
CHURCH TODAY

Volume LII, No. 10

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

October 25, 2021

There is joy in the giving.

As Manna House begins making plans to once again feed those in our community who might otherwise go hungry on Thanksgiving Day, the organization is asking for financial assistance to make the day possible. Manna House's annual Thanksgiving Day meal for the needy in our community is a way of not only feeding those who are hungry, but also to show kindness and support to those who are feeling the pain of poverty and misfortune. See page 8 for more information on how you can share the blessings of the season with those in need.



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For a synodal church

Pope Francis recently convoked the Church of God in Synod. See pages 2 and 3 to learn more about the pope's call to synodality - listening to the wide community of voices within the church to discern a path forward.

#iGiveCatholic

#iGiveCatholic is a very easy and safe way to donate and help our schools and parishes to accomplish their missions in spreading the Good News of Jesus. See page 5 for more information on how you can help your school or parish this holiday season.

Food for the journey

Several church parishes and ministries are offering opportunities to grow in the faith - right here in our own communities! See pages 6, 15, and 21 to learn how you might be spiritually encouraged throughout the coming months.

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CHURCH
TODAY

Volume LII, No. 10
October 25, 2021

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

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

Postmaster:
Send address changes to
The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box
7417, Alexandria, LA 71306
Website: www.diocesealex.org
To receive a free subscription,
call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or
e-mail starver@diocesealex.org

For a synodal church

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis recently convoked the Church of God in Synod. The word Synod and the concept of synodality may be new to you. The word itself comes from Greek and means “walking together.” As a pilgrim Church, we are reminded that we do not walk alone - we are joined on the path of discipleship by all of our brothers and sisters in faith - as well as those who are searching and who choose to walk with us. Over the centuries, the universal Church, the Church in various nations, and diocesan Churches have come together from time to time in synods to pray and to listen in dialogue with one another about the Church in general or about a particular topic or issue. Most of all, the participants in every synod commit themselves to listening to the Holy Spirit, and to discerning the will of God in their lives and in the life of the Church.

There are two things about the up-coming synod that will be different. The first difference is the topic. Pope Francis has asked us to reflect upon the concept of “synodality” itself. We are called to pray and discuss the role that listening to the Holy Spirit and discernment play in the life of our Church. The second difference, at least in our lifetimes, is that the entire Church - all of the baptized are invited to participate in this prayerful dialogue, in the process of listening to the Holy Spirit and discerning when and where our loving God is leading us.

The Holy Father has identified three characteristics that should be evident in the Church, three characteristics that



A SYNODAL CHURCH, 2021-2023. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Sunday, Oct. 17, declaring open the diocesan phase of the synod.

should flow from our discernment - Communion, Participation, and Mission. As the Church of God, we are called to a special kind of unity with God and with our brothers and sisters called “Communion.” Indeed, we receive Holy Communion at Mass in order to become Communion, to be united to one another as the mystical Body of Christ. Just as the parts of our human body must work together so that we might breathe and walk, for example, so the Body of Christ must work together so that we might live our our discipleship and move together toward the eternal happiness of heaven.

The cooperation required

to work together as the Body of Christ necessarily implies “Participation.” We are not to be idle spectators in the Church; we are called to be active participants. At each liturgical celebration, we are called to participate in thought, prayer, word, and action. As the gifts of bread and wine are placed on the altar, our joys and sorrows, our own sacrifices must join them. Further, the work of the Church in charity and evangelization is not carried out exclusively by priests, deacons, and religious sisters and brothers, but by all of the baptized. If our faith is alive, we must share that faith by word and example, by accepting the love and mercy of

Christ and by sharing those gifts with others.

The final words of our liturgical celebrations are some variation of “Go forth, the Mass is ended,” or “Ite Missa est” in Latin. We are sent forth in “Mission,” as the Latin root implies. Nourished and strengthened by our prayerful reflection on the Word of God, by our participation in the liturgy, and by our reception of Holy Communion, we are sent out to be Christ’s presence in the world, to all of those on the peripheries who have not yet encountered Christ. Each of us is sent in mission and all of us are sent in mission - together. We discern our route together, we cooperate with one another in evangelization, in charity, in faith formation.

I invite you over these next months to walk together as we listen for the Holy Spirit and discern where he is leading us.

May God bless you all.

*Taken from a transcript of
Bishop Robert Marshall’s
video message regarding
Pope Francis’ call to synodality.*

Visit the
Vatican’s website
at synod.va for the
preparatory document,
a roadmap for
diocesan participation,
and various resources
to aid your own prayer.

*Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus
Prayer of invocation
to the Holy Spirit*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our action.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
in the Communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Cardinal Dolan invites faithful to join pope on synodal path to Jesus

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Pope Francis is inviting the faithful to pray, listen, discern and examine themselves personally and the church communally to determine how to better follow the path of Jesus, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in opening the two-year churchwide synodal process.

The pope's call to synodality -- listening to the wide community of voices within the church in "the art of encounter" to discern a path forward -- will help remind the faithful of Christ's essential teaching, the cardinal said in a homily delivered Oct. 17 at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Pope Francis opened the synodal process at the Vatican Oct. 9-10, leading to the launch of the listening process in dioceses worldwide Oct. 17. The pope has described the synodal path in advance of the Synod of Bishops in fall 2023 as a journey in which the entire church must be invited to participate.

For his part, Cardinal Dolan described the process as one in which the pope "has asked us all to commence an examination of conscience on how we as a church are living up to the model of the church given us by Jesus."

The cardinal said that everyone in the church -- clergy at all levels, men and women religious, all laypeople and communities of faith -- bring gifts to the church. Such gifts, or charisms, ranging from worship and prayer to teaching, healing, social service and administration, can be used to teach the world about Jesus, he explained.

Cardinal Dolan detailed several "non-negotiables" that have been part of the church's 2,000-year history.

Specifically, he said, the "energy and direction driving the church" is rooted in the Holy Spirit rather than individuals. In addition, he added, the principles that guide the church are rooted in the Gospel and "the patrimony of the church's settled teaching."

In addition, the innate dignity of every human person and the inherent sacredness of all human life "are the towering moral lighthouses on our path," Cardinal Dolan said.



CARDINAL TIMOTHY M. DOLAN. New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan addresses the congregation as he celebrates a Columbus Day Mass Oct. 11, 2021, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

He also noted that the return to God after earthly life "is most effectively accomplished precisely as a journey as we walk with and accompany each other, with Jesus as our guide."

The earthly journey requires the faithful to "pay special attention" to people on the margins of society, particularly the sick, poor and weak, Cardinal Dolan said. Wealth, he continued, "only comes from faith, trust, prayer, the sacraments" and God's grace.

Finally, he said, "mercy, love, invitation, humility, joy, selfless, generous service and good example are our only tools, never harshness, condemnation or pride."

"That seems to be synodality in a nutshell. We are loyal Catholics. The Holy Father has asked us to help him keep the church always under the direction of Jesus, our good shepherd, intends," he said.

In Cleveland, Bishop Edward C. Malesic compared the synodal process with the family Thanksgiving meal, the Magi's journey to find the infant Jesus and the story about the two disciples encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

The path to the Synod of Bishops is like Thanksgiving

dinner in which people come together to hear each other and to share experiences, challenges and hopes, Bishop Malesic said during a homily Oct. 17 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist to open the diocesan process.

