plan for sexuality. It points us toward hope... hope for blessings toward marriage and children. It honors our femininity.

What a contrast this is to the

messages our daughters get from all around them today! What are they told? They hear their menstrual cycles are a hassle or worse; that their femininity needs to be controlled to have empowered lives; that everyone needs medications in order to not be miserable.

There is a much better, much more positive and hopeful message that our daughters deserve! Couple to Couple League will soon release a new online program from Live the Love: “Fertility 101: Basic facts

every young woman should know.” Your daughters will hear about fertility awareness with you in talks from a CCL teacher, a nurse practitioner and an OB/GYN. For moms, there is bonus content and a community area to support each other. This program will help your daughter discover and treasure the gift she has been given in being female.

Mothers are in a special position to engage their daughters

about the gift of their fertility. CCL’s Mother + Daughter Area lets you choose the resources you feel would be the best to communicate with your daughter about this important subject. Whether you are interested in facilitating a group meeting, hosting a Mother Daughter event, or just want to get more involved in the discussion, visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) for more information on this new program.

The Couple to Couple League (CCL) is an international, Catholic, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and teaching fertility awareness (natural family planning) to married and engaged couples.

Visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) for more information on their new Mother + Daughter Program, and online training for couples in both English and Spanish.

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*I will praise you, Lord,  
for you have rescued me.*

Psalm 30: 2  
**Responsorial Psalm for June 27**

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**The Cross Word** June 6 and 13, 2021  
answers on pg 6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12			13		
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54				55			56		

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**Readings:** Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 33-36  
and Ez 17:22-24; 2Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

**ACROSS**

1 Chessman  
5 America  
8 Spider's net  
11 European monetary unit  
12 Megacycles per second  
13 Small particle  
14 Nerve fiber  
15 Olive's stone  
16 Tilt  
17 Given a ticket  
19 Young beef  
21 East northeast  
22 Throw out  
24 Jesus blessed the one \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Far away

28 "\_\_\_\_\_ of David"  
30 Medicinal drink  
33 Dry red wine  
34 Jury  
35 Pitcher  
36 Alphabet  
37 Brilliant effect  
39 Distress call  
42 Eve's garden  
43 The Flight to \_\_\_\_\_  
45 \_\_\_\_\_fide  
48 Give up life  
50 Domain  
51 Abbreviate  
52 \_\_\_\_\_ one of these  
53 Transgressions  
54 Dead heat

**DOWN**

1 "\_\_\_\_\_ offerings"  
2 Plant hormone  
3 Moses did with God's words  
4 Not any  
5 Referee  
6 Shudder with cold  
7 Ancient Mesoamerican  
8 Misery  
9 Estimated arrival time  
10 Shun  
13 Unwell  
18 Ashes sanctify the \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Runner  
23 Disciples found man carrying a water \_\_\_\_\_  
24 Mongrel dog  
25 Utilize  
26 Cat or dog  
27 Cutting to ol  
29 Rowing device  
30 Environmental agency  
31 Scientist hangout  
32 Incorporated (abbr.)  
33 Communication Workers of America (abr.)  
35 Annual storm causing current  
38 An eagle broke off the crest of a \_\_\_\_\_  
39 Aram in Bible  
40 Golf tournaments  
41 Nest egg  
42 Holds the grain  
44 Cut  
45 Upside-down sleeper  
46 Kimono sash  
47 Compass point  
49 "His \_\_\_\_\_ is on the sparrow"



*Class of 2021*  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**BACCALAUREATE MASS, ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE, MANSURA.** Graduating Seniors Mass was held at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura on May 8. Pictured from left to right: Jaelan [redacted], Isabella [redacted], Fr. Irion St. Romain, Rosie [redacted], Kyle [redacted], Abby [redacted] & Kylee [redacted].



**BACCALAUREATE MASS, ST. RITA, ALEXANDRIA.** Mass was celebrated for the graduating high school seniors of St. Rita Church on May 2.



