

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LIII, No. 4

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

April 25, 2022



Season of Service

On March 26, Team Bayou Beautification from St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport, picked up trash on the banks of Bayou Rouge in Cottonport and also in the bayou itself by using a boat. The group spent about 3 hours on the project and collected a truck bed full of trash. Team members: Kim Wixson, Cy Wixson, Stewart Wixson, Shane Hukins, Kristin Hukins, Laurie Gauthier, Jacob Gauthier, Heather Mobley, Dodi Carrier, Gary Carrier and Randy Mobley.

INSIDE

Retrouvaille Ministry serves as lifeline to married couples

The Retrouvaille program helps couples struggling in their marriage to put the pieces of their marriage back together and rebuild loving relationships. See page 5 for more on this life-changing ministry.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be recognized on May 8. See pages 8 and 9 to read about vocations in our diocese, and one seminarian's "Come and See" experience.

Season of Service

Over 60 teams and 700 volunteers across the diocese participated in the Diocese of Alexandria's first Lenten Season of Service. See pages 12 and 13 for more pictures of the teams and their service projects.

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SEASON OF SERVICE, COTTONPORT. Team Little Disciples worked with elementary youth (pre-k through grade 5) on understanding St Joseph's altar and Stations of the Cross.



SEASON OF SERVICE. Team Flowers for Friends, made and delivered floral arrangements for each resident at the Dupont Nursing Home. 75 arrangements were made. The residents loved them and it brightened their Easter week. The team included members from the Moreauville Garden Club.



SEASON OF SERVICE. Every grade at St. Frances Cabrini School from Pre-K3 through 8th Grade, participated in a project for Season of Service, collecting non-perishable food for Manna House and attending Stations of the Cross each week during Lent.



SEASON OF SERVICE. The St. Augustine Catholic Church (SACC) Lenten Prayer Team faithfully committed to daily evening prayers and intentions from Ash Wednesday, Mar. 2 - April 15. Zoom photo shows regular participants.



BISHOP MARSHALL CELEBRATES MASS FOR LEGISLATORS. On Wednesday, April 6, Bishop Robert Marshall traveled to Baton Rouge to celebrate Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral for those who serve us in state government. Joining him after Mass were (l to r): Governor John Bel Edwards, Representative John R. Illg, Jr., Representative Mary DuBisson, and Representative Mike Huval. Afterwards, Bishop accompanied Tom Costanza, Executive Director of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops on a tour of the State Capitol where he met many other legislators and members of their staff. May we continue to keep in our prayers all of those who carry out the important work of government.

CHURCH TODAY



Volume LIII, No. 4
 April 25, 2022

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

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

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

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Risen Christ bring peace to broken world, pope says at Easter vigil

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The joy of Jesus' resurrection from the dead gives joy and strength to those who are called to bring peace, reconciliation and justice to the suffering and the downtrodden, Pope Francis said.

"Let us make Jesus, the Living One, rise again from all those tombs in which we have sealed him," the pope said in his homily April 16 during the Easter Vigil in St. Peter's Basilica.

"Let us bring him into our everyday lives: through gestures of peace in these days marked by the horrors of war, through acts of reconciliation amid broken relationships, acts of compassion toward those in need, acts of justice amid situations of inequality and of truth in the midst of lies. And above all, through works of love and fraternity," he said.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, dean of the College of Cardinals, was the main celebrant at the Mass, and Pope Francis delivered his homily from a chair in front of the altar. While the Vatican gave no explanation why Pope Francis did not preside, he has had difficulty walking recently, and he recently told journalists he had a knee problem.

However, Pope Francis baptized and confirmed seven adults who were entering the Catholic Church. The five men and two women included an American man identified as Taylor Pescante, as well as four Italians, an Albanian and a Cuban.

At the end of his homily, Pope Francis directly addressed Ivan Federov, the elected mayor of the Russian-occupied city of Melitopol, Ukraine. Federov, who was captured and later released by the Russians in a prisoner exchange, was in Rome and met earlier in the day with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state.

Looking at Federov, the pope said the darkness of night also symbolizes "the darkness of



VATICAN EASTER VIGIL. Cardinals hold candles during the Easter Vigil attended by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 16, 2022. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

war, of cruelty."

"We are all praying. We are praying for you and with you, we are praying for so much suffering," the pope said in Italian. "We can only give you our accompaniment, our prayer and tell you, 'Courage,' and accompany you. And to also tell you the greatest thing that we celebrate today," he said, switching to Ukrainian: "Christ is risen."

According to the Vatican press office, before the vigil, the pope also met briefly with Federov as well as with representatives of "the local government and the parliament of the country."

The vigil, the first open to the public in three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, began in the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica, with the blessing of the fire and lighting of the Easter candle. A deacon carried the candle into the semi-darkened basilica, lit Cardinal Re's candle and began sharing the light with the thousands of people in the congregation.

Symbolizing Christ's resurrection dispelling the darkness of death, little by little the basilica was filled with the light of the candles held by the estimated 5,500 people present. Seated in a white chair, the pope sat silently, holding a small lit candle.

In his homily, he reflected on the Gospel scene of the women going to Jesus' tomb and what "they saw, they heard and they proclaimed."

The women, he said, expected to find Jesus laid in his tomb and ready to be anointed. The empty tomb, however, not only subverts expectations but also "comes with the gift of a hope that surprises and amazes us," though "it is not easy to welcome."

"At times -- we must admit -- this hope does not find a place in our hearts. Like the women in the Gospel, we are overtaken by questions and doubts, and our first reaction before the unexpected sign is one of fear," the pope explained.

People today, he continued,

often "look at life and reality with downcast eyes" and "halt before the tomb of resignation and fatalism." Nevertheless, Pope Francis said Jesus' resurrection allows for all men and women to look at life through "different eyes" so that "we can make the leap from nothingness to life."

"True, death can fill us with dread; it can paralyze us," the pope said. "But the Lord is risen! Let us lift up our gaze, remove the veil of sadness and sorrow from our eyes, and open our hearts to the hope that God brings!"

Reflecting on the angel telling the women that Jesus was not there at the tomb, the pope said the angel's words, "He is not here," should be repeated often, especially when "we think we have understood everything there is to know about God" and "pigeonhole him in our own ideas and categories."

Christians also should repeat the angel's question to the women about why they sought the living among the dead, because it serves as a reminder that "we cannot celebrate Easter

if we continue to be dead; if we remain prisoners of the past."

Easter cannot be celebrated, he added, if "we reduce faith to a talisman, making God a lovely memory from times past, instead of encountering him today as the living God who desires to change us and to change our world."

"A Christianity that seeks the Lord among the ruins of the past and encloses him in the tomb of habit is a Christianity without Easter," he said.

The women proclaimed the joy of the resurrection not just "to console those who mourned the death of Jesus" but to "open hearts to the extraordinary message of God's triumph over evil and death."

The pope said that although they expected the disciples to "think they were mad," the women "were not concerned for their reputation, for preserving their image; they did not contain their emotions or measure their words."

"How beautiful is a church that can run this way through the streets of our world! Without fear, without schemes and stratagems, but solely with the desire to lead everyone to the joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis said.

"That is what we are called to do: to experience the risen Christ and to share the experience with others; to roll away the stone from the tomb where we may have enclosed the Lord, in order to spread his joy in the world," he said.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for May 2022

Faith-filled Young People

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.



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Change in pastor, daily Mass / Jesus in the tomb, but for how long?

Q: Our parish had a change in pastors this year. Previous to his arrival, I had been attending daily Mass for 18 years. Now I only go on Sunday because I just don't like this priest; some of the things he does at Mass put me in such a bad mood that I feel that I am better off not going.

The first irritant is his failure ever to start on time --- sometimes as much as 10 minutes late, while the congregation just sits and waits. Throughout his homily, he will make a few statements and then ask the congregation to guess what he is going to say next. (Usually it takes three to five tries before someone hits it.)

All of this has added at least 20 minutes to what we had been used to for a weekday Mass. He gives the impression that we are there to watch his show, rather than to worship God. Am I wrong to let him upset me --- to the extent of not getting the comfortable warmth that I used to experience each day from the Mass? (Arkansas)

A. I am sorry that your dissatisfaction has deprived you of the benefit --- both spiritual and emotional --- that you once gained every morning. More often than not, the arrival of a new pastor requires an adjustment on the part of parishioners, particularly those



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

who have been most loyal.

From what you have told me, your situation seems to involve more than just the customary period of "getting used to." First, unless the priest in question has other responsibilities just before daily Mass, to start several minutes late on a regular basis is inconsiderate.