In his second example, the bishop described the Magi as being on "a journey to the promised land of God's reign." Similarly, he said, the faithful are walking together to find Jesus so they can "then take him with us on our ongoing journey."

"We must also dare to become closer to Jesus and one another along the way. We can listen to each other and discern how the Holy Spirit is working in our lives," he said.

Jesus' appearance to the disciples on the road to Emmaus is an example of how Christ "meets people where they are and walks with them as he listens to them," Bishop Malesic explained. In the same way, the synodal process is an invitation to meet Jesus and listen to others, he said.

Calling the synodal process "the largest consultation of the human family in history," Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle said the two-year journey ahead requires dialogue, discernment and prayer as well

as "listening to the word of God and the promptings of the Holy Spirit."

Such reflection, the archbishop said during a homily the evening of Oct. 17 at the Seattle's Cathedral of St. James, will allow the church, united in Jesus, to identify the signs of the times, interpret them in the light of the Gospel and "know how the Holy Spirit is to guide us in the world today."

"A synodal church recognizes that laypeople, too, have an important role of holding and passing on the tradition of the church. The sense of the faith that reside in the holy people of God has a valid voice in the mission of the church," he said.

The archbishop suggested that the process can help unify the church in a time of deep polarization.

"Rather than so many people hunkering down in their own ideas and agendas, refusing to come up for air, we need the breath of the Holy Spirit to reunite us as God's holy faithful people, to show us the way to walk together," Archbishop Etienne told the congregation.

"Then we will be capable of seeing the world and the church through the eyes of God better,

to better identify the signs of the time and interpret them through the lens of the Gospel and to better understand how to carry out the mission of Christ, the mission of the church."

In a video posted on the homepage of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, Bishop Steven J. Raica, invited parishioners to participate in discussions that will help the local church "develop a greater missionary focus."

"You might say the synodal process is to help identify ways in which the Holy Spirit is already at work among us, identify what may be lacking, and who may not be at the table and who we may need to hear from in order to go forward in faith," Bishop Raica said.

"I pray that it will bring us closer together as a faith community as we proceed with a process of dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect," he added.

The launch in dioceses begins a two-year process that culminates in the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. The synod is expected to adopt a final document that will guide the continuing development of a synodal church going into the future.

Dioceses and parishes will be engaged in nearly six months of discussions, or consultations, in which people from across the church will be invited to participate.

Each diocese is being asked to submit a summary of local discussions by April 1 to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which will then take a month to synthesize in a final written presentation for the Vatican.

Once the Vatican receives the synthesized reports of diocesan meetings from bishops' conferences around the world, the Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops will draft by September 2022 the "instrumentum laboris," or working document, to guide continental or regional ecclesial assemblies that will take place by March 2023.

Those assemblies will produce another set of documents that will help in the drafting of a second working document for the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. The synod is expected to produce a final document on synodality throughout the church.

“And now, children,
remain in him...” // 1 John 2:28

I love organization. I love efficiency. I love planning. I love forming good habits. And breaking bad ones. I love pinning the newest tips and tricks for efficiency. I love reading books, watching videos, and listening to podcasts that will help me sharpen my skills and refine my heart to be a better wife, mother, friend, worker, homemaker, and thinker. I am all in.

But what I am learning - through personal prayer, spiritual direction, and my tribe of prayer warrior friends - is that, when it comes to the roles the Lord has called me to, what matters most is my relationship with Him. Saint Josemaría Escrivá emphasizes this: “...the apostolate, whatever kind it be, must be an overflow of the interior life” (*Friends of God*, page 383).



Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina
Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

What is your apostolate? To what and whom have you been called in the Kingdom of God? Although we can better ourselves on a human level, what is going to make the ultimate difference is our interior lives.

If you want to be a better _____, ask yourself:

What does your apostolate require? // Consider your apostolate. What’s the mission? What is your goal? I would bet that you care deeply about your apostolates and that you want to pour yourself out for them. The first step is realizing that we truly can’t do it on our own. If

we hope to love, serve, and give abundantly, we are going to need to be firmly-rooted in the Lover, Servant, and Giver.

Am I setting aside time for intentional prayer? // To that end, what is your prayer time like? If we want our mission to thrive, our interior life must thrive. This doesn’t mean we must always experience consolation in prayer, but we must be faithful to it if we want to be faithful in our mission.

Where are the gaps in my interior life? // Finally, look at the gaps in your apostolate. We all have them! Do you wish you were more patient? Charitable?

Forgiving? Are we taking these desires to the Lord and asking for His help? Further, what is healed and restored in our interior lives with Jesus is reflected in how we approach other people and situations. Look at your pain points or triggers. Bring them to God in prayer and ask for His vision and healing there.

Friends, we all want to be good and faithful servants. We want to love our people well and grow closer to God. We simply cannot do this apart from Him. Let’s turn our attention evermore to the Lord, knowing that our interior life will overflow into

our missions.

After several months of settling in with the new addition to our family, I look forward to sharing and growing more with all of you through our diocesan publications and through the Steubenville South and Beyond the Limits Conferences. I’d like to extend a special invitation to join us for the Come Alive: Night of Prayer on Saturday, Nov. 13. This night is free and open to all adults as an opportunity to refill our cups to better be able to pour out into our own apostolates. See page 21 for more on this special one-night event for adults. I hope to see you there!

Remaining in Him,
Cari

Follow Cari on Instagram
@cariterracina

Editor’s Note // You have most likely heard about shipping delays due to global supply chain issues, weather situations, and more.

As a diocesan publication, we are not exempt from these issues, and most recently saw delays in the arrival of both the August and September issues of the Church Today newspaper. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We appreciate your prayers and support, and as always, invite you to read the Church Today on our diocese website at www.diocesealex.org.

J&J vaccine / Accepting Jesus as savior

Q. My question regard the Johnson & Johnson vaccine booster. Six months ago, Catholic bishops were recommending to get any vaccine available, notwithstanding that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was morally questionable.

But now, with vaccines no longer in short supply in the U.S., should Catholics receive a Johnson & Johnson booster, or should Catholics opt instead for the Pfizer or Moderna booster? (Henrico, Virginia)

A. To be precise, what the U.S. Catholic bishops said in March 2021 was this: “If one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna’s vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson’s.”

That statement came from



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

the chairmen of the bishops’ Committees on Doctrine and on Pro-Life Activities. The moral preference for Pfizer or Moderna is based on the fact that, with these two, an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them, but not in their production. Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine, however, was developed, tested, and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines.

The catch here, though, is that -- although the evidence at this point is far from conclusive -- medical experts have generally been saying that, ideally, the booster dose should be the same type with which you were first

vaccinated.

University of Chicago Medicine, for example, says on its website that Centers for Disease Control recommends “that booster doses match the original mRNA vaccines people received earlier this year. ... If you absolutely cannot find a matching dose of vaccine, it would be OK to get the other one.”

Given that medical advice, I would judge that it would be permissible for one previously vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson to stay with J&J for the booster.

Q. Growing up as a Baptist,

for us to be “saved” (gain entrance into heaven), we had to “invite Jesus into our heart and accept him as our personal savior” --- which I have done.

I’ve been a Catholic now for 10 years, and when I attend Mass, I’ve never really heard anything about being “saved” or how to gain entrance into heaven. I would appreciate your shedding some light on this subject. (Indiana)

A. It is true that Paul says in Romans that “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (10:9). But that has never been viewed by the Catholic Church as a one-time act that guarantees entrance into heaven.

