

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LII, No. 8

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

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

August 30, 2021



## Welcome back students!

**Ssacred Heart School held its annual Flag Bearer Commissioning Ceremony and Flag Dedication on Aug. 18, 2021.**

This year, Representative Daryl Deshotel obtained the United States Flag for Sacred Heart School from the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. The school's staff and students were so honored that it flew over the Capitol and now flies over their school. Many thanks to Mrs. Chressie Jeansonne, Rep. Deshotel's assistant, for presenting the flag to the school on behalf of Rep. Deshotel, along with a certificate of authenticity from Senate President Patrick Page Cortez, and Speaker of the House Clay Schexnayder. Thanks also goes to Father Brian Seiler, Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, all of the students, faculty, and staff who assisted with the ceremony, and Mr. Nathan Laborde, assistant principal, who played "To the Colors" on his trumpet as the flag was raised. See inside this issue for more back-to-school information.

### INSIDE

#### U.S. Catholics urged to give

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has urged U.S. Catholics to give to efforts helping Haitians recover from a recent pair of natural disasters. See page 3 for more on how to help.

#### Diocese of Alexandria seminarains

The Diocese of Alexandria is proud to support our seminarians! See page 5 for a list of our current seminarians, and please continue to pray for more men and women within our diocese to courageously respond to God's call to the priesthood and religious life.

#### Catholic schools welcome new principals

Three Catholic schools in our diocese welcome new principals for this school year. See page 11 for more information as well as a welcome from our Catholic Schools Office.

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## Pastoral Letter on lifting the dispensation

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Saint Augustine of Hippo wrote in his *Confessions*, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." This great insight perfectly describes our human nature. We are constantly seeking something better, and we often try to satisfy that hunger with the things of this world that will never satisfy us for more than a minute or an hour or a day. Our hunger will return, our heart will remain restless. Only God can satisfy our deepest longings, our deepest desires, our deepest needs.

As Catholics, we often express our participation in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist as an obligation - unless the obligation is dispensed, we are "obliged" or "obligated" to attend Mass. We could express the same concept in terms of opportunity. Each Sunday - often, each day - we have the opportunity to participate in Mass, to be nourished by the Word of God and the Bread of Life. Yet perhaps Saint Augustine's insight brings us closer to the truth. As humans, we not only have the opportunity or the obligation to participate in Mass - we have a basic human need to offer God our worship and our praise, and also to draw from the celebration of the Eucharist the graces that we need to continue to live as disciples of the Lord. We know that if we do not drink water daily, our health will be compromised, our life may be lost. Still, we do not usually say, "I am obliged to drink water." Rather, we say, "I must drink water in order to live." So it is with the Eucharist. We must offer God our worship or our hearts will return to their restless and empty state.

Because of the health crisis throughout the world, we have not had a moral obligation to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for about a year and a half. Our hearts were still restless, our souls still needed



the nourishment, but we were dispensed from the obligation of Mass attendance to protect ourselves from the current virus. A few weeks ago, I announced that the general dispensation from the obligation of Mass attendance would end in the Diocese of Alexandria on August 15, 2021. We have been inviting all to "Come to the Table," to be nourished again with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

In making this decision, I am aware that the vast majority of us have gone back to our "normal lives." We are traveling, shopping, dining out, participating in social and recreational gatherings. If we are able to do that, then our Sunday celebration of Mass should return to being a regular and necessary part of our lives. We need to reconnect with God and with the Church even more than we need to go to a party or eat in a restaurant. At the same time, I know that there are those who are not yet ready to return to worship in public - whose health is too fragile or for whom just leaving their home would place them or their loved ones at too much risk.

Over the past few weeks, as a result of both a new variant and our low vaccination rate, Louisiana has experienced a surge both in the number of those diagnosed with the virus and, unfortunately, in hospitalizations. In spite of this surge, I have chosen not to continue the "blanket dispensation" past August 14. We need to return to the Mass too much to continue to stay away. Rather, I want to set out some of the conditions that would reasonably require some of our brothers and sisters to delay their

return for a while longer. **If any of the following apply to you, you would not need a blanket dispensation - you would have a personal dispensation that applies to you for as long as the condition exists:**

1. You are sick with any communicable disease or from any other condition that would make your travel to, or participation at Mass too difficult.
2. You wish to receive a COVID vaccine, but have been unable to receive one, or you have received only one of the two required inoculations, or your immunity has not yet kicked in (approximately two weeks after the second dose of the vaccine).
3. You have other health conditions that would make exposure to the virus too dangerous for you.
4. You care for someone who cannot obtain a vaccine, or who has health conditions that would make exposure to the virus too dangerous.
5. You have a true fear of the virus and are isolating or quarantining until the surge is over or until the virus is eradicated.

All of these conditions, and perhaps others, are valid reasons to continue to stay home. If you are concerned about this, then I invite you to contact your pastor and discuss your particular situation. Additionally, if you have a reasonable fear of gathering in large groups during this present surge, I invite you to look for a daily Mass in your parish or one nearby. The congregation is almost always smaller and it is usually possible to remain socially distant. It is important to receive the Eucharist, even in participation

in the Sunday celebration is too difficult or dangerous at present. For those who may not have an identifiable condition, but who are nonetheless concerned about returning, you are welcome to attend wearing a face mask. Indeed, during this present surge, masks are recommended for all - those vaccinated and especially for those unvaccinated. I have encouraged our parishes and missions to designate some portion of their seating as an area where social distancing is required. If you are interested in this socially distanced seating area, contact your parish church to determine if they will offer such an area and where it will be located. All of our churches should continue to have hand sanitizer available, and will continue with regular cleaning and sanitizing the church and other gathering areas.

When you return, please respect the sensibilities of others. Many will wear masks, others will not. Many will want to avoid physical contact when greeting others and during the sign of peace. The Eucharist should bring us together as the Body of Christ, not be a source of division.

We are inviting all back to Mass, but we recognize that not everyone will be able to return or will feel comfortable returning at this time. The end to the dispensation is not a declaration of victory over the virus or a denial that it exists and is dangerous. Indeed, this recent surge reminds us of our need to be careful. Yet our invitation to return to the Eucharist at this time is a recognition that we need to be fed by the Body of Christ even with some safety precautions.

Please join me in prayer for the health and safety of all of those in our community and throughout the world.

Live Jesus in our hearts!

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

You're invited to join us at the table.

To see available Mass times near you, visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org).

# U.S. missionary nuns fly home after quake to organize shipment to Haiti

By Tom Tracy  
Catholic News Service

Getting emergency supplies and aid into the Haiti region most impacted by the Aug. 14 earthquake will prove a major logistical challenge, said two missionary nuns who work in Haiti.

"There were some scary situations before (the earthquake), however, nothing like the last two years and especially the last two months in Haiti," Felician Sister Mary Inga Borko, who works in Jacmel, Haiti, told CNS by phone from Lodi, New Jersey.

Her congregation is organizing a container shipment of supplies to Haiti, both for her congregation's mission projects near Jacmel but to the earthquake-affected Les Cayes region.

"Life has changed and people easily cannot go to Port-au-Prince -- you have to pass through the gang neighborhoods; if people have to go, they go at night," said Polish-born Sister Borko.

Members of the New Jersey community of Felician Sisters first arrived in Haiti shortly after the devastating 2010 earthquake.

Four Felician Sisters were at their mission home in Jacmel Aug. 14 when a magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit. The nuns ran quickly outside, and they continued to do so as aftershocks occurred throughout the day and into the night, said Sister Borko and Felician Sister Marilyn Marie Minter, who was also in New Jersey assisting with the shipment preparations.

Though the Felician mission was spared from severe damage, 80 miles away the city of Les Cayes was devastated.

Before leaving for the U.S., the sisters emptied their shelves of medications, surgical gloves, clothes, shoes, sheets and bandages and sent them to Les Cayes and to help the medical centers there meet the growing need for supplies. Roads have been destroyed, making it difficult to get help to those who



**FELICIAN SISTERS OF NEW JERSEY.** In Jacmel, Haiti, Felician Sisters Mary Inga Borko and Sister Mary Julitta Kurek pack boxes of clothing and medical supplies to send to Les Cayes Aug. 14, 2021, following the earthquake in southern Haiti. The Felician Sisters of New Jersey, who have a community in Jacmel, are organizing further relief shipments to the Les Cayes region. (CNS photo/courtesy The Felician Sisters)

need it.