**BACCALAUREATE MASS, SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE.** Graduating high school seniors were honored at mass on May 2. Pictured left to right, first row: Caroline [redacted], Avoyelles Public Charter School; Samuel [redacted], Holy Savior Menard High School; Eva [redacted], Avoyelles High School; Garrett [redacted], Louisiana School for the Agricultural Sciences; Emma [redacted], Holy Savior Menard High School. Second row: Seth [redacted], Avoyelles Public Charter School; Katie [redacted], Avoyelles High School; Kannon [redacted], Avoyelles Public Charter School; Seth [redacted], Avoyelles High School and Austin [redacted], Avoyelles High School.

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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!**

**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.

**Vacation Bible Schools!**

**June 21-25, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville**  
Our theme for this year will be: TREASURED Discovering You're Priceless to God.

**June 21-25, 8:00 -11:30 a.m. – Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth**  
Register online at [www.mmjchurch.org](http://www.mmjchurch.org) under the "Faith Formation" tab. Free for parishioners, for all others \$25 per family. This year's theme is DESTINATION DIG, Unearthing the Truth About Jesus.

**July 1-2, 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. – St. Joseph Church in Marksville**  
VBS/Bible Camp titled, "In God We Trust" in the church hall. The camp is free of charge and open to children ages five through 10 on a first come, first served basis. Registration opens on Tuesday, June 1 and can be made by calling the St. Joseph church office at (318) 253-7561, ext. 4.

**July 11- July 15, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. – Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville**  
T-shirts given out. Meals served. Theme: ROCKY RAILWAY - Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through

**July 12-16, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. – St. Rita Church, Alexandria**  
We are excited to offer VBS this year for students entering PK thru 6th grade for the 2021-2022 school year. Registration is now open. Visit [www.myvbs.org/stritavbs/](http://www.myvbs.org/stritavbs/) and register your child. Questions? Call (318) 445-7141, ext. 217.

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## Golden Apple Teacher award granted to Moreauville teacher

Michelle Andries is a 6th grade science and writing composition teacher at Sacred Heart School in Avoyelles Parish.

"She is a teacher that is very conscientious of the students, of their ability, of their skills. She's very creative. She teaches science in the middle school and she does a lot of hands-on activities with the kids," says Sister Sandra Norsworthy, principal at Sacred Heart.

She was nominated by student Molly Lacombe who says Miss Andries is always there to listen to her students and help

them get through the days, both good and bad.

"I feel like she is very open but to us she's actually like really fun and I feel like more open in the world," says Molly.

Molly says one of her favorite things about Miss Andries's class are the Science Experiment Fridays, "(it's) really very life changing because it's actually like in real life and we get to really do it."

This year is Miss Andries first year on the job at Sacred Heart School.

"This is such a talented group

of students. They are so smart and I really feel privileged to teach them this year," says Andries.

She says she's happy to be here promoting learning and helping bring science to life inside her classroom.

"It really is a reward at the end of the day. I can see that they've learned and had fun doing it. Getting to teach science this year has been great and we get to change it up every day and they are excited to learn."

## Bordelon named Director of Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Alexandria



Amelia Bordelon

We are pleased to welcome Amelia Bordelon as the Director of Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Alexandria.

Amelia is responsible for coordinating activities for the LSUA Catholic Student Organization as well as managing the Catholic Student Center facility located on the LSUA campus. Amelia also coordinates activities with Catholic students from Louisiana College.

She is the liaison for the CSO and LSUA staff, offering spiritual and life guidance to the

students who visit the Catholic Student Center, helping those who are interested in becoming Catholic as well as collaborating with the Baptist Student Centers for LSUA and LC.

Amelia replaces long-time campus ministry director, Lynn Ray, who retired in December.

