

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LIII, No. 2

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

February 21, 2022



*Saints
in the
making*

Discover and celebrate our Catholic Schools! Sponsored by the National Catholic Educators Association, Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Catholic schools in our diocese celebrated joyfully this past month! See page 13 for pictures of up and coming saints in the making!

INSIDE

God's Gift, Our Response

As we begin the 2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal, we are reminded that everything we do is God's gift. See page 4 for Bishop Robert Marshall's Annual Diocesan Appeal letter, and prayerfully consider your response in faith.

Help to promote vocations by joining the Serra Club

Serra Club is an international apostolate whose goal is to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. See page 9 to see how Serra Club members "adopt" and joyfully celebrate our seminarians, and how you can join!

Season of Service

The Season of Service (S.O.S.) program is a coordinated effort to promote service and build community throughout the Diocese of Alexandria during the Lenten season. See page 10 for more information on the program and how to register your team.

INDEX

Feature	2
Letter from the Editor	3
Question Corner	3
Diocesan News	4
Features	6
Vocations and Burses	8
Parish Spotlight	10
Local News	11
Picture Spread.....	12
Features	14
Schools / Youth.....	20
Diocesan Briefs	22
Calendar	23

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Fr. Scott Chemino steps down as Vicar General, Fr. Craig Scott appointed VG.

Father Scott Chemino recently asked that he be permitted to step down as our Vicar General so that he may devote time to the ministries of his parish, Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie, as well as provide additional care for his mother.

For twelve years, Father Chemino has served three bishops as Vicar General of the Diocese of Alexandria. In addition, he served as the Delegate to Archbishop Gregory Aymond during his 15-month tenure as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese. I am very grateful to Father Chemino for his service as Vicar General, and for his tremendous assistance to me



Fr. Scott Chemino



Fr. M. Craig Scott



Fr. Rusty Rabalais

during my first year and a half as Bishop of Alexandria.

I have asked Father Michael Craig Scott, Pastor of St. James Memorial Church and Moderator of the Curia, to serve as Vicar General. Over the years, he has served as Vicar for Clergy and Dean of the Central Deanery.

He is well-prepared to serve our diocese as Vicar General.

In accepting this new responsibility, Father Scott will be relinquishing the position of Dean (Vicar Forane) of the Central Deanery. Father Rusty Rabalais, Pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor parish in Alexandria, has

agreed to serve as the new dean. Prior to his appointment as a pastor in the Central Deanery, Father Rabalais had served as Dean of the Avoyelles Deanery.

Please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Father Chemino for his years of dedicated service as Vicar General. In addition, please join me in thanking Father Scott and Father Rabalais for their willingness to accept these new positions. Please pray for all of us in this time of transition.

Live Jesus in our hearts,

Most Rev.
Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

Archbishop Fabre prays at Mass we'll 'grow in our love' for God, each other

By Ruby Thomas
Catholic News Service

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) -- Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, the newly appointed archbishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville, celebrated a Mass at Holy Family Church Feb. 8, saying to the congregation that his prayer for the archdiocese -- his new home -- is that "we will grow in our love for God and grow in our love for each other."

"To do so is a response to God who is laboring in every moment to love us first," said Archbishop Fabre.

During the liturgy, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz -- who has led the archdiocese since

Archbishop
Shelton Fabre

2007 -- welcomed Archbishop Fabre, calling the news of his appointment "joyous."

Archbishop Kurtz said he has known Archbishop Fabre for many years.

"He's a good friend of mine and he will be a good friend of yours," said Archbishop Kurtz.

During the homily, Archbishop Fabre shared that between leaving his Louisiana home and coming to Louisville, his heart is divided.

"It delights me to be here today to greet this new home that is mine. It's my honor and privilege to serve you, the good people of the Archdiocese of Louisville," he said. "I welcome

this opportunity to meet you and yet my heart is divided for my family in Thibodaux who is learning today of the news that I am not with them. So my heart is divided today and I acknowledge that."

Archbishop Fabre is not only leaving the members of the clergy, religious and faithful in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, which he has led since 2013, he's also leaving his siblings, he said.

He went on to discuss the day's Scripture, noting that God is with us when we struggle. He drew the congregation's attention to the first reading from the book of 1 Kings:

"Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below: you keep covenant and love toward your servants who walk before you with their whole heart," he said, quoting the reading. "With their whole heart, with their whole heart," he repeated.

"God wants us. He wants our hearts and he wants our whole heart," said Archbishop Fabre.

Giving one's whole heart to God is difficult, the archbishop said. He noted that he once heard a new priest say after ordination, "I gave my life to God and I've

been fighting with Him since then trying to get it back.' That describes me and perhaps it describes you too... We all desire to give the Lord our heart, but to surrender our whole hearts is difficult."

God, however, is willing to help in that struggle, he said.

"When we struggle and can't do it on our own, he simply asks us to ask him for help. ... When we discover places in our hearts that are afraid, fighting for self-sufficiency, the Lord simply asks us to ask Him, 'Incline my heart to you, oh God,'" said Archbishop Fabre.

"Today, let's ask for grace to love God in return," he continued. "Let us ask for grace to give the Lord our whole heart and when that requires more than we can offer, let us simply say, 'Incline my heart to you, oh God.'"

Following the Mass, Archbishop Fabre held a news conference at the Archdiocese of Louisville Pastoral Center, where he spoke to members of the media and answered questions.

He will be installed as the fifth archbishop of Louisville March 30 at the Kentucky International Convention Center in downtown Louisville.

Developing a fluency in prayer

I have an odd question for you - what country have you always wanted to visit?

If you haven't been there before, what gave you the desire to go there? What made you think that the trip might be worth the investment? Worth the journey?

My guess is, you have probably tasted the food, you've seen photos from the region, you've experienced some aspect of the culture - and it's put a desire in you to know more for yourself.

Once we experience the stirrings of a relationship with Christ -- we've tasted the food, we've seen the pictures, we've caught a glimpse of the people and the culture -- it plants a desire in our hearts to know more and develop a deeper relationship with Him. And, then not just that, but to put that relationship into action in our daily lives.

We can't talk about prayer without talkign about who God



Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina

Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

is, and falling in love with Him so much so that we desire to spend time in His presence.

Over the next few months, I want to dive in with you, immersing ourselves in the "culture" of prayer. Getting to know God is the trip of a lifetime - let's not put it off for another 10 years! And, prayer? That's the language of it. To start, let's dig in to *who* God is.

Who do we pray to?

Acknowledging the obvious answer of "God," without the knowledge of *who God is*, we can easily get tripped up on the method of prayer without realizing *who* it is that we are

trying to have a relationship with.

There are 4 specific characteristics of God that can make all the difference in our prayer lives:

1. A God who hears us and actually responds to us.

Jeremiah 29: 12-13 says, "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

As you read the Word of God in scripture, start to take notice of verses like this. God hears and responds to His people.

2. A God who cares.

God wants to spend time

with you. We are not tapping Him on the shoulder, distracting Him from His real work.

Matthew 6:26-27 says, "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

God genuinely cares for us, and wants to take care of us.

3. A God who is capable.

God not only cares for us, but has the power and authority to move in our lives.

4. A God who is outside of time.

We often miss the first three characteristics if we're in

a season where we can't seem to hear God. But, Psalm 90: 4 says, "A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night."

God is outside of time itself, and is always moving and working.

We have several lenten missions, plus junior high, high school, and adult conferences and retreats coming up over the next several months. Let these seemingly small bullet points, along with these retreat encounters begin to guide some of your prayer times to better get to know God. Our dedicated prayer time is worth it, because our relationship with God is worth it.

Soli deo gloria,
Cari

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Donating gambling winnings / Friday abstinence for a vegan

Q. Years ago -- when I was a member of a Protestant denominational church -- it seemd as though the preacher and the congregation were almost always doing fundraising for various building projects. During one of these drives, a member of our congregation won the state lottery for \$20 million and donated a million of it to the church.

Though having preached for years against vices such as gambling, the preacher and congregation accepted it. What would be the Catholic view of such winnings donated by a Catholic to a local parish? Accept it or not? (Indiana)

A. Various religions have various positions on the morality of gambling. In the Catholic Church's view, gambling is not intrinsically evil.

As stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others" (No. 2413).

Notice the caution, though, in that statement; a person's gambling must not prevent him from meeting other obligations, including supporting himself and his family and paying his debts.

To your question -- as to what a Catholic parish might do if offered a donation from gambling winnings -- I can tell you, as a recently retired pastor of a large suburban parish, I would gladly and gleefully accept.

In fact, there's a precedent: In 2016, someone who had won \$100,000 in the Massachusetts state lottery donated those winnings anonymously to St. Anthony's Shrine, run by the Franciscans in downtown Boston.

That shrine provides a variety of social services, and the pastor announced that the money would be used for purchasing Christmas gifts for need children, food donations for families, and a large Christmas dinner for several hundred veterans.

Q. I grew up Catholic, and we always did meatless Fridays

year-round as part of the Catholic practice of abstinence. (We had fish instead.) Now, as a vegan adult, since I'm already skipping meat anyway (fish, too), if I still wanted to do some kind of Friday abstinence, could I give up things like soda pop, desserts, or even beer? (Indiana)

A. On the Fridays during Lent, Catholics who have reached age 14 are asked to abstain from eating meat as a penitential act to join in the sufferings of Jesus. I have known people who have followed that rule by dining out on an extravagant lobster dinner. That, of course, misses the point; what is asked for is sacrifice.

In 1966, when the U.S. Catholic bishops lifted the rule of mandatory abstinence on Fridays throughout the year, this is what they said: "Since the spirit of penance primarily suggests that we discipline ourselves in that which we enjoy most, to many in our day abstinence from meat no longer implies penance, while

renunciation of other things would be more penitential."

Your question -- about what other things you might give up -- suggests that you have captured the spirit of that statement. All of your choices -- soda, dessert, beer -- have merit, because they would require a conscious decision on your part to forgo something that you like.

But the sacrifice you pick need not event be centered on dietary matters. I've always thought that a good idea for Christians on Lenten Fridays would be to take five minutes around three o'clock in the afternoon just to be quiet and to thank Jesus for dying on the cross to redeem our sins.