Families are living in makeshift tents on dirt floors, dreading the mudslides and flooding that often accompany seasonal storms, said Sister Minter. She said she is living in quarantine since recently arriving in the U.S. but that plans are underway to send supplies from the port at Newark, New Jersey, through Port-au-Prince, which is often a slow and arduous process but necessary.

"This is the fourth container we have sent down over the years: mattresses, clothing, school supplies, household items, plastic tarps for when we have these hurricanes, cleaning items, statues and religious items, stations of the cross and some

foodstuffs," Sister Minter told CNS by phone.

"The hospital in Les Cayes will need to get replenished, but there will be a time when the big aid agencies stop -- for example, how much are you hearing about Haiti with the Afghanistan situation?"

By Aug. 23, the quake's death toll was more than 2,200, with more than 6,000 reported injured. An estimated 53,000 homes were completely destroyed in the quake, with about 77,000 more damaged, according to the BBC.

The U.S. Army is preparing to set up a field hospital in Les Cayes. The USS Arlington arrived in Haiti carrying helicopters, a surgical team and a landing

craft to assist in the relief effort. Several countries, including the United States, have already dispatched aid and rescue teams.

Sister Borko said it is ironic that her community came to Haiti following the 2010 earthquake and that now, after so many years, the country is probably in a worse condition today than at that time, due to its ongoing political and economic crisis and the July assassination of Haiti's president.

"Once we had a meeting at which people shared who was kidnapped from their families, and four of the eight people had someone kidnapped in their families -- including one kidnapping that was for a pair of shoes," Sister Borko said.

In traveling to the U.S. and in order to avoid the dangerous roads connecting Haiti's capital to the southern part of the country, the nuns said they managed to charter a small plane from Jacmel directly to Port-au-Prince before flying to New Jersey Aug. 18.

The Felician Sisters based in Jacmel organize reading and computer literacy and other job training and religious educational

programs, as well as a mobile health clinic serving the region.

When the country's political situation settles down, they plan to open a bakery in Jacmel to provide jobs and income for local residents, said Marcia Wallander, chief of mission for the Felician Sisters in New Jersey.

Meanwhile, the sisters will use their time in the U.S. to fundraise and gather supplies for their activities in Haiti.

"It is so complicated to ship to Port-au-Prince," Wallander told CNS.

"The sisters go to the port to pick up the barrels," and sometimes they have to negotiate to get the shipment, she said. "They know how to work within the community and have a ministry of presence, living and working like the people."

Founded in Poland in 1855, the first Felician Sisters arrived in North America in 1874 to minister to the immigrant and indigenous families of Polonia, Wisconsin. They established eight provinces across the United States and Canada.

## U.S. Catholics urged to give to efforts helping Haitians recover from quake

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked bishops across the country to take up a voluntary collection to help Haiti recover from a recent pair of natural disasters.

Saying that Haitians are likely to experience continuing hardships from an Aug. 14 earthquake and a tropical storm that swept through the ravaged southwestern part of the country days later, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles made the request in a letter to bishops. The magnitude 7.2 earthquake devastated communities in southwestern Haiti. Nearly 2,200 people died, more than 12,000 were injured, and hundreds more were missing Aug. 20.

To respond as a unified Church, a special collection

will be taken in September for the humanitarian, longterm recovery, and significant Church needs arising from these calamities.

The funds collected in this special appeal will be used in response to the earthquake and Tropical Storm Grace calamities in Haiti and any other disasters that occur and will be distributed where they are most needed.

May Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patroness of Haiti, intercede and provide for the needs of the people and the Church in Haiti.

*Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help,  
pray for us*

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

Psalm 146: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for September 5

## Eucharistic renewal is already an ongoing movement

By *Hosffman Ospino*  
Catholic News Service

U.S. Catholics are engaged in a most fascinating conversation about the Eucharist. The entry points into this conversation, particularly during the past 20 years, are well known.

Some are clear pastoral concerns: surveys showing that a sizable sector of Catholics does not believe in the Real Presence or simply does not understand this faith tenet; the dwindling number of Catholics attending Sunday Mass.

Others are somewhat controversial: proposals to withhold Communion from certain political leaders; diverging philosophies about translating liturgical prayers and lectionaries; the place of the Latin Mass in a post-Vatican II church -- and the seemingly paradoxical papal "motu proprio" on the topic.

Some are more positive: the resurgence of eucharistic adoration among Catholic youth;



**EUCCHARISTIC RENEWAL.** A priest elevates the host during a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City in 2020. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

the widespread eucharistic devotional practices popular among immigrant Catholics.

Anyone claiming that Catholics in the United States are uninterested in the Eucharist or that the topic is entirely absent from our shared religious imagination may find a difficult time building a credible case.

Plenty of evidence points to the contrary.

During the last two decades, a world of resources has emerged to address questions associated with the Eucharist: books, articles, dissertations, documentaries, internet videos, catechetical resources, homilies, pastoral letters, conferences,

heated social media interactions, blogs, self-proclaimed pundits, and yes the occasional heretical position, among others.

Together these resources and conversations reveal an interesting reality: American Catholics are a de facto eucharistically engaged community. Of course, some more than others.

The eucharistic enthusiasm, or at the very least curiosity and opinion, transcends the strictly religious world. Secular media outlets -- including The New York Times, The Associated Press, Reuters, The Wall Street Journal, NPR, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News and others -- often provide space to cover Catholic conversations related to the Eucharist.

Efforts by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to spark further interest in the Eucharist will likely yield the desired fruits. The key is that the bishops and all Catholics remain focused on the larger picture, historically and pastorally.

Whether declaring a eucharistic jubilee time, inviting

into further eucharistic renewal, promoting more catechesis about the Eucharist, or producing documents that invite further reflection, the Catholic bishops are weighing into an already ongoing conversation. As indicated earlier, conversations about the Eucharist during the past two decades have been abundant.

The above entry points into ongoing reflections about the Eucharist call for prayerful discernment. Discernment requires humility. It takes time and dialogue to understand the nuances and realities that accompany each of these points.

The Holy Spirit seems to be telling us something about the Eucharist in our days. The entire Catholic community, in communion with our bishops, must listen. Listening is at the heart of the synodal approach to which Pope Francis has invited our church. We must create spaces to listen together to the word of God and listen to one another in mutual consultation.

## Divorce and the Eucharist / Long-haired priest

**Q.** For the past year, I have been striving for a stronger Catholic faith. (Before, I guess I would say that I was a lukewarm Catholic.) I was married in a Methodist church and divorced 30 years ago through no fault of my own.

I have always received holy Communion. Is this wrong? (I have been reading different Catholic opinions.) (St. Clairsville, Ohio)

**A.** For the purpose of this answer, I am going to assume that you never received the Catholic Church's permission to marry in the Methodist church.

(The possibility does exist, of course, that you might have received the necessary dispensation to be married in a Methodist ceremony, especially if you were marrying a Methodist, but since you did not mention that, I am going to assume that



### Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

your marriage took place without Catholic permission.)

If that is the case, that marriage would have violated Catholic teaching and would therefore have required either that you had the marriage "convalidated" in the Catholic Church or that you receive absolution in the sacrament of confession once that marriage had broken up.

If you did in fact confess this, then you have been correct in receiving holy Communion in the Catholic Church.

If, instead, you never confessed this, all you would

need to do now is to make a worthy confession; then, going forward, you would be eligible to take Communion in the Catholic Church.

**Q.** A few years ago, our pastor who was in his 70's retired and was replaced by a priest in his 30's. At the time, our new priest was clean-cut, with short hair and no beard.

Shortly after arriving, though, he appeared to quit grooming and let his hair and beard grow, and they've been growing ever since. Now his hair is way over his ears and down his back, and his beard

is to his waist.

We all assumed that this was some kind of anti-COVID-19 measure, but COVID-19 has vanished from our parish and things are back to normal.

Could this be some sort of vow of poverty? (The priest avoids questions about his grooming, but it has become a distraction at Mass.) (City and state withheld)

**A.** As to your question whether this priest's long hair represents a vow of poverty, I doubt that this is the case -- but the only sure route is to ask the priest himself.