## Steubenville South Conference update

By Cari Terracina

Well... the past season did not go quite as planned. Many opportunities for community and encounter were set aside in hopes of navigating the circumstances we found ourselves in, however, we are saddened to announce that once again, the in-person portion of this summer's Steubenville South Youth Conference has been cancelled. With changing COVID restrictions and more, we simply were unable to coordinate the quality gathering that we would want for the people of our diocese. Though many worked diligently in an effort to plan this summer's conference, it did not pan out. We are now, however, looking forward with positivity and hope to grow good things in the upcoming year.

That being said, Steubenville can still come to you this summer! The Steubenville Youth Retreat Experience is a parish-hosted youth event based on a similar format as the larger conference gathering, and will allow you to gather as a group for the weekend - wherever you are - to encounter Christ together. Combining live-streamed and in-person elements, groups will be engaged in much the same way as the big conference.

If your group/parish is interested in hosting a Steubenville Youth Retreat Experience, but short on resources, you are encouraged to partner up with other parishes



to provide this retreat experience for your youth groups. For more information or assistance in planning this event for your parish, please email [info@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto:info@steubenvillesouth.com) or visit [www.steubenvilleconferences.com](http://www.steubenvilleconferences.com).

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria is one of the parishes hosting a Steubenville Youth Retreat, June 26-27, and has opened their doors

to other groups in the diocese. If your group would like to attend, contact Felicia Schneider at 318-445-3693, ext. 228 to register.

### Be in the know

For over 20 years now, the Steubenville South community has faced various challenges and obstacles, along with our many joys and accomplishments, and each time has emerged stronger. This is due to our reliance on the Lord through the Eucharist

**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  
FOCUS Ministries: <https://nsucatholic.org/focus>

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

and Mary, as well as our strong relationships with each other.

We believe the same will be true of this time. With grace on our side and excitement in our hearts, we are busy preparing new offerings for you throughout the upcoming year, including a *Teachable Tuesdays* video series. To be kept informed of conference updates, please visit [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com), and join our mailing list. We would love to keep in touch, and keep everyone up-to-date concerning this ministry and community!

### Taking back summer

Have you ever reached the midpoint of the year and feel like it's too late - "I haven't done those things I really wanted to do," you think, or things just aren't quite working out the way you had hoped.

There are 93 days in the summer season. We're not even officially in summer yet, but

some of us may feel like it's too late to plan a meaningful summer. Or we feel pressured to catch up on everything that we've missed over the past year.

Let's focus in, shall we? How are we going to use the gift of those 93 days of summer? Instead of doing *all* of the things, let's plant what really matters, little by little.

God wants to move us forward in good things.

Little by little progress adds up. Little by little over time, good things can grow, no matter when we start, or how imperfect our start may have been.

We can't do it all and do it well. But we can choose to focus in on what matters.

We might be halfway through the year, but this is just the beginning. I'm excited to dig in with you, and watch God work over the next half of the year. Good things are to come!



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

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

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

Reserve your place now! To register for the Avoyelles Deanery event and the Central Deanery event, go to [www.diocesealex.org/supper-with-the-seminarians/](http://www.diocesealex.org/supper-with-the-seminarians/)

*Registration for the July events will be posted soon!*

**Men's Nocturnal Adoration - June 3**

St. Frances Cabrini Church Men's Monthly Nocturnal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held overnight beginning Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. Please call Michelle at 318-445-4588 to sign up for an hour.

**Heart of Kateri Circle meeting - June 10**

The Heart of St. Kateri Circle meeting will be held Thursday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Tekakwitha Conference Center, 2225 North Bolton Avenue, Alexandria. All are welcome, and remember to wear your mask.

**Mother Daughter Tea - June 12**

Join us at 10:00 a.m., June 12 for a Mother Daughter Tea at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Ducote Hall. Open to mothers, daughters, granddaughters, and aunts of all ages. Be sure to have your best garden hat on for the hat contest and practice your curtsies!

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

Please join us for Taste of St. Joseph's Food Fest on Saturday, June 12 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Cheneyville. 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.