In most parishes, the congregation at weekday Mass includes not only retirees but some people who are on their way to work or have family obligations. For the same reason, to extend that weekday Mass by several minutes with a "dialogue homily" is usually neither practical nor popular.

A dialogue homily, by the way, requires a whole lot more preparation than does a two- or three-minute "sermonette." To do it effectively, a priest must predict in advance what the congregants' remarks might be, in order to have a plan as to what direction he wants to take the discussion.

The easiest suggestion is for you to find another Catholic church nearby and, on weekday mornings, go there instead. My guess, though, is that you live in a fairly rural area where that would be difficult --- or else you would already have tried that.

The most upfront thing to do would be to ask your new pastor for a few minutes of his time and explain to him your concerns. Be diplomatic, of course. Tell him how much you miss going, and highlight the fact that his style at the weekday Mass might also be discouraging other parishioners, also, because of its length. If you can, back it up with numbers of worshippers who attended Mass before and after his arrival.

If you are reluctant to approach your pastor directly, perhaps you might find a priest-friend of his who would relay these concerns. Or, as a last resort, you might contact the director of priests' personnel in your

diocese and invite him to share your observations with the priest in question. But please don't continue to lose the great blessing of daily Mass. The Eucharist itself is far more important than the particular priest who offers it.

Q. Recently, I read in the Gospel of Matthew (12:4) where Jesus said, "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights." But we believe that Christ died on Good Friday afternoon and rose on Easter Sunday morning, which is only two days. Can you please explain the discrepancy, or am I misapplying the Gospel passage? (Philadelphia)

A. The common belief of Christians since the earliest centuries has been that Jesus died and was buried on Good Friday afternoon and rose from the dead before dawn on Easter Sunday morning. The Gospel of Mark (15:42) confirms that Jesus was crucified on "the day before the Sabbath," and John's Gospel (20:1) says that "on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb."

In a forced attempt to match up with the passage to which you refer, occasional commentators have theorized that Jesus must have been put to death on a Wednesday. But the main body of scriptural scholarship rejects that thesis as unnecessary.

The accepted explanation of the text you quote is that ancient Jews counted any part of a day as a whole day. (For example, Genesis 42:17 states that Joseph held his brothers in prison for three days, but in the very next verse we are told that he released them "on the third day.")

So "three days and three nights" in Matthew need not literally mean 72 hours, but is an idiomatic expression that could refer to parts of three days. More than a dozen passages in the New Testament agree with Matthew 17:23, which says that Jesus will be raised "on the third day" --- which, by Jewish reckoning, could have been as little as 26 hours (one whole day, 24 hours, with an hour the day before and an hour the day after.)

The consensus of Christian scholars is that Jesus was in the tomb for about 36 hours --- from late afternoon on Friday until pre-dawn on Sunday.

Board member changes within Cenla Pregnancy Center

Since 2017, Cenla Pregnancy Center has been led by a board of trustees created from multiple faith denominations across Central Louisiana. Pastor Brian Gunter served as Board President since inception of the pregnancy center. Recently, Pastor Gunter has relocated to South Louisiana to pastor a church and stepped down from his role as Board President. With this change, the board nominated Vice-President Ed Tarpley, as Board President until the end of his term in December 2022.

Ed is a member of Kingsville Baptist Church and has been involved in moving the pro-life movement forward for many years in Central Louisiana. An existing member of the board, Todd St. Romain, was nominated

and elected to serve as Vice-President. Todd is a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Mansura, Louisiana, and has been instrumental in the growth of the ministry in the past four years.

We are grateful for the service of all board members from all denominations. This unique working relationship between denominations has led to a fruitful ministry that protects and promotes the Christian belief that life in the womb is sacred and should be protected. Please continue to pray for the present and future leadership of the Cenla Pregnancy Center.

The Cenla Pregnancy Center is a non-profit organization that serves Central Louisiana and the surrounding communities,



offering a variety of professional services. For more information on the services provided or how you can help, please visit www.cenlapc.com, or email info@cenlapc.com.



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Retrouvaille ministry serves as lifeline for married couples

The Retrouvaille program helps couples struggling in their marriage to put the pieces of their marriage back together and rebuild loving relationships.

Retrouvaille is a Christian program, Catholic in origin, and couples of all faiths or no faith background at all, are encouraged to attend.

It is primarily a practical program about improving communication, building a stronger marriage, and helping couples rediscover the love they had for each other. Retrouvaille presenters are not trained counselors, but couples who share their personal stories of marital struggles and the tools they utilized to rediscover their love.

A proven track record of success

Couples attending the Retrouvaille Program in the past five years have shared the benefits to their relationship:

- Improved communication with their spouse;
- Learning more about their spouse;
- Learning more about themselves;
- Growing closer together as a couple;
- Improving conflict management;
- Improving relationship with faith.

Challenge of marriage in our society

In our society, with the pressures of work, family life, and other conflicting demands, marriage relationships are often taken for granted and ignored. Without attention and care, marriages wither and couples slowly and quietly drift apart or are often torn apart by hurtful actions. If you are experiencing challenges in your marriage, the Retrouvaille program may be able to help and may be the lifeline you seek. Couples decide to participate in the program for many reasons, as each individual marriage has its own struggles and concerns.

Retrouvaille is a three-phase program

Phase 1: The Retrouvaille Weekend. Retrouvaille begins with a weekend experience in which couples are helped to re-establish communication and to



RETROUVAILLE MINISTRY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. Bill and Missie Curth, Community Coordinator Couple of Retrouvaille of Baton Rouge, were honored to be invited to a private audience with Pope Francis. The pope addressed the importance of the Retrouvaille Ministry in the Catholic Church.

gain new insights into themselves as a couple. Weekends are typically held at either a local hotel or a retreat facility. This part of the program is presented by three couples and a priest or minister team. The presenting team has experienced disillusionment, pain, and conflict in their own lives and offer hope as they share their personal struggles of reconciliation and healing.

You will find courage and strength in the realization that you are not alone in your struggle. You will not be asked to share your problems with anyone else. However, you will be encouraged to put the past behind you and to look beyond the hurt and pain, in order to rediscover each other in a new and positive way. The Retrouvaille Weekend provides tools to help couples with communication, forgiveness, and trust. It teaches a dialogue process of meaningful communication.

The weekend is not a spiritual retreat, not a marriage encounter or marriage seminar. Although it does have characteristics of each

of these, the weekend offers so much more. The team presents a technique of communication that enables you to take a good look at many areas of your relationship. The team does not provide marriage advice, but does provide practical tools and a living example of how using these tools will improve your marriage. They will share how they were able to benefit from these techniques themselves. After each presentation, you will have a chance for reflection and discussion in complete privacy with your spouse.

Phase 2: The Post Weekend Sessions

A series of follow-up sessions is the next important phase of the Retrouvaille healing process. The hurt and pain of a struggling marriage cannot be healed in a single weekend experience. The Post Sessions include a series of 2-hour talks by additional couples that expand on the weekend concepts. Each Retrouvaille community establishes the Post schedule, over either a 6 or 12-week period. Most couples,

without a doubt, find this to be one of the most productive components of the program and where the most growth in the marriage occurs. The weekend is not a 'miracle cure;' therefore, the post-weekend sessions have been designed to continue the marriage renewal begun on the weekend. The post-weekend phase is as crucial, maybe more critical, to the healing of marriage problems. During the post-weekend sessions, the technique learned on the weekend is further developed and is used to explore additional areas of the marriage relationship.

Phase 3: Monthly Support (CORE).

The final phase is a monthly small-group support meeting, called CORE (Continuing Our Retrouvaille Experience). It allows for a casual and supportive interaction with other couples who have attended the Retrouvaille program. This monthly meeting continues to reinforce the communication tools learned on the weekend and is a positive and welcoming space and lasting bonds as they continue to heal their marriages.

Is your marriage struggling?

Do you seem to be doing a lot of talking about your problems, but not reaching a solution?

Has there been an infidelity in the marriage, such as an emotional affair, online relationship, or physical affair?

Do you often fight or disagree without ever resolving the conflict?

Are there anger issues in your relationship that seem out of control or has there been verbal or emotional abuse in the relationship in the past?

Have you as a couple grown apart or are you doing things alone, not as a couple?

Have there been challenges in your marriage as one or both of you struggle with addiction recovery?

Have you as a couple been under financial strain or has one of you recently suffered a job loss?

Do you as a couple face negative interference from in-laws or extended family?

Are you and your spouse living apart due to work separations or do you have a long-distance or weekend relationship?

Do you as a couple have

challenges with child-rearing or blended family issues?

Are you as a couple dealing with a lack of intimacy, passion, or sexual problems?

Do your personality styles, cultural differences, or temperaments cause conflict in your marriage?