You probably know that there is no present church disciplinary regulation that forbids priests from having beards or long hair, so your priest is on a safe canonical path.

The former Code of Canon Law (in 1917) did require clerics to have a simple hairstyle but did

not specifically forbid beards; and the current code (issued in 1983) specifies that clerics are to wear suitable ecclesiastical garb but makes no mention of hair or beards.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, popes were frequently bearded, but since that time there has been no bearded pope. Some notable saints wore beards, including Ignatius of Loyola, Francis de Sales, and Philip Neri.

I guess my advice to you would be to set aside your own preference as to this priest's appearance and just be grateful, especially during the current shortage of priests, that there is one to serve your parish.

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



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Visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)  
for updated COVID-19  
information and resources  
for our diocese.

## Diocese of Alexandria seminarians

The Diocese of Alexandria is proud to support our seminarians!

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

begin or continue their formation to priesthood. Thank you for your support of these men through the Suppers with the Seminarians.

Please pray for our seminarians,

and continue to pray for more men and women within our diocese to courageously respond to God's call to priesthood and religious life.



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



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



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



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



**Blaine Phillips**  
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**Jacob Cass**  
from St. Joseph  
Church,  
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**Gabriel Dowden**  
from Minor Basilica  
of the Immaculate  
Conception,  
Natchitoches

## Louisiana eucharistic boat procession celebrates faith, family, tradition

LAFAYETTE, La. (CNS) -- The annual Fête-Dieu du Teche in the Diocese of Lafayette is a "time for all of us to renew our faith," following the example of the first Acadians who were "led by their faith" when they came to Louisiana, said Lafayette Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel.

The 40-mile eucharistic procession by boat and on foot along the Bayou Teche is now in its seventh year, always taking place on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Aug. 15.

This year's procession marked the 256th anniversary of the arrival of the Acadians. Persecuted for being Catholic, they were driven from what is now Nova Scotia and sent into exile. Many ended up settling in Louisiana.

They "were the first examples of ethnic cleansing in the New World when they were forced to leave their homes and go into exile because of their Catholic faith at the end of the French and Indian War," Bishop Deshotel said in remarks ahead of this year's Fête-Dieu du Teche.

"A large number of them found their homes in South Louisiana, which was Catholic and French," he said. "Many settlements were established along the Teche river where they built churches, homes and a new life."

"Just as they were led by their faith in Jesus the bread of life and in Mary the mother of Jesus, it



**EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION FÊTE-DIEU-DU-TECHE.** Seminarians accompany a statue on the St. Joseph boat Aug. 15, 2020, near Arnaudville, La., as part of the Fete-Dieu du Teche procession during its first stop at St. Francis Regis Church on Bayou Teche in Arnaudville. The Lafayette Diocese held its seventh annual 40-mile eucharistic boat procession Aug. 15, 2021, to celebrate the feast of the Assumption and to pray for "the sanctification and unification of families." (CNS photo/courtesy Chris Lancon)

is time for all of us to renew our faith," he said.

The bishop prayed the faith of today's Louisianans will "be strengthened," as was the Acadians' faith, "in Jesus, the way, the truth and the life. May we put ourselves under the protection of his Immaculate Mother, who is patroness of the Americas."

Fête-Dieu du Teche began with an 8:00 a.m. Mass celebrated in French by Bishop Deshotel at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in Leonville. Following the Mass there was a procession with the Blessed Sacrament and a statue of Mary and St. Joseph to the nearby

boat landing. Families joined the procession and followed it to the boat landing for Benediction.

The Blessed Sacrament was fixed on an altar on the lead boat under a canopy. Another boat carried the statue of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

At 9:30 a.m. boats departed in procession down the Teche toward St. Martinville, retracing the voyage made by the Acadians 256 years ago. Bayou residents were encouraged to gather as a family and greet the Blessed Sacrament as it passed near their home.

The boat procession stopped at churches in the towns along the Teche for the rosary and Benediction.

The final stop was St. Martinville, where participants disembarked and processed to Notre Dame de Perpetual Secours for Benediction, then to St. Martin de Tours for benediction, and finally to Mater Dolorosa Chapel for solemn vespers and Benediction.

Confessions were heard in mobile units at each of the stops along the way.

In addition to those joining the eucharistic procession by boat, others travelled by car and gathered along the banks of the Bayou Teche.

Father Michael Champagne, a priest of the Community of Jesus Crucified in St. Martinville, who is the organizer of the daylong event, said that "having a boat procession with the Blessed Sacrament and a statue of the Assumption involving priests, religious and laity is basically what happened in 1765."

"In order to serve the Acadian settlers in the Attakapas district, Father Jean-Louis de Civrey accompanied the Acadians on their journey down the Bayou Teche," which is a 125-mile-long waterway in south-central Louisiana.

"Having the Catholic priest accompany the Acadians on their journey to Acadiana is indicative of our ancestors' great allegiance to their Catholic faith, especially

the Eucharist and Our Lady," added the priest.

Among those who have participated in the annual procession is Bishop Glen J. Provost of Lake Charles, Louisiana, who called it "a joyful celebration of the presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the lives of his faithful followers."

"I recall with great fondness my participation in the procession, surrounded by thousands of men, women and children, reaffirming our faith in the Eucharist, which is our Lord's special gift," he remarked. "What a transcendent moment! How privileged we are to express our faith in this way!"

Sister Marie-Thérèse, a member of the Community of Jesus Crucified, which was founded in the Lafayette Diocese, said she received the grace of her vocation the day she attended the first eucharistic boat procession.

"Fête-Dieu du Teche 2015 was a day that seriously affected my vocation," she recalled. "Being a part of a day so centered on Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and his most Blessed Mother on the feast of the Assumption rocked my world."

The Fête is such a visible, public manifestation of the faith," she added, "but a lot goes on in the secret recesses of the heart during that grace-filled day."

More information can be found online at <https://www.jesuscrucified.net> or [www.facebook.com/CommunityofJesusCrucified](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityofJesusCrucified).

## Why study the Bible?

By Lisa Bromschwig  
Ascension Press

St. Jerome once said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

God has given us so many wonderful gifts. As Catholic Christians, the Holy Bible is one of these treasured assets. While we hear the Word proclaimed at every Mass, we must also take the Bible off the coffee table or shelf in our home and read it daily for it to have a greater impact on our lives. In the Bible, God comes to meet us and talk with us about why we were created and how much he loves us. He communicates how he wants us to live in harmony with him and with each other. Reading and studying Sacred Scripture with an openness to what God wants to say to us in the story of our salvation can be a fulfilling endeavor. Passing this story on to younger generations can be even more rewarding. Try reading the Bible aloud to your children and teenagers.

### What does the Bible say about children and Bible study?

Plenty! We are to encourage our families to learn the story of our salvation history and how and



why we live our faith. We need to teach our children how much God loves them as we model this love to each other. For example, here are a couple of Scripture passages:

*"And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*

- Deuteronomy 6:6-9

*"But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"*

Matthew 19:14

What does the Catholic Church say about children and Bible study? Again, plenty! The Church is our family, the bride of Jesus Christ, and God has promised that the "gates of hell" will not prevail against her. Here are some excerpts from

the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*"The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body. In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, 'but as what it really is, the word of God.'" "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them."*

- Catechism of the Catholic Church 103-104

*"Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith..."*

- Catechism of the Catholic Church 2226

These are just a few reasons to read, share, and meditate on the Sacred Scriptures. Why not make a daily habit of it?

### Correction

The article in last month's issue of the Church Today listed the website for Manna House as [givetomannahouse.org](http://givetomannahouse.org). The correct website address is [givetomannahouse.com](http://givetomannahouse.com). We apologize for any confusion.

### 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.



**DIAPERS FOR HAITI.** With the help of a number of ladies, a local group has made hundreds of diapers over the past three years. The diapers are sent to the Sisters of Charity Intermediate Care Facility in Kobonal, Haiti. Sister James, Mother Superior at Missionaries of Charity in Haiti, has been extremely grateful for the diapers being made and sent. According to Sheri Strange, the process is long and takes months from the time the homemade diapers are shipped until they are received by the Missionaries of Charity.