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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2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal: God's gift, our response

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

At our celebrations of Christmas, we were reminded once again of the depth of God's love for us. Rather than leaving us mired in our own sin and selfishness, God Himself took on human flesh and made his dwelling with us - not as a powerful king, but as a poor, fragile infant laid in a manger. In the weeks that have followed, we have listened to the Scriptures and heard how Jesus was made manifest, how he was gradually revealed by signs and wonders. In the person of Jesus Christ, in the enormous love of God, we have received the greatest gift

of all - an "incredible gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15) - by which we are forgiven, healed, and redeemed. How grateful we must be for God's gift to us!

As we follow the daily news, it is easy to get overwhelmed by the problems that we face. Every day, we hear of more heartache and difficulties, more challenges and tragedies. Yet as people of faith we must always remember that God is with us, his mercy pours over us, his love constantly embraces us. Yes, we love God - because "he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Our love, our gratitude, our faith, our hope and charity are merely our feeble responses to the perfect gift of God's love.

As we begin the 2022 Annual Diocesan Appeal, we are reminded that everything we do, every action we take, every thought, every feeling, every blessing is God's gift. We may describe ourselves as a "self-made" man or woman, but that's not really true, is it? We owe much to our parents, our teachers, our mentors, those who have supported us and walked with us and sustained us. But most of all, we are challenged to remember that we were created, not made, by the hand of our loving God. Every breath, every heartbeat, everything we have and everything we hope for comes from the Father who loved us enough to give us his only-

begotten Son as our redeemer. Everything is God's Gift and our entire lives are Our Response.

Each year, through the ADA, we seek your financial support to help our diocese carry out many of its essential tasks - helping parishioners to deepen their faith through ongoing formation and sacramental preparation, caring for our retired priests, helping those discerning a vocation to priesthood, diaconate and religious life, and other important services in the life of our diocese. This year, your support is needed more than ever. We need to meet the pastoral, educational, and spiritual needs of our people, to announce to all the Good News of

Jesus Christ.

Please prayerfully consider what your faith response will be to the ADA and, more importantly, to God's gift to you. We know the enormity of God's Gift. Our Response should be generous and heartfelt.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Most Reverend
Robert W. Marshall, Jr.
Bishop of Alexandria*

An envelope will be included in next month's issue of the Church Today. Please prayerfully consider your response to our Annual Diocesan Appeal.

A Synodal Church: Listening Sessions

The Diocese of Alexandria will be holding a series of listening sessions in each deanery during the next several months in response to Pope Francis' call to engage in the Synodal Process titled "Toward a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission."

The Synod, which was announced in April 2021 by Pope Francis, officially opened with a Mass celebrated on October 9, 2021 in Rome. Locally, Bishop Marshall celebrated the opening Mass for the Diocesan phase of the Synod on October 17, 2021 in the Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier.

A Diocesan Steering Committee for the Synodal Process has also been formed and has met to begin the preparatory phase. The next phase is to hold a "listening session" in each of the four deaneries of the diocese in the coming months. The task of the listening sessions will be to discuss the eight questions featured in the Synodal Church Survey which is available on the Diocesan website.

We invite you to attend a listening session in your deanery.

These listening sessions are opportunities for church leaders to hear the voice of the lay faithful, and for the lay faithful to hear the voices of one another. The discussions will be guided by the Synodal Church Survey and will center around vigorous and full participation of the lay faithful in the totality of the life of the Church. The results of each listening session will be integrated into the final report which will be compiled by the Diocesan Steering Committee for the Synodal Process and then submitted to the Apostolic Nuncio.

Let us pray for one another as we "walk together" as missionary disciples, learning from one another.

The Deanery Listening Sessions will be held on the following dates:

- **Monday, March 7, 6:00 p.m., Natchitoches Deanery**
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches
- **Tuesday, March 15, 6:00 p.m., Eastern Deanery**
St. Patrick Church, Ferriday
- **Monday, April 4, 6:00 p.m., Avoyelles Deanery**
St. Joseph Church, Marksville
- **Monday, May 2, 6:00 p.m., Central Deanery**
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria

The eight questions to be discussed:

1. How do we as a Diocese journey together, listening to the Holy Spirit and discerning the Lord's will?

¿Cómo caminamos juntos como Arquidiócesis, escuchando al Espíritu Santo y discerniendo la voluntad del Señor?

2. In what ways are people of all backgrounds in this Diocese truly welcomed into the life of the Church?

¿De qué manera las personas de todos los orígenes en esta Arquidiócesis son realmente bienvenidas en la vida de la Iglesia?

3. In what ways does your parish foster unity in the Church? What else might your parish do to further unity?

¿De qué manera su parroquia fomenta la unidad en la Iglesia? ¿Qué más podría hacer su parroquia para promover la unidad?

4. Are there areas of the parish, Diocese or universal Church that are in particular need of healing and/or conversion? If so, how could this be addressed?

¿Hay áreas de la parroquia, la Diócesis o la Iglesia universal que tengan una necesidad particular de sanación y / o conversión?

5. In what ways does the Church in this Diocese reach out and evangelize those on the margins?

¿De qué manera la Iglesia en esta Diócesis se acerca y evangeliza a los marginados?

6. In what ways do your parish and the Diocese promote participation of the laity in decision-making?

¿De qué manera su parroquia y la Diócesis promueven la participación de los laicos en la toma de decisiones?

7. How have scandals in the Church affected your spiritual journey and your relationship with the Church?

¿Los escándalos en la Iglesia le han hecho pensar que la Iglesia depende demasiado del liderazgo clerical?

8. In what ways is the voice of the laity respected in the Church?

¿De qué manera se respeta la voz de los laicos en la Iglesia?

*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.



DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

2022 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



God's Gift, Our Response

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

- 1 Peter 4:10-11



NATCHITOCHE MARCH FOR LIFE. Bishop Robert Marshall participated in the Natchitoches March for Life on Friday, Jan. 21, organized by St. Mary's Catholic School and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in partnership with the Women's Resource Center of Natchitoches. The event featured a concert by the Josh Blakesley Band, speakers, and a march from the riverfront to the grounds of the Basilica. Bishop Robert Marshall thanks Father Blake Deshautelle, Father Derek Ducote, Father Jose Pallipurath (from nearby Holy Cross parish), Mr. Jason Lachica (Principal of St. Mary's School), Mr. Thomas Roque (Superintendent of Catholic Schools), the Knights of Columbus, and the faculty, staff, and students of St. Mary's School for your participation and witness to life. Special thanks to Ms. Lisa Guillet and Ms. Jessica Spear of St. Mary's, and Ms. Jennifer Luna of the Women's Resource Center for organizing the event.

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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."



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O Jesus,
I surrender myself
to You.
take care
of everything!

11 the surrender novena

40 Ways for 40 days: staying rooted in prayer this Lent

*By Rachel Penate
Life Teen Ministry*

Sometimes it feels as though the seasons pass by with an unattainable swiftness.

Just at the point when you're ready for long days at the pool, Target unloads its school supplies — reminding you with a metaphorical side-eye that soon you'll be sitting at a desk for eight hours a day. Or doesn't it seem like by the time you're ready to sip your pumpkin spice latte, Christmas lights are twinkling on your neighbors' rooftops, welcoming in this magical season of hope?

It's a universal truth that seasons come and seasons go; after all, we are not meant to live within one season forever. But, maybe we feel as though seasons go so fast because we don't slow down long enough to enter deeply into them? Perhaps this pace is but a motorboat skimming across a deep, vast, and beautiful ocean.

The Church invites us into the season of Lent as a way to stop "grazing the surface," to strap on our scuba gear, to discover the depths and beauty of the vast ocean that is Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

While Lent may not be as busy as Advent, it does come with its own set of challenges. And, sometimes we can be tempted to want to get into that comfy ride atop the surface of this season because Lent is long and fasting is hard.

But, you know what happens when you take on hard tasks when you plunge into the depths? You grow.

And growth is good; growth is necessary; growth is a vehicle to a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God.

Remaining Open to Prayer

If you've ever watched a tree grow, you know growth is not for the impatient. Each inch takes time, and each inch seems insignificant. But inches turn into feet and eventually feet turn into a tree, healthy and strong.

Let each of the following prayers act as an inch to your tree of faith this Lent. Each prayer is designed to lead you more deeply into this season and the majority can be prayed in 10 min or less. Pick and choose one prayer for each day or simply repeat one of these prayers for the 40 days of this season.

Whatever you do, offer yourself to the Lord, seeking His

aid and grace to help you grow into the saint He has created you to become.

Short Prayers — 1 Minute or Less

To be said in rhythm with your breath or repeated and meditated upon throughout the day.

1. The Sign of the Cross
2. The Jesus Prayer
3. Mark 9:24
4. Psalm 91:2
5. Psalm 23:1
6. Psalm 27:14
7. Psalm 80:3

Short Prayers — 5 Minutes or Less

8. The Lord's Prayer
9. The Anima Christi
10. The Fragrance Prayer by Cardinal John Henry Newman
11. The Serenity Prayer
12. Act of Contrition
13. Memorare
14. St. Michael the Archangel
15. Act of Spiritual Communion
16. The Apostles' Creed

Long Prayers — 20 Minutes or Less

17. The Litany of Humility
18. The Stations of the Cross
19. The Rosary
20. The Divine Mercy Chaplet
21. The Seven Last Words by Fulton Sheen
22. St. Faustina's Litany of Divine Mercy
23. The Seven Sorrows Devotion
24. Novena to St. Mary Magdalene
25. Novena to Our Lady of Sorrows

Scripture Meditations — 20 Minutes or Less

Lectio Divina is a beautiful practice to use when reflecting upon Scripture. Take time to look for resources to teach you how to thoughtfully pray with the following verses.

26. Luke 15:11-32 — The Parable of the Lost Son
27. Luke 18:9-14 — The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector
28. Luke 22:39-46 — The Agony in the Garden
39. Matthew 4:1-11 — The Temptation in the Desert

30. Matthew 27:32-56 — The Crucifixion of Jesus
31. John 20:1-18 — The Empty Tomb
32. Acts 2 — Pentecost
33. Matthew 17:1-8 — The Transfiguration

Prayers of Action

34. Fasting
35. Adoration: Spend 15-30 min in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
36. Almsgiving: Donate to charity, tithe to your parish, and/or buy a meal for a friend in need.
37. Receive the Sacrament of Confession.
38. Attend one daily Mass, in addition to your regular Sunday attendance.
39. Serve in a local ministry, either at your parish or in your community.
40. Pray with this list of quotes for the season of Lent.