Has dealing with depression, psychological trauma, or illness of either of you, your spouse, or both of you, caused strain in your marriage?

Have care giving needs (parent, child, or family member) caused stress for one or both partners.

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, the Retrouvaille Program may benefit your marriage.

Program costs are affordable and vary by community. Due to differences in the cost of accommodations and the number of couples attending, costs are site specific. No couple is ever denied the chance to heal their marriage based on any financial barrier. Each couple that attends the program pays a non-refundable registration fee to reserve a spot for the weekend program. On the weekend, couples will be asked to make a voluntary donation to help cover their proportional cost of the program.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope."

Retrouvaille offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with the misery of a failing marriage. Retrouvaille offers hope: hope that it is not too late, hope of a different and better marriage. Retrouvaille helps couples to show each other mercy through the opportunities it provides to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled and to move into their futures believing that God loves them and with His help and their efforts, their marriages can be healed and restored.

Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties, or crises. For confidential information about our local Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, please contact Bill and Missie, Community Coordinator Couple, at 985-232-5963, or visit helpourmarriage.org.

Easter Sunday is concluded... now what?

By Father Michael Cummins
Word of Fire Blog

It is now the quiet time... The Triduum services are completed. The Easter Vigil (the “mother” of all vigils) has been concluded for another year --- to varying degrees of liturgical success in each individual parish, I am sure. The crowds that seem to magically appear and arrive for Easter Sunday Mass have come and gone. Candidates and catechumens have been received into the Church. Easter egg hunts are wrapped up as well as family Easter gatherings. Now what?

Is Easter Sunday 2016 to now be shelved away as a nice memory testified to by photos posted on Facebook? An opportunity for people to dress up and have good family time? Does the message of Easter end with the last Easter Sunday Mass? Liturgically, the Church says “no.” We have the Easter Season --- a needed time to reflect on the truth of the resurrection and to look to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. “Liturgical” here is important and it does certainly influence who we are but here I am specifically wondering about our day-to-day life outside the parish walls. Does Easter affect and shape who we are or does it remain a beautiful annual ritual that is left behind in the crowded Easter Sunday church parking lot? Do we take Easter with us into the streets of our lives and of our world or do we keep it hidden away behind



locked doors --- doors of a private faith, spirituality and morality, doors of our resignations and sense of hopelessness in the face of the pain of our world, doors of our fear to offend the accepted norm?

Easter cannot stay hidden away. Easter demands that we go into the streets --- no matter how uncomfortable it makes us or others.

In Matthew’s account of the resurrection there is an interesting instruction that is given to the women who came to the tomb early that morning by the angel sitting on

top of the rolled-away, heavy stone that had been used to seal the tomb. “... go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.” (Matthew 28:7)

The resurrected Lord does not fear the world and its violence and sad resignation because he has overcome all the sin of the world through the love of the Father. The resurrected Lord goes *before you to Galilee*. He goes into the streets of the world and the expectation and

instruction given by the angel of the resurrection is that the followers of Christ do the same!

Easter, if it to be authentic and be more than a nice memory, cannot stay hidden behind any locked door and neither will it allow us to remain hidden.

There is a culture of fear that continually whispers to us that nothing can change, that we cannot really do anything in the face of injustice of our world, that we should look upon ourselves and our world with hopeless eyes. The culture of fear is arrogant in its pride and thinks that it alone has words to speak. The culture of fear lies. The culture of fear would convince us that we are its children.

We are not children of fear. We are children of the resurrection! We are sons and daughters of God! We have nothing to fear and we have words, new words to speak to our world and to one another! The angel announces that the risen Lord is going to Galilee and that *there* the disciples will see him. The implication is more than apparent, the disciples are meant to go and meet the Lord who goes ahead of them. (The Lord always goes ahead of us.) They are meant to go out into the street and carry the truth of the resurrection into the world!

It is not enough to stay behind locked doors, no matter how pretty

and gilded those doors may be and no matter how many other people may also be content to remain there also. If we do so then the culture of fear wins and our lives become exceedingly small, constrained and life-denying. Joy is found only in following the risen Lord to wherever he might lead.

One further thought: there is no time to waste. The angel instructs the women: *go quickly*. We are each allotted only a certain number of Easters in our lives here on earth. There is no time to lose, both for the work needing to be done in our own hearts as well as the work needing to be done in our world. In the light of the resurrection, we must make use of every moment given to us. When all is said and done, we will each have to give an accounting of how we have lived the Easters we have been given in our lifetime.

We are sons and daughters of the resurrection of our Lord! The Easter mystery is placed in our hearts and entrusted to us and it cannot remain behind locked doors, it demands to be taken out to the streets of our world.

Fr. Michael Cummins is a priest of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN. This article was originally published on wordonfire.org.

Sister John Martin Ebrom, CDP, passes away

Sister John Martin Ebrom, CDP, (Mary Edith) entered eternal life on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at the age of 97 in McCullough Hall Nursing Center, San Antonio, Texas. Mary Edith was born April 9, 1925 in La Vernia, Texas. She answered God’s call to become a Sister of

Divine Providence, at age 26, on June 22, 1952, and professed first vows on June 22, 1953.

In the early 1980’s, she moved to Alexandria, Louisiana to serve as the Director of Catholic Community Services for the Diocese of Alexandria. She returned to San Antonio 12 years

later and became the Director of Crisis Intervention at Catholic Charities.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a memorial contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S. W. 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.

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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.”



(right) **EASTER EGG HUNT, WINNFIELD.** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church catechism classes held their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 6 in Winnfield. The children had a great time!



(left) **EASTER EGG HUNT, CAMPTI.** Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church CCD had a fun day pre-Easter egg hunt on Wednesday, April 6. Pictured are NBVM youth group, Father Dutch Voltz and teachers.



LIVING WAY of the CROSS, ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. St. Joseph School in Plaucheville hosted their Living Way of the Cross today at St Joseph School on Friday, April 8. The event began with a Holy Rosary in the church led by pastor, Father Martin Laird. Students and visitors then processed to witness a reenactment of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. Our Lady of Prompt Succor School has been journeying through lent and is now preparing for Easter. Several traditional things that we have participated in have been the OLPS 6th graders who attended the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 12 at the Cathedral. Seminarian Derrick Rials even rode the bus with them to the beautiful Mass.



FIRST GRADE EASTER WITH TEACHERS, OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, ALEXANDRIA. Another tradition at OLPS is the 1st graders put on the Passion Play for the whole school and their parents. They performed this on Wednesday, April 13 in the OLPS Church. Seminarian Derrick Rials assisted them by playing the part of Jesus.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

By Fr. Luke LaFleur
Director of Vocations

One of the distinct memories I had growing up and attending Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria was what was called the "Elijah Cup." The parish had a chalice that would travel to the homes of different families each week, and whatever family had the chalice that week, they were to pray together as a family every day for the specific intention of an increase in priestly vocations for the Diocese of Alexandria. The chalice was a reference to the passage in 1 Kings 17:7-16, where Elijah was able to miraculously multiply flour and oil for a widow and her son so that they always had enough food to sustain themselves during a drought that lasted several years. As a little boy, I remember my mom, dad, brother, and me gathering together as a family to pray for vocations in our living room with the Elijah Cup on display. Little did I know that one day I would be one of those priestly vocations as well as serving the Diocese as the Director of Vocations and Seminarians.

Every year on the 4th Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates Good Shepherd Sunday because the Gospel for that weekend is always taken from John 10 where Jesus tells us that He is the Good Shepherd. To highlight the occasion, the Church declares Good Shepherd Sunday as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, and this year, it falls on May 8, 2022.

Why have an entire day dedicated to praying for vocations --- especially priestly vocations? Because without priests, there would be no one to administer the Sacraments in the Church. Without priests, there would be

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH, MANSURA. St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura acquired a statue of their patron saint, St. Paul. The statue was handcrafted in Italy from Lindon Wood and stands 6 feet tall and weighs 165 lbs. The current building for St. Paul the Apostle Church was built in 1950 and has never had a statue of their patron saint until now. Pictured with the statue are Pastor, Fr. Irion St. Romain, Larry Breaux and Gary Guillory.



no Eucharist, no one to absolve our sins in the Sacrament of Confession, no one to anoint the sick, and so on. If we want future generations of the Church to have access to the Sacraments, then we need more priests. Many dioceses in the Church are experiencing this great need for more men to say "yes" to God's call to priesthood, and one of the ways we are to respond to that need is to pray.