There are a number of other scriptural passages that indicate, instead, that eternal salvation is based on a lifetime of choices.

In Colossians 1:21-23, for

example, Paul writes: “And you who were once alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through his death, to present you holy, without blemish, and irreproachable before him, provided that you persevere in the faith, firmly grounded, stable, and not shifting from the hope of the Gospel which you heard.”

That “proviso clause” indicates the Catholic belief that heaven is won by a lifetime of choices and not by a single act. Salvation is not guaranteed by a decision we have made in the past. We continue to have free will and retain the ability to turn away from God if we choose to do so.

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
for updated COVID-19
information and resources
for our diocese.

Live Jesus in our hearts!



INSTITUTION OF ACOLYTES. Bishop Robert Marshall traveled to New Orleans on Oct. 13 to celebrate the Mass of Institution of Acolytes at Notre Dame Seminary. Donnie Kuzma of our diocese is one of the new acolytes. Pictured left to right: Fr. James Wehner, rector of Notre Dame, Bishop Marshall, Donnie Kuzma and Fr. Luke LaFleur, director of vocations for the Diocese of Alexandria. This was Bishop Marshall's first trip back to his alma mater as a Bishop. Please pray for all of our seminarians and for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



HEALTH CARE MASS. The Health Care Mass (White Mass) was celebrated Oct. 18 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. From Left to Right: Dcn. Luke White, Fr. Dale Meade, M.D. (Pastor, St. Mary, Winnsboro), Fr. Bill Gearheard (Chaplain, Rapides Regional Medical Center), Fr. Joy Anthony (Director of Spiritual Care, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital), Bishop Marshall, Fr. Jim Ferguson (Rector, Cathedral), Fr. Craig Scott, V.F. (Pastor, St. James Memorial) and Dcn. Richard Mitchell.

#iGiveCatholic: November 30

By Deacon Richard Mitchell
Director of Stewardship

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. This holiday is typically a special day we set aside to be with family and friends, to eat too much, remember the good old days and those who have gone before us, and of course be thankful for all the blessings we have received in life. Too bad we do not celebrate this way more often!

Of course after we have dedicated one day to being thankful for our family and our "stuff," we wake up early the next day...Black Friday... to begin the three to four week marathon of getting more "stuff" in preparation for Christmas. And if you cannot find what you are looking for in the stores, there is the popular option of taking advantage of "Cyber Monday," which I understand was named this because when you cannot find something in the store



#iGIVECATHOLIC

during Black Friday and over the weekend, you go online and buy things via the internet and have them shipped to your door. I suspect this may be an ever more popular option this year since you do not have to fight crowds which in turn lessens your exposure to

the COVID virus.

Whichever option we choose or the combination of them, it is reported that we will spend an average of \$1,000 on gifts during the holidays. Now that is a lot of "stuff"!

There is another day that is becoming more and more popular around the same time as "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday," and that is "Giving Tuesday." Unlike the other two where we buy "stuff," this day is designed for us to "Give" money to support those organizations whose mission is to do good work in our community. This year, the Diocese of Alexandria is sponsoring one Catholic program associated with the Giving Tuesday movement called #iGiveCatholic.

This program was created by our neighbors in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, but has become popular throughout the country over the last few years and we are excited to be a part its success.

You are able to visit the

website at any time to see the countdown to the opening of the campaign. The Diocese of Alexandria is usually the first diocese on the list and from there it is easy to find the church parish and/or school within our diocese that you would like to contribute to and support.

#iGiveCatholic is a very easy and safe way to donate and help our schools and parishes accomplish their missions in spreading the Good News of Jesus.

I hope you find the "stuff" you are looking for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Then I challenge you to join me at #iGiveCatholic.org on November 30 and support the Diocese of Alexandria church parishes and schools.

Please look for additional information on the diocesan website and share the link on Facebook.

If we all give a little, it will add up to a lot.

You're invited to join us at the table.

To see available Mass times near you, visit www.masstimes.org.

Spiritual direction: growth along the journey

There seems to always be a need for good spiritual directors: those men and women who have a special gift, and are trained to guide the People of God on their faith journeys. The Diocese of Alexandria is blessed to have 3 individuals who have recently completed the Internship in Spiritual Direction from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and are now offering their specific ministry to the people of our diocese.



What is spiritual direction? Spiritual direction is the process of working with a guide to help you in your pursuit of holiness. Spiritual direction offers prayerful listening that invites the directee to create a space in their heart to hear God's voice.

A spiritual direction session can cover any number of things: your prayer life, spiritual joys and and difficulties, specific decisions needing to be made. During the process, the trained director assists you to become more aware of God in your life, hear God's voice, notice God's presence, and guide you to form a more intimate relationship with God.

Spiritual direction involves three persons: the person seeking direction, the Spiritual Director, and God. The true director of a person's spiritual experience is God.

What spiritual direction is NOT

Spiritual direction is distinct from the ministries of preaching,

teaching, pastoral counseling, and spiritual friendship because it has discernment in its purpose, that is, distinguishing God's voice from the many others in the world.

Although beneficial and helpful to an individual, it is important to distinguish the differences between Spiritual Direction and clinical behavioral health counseling (directed to assist people with specific issues related to behavioral or emotional disorders rather than their relationship with God); spiritual companionship (a sharing of each persons' faith journey in support of their mutual growth in relationship to God); and, pastoral counseling, in which the counselor is expected to counsel and advise from the perspective of the religion he or she represents.

What is a Certified Spiritual Director?

A spiritual journey is the path one seeks to grow in holiness as they spiritually mature with the hope of salvation. A Spiritual Director, then, is one who has received education, training and supervision from programs offered by Catholic institutions, who uses effective methods to best support others on the spiritual journey.

The Diocese of Alexandria now has three practicing certified Spiritual Directors, ready to walk with those in our area seeking assistance in their spiritual journeys. These Spiritual Directors have completed the Internship in Spiritual Direction from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, under Archbishop

Gregory Aymond and directed by Sister Dorothy Trosclair, O.P. The program includes completion of a theological/catechetical background, 2 years of spiritual direction from a certified spiritual director, completion of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius: 30 day or 19th Annotation (9-month retreat), attendance of an 8 day Directed Retreat, and more.

The application and internship itself are rigorous, meaning to provide our area with spiritual directors who are empathetic, non-judgmental, objective, and able to recognize the core movements of God in people.

Who is spiritual direction for?

Spiritual direction is not just for priests. The spiritual direction journey is for:

- Those who desire growth in their relationship with the Lord;
- Ministry leaders relying on God for guidance;
- Anyone discerning God's will;
- Recent retreatants desiring to embrace mature spirituality;
- Faithful experiencing dryness in prayer;
- And, others seeking to grow in their spiritual journey.

Certified Spiritual Directors in the Diocese

If you count yourself among the many in our area seeking spiritual growth, you are encouraged to reach out to any of the newly Certified

Spiritual Directors in our diocese. Together, you will decide on the time and place for your meetings, (by appointment or virtually) and begin the journey to become more like Christ himself.

For more information, contact:

- Renee Aldridge: 318-542-1966 or renee.aldrige1@gmail.com;
- Ingrid Canella: 318-792-3331 or icnewell@yahoo.com;
- Tracy Simpson: 318-451-8802 or tracy@simpsonsecurity.com.



THE SAINTS

God chose certain people
From the earth,
To imitate Him
Through Jesus's birth.

The saints grew in grace
By suffering much pain,
Their love for God
Gave them much to gain.