Fierce reminders

Whatever your practice of prayer is this season of Lent, let it be one of patience, peace, and hope. My hope is that by choosing to dive into this season (instead of skimming over its surface), you are provided with great fruit and knowledge of the Lord's incredible sacrifice for you and I. May these prayers be but a small, yet fierce, reminder of His rich mercy and unrelenting love.

Know of my prayers for you today and always!

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Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.
Psalm 91: 15b | Responsorial Psalm for March 6 | First Sunday of Lent

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 (2 completed)
- 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.
- Sadie Stroud

The Following is a list of established burses and amounts in 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. Aycok	1,535.00
Monsignor Norman C. Buvens	100.00
Monsignor Paul E. Conway	825.00
Monsignor Allen M. Chenevert	1,000.00
Monsignor Isidore Deceulaer	160.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer	650.00
Monsignor Gerald J. Ducote	560.00
Monsignor Robert C. Friend	50.00
Monsignor Ronald C. Hoppe	1,000.00
Monsignor James E. Howard	50.00
Monsignor Charles M. Jekeler	325.00
Monsignor Joseph F. Kidd	1,500.00
Monsignor William Kwitaal	850.00
Monsignor Warren T. Larroque	800.00
Monsignor Terrence J. Lennon	125.00
Monsignor George W. Martinez	500.00
Monsignor Bruce Miller	300.00
Monsignor Patrick Murphy	2,304.00
Monsignor William C. O'Hanlon	5,000.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger	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
Monsignor Matthew J. Scanlon	310.00
Monsignor Joseph M. Susi	9,906.00
Monsignor Steve J. Testa	10,655.00
Monsignor Henry A. Thompson	360.00
Monsignor John M. Timmermans	9,320.00
Monsignor Martin J. Tyrrell	4,250.00
Monsignor Henry Van der Putter	1,291.89
Monsignor John C. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor Nicholas F. Vandegaer	1,350.00
Monsignor John J. Wakeman	100.00
Monsignor Julius G. Walle	2,170.00
Father Walter Ajaero	50.00
Father William G. Allison	160.00
Father Peter J. Besselaar	50.00
Father Michael Bodnar	50.00
Father Lawrence Bonin	70.00
Father H. Gerald Bordelon	13,885.00
Father Vernon Bordelon	445.00
Father Gilles Boyer	85.00
Father Basil Burns	100.00
Father Scott Chemino	550.00
Father Alfred Chlebowczyk	375.00
Father Jules L. Claes, CICM	4,761.00
Father Wilbur G. Cloutier	3,690.50
Father Daniel Cook	2,500.00
Father Daniel Corkery	1,300.00
Father Anthony N. Cumella	1,500.00
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

Seminary Burses

Father Edward Deasy	625.00
Father Blake Deshautelle	250.00
Father Derek Ducote	792.00
Father Rudolph J. Engelen	550.00
Father Richard Fale	5,700.00
Father James Ferguson	1,150.00
Father Harvey J. Fortier	1,475.00
Father Joseph Alfred Fortin	200.00
Father James Foster	280.00
Father Louis Gagnard	50.00
Father John M. Gayer	970.00
Father William Gearheard	100.00
Father Serafin Glasnovic	150.00
Father Rickey Gremillion	12,540.00
Father Daniel Hart	3,400.00
Father William M. Hopp	10.00
Father Mark W. Horacek	50.00
Father Bartholomew Ibe	200.00
Father Tom Jezek	400.45
Father Michael P. Kammer	921.00
Father W. John Kiley	625.00
Father Francis X. Kronemeyer	100.00
Father George Krosfield	50.00
Father Peter Kuligowski	1,408.00
Father Paul Kunnumpuram, MSFS	475.00
Father Henri Jacquemain	50.00
Father Russell J. Lemoine	425.00
Father Frederick J. Lyons	1,600.00
Father Bernard F. Maguire	105.00
Father Robert M. Maure	10.00
Father Jamie Medina-Cruz	200.00
Father Jack Michalchuk	150.00
Father Adrian Molenschot	4,975.00
Father Joseph Montalbano	400.00
Father Govie J. Moraus, Jr.	200.00
Father Christudas Nayak	250.00
Father Peter T. Norek	900.00
Father Dan O'Connor	2,068.00
Father Thomas O'Connors	10.00
Father Chad Partain	175.00
Father Martin L. Plauche	50.00
Father Samuel J. Polizzi	1,000.00
Father George Pookkattu	50.00
Father William B. Provosty	105.00
Father Rusty Rabalais	100.00
Father Charles Ray	550.00
Father Frederick Taylor Reynolds	1,190.00
Father Yves J. Robitaille	1,900.00
Father José Robles-Sanchez	1,580.00
Father Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez	25.00
Father James Roy	100.00
Father Kenneth Roy	3,505.00
Father Sheldon Roy	250.00
Father Lloyd M. Samson	50.00
Father Craig Scott	2,000.00
Father Louis Sklar, III	650.00
Father Paul B. Smith	250.00
Father Irion St. Romain	75.00
Father Ker Texada	200.00
Father August Thompson	1,390.00
Father Adam Travis	100.00
Father Antonio E. Villaverde	1,300.00
Father Nino G. Viviano	200.00
Father Gus Voltz	675.00
Father Silvan A. Waterkotte, OFM	160.00
Father Kenneth Williams	880.00
Father John Wiltse	175.00
Father Joseph Xavier	100.00
Father Bernard Zagst	1,275.00
Reverend H. Biggers	158.50
Deacon Emile "E. J." Barre, III	100.00
Deacon L. G. DeLoach	675.00
Deacon Darrell Dubroc	200.00
Deacon Raymond J. Dunn	300.00
Deacon Ray D. Gibson	100.00
Deacon Charles A. Jones	1,150.00
Deacon Gregory P. LeBlanc	100.00
Deacon Todd Marye	100.00
Deacon Patrick C. McCusker	100.00
Deacon Richard W. Mitchell	250.00
Deacon Ted A. Moulard	300.00
Deacon Clifton "Kip" Pelto	100.00
Deacon William E. Shaidnagle	100.00
Deacon Gary A. Schupbach	1,175.00

Deacon William "Bill" Travis	200.00
Deacon John L. Whitehead	100.00
Deacon Michael L. Young	200.00
Sister Margaret McCaffrey	300.00
Sister Marie Therese McGee, OP	100.00
Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick, CDP	100.00
Seminarian Matthew Bonner	700.00
Ismael and Libby Agosto	250.00
Shirley Alexander	1,125.00
Charles P. and Florence C. Anastasio	880.00
Germaine Armand	550.00
Virgie D. Aymond	225.00
Bobby D. Basco	14,690.00
Delores Basco	150.00
Harold and Lillie Beridon	7,500.00
John M. Bauer	150.00
Dr. Lamar and Jean Boese	50.00
Will Bollich	100.00
J. V. Bonnette	50.00
Carolyn Brouillette	50.00
Nathan Cannella	225.00
Frank V. Cariere	175.00
Dylan Michael Cashio	400.00
T. W. Clark	50.00
James Curley	50.00
Charles D'Amico	50.00
Leo P. Dobard	5,800.00
Gerald Flynn	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Flynn	50.00
Anne Berry Gallagher	2,025.00
Anthony and Mary Glorioso	150.00
Toby Guedry	1,000.00
Gail T. Gutierrez	100.00
William J. Hamlin	500.00
Madeline Jeansonne	100.00
Leonard E. and Marjorie V. Johnson	1,950.00
Richard Kelly	100.00
Maria S. Keran	1,000.00
Floyd J. LaCour, Jr.	9,100.00
Eugene and Rita LaPalme	300.00
Gerry and Connie Leglue	100.00
Huey and Neen Lemoine	150.00
Louis Lowrey	300.00
Judge Alfred and Mary Jo Mansour	2,050.00
Cecilia Vanderlick Mathews	100.00
Huey and Ethel Mathews	1,000.00
Louis "Dump" Henry Mathews, Sr.	100.00
Daryl "Pat" Mauterer	6,100.00
Ethel Miller	100.00
Odis James Miller	190.00
Yvonne Moore	150.00
Gerald Moreau	215.00
Helen Morgan	12,000.00
Marge Murrin	315.00
Alcide A. Nassif	522.29
Kitty Treadway Nassif	100.00
Maurice Noel	295.00
N. J. and Hannah Nolan	10,000.00
Harvey Miller "Buddy" Normand	100.00
Lois Jeansonne Normand	800.00
W. D. O'Neal	8,159.00
Danny O'Quinn	100.00
Albert and Elsie Poche	900.00
Kathleen Poole	375.00
Edna Rabalais	3,032.50
Rita Juneau Rabalais	4,000.00
Dr. Sidney Rud	50.00
Luis R. Robles-Cortez	125.00
Dr. Brenda V. Seiler	1,100.00
Josephine G. Serio	275.00
John Gregory Simms	4,275.00
Robert Upton	100.00
Dr. Charles Vanderlick	200.00
Henry Vanderlick	300.00
Patsy Dekeyzer Vincik	200.00
Gus Voltz, Jr.	6,135.00
Larry Lee Wiltse	1,925.00
Tracy P. Wiltse	1,825.00
Mary Virginia Young	100.00
Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence	100.00
Deceased Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Regina Pacis #1372, Natchitoches	775.00
In Honor of Providence Central High School Class of 1959	1,450.00
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, Alexandria	3,260.00
St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Tallulah	100.00
St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Cottonport	700.00
General Fund	2,000.00

Total: 670,887.17

Help promote vocations by joining the Serra Club of Alexandria

Pray For Vocations - What is the Serra Club?

The Serra Club - not to be confused with the environmental Sierra Club - is a group of Catholic men and women who pray daily for an increase in holy and knowledgeable men and women to answer the call to serve the church. The three objectives of the Serra Club are to pray for vocations, encourage and affirm vocations, and strive for personal holiness.