**Disalced Carmelite Meeting - June 12**

The Order of Disalced Carmelites will hold its monthly meeting 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 12, at Maryhill Renewal Center. Anyone is invited to attend morning prayer at 9:00 a.m. followed by Mass and then the community meeting. If you are interested in Carmelite

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studies, please contact Mary Jo McCoy (318) 346-6860 or (318) 481-9638.

**Chords of Blue Fundraiser - June 24**

St. Join us for an evening benefit concert for Autism Awareness on Thursday, June 24 at the Hotel Bentley, Alexandria. Featured performer is NBC's The Voice Semi-Finalist Sarah Grace and The Soul. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are VIP: \$100; General Admission: \$50; Virtual VIP: \$35. Only 100 seats are available. Purchase tickets online at [www.chordsofblue.com](http://www.chordsofblue.com). The event is sponsored by Thomas B. Wahlder. All proceeds benefit St. Mary's Residential Training Facility.

**Steubenville Youth Retreat - June 26-27**

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, will be hosting a Steubenville Youth Retreat, and invites the youth of your parish to join us! This Retreat will be held at the Divine Providence Center on June 26-27, and will include livestream of the Conference being held in Steubenville, OH. Speakers will tune in via livestream, just as if we were there, and we will have breakout sessions after the talks for small group time. The Josh Blakesly Band will be performing live at the D.P.C. We invite church parishes to register your youth group and bring your core team with you. The cost is \$50 per teen, and up to 150 teens may register for this event at the D.P.C. To register, or for more info please contact Felicia Schneider at (318) 445-3693, ext. 228; or (318) 613-3497.

**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 Kim Swart at [kswart@cabrinischool.com](mailto:kswart@cabrinischool.com).

**Outdoor Lighted Rosary, Marksville**

St. Joseph Church in Marksville will have its weekly outdoor lighted rosary every Thursday from now through October, weather permitting. The rosary begins at 8:00 p.m. in the parking lot next to the church hall. Participants may bring chairs to sit outside or remain in their vehicles. The lighted rosary is sponsored by St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Council #1217.

**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.

**Eucharistic Adoration - Every Tuesday**

St. Joseph Church in Marksville is holding a weekly Tuesday Eucharistic adoration from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome. Please wear a face mask and practice social distancing during this time of prayer and worship.

**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.

**Visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) for Vacation Bible School dates and locations.**

**Church Today News Deadlines****Next issues:****June 28****Deadline for news:****Thursday, June 17****July 26****Deadline for news:****Thursday, July 15**

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# June 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>MAY <b>31</b></p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR FR. W. OGBONNA</p>	<p>JUNE <b>1</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Avoyelles Deanery Supper with the Seminarians 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPURAMBIL</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>The MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (Corpus Christi) PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>Kateri Circle Meeting 5:30 p.m. Tekakwitha Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>The MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Discalced Carmelites Mtg. 9:00 a.m., Maryhill</p> <p>Mother Daughter Tea, 10:00 a.m., Cabrini Church</p> <p>Supper with the Seminarians, 5:00 p.m. St. Rita, Alexandria</p> <p>Taste of St. Joseph's Food Fest 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Cheneyville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training, Alexandria 3:00 p.m. OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>FATHER'S DAY PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS</p>
<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Chords of Blue 6:30 p.m. Hotel Bentley, Alexandria</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>Religious Freedom Week: Solidarity in Freedom</b></p>						
<p>Vacation Bible School -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth, 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</p>					<p>STEUBENVILLE Youth Retreat Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</p>	
<p>Vacation Bible School -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>					<p>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>	
<p>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>	<p>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>	<p>PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ</p>	<p>PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE</p>		
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>(cont.) Religious Freedom Week: Solidarity in Freedom</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training, 6:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle Church Community Center, Mansura</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY</p>	<p>JULY <b>1</b></p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>VBS -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>



A cross on the outside

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