Since Jesus's birth
They grew in love,
Hoping one day to be
With Him in heaven above.

We can pray
And follow their way,
Knowing it will lead us
To God one day.

So if, you kneel down and pray
And ask for His grace,
Like the saints, you will meet Him
One day face to face.

lizdescant@gmail.com
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant

Silent Carmelite Retreat

November 12-14, 2021
Maryhill Renewal Center

Presenter: Brother Joel Giallanza

Topic: St. John of the Cross
"The Process and The Promise"

Open to those wishing to deepen their spirituality.

Registration cost per person:

- \$95.00** (commuter) includes meals and drinks
- \$195.00** (overnight) includes meals, single occupancy lodging
- \$180.00** (overnight) includes meals, double occupancy lodging

Reservation deadline: October 30, 2021

Contact : Mary Jo McCoy, President
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Best books and resources for discernment

Grace Bellon
Blessed Is She Ministry



Discernment can be an overwhelming process. Perhaps it is partially because, by its very nature, it is personal and internal. And while everyone has seen other people make decisions, it is almost impossible to see their actual discernment (the movement of the spirits within their soul). We can see parts of the process: their time in prayer, their time reading, even actions that they take to gather more information. But we have no way of witnessing the movement or the effects of the different spirits on their mind and soul. This means, for the individual who has never discerned anything before, knowing how to begin is an overwhelming challenge.

The good news is that everyone has been a newbie to discernment at one time or another, and there are a plethora of resources available to help.

What is Discernment?

Despite popular usage within Catholic circles, “discerning” and “deciding” are not the same thing.

While all discernment ends in a decision, not all decisions required discernment (kind of like all thumbs are fingers, but all fingers are thumbs).

You don’t need to discern things like what cereal to eat, what dress to wear for the gala, or

what time you should go to Mass.

You also don’t need to discern things which have already been revealed (“Should I use contraception?” // “Should I have this affair?” // “Should we try IVF?”), because the answers for objective Truth will always remain the same.

Situations that require discernment are usually life-altering decisions which would also affect the state of our soul and our journey to Heaven. Things like:

“What college should I attend?”

“What major should I choose?”

“Should I go to grad school?”

“Am I called to marriage?”

“Am I called to religious life?”

“Do I want to be a consecrated virgin?”

“Do I make this cross-country move?”

“Is now a good time to buy a house?”

“Is this the right job for me?”

Resources on Discernment

These are all big decisions which require a lot of thought, prayer, and action. It can often help to seek out the wisdom of others who have done it before us.

Discernment of Spirits and St. Ignatius of Loyola

When it comes to discernment, St. Ignatius of Loyola is the man to whom you want to turn first. Almost everything we know about the prayerful process came from him. He literally wrote the book on it. The *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius is a compilation of prayers, meditations, and spiritual practices written in the 1500s.

While the content is gold, the writing style is sometimes difficult for the typical modern reader. Thankfully, there are countless resources on discernment which flesh out and explain these exercises—and all his other writings on the subject.

So as not to overwhelm you, we’ve narrowed it down to these few as cream-of-the-crop examples.

Ignatianspirituality.com

A service of Loyola Press, this website contains all things Ignatian. There are numerous articles, prayers, and videos. They even offer spiritual direction and discernment retreats. It’s kind of like one-stop-discernment-shopping.

Discerning the Will of God: An Ignatian Guide to Christian Decision Making by Fr. Timothy M. Gallagher

This book is a dream for any

confused mind. The author is clear in putting forward principles and provides plenty of real life examples. It’s available in hard copies, Kindle versions, and audio books, making it suitable for every busy individual.

St. Ignatius’ 8 Rules for the Discernment of Spirits

This is a summary of the principles of Ignatian discernment. It’s a good starting point, as it uses the words of the Saint himself. Thus the reader can get the information “first hand” without having to purchase, borrow, or struggle through the entire book. This list is also handy for anyone who needs a refresher.

Discernment: Making Inspired Choices

This is another outline of the Saint’s advice. It is written in the modern voice of the author and is a little more user-friendly.

Fr. Mike Schmitz Videos

When it comes to brevity and practicality, Fr. Mike Schmitz is the guy. He posts weekly videos about everything Catholic, including discernment.

Looking for a way to get

See DISCERNMENT, page 9

“Do you seriously wish to travel the road to devotion?
If so, look for a good man to guide and lead you.”

// *St. Francis de Sales, An Introduction to the Devout Life*

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There is joy in giving

With Gerard Foley leading the way, Manna House officially opened its doors on Tuesday, May 1, 1990. Nineteen people came to eat that day, and by the end of that month, 4,512 meals had been served.

What started as a simple answer to God's calling to service has lived on, serving the poorest of our community for over 30 years.

Father Foley wrote a letter to his congregation in January, 1990:

"How often have you and I heard the words from scripture, 'When I was hungry, you gave me food, and when I was thirsty, you gave me drink,' and wondered how we could adequately perform this work of mercy?

I believe the Lord is calling us as His people to look into the feasibility of establishing a place where hungry people can come, and with dignity, receive a meal



to fill their empty stomachs and love to warm their weary hearts.

I have had moments of doubt and fear: maybe this is too big a thing for us to undertake; maybe there really aren't that many hungry and lonely people in our community; there aren't other organizations doing this, why

am I getting involved? I don't have enough time or money to contribute.

In those quiet, lonely moments the Lord says, 'But who will do it if you don't?' ... and MY response has to be, 'Here I am, Lord.'"

The work continues.

Manna House is open 365 days a year, including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and New Year's Day, serving 200-250 people per day, totaling around 6,500 individuals per month.

All of these years later, Manna House still survives on the generosity of volunteers, and is dedicated to banishing hunger in Central Louisiana.

As Manna House begins making plans to once again feed those in our community who might otherwise go hungry this holiday season, the ministry is asking for financial assistance to make this service possible.

Fr. Foley's vision still lives.

As Manna House begins making plans to once again feed those in our community who might otherwise go hungry on Thanksgiving Day, they are reaching out to ask for your

financial assistance to make it possible. At a time when many people are focused on giving thanks for the bounty in their lives, others are feeling the pain of need. Manna House's annual Thanksgiving meal for the needy in our community is a way of not only feeding those who are hungry, but also to show kindness and support to those who are feeling the pain of poverty and misfortune. Please share the blessings of the season with those in need. Your gift will make a difference for those who need it most.

To make a tax deductible donation online, please visit givetomannahouse.com, or send your monetary donation to P.O. Box 6011, Alexandria, LA 71307.

Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated and will make a difference in the lives of so many people in our community.

"if you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

|| mother teresa

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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.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Tuesday, October 26, 6:00 p.m. | Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches

Tuesday, November 16, 6:00 p.m. | St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

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. For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

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

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

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

For updated information, news articles, and documents regarding ongoing activity and planning for securing and maintaining a Safe Environment for all, visit www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing (visit www.diocesealex.org and look for "A Safe Environment For All" under the "Our Faith" tab). Here, you can find more information, as well as updates from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Also found on this page is the letter from Pope Francis to all Bishops in the United States regarding a meeting in February 2019 at the Vatican entitled "The Protection of Minors in the Church."

DISCERNMENT —

(continued from pg. 7)

started with your discernment? Check out *Discernment 101*. He highlights the dual importance of prayer and action in the process, as well as discerning one step at a time.