Serra Club members pray for priests, deacons, religious and especially for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Members pray for the faithfulness and happiness of all priests and religious, especially those in our diocese. They pray for the seminarians in our diocese to grow in holiness, knowledge and understanding in order to become good priests. The main purpose of the Serra Club is to pray often and earnestly for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life to ensure the future of the church.

Serra Club members encourage and affirm vocations. Serra members show appreciation and affirmation to local priests, deacons, religious and seminarians by inviting them to the monthly breakfast and luncheon meetings. Each member is assigned an "adopted seminarian" from the diocese to encourage and show support with occasional cards and letters throughout the year. They show further appreciation

and encouragement to the seminarians by hosting an End of Summer BBQ at Maryhill for both the seminarians and their parents. This provides the parents an opportunity to meet each other and the other seminarians. At this time the Serra Club of Alexandria presents each seminarian with a back to school monetary gift. Members also host a Christmas party for the seminarians and their parents. In the spirit of Christmas each Serra member presents their adopted seminarian with a Christmas gift or donation.

Serra Club members strive for an increase in personal holiness. Each monthly luncheon meeting provides an enlightening and inspiring presentation by a priest, deacon, religious or lay person. Because the Serra Club is affiliated to the Vatican as a Pontifical Work For Priestly Vocations, special spiritual benefits are conferred on each member. The Serra Club is not a fund raising organization nor does it host any fund raising projects. Annual membership dues cover the costs of all events plus donations to each seminarian and to the Diocesan Seminarian Educational Fund.

Serra Club of Alexandria was chartered in 1963 in the Diocese of Alexandria by faithful parishioners under the leadership of Bishop Charles P. Greco.

The original Serra Club was formed in 1935 in Seattle, Washington. It started simply as four businessmen meeting during their lunch break to pray for

vocations. The informal group invited others to join them to pray for vocations. As numbers grew, with leaders and meetings, a club was formed and modeled after others successful service clubs. The Serra Club was founded with three objectives: Pray for vocations; Encourage and affirm vocations; Strive for personal holiness.

The original Serra Club members chose as their patron Padre Junipero Serra, the 18th century Spanish Franciscan missionary who evangelized the west coast, founding nineteen missions that grew into many of California's larger cities. Junipero Serra was canonized September 23, 2015 by Pope Francis. The motto of St Junipero Serra is: "Always forward. Never Back."

Serra International. As the word spread from parish to parish about a group of local lay people gathering to pray for an increase in vocations and showing appreciation for priests and religious in the diocese, more and more Serra Clubs were formed from state to state and eventually around the world. Today Serra is an International organization with over 1,000 clubs in 46 countries with more than 20,000 members.

The Serra Club of Alexandria is a local organization affiliated with Serra International which is divided into National, Regional, District and Local Serra Club

See "SERRA", pg. 19

Seminarian Burses

January 2022 Donations

Mr. John Vandersypen	\$15.00
Jerome and Audrey Vndersypen Burse	
Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity	\$25.00
Father Irion St. Romain Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Marion French	\$50.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
Ms. Sarah Vanderlick	\$100.00
Henry J. Vanderlick, Jr. Burse	
Mr. John Vandersypen	\$310.00
Bobby D. Basco Burse	
Total	\$525.00

Called by Name

11 discernment groups for women

Have you ever wondered what is your vocation? Are you even remotely curious about religious life or the consdecrated life? Do you have a desire to belong exclusively to Christ? If your answer is YES to any of these questions, then this group is for you!

This is a vocational discernment group for any Catholic woman in the Diocese of Alexandria age 18 or older who wants to learn about, or is discerning religious life or consecrated virginity. Meetings will be once a month via Zoom, and in-person simultaneously, choose your option.

This group is not a substitute for spiritual direction; it is strongly encouraged for anyone who is discerning to find a qualified spiritual director.

For more information, contact Ana Martinez at 318-737-0629 or martinezana770@gmail.com.

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

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.

“Season of Service” (S.O.S.) Lenten program set for March 2-April 14, 2022

The Season of Service (S.O.S.) program is a coordinated effort to promote service and build community throughout the Diocese of Alexandria during the Lenten Season. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, sacrifice, and almsgiving. In 1 Peter 4:10, we read “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

Deacon Richard Mitchell says, “the S.O.S. gives us an opportunity to use our gifts to help our Church and those in need in our Community.”



Dcn. Richard Mitchell

The program is designed to recruit S.O.S. Team Captains who in turn recruit members to be on their team. The group will name their team and then discern and decide on a project to complete during the Lenten Season (March



2 – April 14, 2022). Projects can be something as simple as coming together to pray a rosary for a

specific intention, weeding the flowerbed at the Church Parish, or tackle a small repair project at a homebound parishioner’s residence.

Team leaders determine their projects and set dates for them to take place. Team leaders are expected to follow through with their organizing, performing and completing their projects.

To register your team, please visit the Diocese of Alexandria’s website at diocesealex.org, click on the S.O.S. tab, and click on Registration. You will need the following information: a team

name; Team Captain’s name and contact information; description of your project; team members’ names, email addresses (if applicable) and t-shirt sizes.*

Examples of projects could include but are not limited to:

- cut grass or regular yard maintenance at the church or for parishioners who are not able

- painting
- parking lot maintenance
- preparing or purchasing food to distribute to the needy in the parish
- simply praying for those in need
- other community service

Any photos taken of teams performing their projects will be published in the Church Today and on the diocesan website and social media. *T-shirt orders are not required to participate but if requested, they take 3 weeks to produce and deliver (t-shirts are free). A portion of the funding for this project will be provided by Catholic Extension.

For additional information please contact Deacon Richard Mitchell via email at dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org.

Parish Spotlight: St. Martin of Tours Church, Belledeau, established 1950



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHURCH, BELLEDEAU

On October 15, 1950, Bishop Charles P. Greco set about the task of establishing a new parish in the rural Avoyelles parish community of Belledeau. A small mission chapel had been erected some time before by Fr. Lawrence Bonin of St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer and mass was being offered weekly. The small chapel stood on one acre of land.

Shortly after, a Holy Name Society was established and with the help of its members a new parish hall was built. That hall became a center of activity where church members created a new altar society and even organized a Boy Scout troop.

In 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Philogene Roy donated land for

use as a church cemetery and in 1962, Mr. and Mrs. George Ducote gave a connecting acre so that the church property would be one continuous tract.

In 1964, six more acres were acquired with the ambition of building a new parish church.

The firm of Baron, Heinberg and Brocato worked on the layout of the new church. Fashioned in the shape of a Greek cross, the church, which seats 320, was built by the Lemoine Brothers of Bunkie, out of steel and Arkansas stone at a cost of \$72,000. Bishop Greco blessed the new structure on August 21, 1966.

In 1973, a new rectory was built on the grounds of the parish.

You’re invited to join us at the table.

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

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Psalm 27: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for March 13
Second Sunday of Lent

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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.



SACRED HEART CHURCH, PINEVILLE QUEEN. The Miss Sacred Heart Parish Fair queens conducted a food drive for the school feeding program at Sacred Heart, Pineville this month. They collected monetary donations and purchased drawstring bags, which they filled with food items for the students to take home over weekends and school breaks.

Karla Tumminello (program coordinator), Mia [REDACTED] (Teen Miss Sacred Heart Parish Fair), Madalyn [REDACTED] (Ambassador Miss Sacred Heart Parish Fair), Scarlett [REDACTED] (Toddler Miss Sacred Heart Parish Fair) and Father Walter Ajaero (pastor) at the donation.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD. The CCL (Crazy Catholic Ladies) from Winnfield, Louisiana, filled one hundred snack bags for the Winn Community Food Pantry. Each bag contained fifteen snack items. The snack bags will be given out with grocery bags of food on Thursdays at the Presbyterian Church's food pantry. The CCL is a group of thirty women who work hard to help people in Winn Parish. Women do not have to be Catholic to be a member but they do have to be crazy about serving Jesus.

Pictured: Katherine Daughtry, Chris Walker and Vicki Rockett helped prepare 100 snack bags at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield.



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Adjunct Professor, Southern University Law Center

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives, Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State Bar Association).

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

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ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CHURCH, TALLULAH. On Saturday, Jan. 22, Bishop Robert Marshall made his first visit to the northernmost parish in our diocese, St. Edward the Confessor Church in Tallulah. Bishop remarked, though the temperature outside was cold, the welcome from the parishioners was warm. Thank you to Father Ryan Humphries, the liturgical ministers, and all of the faithful gathered to celebrate as the one Body of Christ.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, TRICHEL. On Sunday, Jan. 30, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time at St. Joseph Church in Trichel. Bishop thanks Father Gus Voltz, Deacon Tommy Robichaux, and the great parishioners of St. Joseph for their kind welcome and for a beautiful Mass.



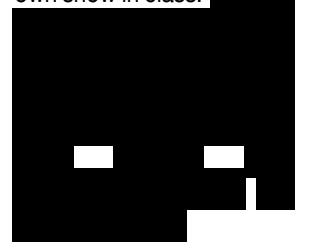
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA. Fr. Taylor Reynolds held a special Candlemas service with the children on Feb. 2. They began with the blessing of candles and procession along with the Mass of the Presentation of Our Lord.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. During Catholic Schools Week, St. Joseph School hosted a Career Day for 7th-12th graders. Guest speakers were from various fields and included (pictured from left to right): Jason Lemoine, (alumnus) Forester; Doug "DJ" Anderson, Gamewarden with Wildlife & Fisheries; Kenneth Moreau, Biologist with Wildlife & Fisheries; David Laborde, (alumnus) Laborde Earles Law Firm; Louise Pilgreen, (alumnus), Registered Nurse with Opelousas General Cancer Center; Brooke Deshotels, Speech Therapist and Owner of 2 Sisters Salsa; Rene Thibodeaux, Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL. Sacred Heart School's Mrs. Ashley Borrel's PK3-A class thought it would snow, so when the weather man said, "No snow!" they made their own snow in class!