Mission groups have not been able to travel to the area due to the political unrest in the country, as well as the recent natural disasters. Communication is also difficult due to lack of technology and resources in the country.

Diapers are made from donated t-shirts with small, medium, and large templates available.

Anyone interested in making these diapers can view the tutorial videos at <http://pages.suddenlink.net/stranges/diapersforhaiti>, or email [diapersforhaiti@outlook.com](mailto:diapersforhaiti@outlook.com). The group is still producing diapers to send to Haiti, and are always in need of anyone who may be interested in helping!

## Ascension's breakout The Bible in a Year podcast is now available to the world's two billion YouTube users



The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz) featuring Jeff Cavins is now available on Ascension Presents, the largest Catholic YouTube channel in the world in English, with more than 550,000 subscribers and more than 77 million views.

With this development, Ascension breaks through accessibility barriers in auditory media, bringing the Bible to those who need or prefer a visual option. Each YouTube episode features the full text of the correlating Bible in a Year podcast episode, carefully edited with large, clear font which viewers can easily pause, re-play, or adjust the speed as needed.

The comment sections on Ascension Presents overflow with enthusiasm and gratitude for the new offering, such as this comment from viewer "Kristen":

"As someone with a severe hearing impairment... having

closed captioning is wonderful. I have tried reading the Bible many times in the past, but I would give up because I had so many questions or didn't understand what the Scriptures were trying to teach me. I am so looking forward to doing this every day."

In 2021, Ascension reintroduced the Bible to Catholics with The Bible in a Year podcast. The show saw explosive popularity, shooting to the number one position on the Apple Podcast chart in all categories within two days of its launch. It held that position for most of January, ahead of successful long-running shows from the New York Times and NPR.

Midway through The Bible in a Year, Ascension reports 100 million cumulative downloads, making it the number one podcast in religion and spirituality from January through June.

The Bible in a Year has affected the lives of listeners from all over the world. Annie Ignatius, another Ascension Presents viewer, comments:

"Dear Fr. Mike. I'm from Malaysia. I just started my Bible Day 1 today. Thank you so much for reading and reflection. God bless you and your team in bringing this gift of life, the Word of God to all of us."

Ascension's YouTube channel Ascension Presents was founded in 2015 with the goal of presenting the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith through media, and to answer the longings of the human hearts with the transformative power of the Gospel through fun and informative videos about Catholic living.

The channel's first video with Fr. Mike Schmitz was called "Bromance, Pizza, and Your Mom" and was posted on April 1, 2015.

Ascension is the leader in Catholic faith formation and digital content. Over the past 20 years, Ascension has helped nurture the faith of more than 10 million people in 8,000 parishes through their books, Bibles, faith formation programs, chart-topping podcasts, social media, and the Ascension Presents YouTube channel. The company has 60 employees and is based in Exton, Pennsylvania.

### 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."

### 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.

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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.



**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)
- Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard
- 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 Candiotta, 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 .....	1,550.00
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 Kwaitaal .....	850.00
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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 .....	965.00
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
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Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer .....	1,350.00
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Father Vernon Bordelon .....	445.00
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Father Wilbur G. Cloutier .....	3,690.50
Father Daniel Cook .....	2,500.00
Father Daniel Corkery .....	10,300.00
Father Anthony N. Cumella .....	1,250.00
Father John H. Cunningham .....	1,475.00
Father Dennis A. Curren .....	750.00
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 .....	1,050.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier .....	1,475.00
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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
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Father W. John Kiley .....	625.00
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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: ..... 657,887.17**



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*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.

**HOLY FATHER'S  
PRAYER INTENTIONS  
for September 2021**

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<b>Mr. and Mrs. Siltan Innerarity</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Rusty Rabalais Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Marion French</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
<b>Mrs. Barbara Rigby</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller</b> .....	<b>\$200.00</b>
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Ms. Ingrid Cannella</b> .....	<b>\$200.00</b>
Seminarian Matthew Bonner Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$600.00</b>

*Prayer for Vocations*

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

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

**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. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville Established 1946

A mission station in Leesville was served by the pastor of St. John the Baptist in Many as early as 1897. The station was first listed in the Catholic Directory in 1913.

Fr. Quirinius Vanderburg built a new chapel for Leesville in 1913. It was blessed and dedicated in honor of St. Michael by Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven on April 26, 1914.

Bishop Charles P. Greco officially established the parish with 29 Catholic families on October 18, 1946 with Fr. Dennis Curran acting as administrator. Fr. Francis Joseph Rateau was assigned as the first resident pastor in 1947.

In 1948, additional property was purchased next to the church and a convent was built for the Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 1951, a new school and hall



were constructed. The school was dedicated on October 28, 1951 and closed in 1967.

The church was extensively renovated by Fr. Henry Beckers in 1964. The old convent was torn down in 1970 and a large new parking lot was built. A larger parish hall and multi-purpose building was constructed and in 1975, renovations to the existing rectory were completed.

In 2005, ground was broken for a new parish church to be built on the site of the old structure under the direction of Fr. Kenneth Michiels. The beautiful new church, which incorporates architectural elements from the old building, was blessed by Bishop Ronald Herzog in 2007. The parish has grown to serve over 400 families in western Louisiana.

### Did you know?

Saint Michael, one of the three archangels, the only angels named in the Bible, is the "Prince of the Heavenly Host," the leader of all the angels. His name is Hebrew for "Who is like God?"

He is mentioned four times in the Bible: in the book of Daniel, chapters 10 and 12; in the letter of Jude, and in the book of Revelation.

Pope Leo XIII, in 1899, having had a prophetic vision of the evil that would be inflicted upon the Church and the world in the 20th century, instituted a prayer asking for St. Michael's protection to be prayed at the end of every Mass.

The feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels, is celebrated September 29.

*Saint Michael, the Archangel,  
pray for us*

### Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,  
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil;  
may God rebuke him, we humbly pray;  
and, do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God,  
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits  
who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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*I will walk  
before the  
Lord, in the  
land of the  
living.*

Psalm 116: 9  
Responsorial Psalm  
for September 12

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## 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

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 Breville on Facebook  
**Mary, Mother of Jesus Church**, Woodworth  
on Facebook or YouTube

11:30 a.m. **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Pineville  
on Facebook or YouTube

### Monday - Friday

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"; Wed.)

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

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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

## Diocesan Catholic schools welcome new principals



**Jason Lachica**  
St. Mary's Catholic School,  
Natchitoches



**Joel Deselle**  
St. Anthony of Padua,  
Bunkie



**Blaine Dauzat**  
St. Mary's Assumption,  
Cottonport

### *a message from the Catholic Schools Office*

Reflecting back to last year, we endured an unprecedented time in the world, our country, and our diocese.

We adapted to changes in how we teach, we learned ways to prevent the spread of COVID, and our faith was strengthened in troubling times. Our faith has guided us to trust firmly in Jesus to lead us through this pandemic.

We now have a rare opportunity to witness how the family adapts, to appreciate what was, and to be a part of creatively finding new ways to move forward with faith that better days are ahead, knowing that our youth look to us as parents and teachers as examples of how to endure with the grace and mercy of God.

We appreciate you parents, grandparents, and guardians! We think of your struggles as you

address changes at work, home, and now trying to educate your children at home. We pray for all - children, parents, and teachers - that they may endure and may continue to choose a Catholic education in the years to come.

The best education that parents and teachers can give our children is to model our faith.

Be not afraid. God's graces in times of challenge are truly life changing. While this pandemic will eventually subside, we all will have powerful new graces - gifts of the spirit and of wisdom to carry us into a bright new future for Catholic education.

Let us continue with open communication, respect, and focus on our mission to teach as Jesus taught.

### BRUMFIELD vs DODD POLICY.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the following statement is published:

#### DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA NON-DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL POLICY

August, 2021

The Diocese of Alexandria School System re-affirms its non-discriminatory policy on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in its educational programs, activities and employment policies in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Sections 4.03(a) and 4.03 (c) Revenue Procedure 75-50.