In *4 Helpful Rules for Discernment*, Fr Mike proposes that any discerner should ask four specific questions about their potential choices. He highlights an aspect of the process that many people tend to overlook: our own personal desires.

The *Key to Discernment* is another brief but helpful clip. Fr. Mike points out that, in the discernment process, most people are looking for an answer. This is, weirdly, is the opposite of what we should do. The mindset of all prayer and action throughout the discernment process is simply to gather more data. Don't go into prayer (or a convent visit, or a college visit, or on a date with someone) looking for all the answers. Simply collect data. Ironically, with that as your focus, the pressure is off and the answer becomes clear over time.

Sometimes, God takes a lot of time to make things clear. It can be really frustrating when an earnest desire for clarity is pressing on the human heart. Fr Mike talks about that, too. Check out *What does God want me to do?* and *Letting God Take His Time*.

Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR

Fr. Mike was a Franciscan Third Order Regular priest, a past president of Franciscan University of Steubenville, and a former spiritual director for hundreds of individuals.

His strong relationship with the Holy Spirit is apparent in his writings on discernment, which are full of both depth and simplicity.

He proposed five basic questions to ask when facing important decisions. He also penned *Nine Secrets to Discovering Your Call*. If either of these leaves you wanting more, his book *What Does God Want?* (one of our favorite resources on discernment) expands upon these points.

The Angels

Not the heavenly kind, but the married Catholic couple, Bobby and Jackie Angel.

Their own story is anything but typical. When they first met, Jackie was engaged to someone else and Bobby was a seminarian. It was a windy road they had to walk to discern their own vocations. Thus, they have a lot of good and practical advice on the subject.

Even if you are looking for advice on how to discern something other than your vocation, their wisdom applies. Check out their three-part written series on discernment at <https://jackieandbobby.com/category/discernment>.

Other Resources

Searching for and Maintaining Peace by Jacques Philippe // If fear and distress seem to be hindering your discernment, perhaps this book is for you. This simple book about peace of heart provides concrete ways to learn confidence and trust in God, making forward movement within your spiritual life much more possible.

3 Steps for Discernment from Life Teen // Though it's a

resource written for teens, anyone of any age can benefit from giving it a read. It includes some incredible insight into the state of one's heart, mind, and soul before discerning.

How to Listen to the Spirit (Instead of the Flippant Opinions of Others) in Your Vocational Discernment from Blessed is She // Sometimes, the opinion of others can be the biggest hindrance to discernment. This post has advice for tuning out voices that are not God's.

Discernment from Peter Kreeft // Brilliant. Brief. Practical. He presents five ideas to iron out and smooth over the process—all based on logic.

6 Steps in Vocation Discernment from the Diocese of Harrisburg // A step-by-step process for vocational discernment. These principals can be applied no matter what it is being discerned.

A Never-Ending Story

I have a friend whose vocational discernment was extremely difficult. On his wedding day, one of the many things he was most excited about was the end of the process. Years later, he expressed to me how, at that time, he had actually thought he was done with discernment forever. Now, after three kids, a move, shifts in careers, and taking on other professional roles, he laughs at his naivety.

The truth is, discernment will appear in all of our lives time and time again. Thankfully, it's a process which makes us familiar with God's voice. The more we discern, the more certain we are of the Holy Spirit moving within our lives, and the easier the whole process becomes.



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Leo P. Dobard Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Total	\$400.00

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Psalm 146: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for November 7
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

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.

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

-- Very Reverend
Stephen Scott Chemino,
Chairman



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Parish Spotlight: St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria Established 1947

St. Frances Cabrini Parish, dedicated in honor of the first American citizen to be canonized, was canonically established by Bishop Charles P. Greco on March 1, 1947. Fr. Michael Prevot was assigned as the first pastor.

The first mass was offered in the new parish church, a former Army chapel purchased by Bishop Greco from Camp Claiborne. At that time there were less than 200 Catholic families in the parish. The men painted walls, tiled the floor and refinished the pews. The ladies sewed altar cloths and vestments. Fr. Prevot laid the new cement walk in front of the church at its new location on Texas Avenue.

In 1947, the Sanctuary Society was established under the direction of Mrs. A. J. Moore with 90 members. In 1948 the Usher Society was formed. The choir, under the direction of Mrs. Edward Marshall, was accompanied by an old organ whose bellows had been repaired with awning material.

Lee Louis Gremillion was the first baby baptized in the parish on September 13, 1947.

The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word came in 1948 to open a school in four frame buildings. Grades one through six soon had 220 pupils.

In January, 1951, Fr. Prevot was killed in a car accident. Fr. Gerald Ducote was assigned as the second pastor.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.

Ground was broken for a new school building in 1952. Bishop Greco blessed the new facility on January 11, 1953. A Rosary Crusade was held in Bringhurst Park and family rosaries were encouraged. The Holy Name Society was formed in February, 1952. By 1955, the school enrollment had reached 530 students with a staff of 12 teachers. Additional classrooms were added in 1958 together with a new convent for the sisters. For his service to the Church, Fr. Ducote was named a monsignor by Pope Pius XII in 1958. Additional land adjacent to the school was purchased in 1963. A parish council and a school board

were organized in 1968.

In 1969, Msgr. Ducote resigned as pastor. Msgr. Martin Tyrrell was appointed pastor in 1969 and a new parish census was conducted. Over 1,100 families were registered. A youth mass was organized in Prevot Hall and a CCD program was established.

In May 1972, Pope Paul VI honored three parishioners with the rank and title of Knight of St. Gregory: Mr. Elmer Moore, Mr. Adras Laborde and Mr. Leon Medica.

Plans for a new church were drawn up and on December 7, 1979, Bishop Lawrence Graves signed the contract to build the current church. Msgr. Tyrrell did

not live to see the new church that he had planned completed. He died in May and the church was blessed

by Bishop Graves on August 16, 1981. Under Fr. Gerard Foley, a large pipe organ was installed in the church and the interior decoration of the sanctuary was completed. Fr. Foley spearheaded the development of the Manna House ministry to provide free meals for the homeless and those in need. That ministry, largely a work of Cabrini parishioners at that time, continues today serving thousands of meals each month.

Under Msgr. Ronald Hoppe, the final payment on the church building debt was paid and the mortgage was burned on November 2, 1999. A new bell tower was dedicated in honor of Mrs. Mary Glorioso Mule, on February 13, 2000.

Today's St. Frances Cabrini Church and School continues to be a vibrant Catholic community under the guidance of Fr. Chad Partain.



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*You are my inheritance,
O Lord!*

Psalm 16: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for November 14
33rd Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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cooking dinner for the golfers
and volunteers.

see you next year!



GOLF TOURNAMENT. Bishop Robert Marshall and Father Luke LaFleur, director of vocations, pray before the shotgun start of this year's Annual Bishop's Golf Tournament.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for November 2021

People who suffer from depression -
We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support
and a light that opens them up to life.

Special thanks to:



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Bishop's Annual Golf Tournament

After a year of cancellations, the Annual Bishop's Golf Tournament was held at Oakwing Golf Course in Alexandria on Monday, October 11.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and everyone who participated this year. All proceeds benefit the Seminarian Education Fund.



1st PLACE GROSS. Michael Upton Team: Pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall are Frank Brame, Richard Starling, Michael McNulty, Stan Bollinger.



2nd PLACE GROSS. Red River Bank Team: Pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall are Jack Brame, Ben St. Romain, Jay Bankston and Johnny Emmons.