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL. Continuing the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, on Wednesday, Feb. 2, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass with the community of Holy Savior Menard Central High School in Alexandria. Concelebrating were Father Craig Scott, Vicar General, and Father Bill Gearheard, Chaplain of Menard. Deacon Richard Mitchell assisted. With roots dating back to 1884, HSM now serves students in grades 7-12 from their campus on Coliseum Boulevard. On this Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, HSM was celebrating Grandparents Day and Bishop Marshall enjoyed visiting with many of the grandparents who joined the students for Mass. The Holy Savior Menard Choir provided music. For more information about HSM, please visit www.holysaviormenard.com. Go Eagles!



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHE. The Virtue of the Month for December was Joy. Virtue of the Month certificatea are presented to students who participated. Congratulations to these students (pictured with principal, Jason Lachica).



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHES. Friday, Feb. 4, concluded Catholic Schools Week with a visit to St. Mary's School in Natchitoches. Serving the community since 1848, SMS is now a Pre-K through 12th grade school operated by the parish of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Robert Marshall, was given a tour by Mr. Stephen Wren (Dean of Students) and by Mr. Jason Lachica (Principal). For more information about St. Mary's School, please visit smstigers.org. Go Tigers, go!



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. On Monday, Jan. 31, Superintendent Thomas Roque and Bishop Robert Marshall visited St. Joseph School, Plaquemine. A ministry of Mater Dolorosa Church, St. Joseph is a Pre-K-12th grade school that has served Avoyelles Parish for over 120 years. Fr. Martin Laird, pastor, Mr. Billy Albritton, principal, and Ms. Rhiannon Moreau, asst. principal, guided them on a tour of the school where they found bright and energetic students who were anxious to tell them about their school. For more information, visit www.sjsplaucheville.org. Go Eagles!



(LEFT) OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. OLPS had such a great week celebrating Catholic Schools Week. We had the pleasure of the Bishop celebrating our School Mass with Fr. Craig Scott, Fr. Rusty Rabablais, pastor, and Fr. Thomas Kennedy, associate pastor. We reflected upon Saint Blaise and asked God to preserve us from diseases of the throat and all other illnesses. After Mass, Bishop Marshall received a tour of recent improvements to the church and school facilities. For more information about OLPS School, please visit www.promptsuccor.org. Go Bulldogs!

Catholic Schools Week

January 31-February 5



(RIGHT) ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION SCHOOL, COTTONPORT. As our tour continued, Superintendent Thomas Roque and I travelled to St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport. Mr. Blaine Dauzat, Principal, took us to visit the students in their classrooms. Students had prepared posters featuring their favorite Scripture verses and these posters were displayed throughout the campus. We found joyful students who were happy to share their faith. For more information on St. Mary's Assumption School, please visit www.smsangels.org. Go Angels!



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. Wednesday, Feb. 2, Superintendent Thomas Roque and Bishop Robert Marshall visited St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria. Founded in 1948, the school serves students from Pre-K through 8th grade with a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of their students. Father Chad Partain, Pastor, and Sister Nina Vincent, OLS, Principal, gave Bishop Marshall a tour of the classrooms where they found alert and eager students. The visit to the classroom of Sister Liz Holmes, SSF, included a little musical interlude by Sister and her students. For more information about the school, please visit www.cabrinischool.com. Go Panthers!



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. Yesterday's tour continued at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville. Bishop Marshall was given a tour of the school by Fr. Brian Seiler, pastor, and Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, OLS, principal. Sacred Heart School is a Pre-K-8th grade school that traces its roots back to 1899. It has been continuously operating for 75 years. We visited students in the upper grades as they prepared for the Beta Club induction ceremony, and visited other classes where the students were studying a wide variety of subjects. For more information on the school, visit www.shsmoreauville.com. Go Lions!

What it looks like to become interiorly poor

By Olivia Spears
Blessed Is She Ministry

It's the mark of the first Beatitude, and yet we are quick to breeze past it. It's why the rich young man walked away from Jesus sad, and yet we are slow to put ourselves in his shoes. It is the prerequisite for entering the Kingdom of Heaven, and yet we often twist the call to make it more comfortable.

Poverty.

I'm convinced that the reason it remains so mysterious a teaching today is because it is one of the keys to sanctity.

Gospel Poverty

Understand that my thesis does not imply that we neglect those steeped in material poverty. On the contrary, not only is the Gospel clear about our personal poverty - it demands that we work to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. Like most things in Catholicism, this is a beautiful both/and.

The poverty that Christ speaks to in the Gospels is a poverty of spirit. This can seem abstract and elusive. But we need only to look at the fruits of materialism, comparison, attachment, control, striving, and self-reliance in our own lives to discover the counter-seed to poverty that concupiscence plants in all of us.

It is this poverty that we are to embrace; it's this attachment to "wealth" in all its forms that we are to leave behind in order to follow Him.

The Call and the Command

Of course, Christ doesn't command us to lay something down without filling us with much greater abundance. The call to and command of poverty is ultimately a promise of supernatural joy. Poverty produces in us great faith, hope, and love. And it is in this Christ-like poverty that we act most justly, most prudently, most courageously, and most temperately.

Saint John the Baptist gives us perhaps the most concise explanation of what happens in this exchange of poverty with the Lord: He must increase, I must decrease. // John 3:30

Our poverty—our empty hands—allows us to hold onto the Lord rather than the fleeting things of this world.

The Saints, as always, are our models in this response of love. In studying the lives of the Saints—in all their variety—I have found three things they hold in common:

1. All-consuming love for Jesus and devotion to Him in the Blessed Sacrament.
2. A steady and deep devotion to Mary.

3. A radical interior poverty and a particular concern for the poor.

For our purposes here, let's examine the third point.

The Saints were poor. Regardless of worldly status, they chose the riches of Christ over the riches of the flesh. Yes, there were Saints who were royalty and Saints who slept on dirt floors. All were poor. There were Saints endowed with endless talents and gifts and Saints who couldn't pass high school. All were poor. There were Saints who enjoyed blissful vocations and Saints who lost everyone they loved. All were poor.

Their poverty was an overflow of their detachment from the world and their attachment to God. They saw everything in their lives as an invitation into greater intimacy with Him. When blessings came, they received them and sought to serve Him with those blessings. When trials came, their hearts did not waver, and they received them and sought to serve Him in those trials.

Thus, great fruits of interior poverty are steadiness of spirit, supernatural gratitude, and unshakeable joy.

See "POVERTY", pg. 18

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|| Saint Junipero Serra

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The Lord is kind and merciful.

Psalm 103: 8a | Responsorial Psalm for March 20
Third Sunday of Lent

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Add these dates to your calendar *// catholic all year*

Wednesday, March 2 // Ash Wednesday

Saturday, March 19 // Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, March 25 // Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Wednesday, March 16, 23, 30 // Lenten Mission, Evergreen

Keeping the traditional teachings of the Church on “SIN” and messages of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope John Paul II, during this year’s Lenten Season, Fr. Ramji Shoury, pastor of Church of the Little Flower and St. Charles Churches will conduct a three part “MISSION ON DEATH TO SIN” from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the Little Flower Church, Evergreen on these dates:

- March 16:** Nature of Sin.
- March 23:** Consequences of Sin.
- March 30:** Death to Sin.

God sent his Son into the world: to set men and women free from the domination of Satan, “the origin and cause of every sin.” Let us experience this power of God taking Christ’s side against sin. All are invited to attend these spiritual talks and prepare for the fruitful celebrations of Easter.

Positions available across the diocese

DATA ENTRY CLERK - PART TIME/TEMPORARY

The National Tekakwitha Conference Office is looking for a part time/temporary Data Entry Clerk. 15 Hours per week. \$12 per hour. Must be prolific in Microsoft Office Suite, including Microsoft Access. Experience negotiable. Must be an active Catholic in good standing. Please include 2-3 references. Contact 318-483-3908. Send resumes to info@tekconf.org.

BOOKKEEPER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and School in Alexandria is looking for a bookkeeper. This is a full-time position handling financial transactions for Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and School. Candidate must have a background in payroll/bookkeeping/tax reporting, and have excellent computer skills, including Word and Excel. A degree in Accounting is preferred. Must be a practicing Catholic with excellent organizational skills. Send resumes to Julie Bayone at 401 21st Street, Alexandria, La., 71301, or to julie.bayone@olpschurch.org. Questions? Call 318-445-3693.

Hope has two beautiful daughters;
their names are Anger and Courage.
Anger at the way things are,
and Courage to see that they
do not remain as they are.

// Saint Augustine



Upcoming Retreats

- April 7-10, 2022
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
Women’s ACTS
- April 21-24, 2022
St. Mary’s Assumption,
Cottonport
Men’s ACTS

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

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 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

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

- Tues., Mar. 1, 6:00 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Ctr, Alexandria**
- Tues., Mar. 22, 6:00 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Marsville**

NOTE: 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.

Historically black churches continue to be vibrant communities of the Diocese

The Diocese of Alexandria dates back to 1910 and before that, was the Diocese of Natchitoches, established in 1853 by Pope Pius IX.

Following the tumultuous years of the Civil War, Bishop Auguste Martin, first Bishop of Natchitoches, participated in the Plenary Council at Baltimore in 1866 and vowed to work for the education of the freed slaves. He urged the Religious of the Sacred Heart to open a day school for black girls and supported St. Joseph's Academy at Isle Brevelle in the midst of the Creole community. The bishop returned to France to recruit more priests and religious for the work ahead.

In 1871, the Sisters of Mercy opened a school and orphanage in Natchitoches and took up the work of teaching the children of former slaves.

With help from the Catholic Commission for Negroes, Bishop Antoine Durier, third Bishop of Natchitoches, was able to open six new schools for black children with a total enrollment of 301 pupils in 1894.

The history of St. James Memorial parish in Alexandria began in 1894 when Sr. Mary Xavier, a Sister of Divine Providence, opened a school for black children in a one-room building on Watkins Avenue in Alexandria.

St. James Memorial, Alexandria

In August 1910, the See of Natchitoches was transferred to Alexandria and the Diocese of Alexandria was erected.

In May of 1911, Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven, fourth Bishop of Natchitoches and first Bishop of Alexandria, established a separate black church in Alexandria and invited the Holy Ghost Fathers to take charge of the new parish. This assignment marked the first Holy Ghost



ST. JAMES MEMORIAL

mission in Louisiana and the fathers would serve the parish faithfully for 75 years until 1986.