In Luke 10:2, Jesus tells us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." In other words, Christ's primary instruction for addressing lack of priestly vocations in the Church is to pray. God is the Master of the Harvest, and if we want more priests -- laborers for the harvest --- then we must ask God for an increase in laborers. This is one thing I always need to remind myself as Director of Vocations

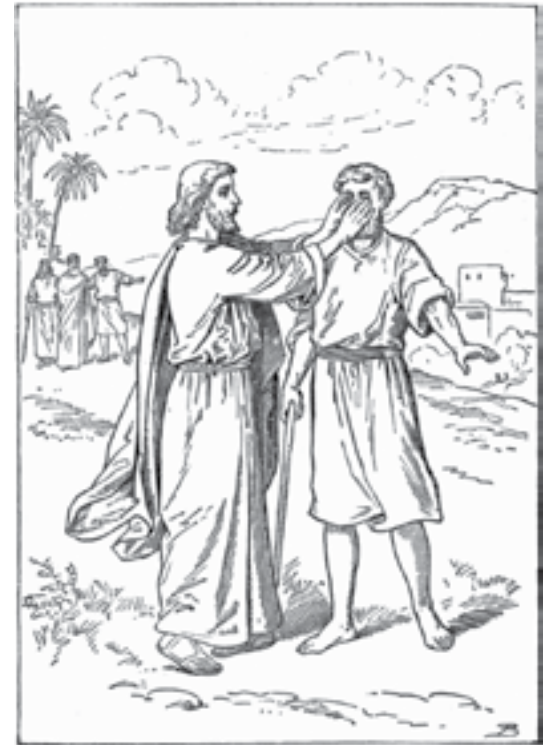
and Seminarians; it is great to have discernment retreats, "Come and See" weekends at the seminary, and give talks and homilies on vocations to different schools and parishes, but all of this must be rooted in constant prayer for more priests.

One of the great things about praying for vocations is that it is something everyone can do --- no matter their state of life. Some great ways of praying for more priests would be saying a rosary, praying a novena, doing a holy hour in a church or Adoration chapel, offering up a penance such as fasting and mortification, or even offering up one's reception of Holy Communion for more priestly vocations. I kindly ask you to please join me this coming Good Shepherd Sunday --- May 8 --- in praying for more men from our families who are willing to serve the Diocese of Alexandria as good and holy priests.



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.



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He worked many miracles while
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to see more.

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But he knew it was time for him
to get away.

He then went to the desert knowing
it was best
It was a place for him to pray and rest

For 40 days and nights
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My "Come and See" experience

By Blaine Phillips
Seminararian



Blaine Phillips, Seminararian of the Diocese of Alexandria

I went to my first "Come and See" at Saint Joseph Seminary College in the Fall of 2016. I wanted to become a priest, but I had doubts regarding what priests do, if I was worthy enough, and if I should be entering so soon, considering I would graduate in two years. Despite all of these concerns, I met with Father Louis Sklar, the Director of Vocations at the time. He invited me to this first "Come and See" experience, which he promised would answer all of my questions and more.

When we got there, I immediately began to realize how normal every seminararian truly was. For example, when I imagine seminary, I imagined plenty of austere, pious young men walking in lines praying

thoroughly impressed with the atmosphere of the welcoming men and faculty, especially the blind rector, Father Gregory.

The weekend was filled with prayer, conferences from faculty and students, sports, and recreational activities. They even held mock classes to show us what the academics were like at the school. They wanted every young, Catholic man who arrived to feel as if they entered a safe haven to discern their vocation.

This was comforting, as many people think that seminary is the contract through which one signed their soul away to the priesthood, and this weekend showed that this was most certainly not the case.

At the end of the weekend, I couldn't help but think one thought in regards to my experience: seminary was for me.

rosary all day; however, this was not the case.

Instead, I found plenty of compassionate, faithful, and relatable young men who eagerly wanted to see me find a vocation to which God called me. I was

Seminararian Burses

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Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Total	\$6,595.00

Prayer for Priests

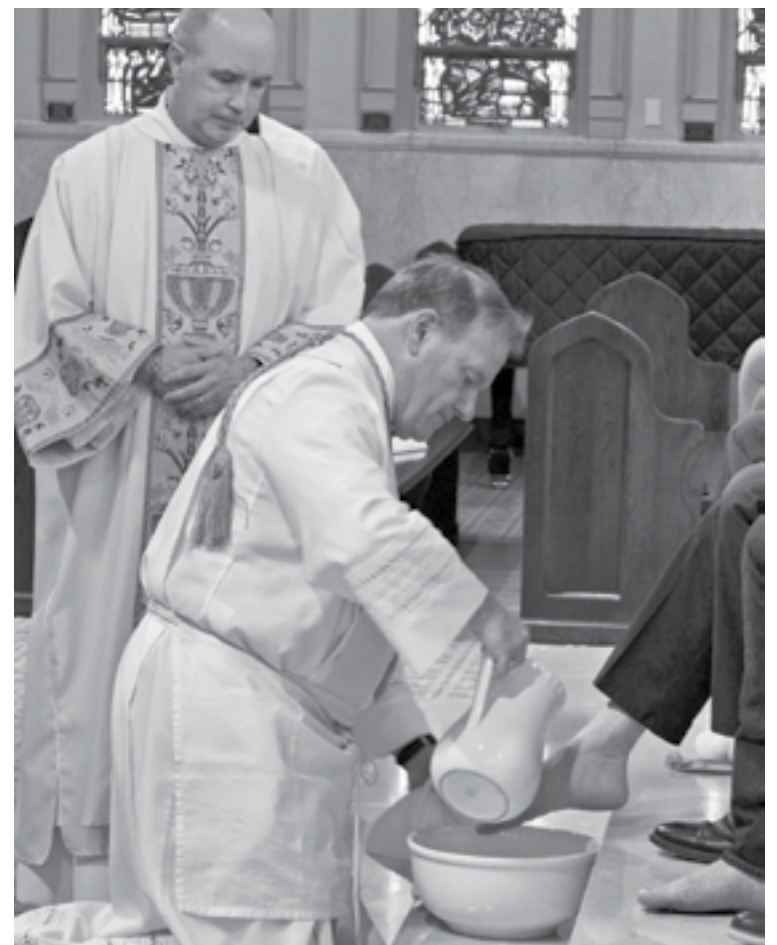
Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in 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.

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

Psalm 30: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for May 1
Third Sunday of Lent



CHRISM MASS. The Diocese of Alexandria gathered to celebrate the Chrism Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Tuesday, April 12. The oils used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick were blessed by Bishop Robert Marshall and our priests renewed the promises made at their ordinations. Pictured: Deacon Luke White looks on as Bishop Robert Marshall blesses the oil of the catechumen with assistance from server, Neal Bates.



HOLY THURSDAY. Thursday, April 14 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. Bishop Robert Marshall washes the feet of attending parishioners during the Mass of the Lord's Supper as Dcn. Richard Mitchell assisted.

Parish Spotlight: St. Francis of Assisi, Powhatan established 1952



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, POWHATAN.

Greco established St. Francis of Assisi Church as an independent parish and assigned Fr. Herman Couvillion as the first pastor. The church building was relocated to Allen Road in 1957.

Under Fr. Rudolph Engelen, ground was broken for a new church in 1963. The structure, which was built at a cost of \$124,000, was completed with help from the Catholic Extension Society in the spring of 1964. The first mass was celebrated in the new church on April 12, 1964, and Bishop Greco blessed the church on May 25 of that same year.

St. Francis of Assisi celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.

In 1907, Fr. William Lambertz, pastor at Campiti, began offering a regular monthly Mass in the old school house in Powhatan. In 1912, his successor, Fr. Nicholas Judermanns built a chapel in the area. It was blessed by Bishop Van de Ven in the spring of that year and dedicated in honor of St. Andrew.

That chapel was destroyed in a storm in 1937 but it was rebuilt the following year by a Holy Ghost Father, and blessed by Bishop Daniel Desmond, who dedicated it in honor of St. Francis.

The Holy Ghost Fathers took charge of the mission from 1936 to 1948.

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If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please first call the Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) and/or your local law enforcement agency. If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report should then also be made to the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist at 318-542-9805.



SOS MARYHILL. Monday Morning Prayer Group from OLPS, Alexandria, cleanup one of the main drainage canals along Maryhill Road at Maryhill Renewal Center to improve drainage. Team members: Bama Hinton, Dcn. Bill Aldridge, Jeff Zeringue, John McDaniel, John Gagnard.



SOS, ST. MARYS ASSUMPTION, COTTONPORT. The Over the Hill Gang's projects include maintaining the grounds and grass cutting at the church and rectory as needed. Team members: Emeric Dupuy, Todd Armand, Dale Brouillette, Rick Lewis, Joel Juneau and Nicky Thevenot.