3rd PLACE GROSS. Jamie Curley Team: Pictured with Bishop Marshall are Jamie Curley, Ricky Fralick, John Doggett and Jay Piland.



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SEMINARIANS. Bishop Robert Marshall with the seminarians: Derrick Rials, Jacob Cass, Blaine Phillips, Gabe Dowden, Josh Burch, Matthew Bonner and Donnie Kuzma.

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



1st PLACE PEORIA. Team St. Joseph Church, Cheneyville: Pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall are Fr. Dwight DeJesus, Clarence Book, Joshua Book and Herbert Bruce.

Special thanks to:



Team Southern Chevrolet: Jeff Basco and Mike McCann with Bishop Robert Marshall.

sponsor of Bishop's Golf Tournament



2nd PLACE PEORIA. Taylor Courville Team: pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall are Taylor Courville, Heath Grimes, Patrick Sowell and Colin Roberts.



3rd PLACE PEORIA. Kramer Funeral Home Team: pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall are Corky Yates, Charlie Weems, Paul Bordelon and Chuck Mercer.



ST. MARTIN CHURCH, LECOMPTE, Saturday, Sept. 25. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. Martin Church, Lecompte, substituting for Father Marc Noel who was ill that weekend.



HOLY FAMILY MISSION, MONET FERRY, Sunday, Sept. 26. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass with the community of Holy Family Church in Monet Ferry. Pictured with Bishop Marshall is Father Christian Ogbonna, pastor, and the parishioners.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH. Father Taylor Reynolds blessed the pets on Oct. 10 for the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD. On Sunday September 26 the Youth Group from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield decorated a fair booth at the Winn Parish Fair. The theme of the booth was Pro Life.

- Life in our parish communities -



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, MONCLA. The St. John the Baptist Church in Moncla had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful church, Saint Francis de Sales in Echo! Father Dwight DeJesus was a wonderful host, sharing many facts and stories about the church. The rosary was recited in the Grant Petrie Memorial, the result of a dream that Grant's father had, and with the help of many, brought ot fruition. Those attending were, back row: Edna Gauthier, Libby Dupuy, and Barbara Cole; front row: Father Dwight DeJesus, Sandra Diver, Emma Gaspard, and Christine George.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHES. Several faculty members and students from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches attended this year's Celebration of Life Gala for the Women's Resource Center in Natchitoches. Speaker, Mike Williams, shared his comical yet inspiring story of adoption, not only his own adoption as a child, but also of his own son. By its teaching in the classroom and participation within the community, we are dedicated and proud to spread the pro-life message that every life, from the moment of conception to a natural end, is sacred. In the upcoming months we will host our annual "Baby Shower for Jesus," where materials are collected and donated to our local Women's Resource Center.

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
(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
(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. **St. Edward the Confessor**, Tallulah on Facebook (Fridays)

Saturday

4:00 p.m. **St. Rita Church**, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches on Youtube www.youtube.com/channel/UCxWI4jt3uy8d64HwDpmMB6Q

Radio Maria | www.radiomaria.us
(click the play button) or tune in on your radio in Alexandria: station 580 AM
or in Natchitoches: station 89.7 AM

5:00 p.m. **St. Michael the Archangel**, Leesville on Facebook

Find additional resources at 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

Church parishes offer multiple opportunities to grow in the faith

Please visit your church parish's Facebook page or the diocesan website for more information on ways that you can grow in your knowledge of our beautiful faith.

Eucharistic Adoration, Marksville - every Tuesday

St. Joseph Church in Marksville is holding a weekly Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome. Please wear a face mask, and practice social distancing during this time of prayer and worship.

Devotion to the Saints, Alexandria - every Wednesday

All are invited to join Fr. Thomas Kennedy on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Complex at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria, for presentations on Devotion to the Saints. Register for this free series of classes by calling OLPS Church Office at 318-445-3693.

Grief Support Group, Pineville - every Wednesday

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville will begin a Grief Support Group, every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center. For more information, please contact the church office at 318-445-2497 or Robin Graham at 318-229-6466.

Bible Class, Pineville - every last Thursday

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville will begin their parish Bible Class on Thursday, Sept. 30 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church. The class will continue every last Thursday of the month. Fr. Walter welcomes anyone interested to attend and enjoy. For more information, call the church office at 318-445-2497.

Divine Mercy Hour - every Friday

Sacred Heart Church of Moreauville has a weekly Divine Mercy Hour at 3:00 p.m. on Fridays. There will be adoration with benediction, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and confessions available. Everyone is invited.

ACTS Retreats

An ACTS retreat is a three day and three night Catholic lay retreat presented by fellow parishioners. In the Diocese of Alexandria, ACTS retreats are offered by four parishes: Our Lady of Prompt in Alexandria; Sacred Heart in Pineville; St. Joseph in Marksville; and St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport. All ACTS retreats in the diocese are held at Maryhill Retreat Center in Pineville. See below for upcoming retreat dates or contact one of the four church parishes for more information.

"let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."

11 Hebrews 10: 24



Upcoming Retreats

• November 4 - 7
**St. Mary's Assumption
Men's ACTS**

Visit www.stmaryscottonport.com

• November 18 - 21
**Sacred Heart, Pineville
Women's ACTS**

Visit www.jesusinpineville.com

A list of ACTS Retreat dates can be found at www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/.

Teens, priests, pastoral workers and nun among martyrs beatified in Spain

CÓRDOBA, Spain (CNS) -- More than 100 victims of Spain's 1936-1939 civil war moved a step closer to sainthood after being beatified as martyrs for the faith. They included two teenage boys as well as an 88-year-old nun who died of bullet wounds after being tied to a window as a human shield.

More than 3,000 people gathered Oct. 16 for the beatification Mass in Córdoba's sixth-century cathedral for Father Juan Elías Medina and 126 fellow martyrs, all killed by anti-clerical forces at the start of the four-year conflict.

The Mass brought to more than 2,000 the number beatified or canonized from the Spanish conflict, during which 2,000 churches were destroyed and up to 8,000 Catholic clergy and religious order members killed, along with a dozen bishops and tens of thousands of lay Catholics.

Father Medina, from Castro del Río, was arrested in July 1936 while serving as rector of his home parish and was shot with 14 others at the town's cemetery, after assuring his mother in a letter, found in his breviary, that he was "dying content."

The Córdoba Diocese said the 33-year-old priest had been noted for work among the poor and sick and had refused to deny his priesthood while held in a town hall basement. It added that the "brutal executions" had formed "part of a climate of persecution



SPAIN MARTYRS. Pictured above is the cover of the Oct. 10, 2021, edition of "Iglesia en Cordoba," featuring relatives of some of the more than 100 victims of Spain's 1936-1939 civil war. These individuals moved a step closer to sainthood after being beatified as martyrs for the faith Oct. 16. (CNS photo/courtesy Iglesia en Cordoba).

imposed by republican militia against all those daring to profess membership of the church."

A Córdoba-born teenager, Francisco García León, president of a newly founded Catholic youth organization, was thrown in jail at Montoro with his father for refusing to remove his scapular. The 15-year-old was killed alongside dozens of other prisoners with dynamite and axes, when nationalist troops attacked the town.

Another 15-year-old, Antonio Gaitán Perabad of El

Carpio, was arrested with his father and cousins and shot with them at the town cemetery after rejecting an invitation to flee from republican guards.

The beatified included six female pastoral workers, ages 26 to 77, from the Santa María de las Flores Parish at Posadas, who were taken overnight to a farm near the town and thrown down a well after being tortured.