Ground was broken for a new church in May of 1915 on property on Winn Street between 7th and 8th Streets. Money for the construction costs was donated by Fr. Joseph Smith of Cleveland, Ohio in memory of his brother, James, with the condition that the church would be dedicated in honor of his brother's patron saint. The new church, built at a cost of \$7,500 by the LeGras Brothers Construction Company, was dedicated to St. James by Bishop Van de Ven in December, 1917.

In 1916, while the new church was being constructed, a new St. James' school was also built on Winn and 7th Streets. The new school included a high school curriculum and more nuns came to augment the faculty. The first high school graduation was celebrated in 1919. The school remained in operation until 1967.

In 1986, the Holy Ghost Fathers retired from the parish and a diocesan priest, Fr. Bruce Miller, was appointed pastor. Diocesan priests have continued to serve this vibrant parish which celebrated its centennial in 2011. The present pastor is Fr. Craig Scott, VG.

Holy Ghost Church, Marksville and St. Richard's Chapel, Hickory Hill

In 1916, Fr. Nicholas Judermann, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Marksville, invited the Daughters of the Cross to establish a school for the black children of his parish. Land was donated by the sisters and with



HOLY GHOST CHURCH

funds received from Mother Katherine Drexel a new school was built and furnished in Marksville.

The first classes met in the

fall of 1917 with almost 100 students enrolled in that first year. On seeing the positive response to the school, Bishop Van de Ven obtained the services of the Holy Ghost Fathers to establish Holy Ghost Church in Marksville. Their order served this church parish from 1919-2001 starting with Fr. T.J. Nolan, CSSP of Ireland and ended sixteen pastors later with Fr. Charles Coffey, CSSP.

The parish's first sanctuary was the stage of the school auditorium. The first Sunday Mass saw 150 in attendance with 60 communicants. The collection totaled \$8. Masses were held in the hall until a new church was built in 1923.

Transportation was poor – at its best – during the mid to late 1920's. Black Catholics in the outlying area of Marksville in the Hickory Hill community had difficulties to attend Mass in town so they were encouraged to build a chapel in the Hickory Hill community.

A used church was found and dedicated in honor of St. Richard. This chapel was served once a month by the Holy Ghost Fathers until better roads made it possible for a priest to reach the outlying community every Sunday. In the 1950's, a new chapel was built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Hopsin Williams, Sr. Though the Holy Ghost Fathers served the parish throughout the twentieth century, it was in 1945 that the Sisters of the Holy Family took over the administration of Holy Ghost School.

The school struggled through integration and consolidation and was forced to close in 2000 due to rising costs and low enrollment. Diocesan priests took over when the Holy Ghost Fathers were forced to retire. Both churches continue to open their doors to all who wish to worship.

Today, the parish communities of both Holy Ghost and St. Richard's enjoy a loving and participatory atmosphere where there is a place for everyone.

St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches, 1935

Out of concern for the well being of the black Catholic population of Natchitoches, Msgr. Antonie Piegay, the pastor of

Immaculate Conception Church, with Bishop Daniel Desmond's blessing, used his own funds to purchase land from Judge D. C.



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, NATCHITOCHEs

Scarborough for the construction of a new church in the city on the corner of Pavie and 5th Streets.

Msgr. Piegay supervised the building of the first wood-frame church erected by Ignatius LeGras at a cost of \$3,280.

Bishop Desmond blessed the new church on May 5, 1935. The bishop invited the Holy Ghost Fathers to administer the parish and appointed Fr. Joseph Kelly as administrator.

On April 19, 1936, Bishop Desmond established St. Anthony's as an independent parish and Fr. Ivan Huber was appointed the first pastor. His first task was to build a rectory behind the church. The rectory was completed in July, 1936.

In 1938, additional land was purchased to build a two-story school which was named 'The Piegay Memorial School' in honor of the parish's generous benefactor. The parish grew rapidly and new property was purchased for the construction of a larger church in the late 1950's. Ground breaking for the new church took place on May 26, 1963, under the direction of Fr. Francis Smith, C.S.Sp. D'Avy and Veltin were the architects with E. C. Breedlove serving as contractor for the project. The new church and rectory were blessed by Bishop Charles P. Greco on January 26, 1964.

In recent years, a new hall and parking lot have been added to the complex and the rectory has been remodeled and updated. The sanctuary has been renovated and new icons have been added to the original statues and altar fixtures.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor,

Mansura

In 1937, as the population of Mansura grew, Msgr. Michael Nothofer, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church, made an appeal to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for funds to erect a new church for the black Catholics of his parish. The money was granted and the church was built, the existing 2-room schoolhouse was enlarged and all was dedicated in honor



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, MANSURA

of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, patroness of all Louisiana.

In the fall of 1937, Bishop Daniel Desmond established the church as a mission of Holy Ghost Church in Marksville and entrusted it to the care of the Holy Ghost Fathers. It wasn't until 1944 that the mission was separated and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church became its own parish.

The Holy Ghost Fathers (CSSP) faithfully ministered at Our Lady of Prompt Succor until 1969. During the Holy Ghost Fathers time they secured the Sisters of Divine Providence to help with the school; they built a new convent; they added a church hall and rectory; built a new school with assistance from Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston at the time.

After the Holy Ghost Fathers left in 1969, Father August Thompson, the first African American priest ordained in the diocese, was assigned as pastor to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Mansura. During his sixteen years, he oversaw the renovation of the school, church and rectory; erased the debt; and built the Uganda Center church and community facility, which was named after the Ugandan martyrs who died in Africa in 1886.

BLACK HISTORY, cont. from previous page

Most recently, the church was renovated again in the 1990's and the church was redecorated in 2008.

Our Lady of Sorrows, Moreauville, 1944

Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Moreauville, began as a mission of Sacred Heart Church (originally St. Hyacinth's) in 1944.

Under the administration of Bishop Charles Greco, Father Stanley de Keuwer, pastor of Sacred Heart at the time, secured the land to build a church for the black Catholics of the Bayou de Glaises area, most of whom spoke Cajun French.

Bishop Greco formally established it as a separate parish in 1946 and it was placed under the care of the Holy Ghost



OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Fathers. A school was opened in 1948 and was in operation until 1970.

Today, the church continues to serve a vibrant parish community.

St. Juliana Church,

Alexandria, 1959

St. Juliana Parish was officially erected in 1959. At the time of its founding, St. Juliana's congregation was mostly white, but as the residential area surrounding it became more ethnically diverse in the late 60s and early 70s, the membership of the church is now redefined with many cultures: Black, Creole and White, creating a racially vibrant community.

In 1970, under the spiritual leadership of Msgr. Henry Thompson, St. Juliana was dedicated anew. As the Eucharist is and always will be the reason we celebrate, the young families wanted more African-American culture included as part of its liturgical and parochial life. Gospel music played a great part in this change. In 1975, under the direction of Msgr. Thompson and Mr. Paul Desselle, Jr. the "Love Choir" was founded and is still in existence today.

The Knights of St. Peter Claver, Council 268 was created in 1985 and the Ladies of St. Peter Claver organized in 1986.

In 1991, Fr. August Thompson was appointed pastor of St. Juliana and St. James Memorial churches. He began a religion program called "Renew" for the two churches combined as well as remodeled and rededicated the Kumba Center for the use of both parishes.

There have been many more schools and churches that were



ST. JULIANA CHURCH

established to serve the black Catholics throughout the history of the Diocese of Alexandria but they have all been closed or absorbed by the larger parishes as time passed due to various reasons: lack of funds, lack of parish support, and general population shifts. These include:

- St. Christopher Chapel, Bunkie – Closed 1982
- St. Charles Borromeo Chapel, Ferriday – Closed 1970
- Sacred Heart Chapel, Bunkie – Closed 1982
- St. Martin de Porres Chapel, Boyce – Closed 1977
- St. Anthony of Padua Chapel and School, Cottonport – Established 1949 and closed 1973
- Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel and School, Pineville – Established 1947; closed 1977

All of the church parishes within the Diocese of Alexandria welcome all races, ethnicities and cultures but our historically black churches still thrive in neighborhoods and areas that are predominantly black and have a rich heritage that is unique and cherished.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH. Miss Cristel Voorhies' 3rd grade class studied the Black History month display in the main lobby of Sacred Heart School, Moreauville. The students identified and learned about the impact people of color, whether famous celebrities or individuals within our own diocese, past and present, have and continue to make in our communities and society.



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The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 23: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for March 27
Fourth Sunday of Lent

POVERTY, cont. from pag. 14***If We Want to Be Like Him, We Must Be Poor***

If we want to be more and more conformed to Christ, as is the call of every baptized Christian, then we must see Him as He is.

There is no greater poverty than that our Godhead displayed by becoming one of us. The Incarnation is the path to poverty for every single one of us.

And if we might fail to see the sublime humility of God in the Incarnation, He made sure to highlight it by being born poor, into a poor family, into a poor town.

If we truly want to be like Him, then, we must be poor.

He Will Help Us

A great gift of the Lord's merciful love is that, if we are seeking Him with all our heart, we don't have to figure out how to be poor on our own. He will help us. He will show us how

our crosses can produce an undeniable poverty of spirit. He will strip what needs stripped. He will topple the idols in our lives. If we allow Him, He will give us the grace to unclench our hands and let go of the control we so desperately cling to. Because He is the One we were made to cling to in all our desperation.

Jesus does not call us to spiritual poverty and then neglect to show us the way. On the contrary, we can look to His poverty, His sacrifice, His obedience, and His humility to find the counter-cultural road to true freedom and happiness.

This call is a difficult one to live, but the rewards are beyond our earthly imaginings.

Ways to Cultivate Interior Poverty

As you seek the Lord's Heart and ask Him to help you be poor, be on the lookout. He will respond, and He will show you. And while you walk with Him along your particular path to holiness, there are some ways you can consistently cultivate

interior poverty. Here are just a few ideas:

- Examine your life and conscience // The first step is to take a regular look at your life and soul. Where are you naturally bent toward a holy poverty, and where do you cling tightly to things or people other than God? Identify those areas and explore why you are attached or afraid. Write it down if it helps.