All students, faculty members and staff, without exception, are admitted to all rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available at the schools which do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its employment policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

- Sacred Heart School, Moreauville
- St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie
- St. Joseph Elementary and High, Plaquemine
- St. Mary Assumption School, Cottonport
- St. Mary's Elementary and High, Natchitoches
- Holy Savior Menard Central High, Alexandria
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria
- St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria

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



**CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER, EVERGREEN.** Bishop Marshall visited the Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen on Aug. 8. Pictured with Bishop Marshall is Father Ramji Shoury, pastor and the parishioners of Church of the Little Flower.



**ST. CHARLES CHAPEL, GOUDEAU.** Bishop Marshall also visited St. Charles Chapel in Goudeau, on August 8. Pictured with Bishop is Fr. Ramji Shoury, pastor and the parishioners of St. Charles Chapel.



**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT.** Bishop traveled to Cottonport on Sunday, Aug. 15 to celebrate the parish feast day with the community of St. Mary's Assumption Church. Father John Wiltse and all of the parishioners provided a joyful celebration of Mass. Altar servers, Brees and River Vasquez, are pictured above with Bishop Marshall.



**ST. JUDE CHURCH, SIEPER.** Bishop celebrated Mass with the people of St. Jude Church in Sieper, joined by parishioners from St. Louis Church in Glenmora and St. Peter Church in Elmer. Bishop thanks Father Kenneth Obiekwe, pastor of the three churches, and all who gathered for their warm welcome and hospitality.



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA.** St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA. hosted the traditional blessing of herbs and fruit on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Father Taylor Reynolds then blessed the students of the parish, along with rosaries and medals to go in their backpacks. Tradition says that after Mary's death, the apostles visited her tomb to find her body gone, but the tomb filled with sweet herbs.



**MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NATCHITOCHE.** Bishop Marshall began the celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Aug. 14. Father Blake Deshautelle concelebrated, Father Derek Ducote assisted as M.C., and an amazing team of altar servers assisted!



**NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CAMPTI.** Bishop Marshall celebrated the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Campti. The parishioners were joined by those of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Black Lake, and St. Joseph Church in Trichel. Thank you to Father Gus "Dutch" Voltz, Deacon Tommy Robichaux, and all of the wonderful parishioners for a beautiful celebration and kind hospitality.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.** John Morovich, Knights of Columbus Council #1134, presented a check to the Catholic Schools Office. Pictured above are Thomas Roque, Sr., superintendent of Catholic Schools; John Morovich; Bishop Robert Marshall; Deacon Richard Mitchell, director of stewardship.



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE NEW SCHOOL PERSONNEL MEETING.** The Catholic Schools Office held their annual new personnel meeting at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria on Aug. 3. Those attending were new educators and staff from our schools in the diocese. Superintendent, Thomas Roque, Sr., led the meeting.



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE MEETING.** Superintendent Thomas Roque, Sr., together with Curriculum Specialists Janet Burgess and Slyvia Davis, pose with consultants from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Ingrid Fields, Tamika Duroncelay, and Gavin Lewis.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE.** Sacred Heart School in Moreauville celebrated its first day of classes. Pictured to the left are Students Margot and Fitz Freeman taking their temperature before school; Mrs. Amy Lemoine with student, Donovan Jenkins; and, above, Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, OLS Principal with Father Brian Seiler, pastor, and Mr. Nathan Laborde, Assistant Principal.



**LSU-ALEXANDRIA CATHOLIC STUDENT ORGANIZATION.** Catholic students and staff celebrated Mass with Bishop Marshall in the Ballroom at LSU-Alexandria campus on Aug. 25, as part of the campus' Weeks of Welcome.

and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with boldness...

*acts 4: 31*

# Pope encourages people to rediscover importance of Sunday liturgy

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis encouraged new courses of action for parishes to help people understand the importance of Sunday Mass and parish ministries, a top Vatican official wrote in a message.

The message was sent on behalf of the pope Aug. 23 to the 71st National Liturgical Week, by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state. The meeting, held Aug. 23-26 in the Italian city of Cremona, brought together pastoral workers, religious and priests to discuss ways to encourage the faithful to attend the Sunday liturgy and participate in other liturgical celebrations, rites and the sacraments.

In the written message, the cardinal said the pandemic and its restrictions, which had prevented the faithful from gathering like before, underlined the importance of the liturgy in Christian life.

But, what happened during the pandemic and the difficulty in resuming liturgical activities, he wrote, "confirmed what was already observed at Sunday assemblies on the Italian peninsula, an alarming indication of the advanced stage of an epochal change."

It had been noticed, even long before the pandemic, there has been a shift in how people perceive "time" and "space," which has had repercussions on the meaning of Sunday for most people and how most people experience community and the family, he said.

For this reason, he wrote, the Sunday liturgy, which should be "the true summit" of all



23 AGOSTO 2021

Lunedì della XXI settimana del Tempo Ordinario

**71st NATIONAL LITURGICAL WEEK.** The cover of the program for the Aug. 23, 2021, for the 71st National Liturgical Week in Cremona, Italy is shown above. In a message prepared on behalf of Pope Francis for the gathering, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, reflected on how the COVID-19 pandemic confirmed changes previously underway in people's understanding and participation in Sunday Mass. (CNS photo/71st National Liturgical Week)

parish activities and the source of energy for missionary life, is "off-balanced," in terms of which age groups normally attend, and in terms of the "difficulty in finding a harmonious integration in parish life."

Cardinal Parolin wrote,

"the Holy Father hopes that the National Liturgical Week, with its proposals for reflection and moments of celebration... may identify and suggest some liturgical pastoral care guidelines to offer parishes, so that Sunday, the eucharistic assembly, ministries and the rites may emerge from the margins, from which they seem inexorably to be falling, and regain their centrality in the faith and spirituality of believers."

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## How to join R.C.I.A.

*By Claire Couche  
Blessed is She Ministry*

I love the Catholic Faith. I love the richness of its history and the courage of its Saints. There are so many inspiring stories of men and women who have accomplished great things and embody the spirit of beauty, truth, and goodness. Some of my favorite Saints are those who experience the deep call from Christ later in life through the gift of conversion.

I recently watched the new movie *Paul, Apostle of Christ* and was struck by the beauty of his conversion experience. I wept as I watched the courage, humility, and bravery of St. Paul as he transformed into Christ's disciple. We are all called to have moments of "daily conversion," where we draw closer to Christ in our everyday moments. Yet some people are invited by Christ in a very special way to enter into full communion with the Church, much like St. Paul.



### **How to join the Catholic Church**

My dear friend, Father Sam Giangreco, recently sat down with me to explain the process of the RCIA. RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—a beautiful process for men and women to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Father Sam is an incredible priest who consistently shows me the beauty of the mercy and love of God. If you're wondering how to join the Catholic Church, start

with the information from our conversation below.

#### **What is R.C.I.A.?**

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process that engages prospective converts to Catholicism who are beyond the age of reason (older than seven years, but often older than 18). It is designed specifically for those who are unbaptized, but often and legitimately used for those who are baptized (Catholic or non-Catholic), but un-catechized.

For example, some RCIA

candidates were baptized Catholic, but were never raised in the Faith. Other candidates may be baptized non-Catholic Christian and never catechized as a Catholic. For those who have been baptized Catholic and raised in the Faith at home, through religious education, or Catholic schooling, a Confirmation program may be a more fitting program.

#### **What does the process look like?**

Often, the RCIA program is organized and run by lay members of a parish and overseen by its pastor. The RCIA team members (those who run the program) and candidates (those wishing to become Catholic and/or fully initiated) typically gather in a room around a table on the parish grounds.

These are usually weekly

meetings that begin late summer or fall, and conclude at or shortly after Easter Sunday. Each meeting will involve a different lesson about the Catholic Faith.

During the Season of Lent, in the few weeks before the Easter Vigil Mass, candidates undergo what are called "scrutinies." It's a scary word, but it simply involves the candidate making a progressively deeper commitment to the Faith that they are about to profess.

It does not involve any type of speech, but simply standing before the congregation at a Sunday Mass for a brief moment as the priest recites a few prayers on your behalf and asks you to affirm your decision with very simple responses.

#### **How do I join?**

If a person who wishes to become Catholic, or fully initiated (i.e., Confirmed), the first thing they should do is to call their local Catholic parish.