"It is difficult to draw up a biographical profile of these six women as there is no ecclesiastical documentation on

them, since the Posadas parish archive was burned at their deaths," the diocese said.

"But none had any known political affiliation or was registered with any political party. They died only because they were Christians, and because of their closeness to the Catholic Church."

The only religious sister beatified, Mother María Josefa González Rodríguez, was 88. She chose to stay in Baena when republican forces occupied the town, looting and burning its church, and died from bullet wounds after being tied with two priests to a convent window as a human shield against attacking nationalists.

Two brothers, Antonio Montilla Cañete and Manuel Montilla Cañete, ages 22 and 17, both studying at Córdoba's San Pelagio Seminary, fled Puente Genil during fierce street fighting, but returned to help their elderly parents and were arrested during a house-to-house search for "bourgeoisie, rightists and church people."

The diocese said the remains of the brothers, who were shot against the town's train station, were desecrated and burned before being thrown in a mass grave.

Another seminarian from the same town, José Ruiz Montero, had been noted as a "brilliant academic" during studies at

nearby Seville, the diocese said, and was shot repeatedly in his arms and stomach while refusing to shout "Long live communism."

Pope Francis, who recognized the Córdoba martyrs in a November 2020 decree, requested applause for them in his Oct. 17 Angelus message, adding he hoped their fidelity would give strength to all, "especially persecuted Christians in various parts of the world."

Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, celebrated the beatification Mass.

In a pastoral letter ahead of the beatification, Bishop Demetrio Fernández González of Córdoba said the 1930s "anti-religious fury" in Spain had been "like corrosive acid rain, gravely contaminating the whole society, and turning feelings of goodness, humanity and brotherhood arid in the hearts of many."

He added that none of the martyrs had "taken up arms or joined the field of battle," but had "distinguished themselves by doing good to others."

"After 85 years, it isn't those horrors which now reach us, but the precious perfume of a greater love, the eloquent testimony of forgiveness offered to persecutors," the bishop told Catholics.

*The Lord
is king.
He is robed
in majesty.*

Psalm 93: 1 //
Responsorial Psalm
for November 21
The Solemnity
of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe



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ST. AUGUSTINE MASS. Dr. Aaron Mathews (pictured), Professor of Music at Xavier University in New Orleans, composed the Sister Thea Bowman Mass setting. Sister Theo Bowman was a Franciscan nun from Mississippi, being considered for canonization. Parishioners of St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle have recently had the honor of learning this new Mass setting.

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St. Thomas of Aquinas, the Prince of Theologians, says that the fire of Purgatory is equal in intensity to the fire of Hell, and that the slightest contact with it is more dreadful than all the possible sufferings of this Earth!

St. Augustine, the greatest of the Holy Doctors, teaches that to be purified of their faults previously to being admitted to Heaven, souls after death are subjected to a fire more penetrating, more dreadful than anything we can see, or feel, or conceive in this life.

“Though this fire is destined to cleanse and purify the soul,” adds the Holy Doctor, “still it is more acute than anything we could possibly endure on Earth.”

St. Cyril of Alexandria does not hesitate to say: “that it would be preferable to suffer all the possible torments of Earth until the Judgment day, than pass one day in Purgatory.”

Another great Saint says:

“Our fire, in comparison with the fire of Purgatory is as a refreshing breeze.”

The other Holy Writers speak in identical terms of this awful fire.

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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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First Sunday of Advent

11 November 28

*To you,
o Lord,
I lift
my soul.*

Psalm 25: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for November 28
First Sunday in Advent



October: Month of the Holy Rosary

LIVING ROSARY. Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria had a living rosary on Oct. 7 in honor of The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The students were led by pastor, Fr. Rusty Rabablais, and Fr. Thomas Kennedy, and assisted by Seminarian Derrick Rials. The students began the procession in front of the school and ended in the church with Adoration. It could not have been a more beautiful celebration in honor of the Blessed Mother!



ROSARY RALLIES. (Above) Father Anthony Dharmaraj, pastor of St. Rita Church (foreground), held a Public Square Rosary Rally in front of the St. Joseph Catholic Center on Coliseum Blvd. on Saturday, Oct. 16.

(Above right) Father Kenneth Michiels and his parishioners held the 104th Anniversary Fatima Public Rosary Crusade in front of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville on Oct. 16.

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OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH IN WINNFIELD held a Rosary Rally on Saturday, October 9, at noon at the Winn Parish Courthouse. A beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother was placed on the courthouse grounds and adorned with gorgeous flowers. The gathering prayed the rosary led by pastor, Reverend Wade Decoste. A prayer bowl was present and the people who attended placed their prayer requests in the bowl. Many people from the community sent their prayer requests in by texts. The hour of prayer brought peace and comfort to all who attended!

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answers on pg 15
The Cross Word

November 15, 22 and 29, 2021



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Readings: Dan 7:13-14; Rev 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37 and Jer 33:14-16; 1Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28,34-36

ACROSS

- 1 "Blessed ___ thou"
- 4 Video
- 8 Swiss mountains
- 12 The Son of Man must suffer and ___
- 13 "Yes, ___"
- 14 Type of pasta
- 15 (3 wds) Daniel's kingly vision
- 17 Arabian Sea gulf
- 18 School group
- 19 Ogre's wife
- 21 "Increase and abound in ___"
- 24 Distinguished
- 26 Type of acid

DOWN

- 28 Bloom
- 32 "___ at your right hand"
- 33 Drive a car
- 35 The other half of Jima
- 36 Postures
- 38 Knitting materials
- 40 Went gently
- 42 Prime
- 43 Victoria's husband
- 46 "I believe in ___ God"
- 48 Cross
- 49 Vex
- 54 Capital of Kingdom of Jerusalem
- 55 Pleased with
- 56 Children's plaything

- 57 ___ of matrimony
- 58 Often has a gym
- 59 Ram's mate

DOWN

- 1 Sales pitches
- 2 River (Spanish)
- 3 ___ Commandments
- 4 27th U.S. president
- 5 Capital of Jordan
- 6 Legume
- 7 Dignify
- 8 North Atlantic islands
- 9 Flavor of sherbet
- 10 Parent teacher groups
- 11 Jesus freed us from our ___
- 16 Not closed
- 20 "Coming with great power and ___"
- 21 Girl child to Scots
- 22 Leave out
- 23 Brief autobiographical sketch
- 25 Fat
- 27 Award
- 29 Title for a king
- 30 Possesses
- 31 ___ High God
- 34 Jesus came to ___ to the truth
- 37 Necessary
- 39 Egg on to do wrong
- 41 Type of temple column
- 43 Middle East dweller
- 44 To make crazy
- 45 "This is why I was ___"
- 47 A Columbus ship
- 50 Underdone
- 51 Adam did to fruit
- 52 Pull
- 53 "Every ___ shall see Christ's coming"



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHEES CANDY BAR CHALLENGE. Students in Mrs. Hogg's religion class at St. Mary's School, Natchitoches had a candy bar challenge! Students who learned all 73 books of the Bible in order received a king sized candy bar of their choice. Winners of the challenge pictured above.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL IN MOREAUVILLE. Sacred Heart School in Moreauville celebrated National 4-H Week.



FALL FLING. Sacred Heart School in Moreauville held their annual Fall Fling from Oct. 16-17. A raffle, silent auction and delicious food were all part of the fundraising event.