- Get rid of it // Then, clean house. Are you attached to shopping or acquiring? Perhaps it's time for a spending freeze. Are you in habitual mortal sin? That has to go. Are you striving for praise from others? Time for some mortification. Of course, there are good and even holy things in our lives that we cannot "get rid of" nor should we. But if we find ourselves attached to them, it's time to admit it and ask Jesus to help us rightly order our loves. Additionally, it might be time to simplify our lives—our possessions, our schedules, our distractions, and so on.

- Be honest about what you're

trying to control // Be brutally honest about what you're trying to control in life. We often mask a desire for certainty under the cover of stewardship or "common sense." We confuse clingy tightly to our security or relationships or money or health or fertility or position with putting our hand to the plow but we are prone to cross the line between cultivation and control. We are called to be good stewards but the very nature of being a steward means that we don't hold ultimate dictation. In what ways are we striving to?

- Be with the poor // If we want to most fully respond to the Gospel call to poverty then we must be poor and be with the poor. If we do not know the poor, then we cannot come to know Christ more fully. Wondering where to find the poor? Consider the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The hungry and homeless and imprisoned and sick and doubtful and sinner and ignorant are the poor we are called to live among and serve. Ask the Lord to show you how to be with the poor

to which He has called you.

- Rejoice in your weakness // Instead of being repulsed by our weaknesses and shortcomings, let's learn to expect, anticipate, and rejoice in them. In this way, we follow the lead of Saint Paul, who understood that this kind of interior poverty means that we will share in the abundance of God's grace. The weaker we are, the more His we can become. That is a cause for celebration.

- Learn about poverty // Finally, we can learn more about what the Church has taught about poverty through the centuries. Read *Happy Are You Poor*. Pray through *All She Had*. Teach your children what it means to live a life of spiritual poverty. Don't let poverty remain a nice thought that we never enact or set aside for those who are called to radical sainthood. That's us! Let's do our due diligence and seek the Lord's Heart for our interior poverty.

Will you join me in praying through this idea of spiritual poverty? It's perfect for Lent; let's not delay.



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SERRA, cont. from pag. 9

Councils. There are seven local Serra Clubs in Louisiana including: Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Houma/Thibodaux, Lafayette, Lake Charles, New Orleans and Shreveport.

Aggregation to the Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations. In 1941 Pope Pius XII created The Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations as a mission within the church to encourage and coordinate efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood in the Catholic Church.

Serra International was recognized by Pope Pius XII as fulfilling a very important role as a global lay apostolate with the main objective being to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and ultimately working to ensure the future of the church. In 1951, the Vatican instituted Serra International as an aggregate (affiliate) of The Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations.

“Serra International is the only lay organization aggregated to a primary pontifical work. A pontifical work is an organization instituted by the Vatican to

advance a particular goal of the Catholic Church. Aggregation, or affiliation, to this pontifical work reflects not only specific support from the Vatican for our mission, but also confers special spiritual benefits on all Serrans.” <https://www.serrainternational.org/our-mission>

Among those spiritual benefits is a plenary indulgence granted to members under the usual conditions of confession, communion and prayer for the Holy Father’s intentions on specific feasts of Our Lord, feasts of the Blessed Mother, feasts of St Joseph, the Apostles, and at the hour of death for a Serra Club member, plus other spiritual benefits stated in “Pope Pius XII and Serra International.”

Pope John Paul II, in his message to Serrans, said, “On behalf of the Church, I must tell you of my esteem and my encouragement for your numerous vocations. It is really admirable that lay persons, deeply convinced that the Church and society needs priests and religious, take as a purpose of their commitment as Christians, prayer and hard working action for the spread, development, perseverance, increase and

assistance of vocations. You are mindful in this of Jesus’ words, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; pray therefore to the Lord on the harvest, to send out laborers into his harvest’.”

If you are interested in praying for vocations and showing support and appreciation for our priests, deacons, seminarians and religious, you are invited to become a member of Serra Club of Alexandria.

Contact: Serra Club of Alexandria President: R.J. Dunn, 318-794-9610, rdunn@eecla.com or VP Membership: Billie Flynn, billieflynn5@gmail.com or Director of Vocations and Seminarians: Fr Luke LaFleur, 318-445-6424 x 260, frlafleur@diocesealex.org

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

The Cross Word

answers on pg 11 March 6 and 13, 2022

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Readings: Dt 26:4-10/ Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13 & Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/ Phil 3:17—4:1 / Lk 9:28b-36

ACROSS

- 1 Food & Agriculture Organization (abbr.)
- 4 Type of brake system
- 7 Computer part
- 10 Advertisement (abbr.)
- 12 The __ of Moses
- 13 Not yours
- 14 Biblical "you"
- 15 You don't pick grapes from these
- 17 Cart to haul heavy things
- 19 Not the clergy
- 20 Fruit shows care of ...
- 22 Thou shalt not ____
- 23 Where to teach students
- 26 Unknown flying object
- 29 Chinese pan
- 30 Cuts wood
- 31 Holds peas
- 32 "I am with you until the end f the __"
- 33 "Strong hand and out -__ arm"
- 36 Many are called; __ are chosen
- 37 Challenge
- 38 Abraham's wife
- 40 Unable to hear
- 42 Name meaning "rosary"
- 45 Opposite of "Good person producing good"

DOWN

- 1 **Mardi Gras** (__ Tuesday)
- 2 Attention-deficit Hyper-active Disorder (abbr.)
- 3 Surpass
- 4 Loose gown worn at Mass
- 5 Lawyer exam
- 6 Death is __ up by victory
- 7 "A __ of personality"
- 8 Quarry
- 9 Ship initials
- 11 Rips
- 13 Off-Broadway award
- 16 Wound seriously
- 18 Agreement
- 21 Formerly
- 23 Communication Workers of America (abbr.)
- 24 Type of cabin
- 25 Paddle
- 26 Revolt
- 27 Enemy
- 28 Unusual
- 33 Scorch
- 34 Little bit
- 35 Crawl
- 36 Herr's wife
- 38 Rise up on wings
- 39 Colorless
- 41 Not found on thorn bushes
- 42 Iron stick
- 43 2,000 pounds
- 44 Jesus __ nothing for 40 days
- 46 "__ my people go"

This next generation is ours to raise

By Lisa Brenninkmeyer
Walking With Purpose Ministry

My mother recognized the power and influence that women were going to have in my life. Instead of leaving that influence to chance, seeing who I might naturally be drawn to who may or may not have pointed me toward God, she took charge. Throughout middle school and high school, she found women who she believed would have a positive spiritual impact on my life. She asked them if they would be willing to mentor me.

Carolyn Searway, Tenley Ireland, and Laurel Lufholm (two of these women are no longer living) all had a part in shaping who I am today. They drew from their experience, had me read certain books that we'd discuss, baked cookies with me, prayed with me and for me, held me accountable...they changed my life. Carolyn taught me what to look for in a husband—challenging me to think long term even when I was in high school. Tenley taught me how to have daily quiet time and the importance of it. It was Tenley who challenged me to choose something that I wanted to be an expert in—something I was going to be passionate about and take to the next level. I debated



making my one thing the theater, but I chose the Bible instead. She introduced me to the idea of living your life according to priorities and giving God first place. Laurel taught me that it isn't so important that we be charismatic when we talk about Christ—it's far more important that we be faithful in the hidden places.

My mom didn't wait to see if this was what I wanted to do. Quite honestly, I didn't. But one thing I could not deny, these women cared about me. I knew they were busy and were offering me what was precious: their time. They kept showing up, and I kept showing up, and without even realizing it, I was learning life principles that I still go back to today. I wonder how often they wondered if what they were doing was worth it. Perhaps they did. But they didn't give up. They made a mark on my soul.

There comes a point when kids naturally want some

independence from their mothers. When my mom saw that coming, she chose someone to step in; she chose who she wanted speaking into my life. This is something you can arrange for your children, but what I really want you to think about is being that person.

You may feel ill-equipped. But I promise you, God has given you everything you need. In the words of St. Paul, "God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7).

My friends, this next generation is ours to raise. All of us. We all are needed. Godmothers, aunts, stepmothers, grandmothers, sisters, coaches. The words they listen to matter. The words we speak matter. So we choose to speak life—about this generation and to this generation. We look in their faces and tell them there is hope. We tell them that they are beautiful and beloved. We tell

them they are needed, and they have an important place here in our hearts and here in the world. We encourage them to love well and extravagantly, to sacrifice for others, to be kind, to search for truth, and to persevere. We do all we can so they can stand on our shoulders—so they can reach higher. Don't underestimate the power of your words, written and spoken. But not just the words spoken to them; also the words spoken about them.

The next generation is listening, and more importantly, they are watching. Young women are looking at our lives for evidence that Christ really makes a difference. They are asking the perennial questions that we need to wrestle with, too.

Everyone asks, "Who am I?"
Is your identity rooted in

Christ, or in your achievements, possessions or reputation?

Everyone wants to know, "How can I find real love?"

Do they see selfless, other-focused, forgiving love in your life?

We all ask, "What does it mean to be happy and live a good life?"

Does your loved one see Christ in you resulting in joy?

People are asking, "How can I find lasting peace?"

What is seen more in your life: peace or worry?

I know that we are all on our own journeys. None of us is perfect. But if we are serious about passing the faith to the next generation, then we're going to have to take a serious look at our personal witnesses. Do young people want in on the quality of our lives?

This next generation is ours to raise.

So we will not let go. We will not give up.

We will not allow the flame of faith to be blown out—not on our watch.

Love,

Lisa

This blog was originally posted by Walking With Purpose. Find and follow Walking with Purpose on Facebook (@walkingwithpurpose), Twitter (@walkingwpurpose) and on Instagram (walking with purpose_official).

Catholic Campus Ministry is provided at LSU of Alexandria, Louisiana College, and Northwestern State University.

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Annual ProAM Golf Tournament to benefit Manna House

We are excited to host the Hixson Ford ProAM Golf Tournament on March 8 along with the Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper APT Pro Golf Tour March 9 – 12, 2022. We are inviting you to participate in the Hixson Ford ProAM tournament which together we can continue our long-standing community tradition of providing nourishment to any and all who visit Manna House. It will ensure families and their children have access to a healthy meal at no cost.