Often, parishes already have their own RCIA programs. If your parish doesn't, they should easily be able to direct you to a neighboring parish to enroll. Sometimes, the pastor may even be willing to tutor candidates if there isn't a nearby RCIA program. Joining RCIA requires effort, especially (and unfortunately) if a parish does not call you back or "leaves you hanging," waiting for them to direct you to a nearby program.

Please do not be discouraged; just move forward and find another Catholic parish.

#### **What if I enroll, but then realize I'm not ready to join the Catholic Church?**

It is not uncommon that candidates enroll in the program, attend a session or two, and drop out. There is no pressure to remain in the program. The RCIA team is usually seasoned enough to respect and expect all persons

who approach the RCIA program.

#### **What happens after R.C.I.A.?**

If you have remained in the RCIA through Easter, it should be a time of great joy, because you have learned, prayed, and grown a lot in the Faith. Depending on which Sacraments you have yet to celebrate, you might receive Baptism, profess your faith in the Catholic Church, be Confirmed, and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil Mass, which is the evening Mass prior to Easter Sunday morning.

#### **What do I do now?**

Many RCIA programs start in this month of August. If it has been pressed upon your heart to learn more about the Catholic Church—and if you have a desire to join the Catholic Church—let this month be the time!

Know of our daily prayers for you during this special time of discernment, prayer, and growth. The RCIA program will help you to practice your faith and use the gifts God has given you. You have an important place, you have a home, within the Catholic Church.

Are you hoping to join the Catholic Church? What questions do you have about RCIA? Feel free to contact us at [www.diocesealex.org/come-to-the-table-contact-form/](http://www.diocesealex.org/come-to-the-table-contact-form/). There are no stupid questions! We would love to help!

### **Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions**

**Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.**

St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd.,  
ALEXANDRIA

**Thursday, September 16, 6:00 p.m.**

Sacred Heart Church (Church Hall), MOREAUVILLE

NOTE: 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.

Find additional resources at  
[www.diocesealex.org/come-to-the-table](http://www.diocesealex.org/come-to-the-table), including:

- How to find a church parish near you
- How to find Mass times at churches near you
- Divorce and annulments in the Catholic Church



### **Upcoming Retreats**

• September 23-26

**St. Alphonsus Women's ACTS**  
Visit [www.stmaryscottonport.com](http://www.stmaryscottonport.com)

• September 30 - October 3

**St. Mary's Assumption Women's ACTS**  
Visit [www.stmaryscottonport.com](http://www.stmaryscottonport.com)

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

Spotlight  
on the Saints //

St. Vincent Strambi was born in Italy in 1745. He became a priest, joined the Passionists in 1768 and became bishop of Macerata, Italy, in 1801.

He reformed his diocese and fostered a renewal of worship. He also took care of his priests by building a seminary that hired gifted teachers.

He was forced into exile in 1808 after refusing to swear allegiance to Napoleon. When Napoleon abdicated in 1814, Vincent returned to Macerata, where he continued his reforms. He also helped people during a famine and a typhoid epidemic.

He died in 1824, and we remember him on September 25.

Saint  
Vincent Strambi  
*Pray for us*



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The Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in my heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written on my Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace; nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Excerpt from "Secrets of the Sacred Heart" by Emily Jaminet  
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## Opportunities for group travel pilgrimages to several destinations

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - September 14-23, 2021

Join us for a journey of a lifetime on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Scriptures will come alive as you visit Our Lord's homeland. It is an encounter that has changed the lives of many pilgrims, and it is an act of faith and prayer. Your spiritual director for this trip is Fr. John Wiltse, pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport. For more information, call 337-291-1933 or visit [www.holytravels.org/tour/stmaryscottonport](http://www.holytravels.org/tour/stmaryscottonport).

### Pilgrimage to France - October 1-11, 2021

FRANCE PLUS FATIMA The pilgrimage with Fr. Martin Laird to Lourdes, France has been rescheduled to October 1-11, 2021. In Lourdes, experience the Grotto and Way of the Cross, and visit the Basilica of St. Therese in Lisieux. In Paris, see Sacre Coeur and the Miraculous Medal Chapel, as well as cruise down the Seine River. PLUS: an extra day in Fatima for no extra cost! Request more information by calling 337-291-1933 or visit [www.holytravels.org/materdolorosa](http://www.holytravels.org/materdolorosa).

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“A pilgrimage evokes the believer’s personal journey in the footsteps of the Redeemer; it is an exercise of practical asceticism, of repentance for human weaknesses, of constant vigilance over one’s own frailty, of interior preparation for a change of heart. Through vigils, fasting and prayer, the pilgrim progresses along the path of Christian perfection, striving to attain, with the support of God’s grace, “the state of the perfect man, to the measure of the full maturity of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).”

John Paul II, Jubilee Year 2000

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

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Saint James,  
patron of pilgrims  
*pray for us*

*The Lord upholds my life.*

Psalm 54: 6  
Responsorial Psalm  
for September 19

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by Pamela Deshotel

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## Let the children pray for the napkins

By Laura Wifler

We've all been there. The family sits around the table, the food hot and ready to eat, and we ask, "Would anyone like to pray?" A kiddo's hand shoots eagerly into the air. "Me! Me!" they yell. Grateful and relieved our question wasn't answered with silence and avoidance of eye contact, we smile and nod, "Go ahead!" we reply. Everyone closes their eyes and clasps their hands. "Dear Lord, thank you for mommy, and daddy, and the table, and the lamp, and the potatoes, and the bowl, and the napkins..."

The first time (and particularly with our first child) this is adorable. We peek at our spouse and smile. It's no big deal. I mean, we are grateful for all those things. But then this habit of naming everything in sight during prayer continues. For a few days it goes on, then weeks, maybe even on and off for years. Our other children do it too and we begin to wonder: Is this really okay? Do our children mean these prayers at all? Is letting this go on somehow sacrilegious?

As a mom to three young children, I know firsthand that praying with kids is always... an adventure. Before having children, I thought prayer was rather simple and straightforward. Prayer is just talking with God, right? Yet in parenting, we're often faced with all sorts of new questions about what prayer actually is. You start to wonder what's okay, and what's not when approaching a holy God. Do we correct our children if things feel irreverent? What does it look like to teach our children how to pray? What felt like a straightforward practice starts to feel complicated.

In one sense, prayer is developed informally in a child's life. A natural product of any



believer filled with the Holy Spirit is that they will know how to pray, when to pray, what to pray for, and overall they will want to pray (Romans 8:15,16, and 26). Just like us, prayer will be something they naturally grow in. Over time they'll realize there are many other ways to pray beyond rattling off a list of the things they see in front of them. Through being around other believers, involved in a church family, reading prayers in scripture—and particularly by watching you—they will see that prayer is so much more than a mindless list. I've taken great comfort as a mom that I can trust that the same Holy Spirit that works in my life, will work in my children's, to

grow and mature them out of rote, juvenile, or disingenuous prayers.

Yet in another sense, we can and should teach our children about what prayer is. Deuteronomy 6 reminds us that we're to consistently teach our children what it means to follow the Lord and walk in his ways. In Matthew 28, Jesus charges us to "go and make disciples," which includes the children in our own home. Part of raising children as a Christian parent is both formally and informally training them in

the way of wisdom and the fear of the Lord. This means that as our children grow up, we take time to explain and unpack what we mean by prayer as "talking with God."

Practically in our home, this has generally meant that we let our children pray for the napkins. We allow them to pray silly prayers or prayers that seem a bit irreverent, knowing it's age-appropriate. The last thing we want to do is make our children feel self-conscious about their prayers. Instead of giving our kids a bunch of boundaries before they start to pray, or correcting them immediately after the fact, we let them pray however they will in the moment, trusting that God knows, understands, and loves the hearts of children.

Yet we take other moments, moments outside of formal times of prayer for our family, to explain and study prayer. Here are a few ways you can do this in your home:

Talk about how prayer is to be genuine and thoughtful communication with God. We can speak to God as we might speak with a friend, or to mom and dad, sharing the things we care about, are worried about, or are afraid of.

Talk about how God is interested in our real lives and cares—even though he knows it all, he wants to hear us share it with him.

Take time to memorize passages of scripture as a family to give your children a language for prayer. As parents, we can trust that by storing up God's word within our children, they "will understand the fear of the

Lord and discover the knowledge of God," (Proverbs 2:5) which will include a maturity in prayer.