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SEASON OF SERVICE, CCD CLASS, KOLIN. Sts. Francis and Anne 9th grade CCD class prayed rosaries for those suffering from wars throughout the world, especially in Ukraine. Approximately 40 rosaries have been recited. Pictured left to right: Mae Alford, MacKenzi McBride, Conner Gagnard, Samantha McBride (aide), Madison Bardwell, Matthew Townley and Michael Jenkins.

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

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T	I	P				S	S	W			E	N	D	S

You're invited to join us at the table.
To see available Mass times near you, visit www.masstimes.org.

Season of Service



SEASON OF SERVICE, MARKSVILLE. St. Joseph Altar Society filled 400 bottles with water and applied decorative stickers to them. The water bottles will be blessed by Father Dan O'Connor at the Easter Vigil Mass and distributed to families at all masses. Team members: Vickie Husbands, Dianne Dubroc, Pam Mitchel, Jennifer Innerarity, Judy Deshautelle, Cathy Brouillette, Sue Ducote, Cheryl Gremillion, Vicki Ducote, Carol Gagnard, Donna Ryland, Georgianna Kendall, Nancy Desselle.

Over 60 teams and 700 volunteers across the diocese participated in the Diocese of Alexandria's first Lenten Season of Service. Thank you so much for the hundreds of hours of work, prayers, and efforts.



S.O.S. MARKSVILLE. Team Beaucoup Livre opened a Catholic library at the St. Joseph Church Office. They began by obtaining and sorting books based on Catholicism. The purpose of this project is to offer a place for parishioners to receive authentic Catholic teaching. Team members: Dc. Gary Schupbach, Ken Premeaux, Carol Gagnard, Shauntell Mayeux and Nancy Desselle.



SOS, PINEVILLE. Team Sacred Heart ACTS CORE completed several projects including: shampooing the carpet and steam cleaning all the chairs in the adoration chapel; cleaning the Community Center including the kitchen, RCIA Room, Music Room and bathrooms; putting in fresh mulch in the garden areas around the Church and around the campus of the church. Members: Scott Greenbaum, Randy Marino, Courtney Graham, Dawn Parker, Sarah Ogaard, Laura Luneau, Keith Karisny, Brittany Newell, Joe Thompson, Ale Burton, Eddie Borland, Jason Chumley.



SOS, ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CENTER. Team Mitchell cleaned up the garden/courtyard area adjacent to the St. Joseph Catholic Center Chapel. The center is where the Bishop's Office, Chancery and other administrative and ministry offices for the Diocese of Alexandria are located. Team members: Dcn. Richard Mitchell, Nicole Mitchell, Maddie Mitchell, Charlotte White, Anna Scalfano and Bishop Robert Marshall.



SOS COTTONPORT. On March 26, St. Mary's Flower Bed Team, weeded and planted new greenery in the flower beds at St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport. Team members: Tiffany Rabalais, Gabriel Laborde, Julie Juneau, Natalie Rabalais and Sophie Temple.



SEASON OF SERVICE. The XII group's project included pressure washing sidewalks and parking lot, re-striping the parking lot and cleaning and replanting the front flowerbed near the highway of the St. Joseph Catholic Center on Coliseum Blvd. The center is where the Bishop's Office and other administrative and ministry offices for the Diocese of Alexandria are located. Team members: Jason Lavergne, Mike Jeansonne, Gary Thiels, Thomas Swift, Gary Bonnette, John Tumminello, Angela Lavergne, Rachel Thacker, Matthew Thacker, Jason Rachel.

On March 26, Team Graveyard Bash, cleaned St. Mary's Cemetery #1. Team members: Paul Newton, Annie Newton, Jamie Garrot, Rachel Normand, Chuck Normand.



(left) **SOS, OLPS.** Helping Hands Ministry performed outdoor landscaping and other maintenance at parishioners' homes who can no longer do for themselves due to age, health, financial or other hardships. Team members include: Joey Descant, George Hardy, Wally Smith, John McDaniel, Martin Lyons, Patrick Paul and Preston Hartt.



SEASON OF SERVICE. Team St. Joseph, St. Joseph opened a Food Pantry on March 17 and will be open every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is stocked with food, detergent and other goods for needy to come and get for free. So far, they have helped between 20 and 40 people a week! Two volunteers will help distribute items.

SEASON OF SERVICE, ST. PATRICK CHURCH, FERRIDAY. St. Pat's Shamrocks projects included cleaning up the yard, reworking flower beds, trimming trees and bushes, power-washing the walkways and improving the appearance of the outside of St. Patrick's. Team members: Donna Jones, Sam Jones, Jackie Hickman, Judy Quimby, Karen Clayton, Marie O'Neal, Margaret Guillory, Susan Meng, Sherrie McMahon, Cindy Galloway, Jacob Lancaster, Woodie Blunschi, Jenny Blunschi.



SEASON OF SERVICE, ST. MARYS ASSUMPTION, COTTONPORT. Mary's Prayer Warriors will be and have prayed for special intentions: pray for the holy souls in purgatory; pray for priests, deacons, religious; pray for the sick and others. Team members pictured here: Pam Clark, Stephen Scott, Adrian Blackledge, Cindy Moreau, Doug Moreau, Elizabeth Pearson, and Fr. John Wiltse. Not pictured: Lauren Ducote.



SEASON OF SERVICE, BEYOND THE LIMITS JR. HIGH CONFERENCE. Team Mary Mother of Jesus supported the Diocese of Alexandria's Beyond the Limits Junior High Youth Conference by cooking and serving 200 meals to the attendees on March 5, 2022. Team members: Kenny Sayes, Steve Brundrett, James Peterson, Brad Gadel, John Louvierre, Willie Cranford, John Vanmol, John Williams, Paula Williams.

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CONFIRMATION, ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. Friday, March 25, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Rita Church. Eighteen young people were confirmed. Thank you to Father Anthony “Raj” Dharmaraj, MSFS, Pastor, Father Daniel Hart, Parochial Vicar, and the parishioners of St. Rita for their welcome and for their support of the Confirmandi. We were honored to be joined by Father Tomy J. Puliyan, MSFS, the Major Superior of the Fransalian Religious community in the United States, who is visiting Louisiana.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JULIANA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. Laetare! Rejoice! Bishop Robert Marshall began the observance on Saturday, March 26, the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) celebrating Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation with four young people of St. Juliana parish in Alexandria. Thank you to Father Vincent Manuel and the parishioners of St. Juliana for the joyful celebration and for their support of the Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH, ECHO. The celebration of Laetare Sunday continued on Sunday, March 27 when Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass and Confirmation at St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo. Thank you to Father Dwight de Jesus, and the catechists and parishioners who supported these four young disciples as they prepared to be confirmed. Thanks to Deacon Richard Mitchell who helps each of the parishes prepare for the Confirmation liturgy.



CONFIRMATION, ST. MARY’S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT. Monday, March 28 Bishop Robert Marshall confirmed eleven young parishioners of St. Mary’s Assumption parish in Cottonport. Thank you to Father John Wiltse, the catechists, sponsors, parents and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi. Congratulations.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

April 25, 6:00 p.m., Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches

May 3, 6:00 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria

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.

**May 21, 2022: Transitional Deacon Ordination
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception**

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CONFIRMATION, ST. GENEVIEVE CHURCH, BROUILLETTE. The afternoon of Saturday, April 2, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Genevieve Church in Brouillette. Bishop said, “I was pleased to seal these two young people with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to Father Abraham Palakkattuchira, Deacon Richard Mitchell (who took the photo) and the parishioners of St. Genevieve for their welcome and their support of these Confirmandi.”



CONFIRMATION, HOLY CROSS CHURCH, NATCHITOCHES. The evening of Friday April 1, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church in Natchitoches. Six high school students were confirmed. Thank you to Father Jose Pallipurath, OSB Silv. and the catechetical team of Holy Cross for guiding these Confirmandi. Thank you to Deacon Richard Mitchell who organizes the Confirmation liturgies and puts the pastor and parish ministers at ease. It was a joyful celebration.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. St. Joseph Church celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, March 31 with Bishop Robert Marshall. Celebrants also included were Fr. Dan O’Connor, Pastor, and Fr. Luke LaFleur. Assisting was Deacon Richard Mitchell and Deacon Gary Schupbach.



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF SORROWS AND SACRED HEART, MOREAUVILLE. Sunday, April 3, Bishop Robert Marshall traveled to Moreauville and celebrated Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent and the Sacrament of Confirmation with eight young people from Our Lady of Sorrows Church and Sacred Heart Church, both in Moreauville. Thank you to Father Brian Seiler, Pastor of both churches, and the parishioners from both church families for their support and prayers for these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL. Caleb Holloway received Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Cathedral on Saturday, April 16.



SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE. RCIA and completing initiation into the Church: Heather Drouin, Victoria Diaville, and Collin Stone on April 16 during Easter Vigil Mass.

Please continue to visit your church’s Facebook page (you do not need a Facebook account, just click “not now” and view the content), or the diocesan website for updated live-streamed Mass times, and Holy Week activities.

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

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

Parishioners say Swahili Mass answers synodal call to listen to diverse voices

By Amanda Lauer
Catholic News Service

APPLETON, Wis. (CNS) -- There's nothing like going to Mass celebrated in your own language. But for many new arrivals to the United States, English is not their first language.

When Pope Francis launched a consultation process that is leading up to the Synod of Bishops in October of 2023, part of his call to "look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say" meant for the church to listen to diverse voices.

One way that is being lived out is the celebration of Mass in Swahili at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Appleton.

Swahili is "among the 10 most widely spoken languages in the world, with more than 200 million speakers," according to UNESCO.

Father John Katamba, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, who is from Uganda, talked about the impetus for the Swahili Mass -- with music provided by a Swahili choir -- that he celebrates every other Sunday at 11 a.m.

When the priest was Sacred Heart's associate pastor, he was first approached in 2019 by a group of African immigrants, the majority from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who belong to various parishes in the area. They had been hoping to have a regular Mass in Swahili



SWAHILI MASS. Fikiri Delphin lights candles in the sanctuary at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Appleton, Wis., April 3, 2022, before a Mass celebrated in Swahili. The first Swahili Mass at Sacred Heart was celebrated March 20, and the plan is to celebrate the Mass every other Sunday. (CNS photo / Sam Lucero, The Compass)

since 2019.

After he became pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, he further considered the idea.

"They were requesting me to help them have the Mass in Swahili because some of their members were not good in English," Father Katamba told The Compass, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. "They prefer to have a Mass in Swahili. I asked them to go back to their respective parishes so they could talk with their pastors. If their pastors accepted their idea, I could help

them."

Mary Kalamba, who is from Congo, was one of the driving forces behind the celebration of Mass in Swahili. "In 2018, I and my cousin and other choir group members, we were like, 'Why not ask to say our Masses?' We're all here, we used to do it in our own countries. We don't want to lose it," she recalled.

Initially, they had formed a choir to sing worship music in their own language.

"We started singing together at my place. We decided to do our own Swahili Mass but it was

kind of difficult to know who's going to be our priest and stuff to get it all together. It was a long process," she said.

"Then, earlier this year, we decided to do a meeting all together. We wanted to talk to Father Katamba. He offered to do a Mass in Swahili -- even if he doesn't speak Swahili. So, we said, 'Let's give it a shot,' and it finally worked out."

"They talked to me as a group about the Swahili Mass," recalled Father Katamba.

"Then I told them I can help them, although it is not my language," he said. "My native language is Ugandan, but I can speak Swahili good enough. When I was doing my catechetical programs in Kenya, priests used to come in asking for priests to help them fill in, so I said some Masses in Swahili. I told them, I can help them as

long as they have the missals and lectionary in Swahili. They said, 'We can get those books.'"

Olivier Mburugu, who is from Congo, said Swahili was selected for celebration of the Mass because it is the most spoken language in East Africa and Central Africa even though it isn't the language of Congo, Burundi and Kenya, where most of their fellow Mass participants hail from. He added that most Africans speak more than one language, but the common language between them is Swahili.

The first Swahili Mass at Sacred Heart was celebrated March 20 and the plan is to continue every other Sunday. There were around 80 people of varying ages in attendance, including some longtime Sacred Heart parishioners.

"I didn't want to do it every



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Sunday at the beginning,” said Father Katamba. “I wanted to start at first with two Masses in a month and see how it goes.”

While he likes the concept, Father Katamba said he doesn’t want the Africans to create a community within a community. Instead, he wants them to be involved at their own parishes on a regular basis.

However, he sees the benefits of the Swahili Masses. “Saying the Mass to them in Swahili brings out the richness of the celebration of the liturgy,” he said. “And, by saying Mass to them brings them more together as people who come from the same area.”

There was one overriding issue expressed to him. “They were concerned with the upbringing of their children in the faith. They wanted to feel a sense of belonging,” he said.

The African Catholics said they moved to the United States for various reasons.

This immigrant group is a growing one in the Green Bay

Diocese. In 2019, 100 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo resettled in Appleton, according to the U.S. State Department Refugee Processing Center, bringing the number of Congolese refugees in the region to more than 400.

The group welcomes interaction with other parishioners. “Everyone is welcome to participate in our Swahili Mass,” said Kalamba.

Father Katamba echoed that sentiment and encouraged non-Africans to join them at Mass.

“Those who want to have an experience, they’re always welcome. The church is one. What differs is the language. Some people have never seen anything besides their own way of celebrating Mass,” he said. “The doors are always open. ...

“Whether you understand the language or not, the flow of the Mass is the same.”

Efforts are underway to make a prayer card for the Mass with the essential parts of the Mass in Swahili and English.



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ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE. (Above) Father Shoury, Pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Evergreen, led a one day pilgrimage to Cypress Springs Mercedarian prayer center in Baton Rouge. The pilgrimage included adoration, prayer, and concluded with a spiritual talk by Sister Dulce Maria. The trip was organized to renew our commitment to Jesus during this season of Lent.



Upcoming Retreats

• May 19-22, 2022
St. Patrick Church, Ferriday
Men’s ACTS

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

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and drinks my Blood
has life eternal,
and I will raise him up
on the last day
For my flesh is real food
and my Blood real drink”*

John 6:54-55

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*I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.*

Psalm 145: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for May 15 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

Motherly companions

*By Susan Hines-Brigger
Catholic News Service*

Every year on Mother's Day, I make my way into my garden, dig my hands into the soil and begin to plant the flowers that I have so carefully chosen in anticipation of this day.

It's a practice that I began with my own mom years ago, as her present for Mother's Day. Since she passed, and now that I live in my parents' old home, I continue the tradition as a way to remain close to her.

For me, working in the garden is a spiritual practice. Being in such close connection with the earth seems to bring me closer to the one who created it all. Within my garden, though, there are two particular areas that always seem to speak to me as a mother.

The first place is the area around the statue of Mary that is nestled in the corner of the yard. It always seems especially significant on Mother's Day, since I have so often turned to her for



inspiration and solace throughout my own parenting journey of more than 20 years. During those years, I have often thought about Mary outside of the Bible stories that we have all heard.

I think about how she would have felt or reacted in certain situations. I wonder if she and Jesus ever butted heads the way that most moms and kids do at times. Or how did she handle it when Jesus stepped away from her to begin his own journey?

When my two oldest kids

moved out of state, I prayed to her for insight and comfort. Surely, she knew what it was like to watch your kid walk away from you and out into his or her own.

Then, I make my way to another corner of the yard to where my St. Francis bird feeder is located. St. Francis' outstretched hand holds a dish from which the birds can gain nourishment. Around the base, I place flowers that I hope will attract other living creatures, such as bees and butterflies.

As I do so, I find myself thinking not so much about St. Francis, but rather about his mother, Pica. We don't know a lot about her, but the fact that she was Francis' mom is all I need to know.

Given her son's story --- stealing cloth from his father, stripping off his clothes in the town square --- surely, she heard the townspeople talking about her son and questioning his actions. It was a situation that at one point or another all of us moms can relate to when our kids do something that makes us question what we did wrong in raising them.

Having the perspective of knowing the full story of Francis, we can now look at those events as part of his bigger story. But, at the time, his mother just saw her son behaving in a way completely foreign to his upbringing. I wonder if she felt like somehow his actions were a reflection on her motherhood.

And, for some reason, knowing that brings me comfort. My faith is bolstered knowing that

I am not alone in my struggles and questioning how well I'm raising my kids.

Our faith holds the saints up as inspirations of holiness. And while it is true that they serve as examples of devout faith, sometimes it is hard for me to find a connection.

But one place I can always relate to them is through their mothers. When I hear the stories of saints, I put myself in the shoes of the women who bore them and raised them. I ask myself, "What was their story? What did they think?"

Those are the women who bolster my faith. And though many of them may not be well known, I know that there is a bond that connects them to me --- mother to mother.

Susan Hines-Brigger is a mother of four, ranging in age from 23 to 11. She is also an executive editor of St. Anthony Messenger magazine.