In addition to achieving the goal of banishing hunger in Central Louisiana by hosting this tournament, it provides a great opportunity to promote your business as well as your personal commitment and support of the less fortunate in our community. All proceeds are dedicated to the Manna House. Additionally, there will also be a positive impact on the local economy. We anticipate over 250 professional golfers plus family members and friends to visit our local community. The hard dollars spent are then multiplied by a conservative turnover ratio of 4 times, to arrive at the economic impact of over \$500,000.

Whether you're a golfer or not, your donation is a great opportunity to show your support in helping the needy in our community. If interested in a sponsorship and/or team entry please contact Theresa Slater, Chairperson at (318) 664-3603 or Jessica Viator, Executive Director at (318) 445-9053.

Cart Sign Sponsorship – (Several Available) \$ 2,500 ea.

- One team (3 players) in the Pro-Am Tournament
- Each cart will have your company's logo and greeting message

Driving Range Sponsorship – (Several Available) \$ 2,500 ea.

- One team (3 players) in the Pro-Am Tournament
- Banners at driving range area

Putting Green Sponsorship – (Several Available) \$ 2,500 ea.

- One team (3 players) in the Pro-Am Tournament
- Banners at displayed at putting green

Pro-Am Team Sponsorship – (Teams Available) \$ 1,000 ea.

- One Team (3 players) in the Pro-Am Tournament
- All sponsorships include a hole sign

Hole Sponsorship – (Holes Available) \$ 500 ea.

- Prominently displayed sponsor hole sign

Passing the torch

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...” // John 5:5

Dear friend, when the Holy Spirit breathed these words through the pen of St. John, we were given more than a theological truth... we were entrusted with a mission. From generation to generation, the light of Christ shines on through men and women, just like you and I, who have offered their lives to share Christ's light into the surrounding culture. These souls move forward in humble boldness, receiving the faith that was handed to them and courageously passing it onto the next generation.

The staff, volunteers, and group leaders of the Steubenville South Youth Conference view this process of handing on the faith as our primary mission – and we can't wait to get back to it!

The Steubenville South High School Youth Conference will be held June 24– 26, 2022, at the Randolph Riverfront Center in

downtown Alexandria. And, we are asking those who know and love Christ and their Catholic faith to share the light once again.

The theme for this year's conference is *“Fearless,”* taken from John 16: 33: “I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”

Throughout Scripture, the Lord tells us again and again, “Be not afraid,” and he continues to speak these words to us today. This summer, hundreds of Catholic teens and adults will once again join us from around the community, state, and other parts of the country to experience the love of God and enjoy the music, dynamic speakers, and awesome liturgies which will bring all who attend to a deeper awareness of our Lord.

This year will be our twenty-sixth conference here in the Diocese of Alexandria, and we are on a mission to lead teens and their families closer to Christ. We are inviting parents

and grandparents, volunteers and youth ministers, priests, and local leaders to let their lives shine brightly – bearing witness through both talent and treasure – that the faith must be passed on to the next generation.

We need your help to fuel this mission so we can reach every teen. We humbly invite you to partner with us as we raise up a generation of young people to live for Jesus, and his Church. We can't do it without you.

Please thoughtfully consider giving of your time, talent, or treasure by committing to pray for the ministry of the Steubenville South Conference, donating goods or time to the conference office, or becoming a conference sponsor. More information can be found at www.steubenvillesouth.com, or by emailing info@steubenvillesouth.com.

Thank you so much for your continued dedication and support to our young people. May our Lord continue to bless you each day in all He has called you to do.

“I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.” // John 16:33

Gather your junior high and high school students to join us this spring and summer for life-changing events.

At the Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference, March 5-6, and the Steubenville South High School Youth Conference, June 24-26, your teens will 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 they are never alone.

Our goal is to set the stage for a life-changing encounter with Christ through an authentic environment of community. We would love to walk alongside you and your church parish to make sure that every teen knows that they are not only wanted, but are an irreplaceable part of our communities.

We would so love for you and your teens to join us! Registration is now open. Visit www.steubenvillesouth.com to register, or contact the Steubenville South Office at info@steubenvillesouth.com or 318-448-6120 for more information.

**Beyond the Limits
Jr. High Conference
Students in grades 6 - 8**

March 5-6, 2022

**Join Host Ragan Savedra
Speaker Kris Frank
Worship Leaders Grae McCullough
and Kelly Lombardi
Father John Brocato, Grace Johnson,
and more!**

**Steubenville South
High School Youth Conference
Students in grades 8 - 12**

June 24-26, 2022

**Join Host Ennie Hickman
Speakers Fr. Joe Freedy,
Lisa Cotter, Nicholas Frank,
and Sr. Josephine Garrett
Worship Leader Josh Blakesley**

Beyond the Limits - March 5 - 6

To really love Christ, we must love "Beyond the Limits." Please join us March 5-6, 2022 for the Beyond the Limits Junior High Conference. All students in grades 6 - 8 are encouraged to attend. Speakers include Kris Frank and Ragan Savedra. Email info@steubenvillesouth.com for more information, or visit www.steubenvillesouth.com to register. We can't wait to see you there!

Manna House Golf Tournament - March 8

The annual Hixson Ford Pro Am Golf Tournament benefitting Manna House will be held March 8 at Oakwing Golf Club, Alexandria. Don't miss the fun and it is all for a good cause! For more information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Theresa at 318-664-3603. The event is brought here by Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper APT Golf Pro Open.

ASIST Workshop - March 9-10

St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville will host an ASIST Suicide Prevention Workshop. ASIST stands for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training and is a proven method in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. The workshop is designed for anyone, caregivers to professionals to lay persons. It is the most widely used suicide prevention training program in the world. Registration is required, visit www.savecenla.com or for more information, call 337-519-1888. There is no charge for the workshop, but you can earn CEU's for Social Work or Psychology for \$60.

Heart of St. Kateri Circle meeting - March 10

The next Heart of St. Kateri Circle meeting will be on Thursday, Mar. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Tekakwitha Conference Center, 2225 North Bolton Avenue, Alexandria, LA. All are welcome, we hope to see you there! For more information contact Scotty Durio at (318) 483-3908 or finance@tekconf.org.

17th Annual Fishing for a Cause - March 13

Despino Tires is sponsoring its annual Fishing for a Cause Bass Tournament on March 13 at Cypress Bend on Toledo Bend Lake. All proceeds go to our local Children's Miracle Network hospital. To donate funds or door prizes, or to become a sponsor please contact Randy Despino at randy@despinotire.com

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Discalced Carmelite Meeting - March 12

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

Lenten Mission, Evergreen - March 16, 23, 30

Keeping the traditional teachings of the Church on "SIN" and messages of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope John Paul II, during this year's Lenten Season, Fr. Ramji Shoury, pastor of Church of the Little Flower and St. Charles Churches will conduct a three part "MISSION ON DEATH TO SIN" from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. at Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen on these dates:

- March 16, 2022 Nature of Sin.
- March 23, 2022 Consequences of Sin.
- March 30, 2022 Death to Sin.

God sent his Son into the world: to set men and women free from the domination of Satan, "the origin and cause of every sin." Let us experience this power of God taking Christ's side against sin. All are invited to attend these spiritual talks and prepare for the fruitful celebrations of Easter.

Diocesan Quiz Bowl - March 19

Diocesan Quiz Bowl competition for Jr. High students will be held at St. Frances Cabrini School on Saturday, March 19 beginning at 9:00 a.m. For information and study guides contact Emily Ann at (318) 448-3333.

Beginning Experience - March 25-27

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 March 25-27, 2022. For more information, visit www.beginningexperience.org or to register contact Anna at 318-448-1990, 318-452-2678, or asweat7@aol.com.

Come and See Weekend - April 8-10

St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College, Covington is scheduled to have its Spring Come and See weekend from April 8-10. This is a great opportunity for any male 16 years old or older to come and see the seminary campus and what seminary life is like. For more information, please contact the Director of Vocations, Fr. Luke LaFleur at frllafleur@diocesealex.org.

Women's Genesis of Eve Conference: Come to the Well - May 13-15

Come to the Well is a unique opportunity for Catholic women to find greater meaning and purpose in their lives through Christ. Join us for a weekend of spiritual encounter, intellectual empowerment and apostolic evangelization. This conference, rooted in our Catholic faith, will provide a weekend away from the demands of life and offer spiritual encounter through prayer and testimonies, intellectual empowerment via educational tracks and evangelization via meeting and talking with the women of the diocese. The goal of this weekend is to create an environment where women of all ages can deepen their personal relationship with Christ. To register visit: <https://bit.ly/genesisofeve>

Steubenville South - June 24 - 26

Calling all high schoolers! Throughout the Bible, the Lord tells us over and over again, "Be not afraid," and he continues to speak these words to us today. Join hundreds of Catholic teens at Steubenville South in Alexandria, LA on June 24 - 26, 2022 to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is always faithful.

All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this retreat. Learn more at www.steubenvillesouth.com, email info@steubenvillesouth.com, or contact your church parish for more information. We can't wait to see you there!

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Church Today News Deadlines

March 28
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Mar. 17

April 25
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Apr. 14



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March 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>FEBRUARY 21</p> <p>PRESIDENTS DAY PRAY FOR FR. A. MULLOTH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p>25</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pre-Cana Day of Reflection for Engaged Couples 8:00 a.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>
<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</p>	<p>MARCH 1</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Season of Service Lenten program begins</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPARAMBIL</p>	<p>4</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>	<p>Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Hixson Ford Pro Am Golf Tournament benefitting Manna House Oakwing Golf Course, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. C. PELTO</p>	<p>9</p> <p>ASIST Workshop -- Leesville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Heart of St. Kateri Circle meeting 5:30 p.m. Tekakwitha Conf. Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PRAY FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Discalced Carmelite meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Second Sunday of Lent Fishing for a Cause benefitting CMN Cypress Bend on Toledo Bend Lake</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>
<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. SCHUPBACH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lenten Mission 6:00-7:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. PEDRO SIERRA-POSADA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Diocesan Quiz Bowl 9:00 a.m. St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of SAINT JOSEPH PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Third Sunday of Lent</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</p>
<p>21</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Lenten Mission 6:00-7:00 p.m. Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p>25</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the ANNUNCIATION of the LORD PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS</p>	<p>Beginning Experience -- Maryhill</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. VIC VEAD</p>	

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