Take a few weeks to study the Lord's prayer found in Matthew 6.

I think all of us would say that our children are typically more perceptive than they seem. This means the best thing we can do as parents is to simply model appropriate and genuine prayer for our children. They'll pick up on whether or not we practice the type of prayer life we desire them to have. Pray for your children to have a sincere love for God and that he would draw them to himself. Don't worry so much about the napkins. Trust God to do his work.

---

*Laura Wifler is the co-founder of Risen Motherhood and serves as the executive director and co-host of the podcast. She is the co-author of the bestselling book, Risen Motherhood: Gospel Hope For Everyday Moments and the author of the forthcoming children's book on prayer, Any Time, Any Place, Any Prayer (September 2021). Laura, her husband, and her three children live in central Iowa. You can find her on Instagram, @laurawifler or at laurawifler.com.*

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**WORLD GRANDPARENTS DAY.** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield celebrated World Grandparents and Elderly Day on July 25 following the 10:00 a.m. Mass. The Youth Group served 60 meals to the grandparents and elderly. The meals consisted of jambalya, green beans, potato salad, corn muffins, and chocolate cake. The delicious meals were free of charge!



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answers on pg 14 September 5 and 12, 2021

**The Cross Word**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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55				56				57		

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**Readings:** Is 35:4-7a; Ja 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37 and Is 50:5-9a; 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

**ACROSS**

- 1 Nickname for Michael
- 5 Female pronoun
- 8 Sword handle
- 12 Thought
- 13 \_\_\_ cities (Decapolis)
- 14 Region
- 15 Garrison
- 16 Hawk does to cover prey
- 18 Main altar bread ingredient
- 20 Fear
- 21 Saints (abbr)
- 22 "Not shielded my face from"
- 25 Work with
- 27 Multi-person transport
- 28 Challenges
- 32 Fifth president of U.S.
- 34 "Streams shall burst forth here"
- 35 Requests
- 36 Deaf cannot use
- 37 Body of water
- 38 Smallest language unit
- 41 Certified accountant
- 44 Cow speech
- 45 Softly and sweetly
- 48 Outdoors supper (2 wds)
- 51 Idols had feet of \_\_\_
- 52 "\_\_\_ like a stag"

**DOWN**

- 53 Extremely High Frequency (abbr.)
- 54 Not there
- 55 Old McDonald had
- 56 Supersonic transport
- 57 Totals
- 1 Anger
- 2 False god
- 3 Burning oil
- 4 Devour (2 wds.)
- 5 Short-term memory
- 6 "Whose \_\_\_ are frightened"
- 7 Listlessness
- 8 Nickname for Henry
- 9 Part of the eye
- 10 Season before Easter
- 11 Labels
- 17 Offered formally
- 19 Links amino acids
- 23 Day of the week
- 24 Airy form of element
- 25 Arbiter
- 26 Sun's name
- 29 "I have not (turned back)"
- 30 Time period
- 31 Eye infection
- 33 Abraham offered instead of Isaac
- 34 Morse code dash
- 36 Time periods
- 39 Guadalupe flower
- 40 Coffee
- 41 Young steer
- 42 Supplication
- 43 Far away
- 46 Greeting \_\_\_
- 47 "\_\_\_ of the blind"
- 49 Revolutions a minute
- 50 Often, poetically

## FOCUS Missionary group serves local students

“Be soldiers.” - Pope St. John Paul II to Curtis Martin, founder and CEO of FOCUS

This is a generation in crisis - of identity, of purpose and of belief. Faced with so many distractions, acts of violence, empty pleasures, and a loss of faith in God, they are losing hope. For the sake of so many souls, the joyful message of Jesus Christ's life and salvation needs to be shared, now more than ever.

Recognizing the significant impact the college years have on a young person's future, Curtis Martin founded the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, starting with just two missionaries at Benedictine College in 1998.

Later that same year, Curtis was blessed with the opportunity to meet Pope St. John Paul II, and to share his own vision for FOCUS: a chance for every student to know and feel known, loved and cared for by Jesus Christ. His Holiness listened carefully, and in response he simply told Curtis, “Be soldiers.”

Encouraged and driven by Pope St. John Paul II's call to a New Evangelization, and encouraged with steadfast hope to change the culture for Christ, FOCUS has forged ahead into the battlefield. FOCUS missionaries have spread the gospel message to tens of thousands of college students



**FOCUS MISSIONARY GROUP** serves students on the campus of Northwestern State University.

through on-campus outreach, Bible studies, discipleship, mission trips, national conferences, and more.

Today, FOCUS continues to encourage young people to pursue truth and meaning in their lives, to invest in relationships with Jesus Christ, and their fellow students. FOCUS missionaries continue to help young people go and

share the good news to everyone they meet - including here in our own diocese.

2021 marks the sixth year that FOCUS missionaries have served on the campus of Northwestern State University. Three missionaries currently serve Catholic students and staff through weekly Bible studies held at the Catholic Student Center, as well as through

discipleship and community. All students are welcome to participate.

According to Mark Adkins, Development Director at Holy Cross Church and NSU Campus Ministry, tremendous growth

in the faith has happened on campus.

“To look out and see 30-60 students at Mass, 20 at daily Mass, gives you hope in the future for our church and communities.”

As of publication date, all events are planned as in-person meetings, including the annual SEEK conference.

The event was held on individual campuses last year, due to the COVID pandemic, with over 60 students participating through the Natchitoches campus.

Students involved in the Catholic student organization this year hope to attend the Seek Conference in Salt Lake City, Dec. 30 - Jan. 3, 2022, as well as participate in the group's annual Easter mission trip.

Anyone wishing to learn more information about the Catholic Student Organization or our local FOCUS missionaries is invited to visit the Holy Cross Catholic Church website at [nucatholic.org](http://nucatholic.org), visit the office at 129 2nd Street, Natchitoches, LA, 71457, or email Mark Adkins at [maadkins1960@gmail.com](mailto:maadkins1960@gmail.com).

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to the heart.*

Psalm 19: 9  
Responsorial  
Psalm  
for September 26

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Contact any University for more information.**

**LSU of Alexandria:** Catholic Student Organization,  
318-447-2956

**Northwestern State University** Catholic Student Organization  
FOCUS Ministries: <https://nucatholic.org/focus>

**Louisiana College:** Catholic Student Organization,  
318-447-2956

## It starts with one: Young Alexandria woman to join FOCUS missionary group

*“The harvest is plentiful,  
but the laborers are few...”  
Matthew 9:38*

Kathryn Chatman of St. Rita Church in Alexandria will soon join FOCUS, Fellowship of Catholic University Students, a Catholic apostolate whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the gospel with college students.

On college campuses, thousands of students are seeking community and the true meaning of their lives. But without some to walk with them, so many go astray. Through FOCUS, missionaries serve the one - the individual student - in a personal, radical way.

### *It starts with one*

A single person can transform the hearts of countless others.

“How would Jesus live on a college campus?” is the question Kathryn says guides much of the ministry behind FOCUS.

“Choosing Christ in the small things, developing christian community one person at a time makes all the difference.”

Graduating with a degree in Strategic Communications, with a concentration in Organizational Communication, Chatman attended classes on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where a



FOCUS missionary took notice.

Being docile to God’s will Chatman eventually applied to join the FOCUS missionary group, and received her acceptance soon after.

“This is my mission. I’m excited to be on campus with individual students, developing intentional and longer lasting relationships.”

### *Enriched through relationship*

As the Good Shepherd leaves all behind to find one

lost sheep, FOCUS missionaries devote themselves fully to encountering the student who is lost. Missionaries make themselves one-hundred percent available, walking with the student at every stage of their faith journey.

Through real friendships and a real vibrant witness of faith, the student becomes fully alive as they discover they were made for something far greater than anything the world has to offer them: a life with Jesus.

### *The one goes to the many.*

Once the student has encountered Christ in friendship and community, FOCUS missionaries invite them to go deeper, through Bible studies and one-on-one discipleship. As missionaries help the students build a prayer life and participate in the sacraments, they can start to pursue a life of virtue and excellence, becoming who God is calling them to be.