SERVANT HOUSE. Donna Culotta of the Servant House in Marksville receives a \$300 check from the Catholic Daughters Court Padre Pio #2141 of St. Mary's Church in Cottonport. The Servant House also won the State CDA 7 Pillars Award of \$700 for being the nonprofit organization selected for the Diocese of Alexandria. Servant House strives to meet the spiritual and material needs of residents in the area. All funding comes from donations, there are no fundraisers. The Servant House was conceived and founded by Donna Culotta and the late Aggie Neck. Its opening was approved by Bishop John Favalora who was the Bishop of the Diocese at the time.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD. The CCL (Crazy Catholic Ladies) prepared 65 meals at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield. The meals were delivered to the sick and home bound at no cost. To be a member of the CCL you don't have to be Catholic but you do have to be crazy about serving Jesus.

Don't wait! There's still time to register for this summer's Steubenville South Youth Conference, June 24-26, 2022!

For more information, visit www.steubenvillesouth.com.

Registration is now open!

Join host Ennie Hickman, speakers Fr. Joe Freedy, Nic Frank, Lisa Cotter, and Sr. Josephine Garrett, and Worship Leader Josh Blakesley

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Honor, protect dignity of elderly, pope says at audience

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) --- The fourth commandment does not only imply honoring one's father and mother, but also the respect and care for the dignity of older generations, Pope Francis said.

Sadly, the elderly, especially those in need of care, are often seen as a burden and, instead of being treated with "delicacy and affection, tenderness and respect," are often abused, the pope said April 20 during his weekly general audience.

"Encouraging in young people, even indirectly, an attitude of condescension -- and even contempt -- for the

elderly, for their weaknesses and their precariousness, produces horrible things. It opens the way to unimaginable excesses," he said.

The audience was held in St. Peter's Square for the first time since restrictions enforced at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered all public gatherings in 2020. Greeting thousands of pilgrims, the pope rode around in his popemobile, waving and occasionally stopping to kiss babies.

Pope Francis continued his series of talks on old age and reflected on the theme: "Honor thy father and mother, loving a life lived."

As life progresses, he said, love "descends," and it is often

not given or received in the "same strength that it once did."

However, the fourth commandment brings out a "special love" in the form of honoring not just one's parents but those who came before.

"It is not just about one's own father and mother. It is about their generation and the generations before, whose farewell (from this life) can also be slow and prolonged, creating a time and space of long-lasting coexistence with the other ages of life. In other words, it is about the old age of life," the pope explained.

Yet, he also lamented that many times the elderly, including those who are sick or not self-sufficient, are mistreated.



"This occurs when weakness is reproached, and even punished, as if it were a fault, and when bewilderment and confusion became an opening for derision and aggression," the pope said.

Contempt for older people,

he said, "dishonors us all" and while there have been some positive developments in elderly generations, "the struggle for the restoration of that special form of love which is honor still seems fragile and immature."

Pope Francis urged Christians to not only support and encourage better care for the elderly, but also to transform the younger generation understanding "about life and its stage."

"Love for the human person that is common to us, including honoring a life lived, is not just a matter for the elderly. Rather it is an ambition that will bring radiance to young people who inherit its best qualities," the pope said.

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Psalm 67: 4 | Responsorial Psalm for May 22
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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The Cross Word

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Readings: Acts 5:27-32; 40b-41; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 & Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rev 7: 9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30 & Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

ACROSS

- 1 Gives a nickname
- 5 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- 8 Mouse catcher
- 11 Shortened version of Elizabeth or Danielle
- 12 "Under the earth and in the ___"
- 13 Northwest by north
- 14 A spinning toy (2 wds.)
- 15 "Come ___" (Get breakfast)
- 16 Magi came from here
- 17 Lopes
- 19 Large
- 21 Held
- 22 White poplar
- 24 Telegraphic signal
- 27 Black
- 28 Halt
- 30 One-celled animal
- 33 "___ is the Lamb"
- 34 Ancient Greek city now in Turkey
- 35 Nathaniel was from
- 36 Female sheep
- 37 Jesus asked Peter a ___ time
- 39 Science workplace
- 42 Thick carpet
- 43 Inscribed pillar
- 45 Went fishing in this

DOWN

- 48 Moving truck
- 50 Tatters
- 51 St. ___ of Syracuse
- 52 Before, poetically
- 53 Canal
- 54 Crest
- 55 South southwest
- 56 Don't justify means
- 1 "No more ___ or mourning"
- 2 Extreme
- 3 "...this man's ___ upon us"
- 4 September (abbr.)
- 5 Vane direction
- 6 "Every creature in ___"
- 7 Deadly
- 8 Communication Workers of America (abbr.)
- 9 Car brake system
- 10 Trinitrotoluene
- 13 "Cast the ___"
- 18 Jewish holy day
- 20 Minute parts
- 23 Constrictor
- 24 Digital audio tape
- 25 ___ Wednesday
- 26 ___! (call attention)
- 27 Electrical brain test
- 29 Epoch
- 30 Chimp
- 31 Kitten's cry
- 32 Lode yield
- 33 Revolutionary ___"
- 35 Cubans
- 38 "___ and have nots"
- 39 Become aware of
- 40 Chilly
- 41 Baseball plates
- 42 Eye infection
- 44 "hanging him on " one
- 45 Deli order
- 46 French "yes"
- 47 American College of Physicians (abbr.)
- 49 "I, John, saw a ___ heaven"



HOLY RELICS AT MENARD. Father Thomas Kennedy visited with the students at Holy Savior Menard High School and brought 50 holy relics with him. He explained the history of each relic and allowed students to touch their own religious article to a relic in order to allow their article to become a third class relic.



WINNERS OF THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT PADRE PIO #2141 Sponsored by St. Mary's Church Cottonport. Four schools participated in the contest. Winners were: Art Division II (6,7,8th grades) 3rd Place Connor Lally (8th) Sacred Heart; Photography - Division II (6, 7, 8th grades) 1st Lily Firmin (8th) Sacred Heart, 2nd Brayden Eicemann (8th) Sacred Heart, 3rd - Khloe Dauzat (8th) Sacred Heart; Poetry Division II (6, 7, 8th grades) 1st Allison Soldani (8th) Sacred Heart, 2nd Mollie Dauzat (8th) Sacred Heart Pictured: Brayden Eicemann, Lillie Firmin, Khloe Dauzat, Allison Soldani, Connor Lally, (absent Mollie Dauzat).

Holy Savior Menard High School now hiring for the 2022-2023 school year.

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To apply; visit our website at www.holysaviormenard.com/join-our-team or email Assistant Principal, Laura Davis, at LDavis@holysaviormenard.com.

St. Frances Cabrini School is hiring for the 2022-2023 school year.

The following positions are available:

- Curriculum/Development Director
- Librarian
- Early Childhood Teacher
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Program dates: July 10-30, 2022
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Catholic educators are privileged to teach 'as Jesus did,' says archbishop

By Beth Donze
Catholic News Service

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) -- In their daily striving to know and care for the young people in their midst, those who have a vocation to teach in Catholic schools and religious formation programs have the amazing privilege to teach "as Jesus did," said New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond.

He made the remarks at the April 19 opening Mass of "NCEA 2022," which drew 2,000 Catholic school administrators, teachers, pastors and other education professionals to the Crescent City.

It was the National Catholic Educational Association's first large-scale, in-person event since the onset of the global pandemic.

Referencing the Gospel from St. John in which Mary Magdalene frets upon discovering the empty tomb -- and fails to recognize the risen Christ until he calls her by name -- Archbishop Aymond said those involved in the ministry of Catholic education, too, must be forever willing to call every student by name.

These educators also must model Christ's patient, unwavering love to those who



NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION. April 19, 2022 Bishop Robert Marshall attended the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) annual convention in New Orleans on April 19 where he concelebrated the Opening Mass that morning. Pictured with Bishop Marshall are Mr. Thomas Roque, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, and the dedicated educators of St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria.

show up to school sad, fearful or confused, he said.

"We can only imagine the range of emotions, in a few minutes, that went through Mary Magdalene's mind and heart," Archbishop Aymond said. "She was crying, she was confused (and) she was in shock when she finally saw (Jesus)."

Once Mary Magdalene recognizes him, Christ asks her

to go out and tell others of his resurrection. Likewise, Catholic educators and formators are sent out daily to share the joy of the resurrection with their students and to let them each know he or she is God's beloved child, Archbishop Almond said.

It is Catholic educators -- no matter the title they hold or subject they teach -- who are on the front lines with young people who are dealing with a myriad of challenges that could include illness, financial distress, divorce, special learning needs, bereavement, suicide and drug addiction, the archbishop said.

They are the point people when their students and parents ask them, "Where is Jesus in all this?"

"We walk with students; we walk with faculty, administrators, parents and families," Archbishop Aymond said. "We are called in our daily lives and in our daily ministry to call others by name -- in classrooms, in schoolyards, in our halls, in the cafeteria, the bus line and wherever we are ... to bring the risen Christ to others and to bring them to the risen Christ."