CONFIRMATION, DEVILLE. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass for six young people at St. John the Baptist Church in Deville. Thank you to Father Albi Mulloth, the catechists, parents and sponsors for their support of the Confirmandi and to the parishioners for their warm welcome. Confirmandi, go forth and be great disciples!



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF LOURDES, FIFTH WARD. After two postponements (one pandemic related, one hurricane related), Bishop Marshall made his first trip to Our Lady of Lourdes, Fifth Ward, on Oct. 3. to confirm five young parishioners. Pictured with the confirmandi are pastor, Fr. Kurian Zachariah, Deacons Darrell Dubroc and Richard Mitchell.

Steubenville 2022

Calling all high schoolers!

Join us for the Steubenville South High School Youth Conference in Alexandria on June 24-26, 2022.

Throughout the Bible, the Lord tells us over and over again, "Be not afraid." and he continues to speak these words to us today. This summer, join hundreds of Catholic teens (plus thousands

of others who will be attending Steubenville Conferences across North America) to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is always faithful and will never abandon us.

At Steubenville South, you'll:

- Experience the peace of Jesus Christ through inspiring talks, praise and worship, and the

sacraments;

- Connect with hundreds of other Catholic teens;
- Return home with memories that will last a lifetime, knowing that you are never alone.

All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this weekend retreat.

Learn more soon at www.steubenvillesouth.com, or email info@steubenvillesouth.com for more information.

I'm an adult. What about me?

All are adults, age 18 and up, are invited to join us for a special one-night event on Saturday, Nov. 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. This night of prayer will feature a

talk by Father John Brocato centering around the restoration of mind, body, and soul, as well as prayer and worship led by Grae McCullough and Kelly Lombardi, and the opportunity for confession.

Join the Steubenville South Conference Office for this one-night event as we cultivate a quiet space in our hearts for all that God has to offer us. This night is FREE and open to all adults (you do not need to be involved in youth ministry or the Steubenville South Conference to attend). Pre-registration through www.diocesealex.org is encouraged, but not required.

Beyond the Limits

Also mark your calendars for our Junior High Conference,

Beyond the Limits, March 5-6. More information concerning this weekend event for students in grades 6-8 will be available soon. We can't wait to see you there!

Come Alive: Night of Prayer
(for adults)

November 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Beyond the Limits

Jr. High Conference
March 5-6, 2022

Steubenville South
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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. 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.

Sunday Dinner, Mansura - Oct. 31

St. Paul the Apostle, Mansura will have a fundraiser dinner on Sunday, Oct. 31. Serving time is 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Cafeteria CURBSIDE SERVICE ONLY. Dinner includes pork stew and rice, sweet potato, corn, and dinner roll. Homemade cakes available. \$10.00 per lunch.

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.

Come Alive: Night of Prayer - Nov. 13

I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. // Ezekiel 37: 14

Set aside time to pray and contemplate God's restoration in your life. Join us for a night of prayer on **Saturday, Nov. 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.** This night is FREE, and open to all adults, age 18 and up, and includes a talk by Father John Brocato about the restoration of mind, body, and soul, prayer and worship led by Grae McCullough and Kelly Lombardi, as well as the opportunity for confession.

Join the Steubenville South Conference Office for this one-night event as we cultivate a quiet space in our hearts for all that God has to offer us. Email info@steubenvillesouth.com or call 318-445-6424 ext. 255 for more information. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required; please visit www.diocesealex.org to register.

iGiveCatholic - Nov. 30

Are you ready to be a part of #iGiveCatholic? It's a day to celebrate all the good going on in our communities! Mark your calendars for November 30!

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Advent Discernment Retreat (online) - Dec. 12

An Advent Discernment Retreat for women ages 18-40 will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12 via Zoom from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. with the Sisters of Divine Providence in San Antonio, TX. Join us to have individual "walks" with the Sisters, individual reflection time, and an opportunity to deepen your spirituality. Give yourself this Advent gift of community and prayer to see where God is calling you. You may register for this free retreat at <https://bit.ly/CDP-Advent-Retreat-2021>.

For more information, contact vocationministry@cdptexas.org.

Priestly Vocations Retreat - Feb. 5, 2022

There will be a day of reflection at Maryhill for any man who is discerning priesthood or wants to know more about seminary. Any high school, college, or adult male is invited to attend. More information will be provided soon.

Enduring Faith documentary

Enduring Faith - A documentary film on the faith, perseverance, and inspiring example of Indigenous Peoples across North America - available for all to watch at kofc.org/enduringfaith.

Indigenous communities across North America have a rich and vibrant testimony to share - both past and present - including the witness of their faith. Enduring Faith: The Story of Native American Catholics dives deep into the rich contribution of Native Americans in the tapestry of the Catholic faith. Produced by the Knights of Columbus

as part of its Faith Formation and Native Solidarity initiatives, the 60-minute documentary offers a missing piece to the greater story of Catholicism on the continent and a beautiful example of how Christ reveals himself through the uniqueness of every culture. A must watch with the family, classroom, or faith group. Available to all at kofc.org/enduringfaith. Please spread the word. Know someone who could benefit from joining the Knights? Visit or share kofc.org/joinus for details.

Discalced Carmelite Meeting

The Order of Discalced Carmelites holds its monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. every second Saturday, at Maryhill Renewal Center. There will not be a November meeting because of the Silent Retreat, regular meetings will resume in January. 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

Save the dates! - Tentative dates for conferences in 2022

- Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference, Alexandria: March 5-6, 2022
- Genesis of Eve Women's Conference, Alexandria: May 13-15, 2022
- Steubenville South High School Youth Conference, Alexandria: June 24-26, 2022
- National Tekakwitha Conference, Alexandria: July 20-24, 2022

Raffle Fundraiser - Drawing date TBA

St. Frances Cabrini Church Knights of Columbus #13505 are raffling off a first prize of an all inclusive guided hunting trip in Tensas Parish. Available dates for the trip are December 10-12 OR December 17-19, and will include 4 hunts, 3 days, 2 nights. Second prize is a Ruger .308 Rifle with scope or \$250.00 cash. Raffle tickets are \$10.00 per ticket or \$25.00 for 3 tickets. Call Jason at 318-201-6328.

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.

Church Today News Deadlines

November 29
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 18

December 27
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Dec. 16



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November 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NOVEMBER 1 ALL SAINTS DAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville ALL SOULS DAY PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME	3 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 PRAY FOR DCN. G. LEBLANC	4 Second Coming Series 6:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen St. Mary's Assumption Men's ACTS Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center PRAY FOR FR. V. MANUEL	5 Blue Mass 12:05 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	6 FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	7 PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER
8 PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE	9 Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER	10 Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville Devotion to Saints Series 6:30-7:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK	11 VETERANS DAY PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS	12 Silent Carmelite Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER	13 Come Alive: Night of Prayer 6:00-8:00 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL	14 PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN
15 PRAY FOR DCN. T. MOULARD	16 Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR FR. A. MULLOTH	17 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 PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK	18 PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY	19 PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL	20 PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIKWE	21 PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN
22 PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR	23 Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA	24 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 PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA	25 THANKSGIVING DAY PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPARAMBIL	26 PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH	27 PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE	28 First Sunday of Advent PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN
29 PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL	30 #iGiveCatholic Giving Tuesday Please consider giving! PRAY FOR DCN. C. PELTO	DECEMBER 1 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 PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	2 PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS	3 PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY	4 PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS	5 Second Sunday of Advent PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX

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