When the student experiences fully the authentic joy of a relationship with

Christ, they cannot help but want to share it with others. This student goes on to spread their joy, bringing many other souls into the fullness of life with Christ. FOCUS continues to accompany students as they strive to fulfill their lifelong Catholic mission wherever they go, living out the good news within their friendships, families, communities, workplaces, and parishes.

### *What does it take to send a missionary?*

- The blessing of local bishops;
- Partnership with campus chaplains;
- A team of faithful supporters.

Missionaries are able to serve students on campus in a real, present way because of their support team.

### *About FOCUS*

To learn more about Kathryn’s journey, support her through prayer or monetary donations, or to learn more about the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, please visit [focusoncampus.org](http://focusoncampus.org), or email Kathryn at [kathryn.chatman@focus.org](mailto:kathryn.chatman@focus.org).

“Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus.” // Pope Francis

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### 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.

## Devotion to the Saints series on Wednesdays

All are invited to join Fr. Thomas Kennedy on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Complex at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, for presentations on Devotion to the Saints. The first session will be Sept. 1 – What is Communion with and Devotion to the Saints? (includes a display of relics). Other dates include: Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 20, 27 and Nov. 3, 10, 17. Register for this free series of classes by calling OLPS Church Office (318-445-3693).

## Family Faith Night, St. Joseph, LA - every Wednesday

St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA is starting a family faith night every Wednesday starting Aug. 25. Holy hour at 5:00 p.m. with benediction at 5:45 and Mass at 6:00. At 6:30 there will be a short lesson on the faith or Church. Smaller child care will be available. For more information email [stjosephinstjoe@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephinstjoe@gmail.com) or check Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/St-Joseph-Catholic-Church-106797694999648>

## Series of Talks on the Second Coming of Christ - Every Thursday in September

This series of talks will shed light on THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST based on THE BOOK OF REVELATION. Fr. Ramji Shoury, Pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Evergreen, will present the talks every Thursday in September. Where: Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen. When: September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome. Time is short, Christ is coming.

## Outdoor Jazz Concert - Sept. 4

St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle will present the Bridge Trio Jazz Concert on Saturday, Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 318-379-2521.

## “A Walk Through the Mass” - Sept. 9

Will be held Thursday, September 9, at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This is intended for all who desire a better appreciation for Mass, especially if you have questions about why we do what we do during the Mass. This evening event will include an actual Mass. Childcare will be provided (birth through 1st grade); please email Jordan Lacour at [jordan.lacour@olpschurch.org](mailto:jordan.lacour@olpschurch.org) to RSVP for childcare. All are invited.

# DIOCESAN BRIEFS

## Discalced Carmelite Meeting - Sept. 11

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

## Gift of Life Banquet - Sept. 14

Join the Cenla Pregnancy Center this September for our 3rd Annual Gift of Life Fundraising Banquet. The banquet will be held Tuesday, September 14 at the Randolph Riverfront Center in downtown Alexandria. Our featured guest will be Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood facility director. Come celebrate life with us as we enjoy a delicious meal and hear Abby's story of conversion. We will also hear from a client who has benefited directly from your donations. Learn how your contributions support life in Central Louisiana and beyond! To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit [www.cenlapc.com](http://www.cenlapc.com).

## Beginning Experience - Sept. 17-19

Widowed, Separated, or Divorced? Don't know where to turn? Struggling with grief or loss? Beginning Experience of Alexandria is registering now for a weekend that provides an individual with the opportunity to encounter self and to grow with a purpose to achieve inner peace. The experience is to help close the door gently on the past and move on with renewed hope. The weekend will be held at Maryhill Renewal Center - Pineville, LA on September 17-19. For more information the website is [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org), or to register contact Anna at 318-448-1990, 318-452-2678, or [asweat7@aol.com](mailto:asweat7@aol.com).

## CENLA Magnificat Breakfast - Sept. 25

CENLA Magnificat, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Chapter, will host a breakfast on Sept. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Divine Providence Center at 401 21st St in Alexandria. Speaker will be Claire Lemoine, director of the Cenla Pregnancy Center. Claire will share the awakening of her spiritual life after attending a study on the Catholic faith, something she had never done before.

This was a turning point in her life, where the faith was really made alive and real to her. Tickets are \$18 and are payable in advance. Registration required, and must be postmarked by Sept. 7, 2021. No tickets will be sold at the door. Register online at [cenlamagnificat@gmail.com](mailto:cenlamagnificat@gmail.com) or through the website: <https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-l-m/la-alexandria/> or email us at [cenlamagnificat@gmail.com](mailto:cenlamagnificat@gmail.com) for more information.

## Pre-Cana Day of Reflection - Sept. 25

St. Frances Cabrini Church will have a Pre-Cana Day of Reflection for Engaged Couples beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25 in Ducote Hall. Breakfast and lunch will be included. Registration is required. \$50 per couple or \$25 per person. For more information or to register, please call (318) 445-4588.

## Marriage Help - Oct. 8-10

Retroville (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you, too. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program, beginning with a weekend on October 8-10, call 985-232-5963 or email [retrovibrcomcoor@gmail.com](mailto:retrovibrcomcoor@gmail.com) or visit [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com).

## Religious Freedom Advocate Speaker - Oct. 19

104.3 The Bridge (radio station) will have a Pastors Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 19 at the Community Center in Pineville from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Guest speaker is Michael P. Farris, president and CEO of Alliance Defending Freedom. Farris has specialized in constitutional appellate litigation in which he successfully argued *NIFLA v. Becerra*, resulting in a free speech victory for California's pro-life pregnancy centers. He also has substantial experience in international religious freedom advocacy. For more information contact Jeff Akin at [jeff.akin@smgnational.com](mailto:jeff.akin@smgnational.com) or call (318) 473-1043.

## Carmelite Silent Retreat - Nov. 12-14

The Carmelite Community of Alexandria will host a silent retreat Nov. 12-14 at Maryhill Renewal Center. Brother Joel Giallanza will present talks on St. John of the Cross, "The Process and The Promise." Please join us if you are wishing to deepen your prayer life. Contact Mary Jo McCoy at (318) 346-6860 or (318) 481-9638 OR Deacon William Travis at (318) 664-7069 or (318) 640-2827.

## Church Today News Deadlines

Next issues:  
September 27  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, Sept. 16

October 25  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, October 14



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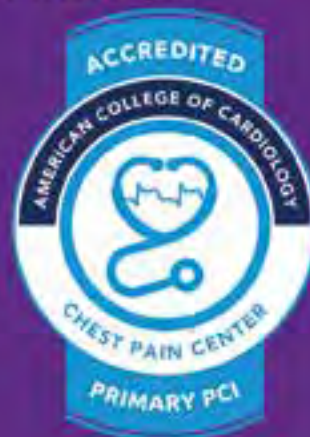
# September 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>1</b> <b>SEPTEMBER</b> Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville  Devotion to Saints Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria	<b>2</b> Second Coming Series 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen  Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Outdoor Jazz Concert 7:30 p.m. St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle	<b>5</b>
PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX	PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	PRAY FOR DCN. G. SCHUPBACH	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER	PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>8</b> Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville  Devotion to Saints Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria  <b>FEAST of the NATIVITY of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>	<b>9</b> Second Coming Series 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen  Walk Through the Mass 6:30-8:30 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria  Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Discalced Carmelite Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center	<b>12</b>
LABOR DAY PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA	PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR	PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN	PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA	PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS	PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria  Gift of Life Banquet Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria  <b>FEAST of the EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS</b>	<b>15</b> Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville  Devotion to Saints Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria	<b>16</b> VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville  Second Coming Series 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen  Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS	PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD	Beginning Experience -- Maryhill Renewal Center		
				PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ	PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE	PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>22</b> Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville  Devotion to Saints Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria	<b>23</b> Second Coming Series 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen  Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Pre-Cana Day 8:00 a.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria  CENLA Magnificat Breakfast 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria	<b>26</b>
PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE	PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG	PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE
				St. Alphonsus Women's ACTS Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center		
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>29</b> Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville  Devotion to Saints Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria  <b>FEAST of SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS</b>	<b>30</b> Second Coming Series 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen  Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville	<b>OCTOBER 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO
				St. Mary's Assumption Women's ACTS Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center		

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