Delivering opening keynote of the April 19-21 conference was Father Rodney "Tony" Ricard, pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in New Orleans and a teaching veteran of more than 30 years.

He urged Catholic educators to not be overly harsh or dismissive of the children and teenagers in their care.

Catholic identity, simply put, is convincing kids of their own God-given greatness, said Father Ricard, who also serves as chaplain/theology department head at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans.

"Since we don't know the time, the place nor the hour when the Master will return, it's better that we treat every child as if he or she is the Christ coming back again," or risk learning on Judgment Day that we treated Jesus himself as "a nobody."

"If we say true to who God calls us to be, not only are we going to be safe in heaven (ourselves), but ultimately, we must convince our children that they will be there with us, too," Father Ricard said. "We need to convince them that one day they will put on a robe (in heaven); they're going to put on new shoes; and they definitely will wear a crown!"

The priest said the main job of teachers and administrators alike is to help their students "know who they are" and then to challenge them to follow in the unique path that God has laid out for them.

"So many people are trying to convince them that they're not destined for greatness," said Father Ricard, noting that teachers and other school leaders often get so caught up in their own titles, power and preconceptions that don't recognize the imperfect little saints in front of them.

"(It's not about us) -- it's about that little snotty-nosed 3-year-old coming into your pre-K," he said.

"It's about that 'just-trying-to-find-herself' fourth grader with the attitude; it's about that high school young man who is trying to navigate his way between who he is and how God made him," he continued. "It's about that high school senior who's so scared to graduate, because for the last 13 years of his life, the only time he got to eat a full meal was that breakfast and that lunch at school."

Father Ricard said that even Mary and Joseph -- Jesus' earliest teachers -- occasionally underrated the greatness of their child.

To make his point, he read St. Luke's Gospel account of Jesus' being found in the temple after a frantic search by his parents and

"astonishing" the temple's elders with his knowledge of Scripture.

Those listening to the 12-year-old Jesus "had no idea who that little boy was," Father Ricard said.

"My brothers and sisters, my challenge to you is so simple: Remember who you belong to," the priest said. "When you walk through the doors of your school, remember who you belong to; when you walk into your classrooms, remember who you belong to -- but don't think you're the only one who belongs to God!"

"Never take for granted that Jesus -- the Christ -- just might be sitting in your classroom!"

In his welcoming remarks, Lincoln Snyder, NCEA's president and CEO, thanked Catholic educators for being powerful examples of "servant leadership" who lovingly shepherded their students through the pandemic.

Snyder noted that more than 100,000 Catholic educators serving grades K-12 tenaciously taught students, in person, for the majority of the pandemic. Their sacrifices and skills assured their students' continued spiritual, academic and social development as other school systems remained mired in less effective, mostly virtual instruction.

As a result of Catholic schools' strong, in-person academics, spiritual backbone, stringent safety measures and family-friendly atmosphere, Catholic schools have gained more than 60,000 new students over the last two years, with K-12 student enrollment rising nationwide from 1.62 million to 1.69 million, Snyder said.

"Catholic schools did better than anyone in preventing learning loss during COVID -- our students kept growing (as though) there had been no COVID. Catholic schools led the way!" said Snyder.

The collective wisdom needed to bridge learning gaps among students who didn't fare as well during lockdowns and quarantines "is right here in this room," he added.

"No one is better prepared to model the way forward than we are," Snyder said. "We showed that it was possible to operate schools safely and effectively in a pandemic, and limit the harm to our kids."

a note from the catholic schools office

Dates to Remember

Holy Savior Menard Baccalaureate: May 1
Graduation: May 10

St. Joseph School, Plaquemine Graduation: May 11

St. Mary's School, Natchitoches Baccalaureate: May 15
Graduation: May 15

- Counselors have been actively working with seniors to apply for and receive acceptance to various colleges and universities. If your high school student needs assistance with applying for acceptance, please contact your school guidance counselor.

- Looking to register your child at one of our Catholic schools? Now is the time! Contact the individual school or the Catholic Schools Office for more information. Please also contact us for information on financial assistance and scholarship opportunities.

- Our Catholic schools are always searching for teachers, staff, and lunchroom personnel to join us! Check with individual schools for more information on how to apply for specific positions.

Da Parish Crawfish Boiling Championship - April 30

“Da Parish Crawfish Boiling Championship” is back! St. Joseph Church in Marksville will host the festival on Saturday, April 30 from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. outside the church hall. There will be over 25 teams competing and cooking 10,000 pounds of crawfish served “all you can eat.” Three local bands will play throughout the day, vendors will sell local items, food and drinks will be available, and there will be free activities for the kids.

Wristbands will be sold at the gate for \$25.00 per adult, and \$10.00 for children 5-12 years old (children under 5 years are admitted free). Bring a chair and join us for the best boiled crawfish in the state! For information, call St. Joseph Church at 318-253-7561.

Fundraiser for St. Mary's School, Natchitoches - May 7

St. Mary's School, Natchitoches, will host a Casino Night fundraiser on Saturday, May 7 at the school gymnasium. The Casino Royale evening will include casino gaming, a Balloon Pop fundraiser, music, food, a silent auction, and prizes. In addition, there will be a Kendra Gives Back Pop-Up! Shop Kendra Scott's newest spring collection and signature classics. 20% of sales will go back to St. Mary's Catholic School. Just in time for Mother's Day.

The cost of admission is \$100 and includes dinner from TJ Johnny's Seafood, an open bar, and \$2,000 worth of casino gaming chips. Tickets may be purchased from the school office, the rectory at Immaculate Conception Church or any St. Mary's parent. Sponsorship packages are also available. Monies raised from the event will directly benefit teachers and staff as well as needed improvements to the school chapel. Please contact Lisa Guillet at 318-471-0902 for more information.

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

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

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

personal relationship with Christ. To register visit: <https://bit.ly/genesisofeve>

Discalced Carmelite Meeting - May 14

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

Discernment Retreat - June 3-5

Join us for a Discernment Retreat for diocesan priesthood and religious life at St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, LA. Our speakers will be Fr. Josh Johnson and Sr. Josephine Garrett. All men and women ages 18-40 are invited to attend. For more information, or to register, please visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

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, and all safe environment trained adults and parents are encouraged to volunteer. 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!

The Synodal Church Survey

As Pope Francis invites all Catholics to have their voices heard leading up to 2023's Synod of Bishops, the Diocese of Alexandria is encouraging everyone to share their thoughts. An eight-question survey is available on the Diocesan website: <https://www.diocesealex.org/synodal-church-survey/>

The questions center under the theme “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participating, and Mission.” The Diocesan Synod Committee will compile the responses into a report that will be submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The USCCB will then submit a report for the Synod of Bishops, which will adopt a final document. All dioceses across the globe are participating in the Synod.

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If interested, please contact the Office of Catholic Schools at 318-445-6424, ext. 227, or fill out and submit an application on the diocesan website: <https://www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools/job-applications/>

St. Frances Cabrini School is hiring for the 2022-2023 school year. The following positions are available:

- Curriculum / Development Director
- Librarian
- Early Childhood Teacher
- Lower Elementary Teacher
- Upper Elementary Teacher
- Part-time Janitor

Please send resumes to Sr. Nina Vincent at nvincent@cabrinischool.com or call the school for more information at 318-448-3333.

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Church Today News Deadlines

May 30
Deadline for news:
Thursday, May 19

June 27
Deadline for news:
Thursday, June 16



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May 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>APRIL 25</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Da Parish Crawfish Boiling Champ'ship 11:00 am-6:00 pm St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA</p>	<p>MAY 1</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 2:00 p.m. OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</p> <p>Holy Savior Menard High School, Baccalaureate 7:30 p.m. SFX Cathedral</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>
<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>3</p> <p>VIRTUS Training, 6:00 p.m., Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>4</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>	<p>7</p> <p>St. Mary's School, Natchitoches Fundraiser</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</p> <p>MOTHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. R. JOHNSON</p>
<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. KENNEDY</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Holy Savior Menard High School, Graduation</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p>11</p> <p>St. Joseph School, Plaucheville Graduation</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FR. M. LAIRD</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Discalced Carmelite Meeting, 9:00 a.m. Maryhill</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>	<p>15</p> <p>St. Mary's School, Natchitoches Baccalaureate and Graduation</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. LEBLANC</p>
Come to the Well, Genesis of Eve Women's Conference						
<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. MANUEL</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Transitional Deacon Ordination Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>
St. Patrick Church, Ferriday Men's ACTS Retreat						
<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>	<p>25</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. MOULARD</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. ALBI MULLOTH</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>

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